

SNIPPET: A Chad Valley PIN-IT Set The No.1 set below, apparently unused, provides the link between the original PINIT & the later Guiterman sets. The changes of



ownership were explained in OSN 25/744 but at that time no Chad Valley set was known. This one looks to be the same as the one shown in OSN 25, from the first PIN-IT ad. The box, 13" long, is a bright light red on the outside, with a red & blue edging to the lid. Inside the parts are mounted on rich blue cards, fitted to the bottom & sides. (The left side of the box is missing.) Under

'The Chad Valley Company Limited' on the lid is the address: CHAD VALLEY WORKS, ?????, ENGLAND. The parts visible in the set include the later 1/4" square Strips with the end hole; 1 1/2 & 2" Road Wheels, and similar looking 1" ones, all unpainted; and two 2x 1/2" Loose Pulleys.



The made-up model in the set (left) is similar to the Biplane shown on the OSN 25 Guiterman box lid, with metal Propeller, and that unusual shaped fin. The 'mystery' wing covering can be seen to be a strip of light coloured fabric lying over each wing – how it was originally attached can't be seen.

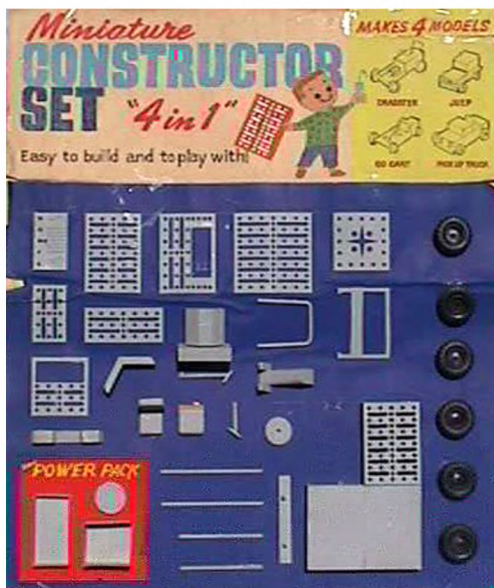
motorised. In 1965 a Motor was included in a modified version of the Road Building Set, but none of the range survived beyond 1966. The inclusion of a Motor in the "4 in 1" might point to it coming after the "5 in 1" series. The uniform greyness of the parts is surprising but perhaps the colour scheme hadn't been decided at that stage.

SNIPPET: 'New' System: E.W.G. E.W.G. stands for Elektrobau Werner Genencher, an electrical firm of Löbau/Sachsen in what was then East Germany. It produced the OLYMPIA system (with holes at 7mm pitch, see 15/417) and apart from the name, one of its manual covers (not the one in MCS) is almost identical to the E.W.G. one below. The latter is from 1949, for the Nr.1 set, & has 20 pages.



The model on the cover is the one in MCS for the No.3 OLYMPIA outfit; it is also in the E.W.G. manual, towards the end I think, probably as an example of a model from the largest outfit. At any rate the list of parts for it is given and is the same as the MCS one, with the same PNs. It seems likely therefore that E.W.G. & OLYMPIA were virtually identical.

SNIPPET: CONSTRUCTOR "4 in 1" Some notes on the ERECTOR CONSTRUCTOR "5 in 1" Sets appeared in 9/229. It seems that a "4 in 1" Set was also considered but

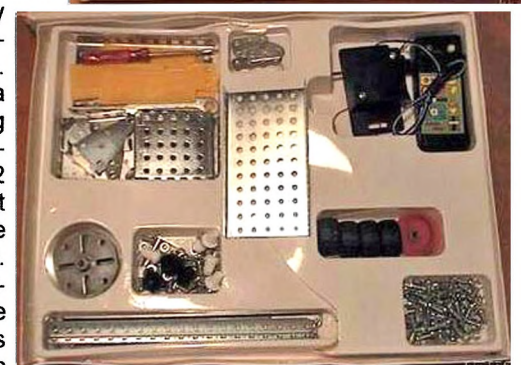


never went into production. The illustration left is thought to be a mock-up of a possible advertising display for the Set. The parts are shown grey (or silver) against dark blue, with black Wheels. At the top above the parts are pink (left) and yellow (right) panels with CONSTRUCTOR in light blue & the other lettering red in the main. The slogan under the name is 'Easy to build and to play with', and the 4 models are shown top right – a Dragster, Jeep, Go Cart, & Pick Up Truck. At bottom left is a red panel with 3 grey components under the name Power Pack.

The parts are in the "5 in 1" style and some at least have the same pattern of holes. Noteworthy is the inclusion of a Motor – it is said that one of the main reasons the original 3 "5 in 1" sets were not very popular was that they weren't

SNIPPET: New System: METALTECHNIK The set here

is said to be made in Hungary, and the lid, right, is off-white with the name in blue, & a Windmill on Wheels in a blue panel. The name 'metalcar' can be seen at the bottom right and photos of models are on its underside. The parts sit in a brown-grey moulded plastic tray (right). They include a black looking Motor & Battery Box (for 2 AA cells), but neither can be seen clearly. With one exception all the other pieces look like the German CONSTRUCTION. All have a bright finish, apart from 4 black Wheels, yellow Windmill Sails, a red Pulley, & a red handled 'electrical' Screwdriver. The exception is a 3*5h Triangular Plate which looks to have fewer holes than the German part. Also no slotted holes can be seen (apart from in the Face Plate), but this may be the way the parts are lying.



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would have come from the stock of STRUCTO parts that Meccano bought in 1918 (when Structo ceased selling their general purpose sets after Hornby's legal action against them.)

U.S. MECCANO: S3 [35/1037]

7. 'New' UK System: **METAL CONSTRUCTION and BUILDING OUTFIT** Malcom Hanson showed me the set below some time ago but I lost track of the photo for a while. The parts are aluminium and the holes are about MECCANO size at 1/2" pitch. The 5*11h Flanged Plate has square corners



and the 5*5h Plate is fully perforated. The black part is a Spandriver similar to VOGUE. The set bears no number but the models on the lid include parts not in the Set: the Curved Strip, and the Trunnion in the Truck, can be seen clearly. The red parts on the lid may I suppose indicate an earlier intention, or hope for the future, or just be artistic licence. There was no manual with the Set but the lid models are numbered, with the highest, the Garden Seat, Model 23.

METAL CONSTRUCTION and BUILDING OUTFIT: S1 [35/1037]

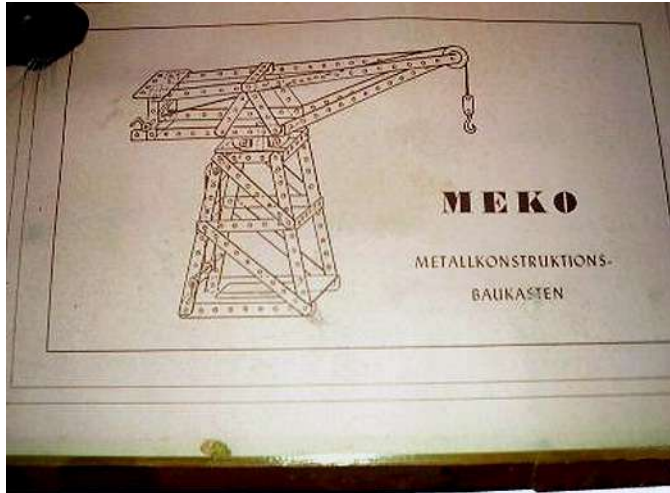
8. **Snippet: METALTECHNIK** 27/809 had photos of a No.4 METALTECHNIK (no 'H'), thought to be Hungarian, and since then a matching No.1 has been seen on Ebay. The No.2 set at the head of the next column (with the 'H') is clearly from the same stable and like both others has 'metalcars' on it, though this time it is on the lid's apron. Also the red Battery Operated flash is common to both the No.2 & 4 (the No.1 doesn't have the Motor). Why the extra 'H'? A set for a different market?



But the red flash is in English in both cases. Referring back to OSN 27, the Flanged Plate does have slotted holes, but the hole pattern in the Triangular Plate (it probably has a flanged base) still isn't clear. Also I think there was a colour cast on the OSN 16 photos and the plastic tray was most likely white, or nearly so.

METALTECHNIK: S1 [35/1037]

9. **Snippet: MEKO** This system is mentioned in Baukästen but all that is said is that it is believed to be German, to date from 1947, to have a box made of wood & cardboard, and to



have a manual in 3 languages. Now above, an Ebay photo of most of a lid. The Crane on it is made mainly of Strips but the base is a Flanged Plate with centre cutout and there looks to be a Disc and perhaps another Plate at the top of the tower.

MEKO: S1 [35/1037]

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