

## Another METALLO

by Jacques Pitrat

This account is based on a No.1 outfit, complete and still strung in its box. Neither the box nor the manual includes any indication of date, or the maker, but as the manual is written in both French and Dutch, it is probably a Belgium system. A Belgium METALLO system, using Rods & Couplings, is described in MCS, but it does not seem that there is a link between the two: the principles of construction are completely different, and the quality of the MCS system is much better. Moreover, neither manual mentions the existence of another METALLO system by the same maker.

On the date, the poor quality of some parts and the small size of the sets indicates that it was made at a time of limited resources, so just after WW2 seems likely.

**The SETS** The manual mentions 5 sets numbered from 1 to 5, but it includes only models for Sets 1, 2, & 3. Set 3 does not look very much larger than Set 1: the maximum number of Bolts used in the models for these sets is 12, 16, & 20. Thus, even the No.3 is still a very small set.

The present set's box is lightish brown with a slight pattern and it measures 30\*24\*3cm. A label nearly covers the lid and it is the same as the manual cover (Fig.1) except that the text in the box top right reads 'Boîte 1 // MARQUE DÉPOSÉE'.

**The PARTS** The 18 parts in the system are listed below with 'Meccano' names, and those in Set 1 can be seen in the box below. For each its abbreviation (as in the manual's Parts List) is given followed by the number of parts in my No.1 set. The metal parts are steel except that the Nuts & Bolts, and the Wheel bosses, are brass. The diameter of the holes is 3.3 mm and the pitch is 10.0 mm. The bosses are double-tapped.

- Flat Plate (P - 2) 13\*5h. One is blue and the other red. These plates are thicker than MECCANO Flexible Plates. In some models they are bent, even into a U-section. It is certainly not easy to bend them in that way, and still more difficult to restore them.
- Green 13h Strip (L.13 - 4).
- 9h Strip (L.9 - 0). Two are in Set 2.
- Yellow 5h Strip (L.5 - 4).
- Yellow 1\*5\*1h DAS (E.7 - 2).
- Double Bracket (E.3 - 0).



FIG.1

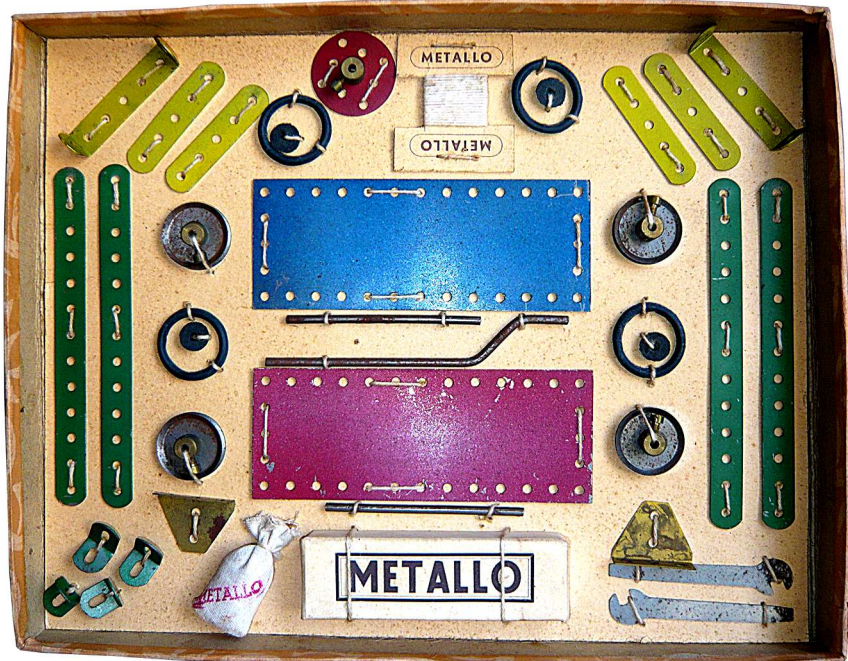
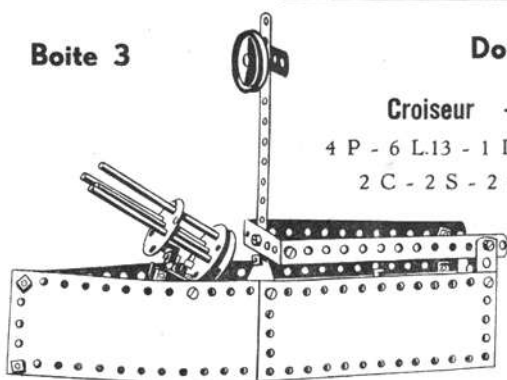


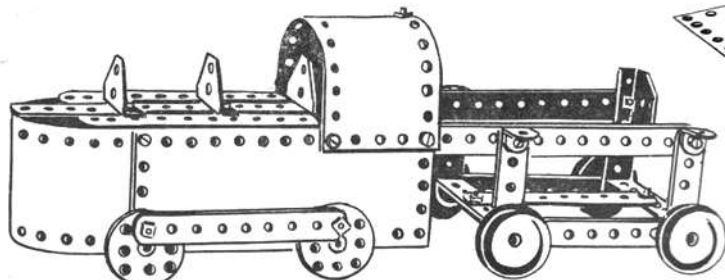
FIG.2



Boite 3

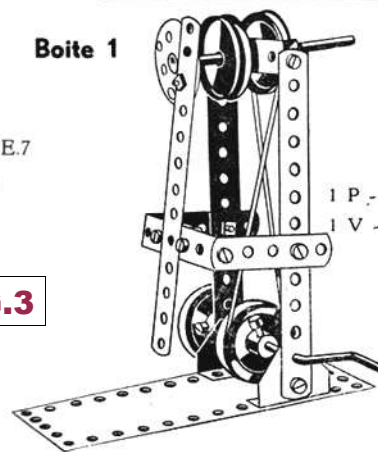
Croiseur - Kreuzer

4 P - 6 L.13 - 1 L.9 - 3 L.5 - 4 E.7  
2 C - 2 S - 2 R - 1 V - 3 A



Locomotive et tender - Locomotief en kolenwagen

4 P - 5 L.13 - 4 L.9 - 1 L.5 - 4 E.7 - 4 C - 4 S - 6 R - 2 V 4 A - 20 BL

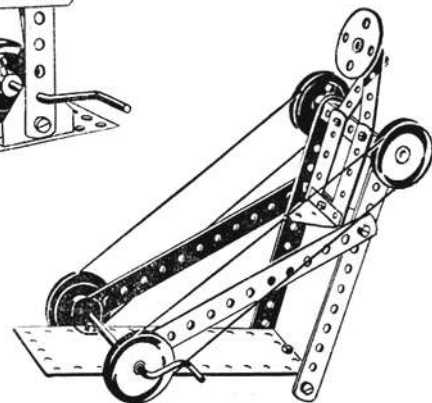


Boite 1

Doos 1

Scie - Zaag

1 P - 3 L.13 - 2 L.5 - 2 E.7 - 2 C - 4 R  
1 V - 2 S - 1 A - 1 M - 10BL - 1 JC



Trapéziste - Sleentouw

2 P - 4 L.13 - 4 L.5 - 2 E.7 - 2 C - 3 R  
1 V - 2 S - 1 A - 1 M - 10 BL - 1 JC

FIG.3



One is used in the Set 3 models. • Green Angle Bracket (C – 4). Both holes are oval. • Nickelled Pulley Wheel with boss (R – 4), diameter 1". • Red Bush Wheel (V – 1), diameter 32.5mm, with a 'square' of 8 face holes but with the middle side holes slightly inboard of a line joining the corner holes. None of the holes are at 10mm radius but by design, or chance, the corner holes are at a pitch of 20mm from either of the remote middle holes. All rather strange. • 75mm nickelled Axle (A – 2). Diameter 3.2mm. • 80 mm nickelled Crank Handle (M – 1). • Nickelled Span'driver (C.T – 2). Yellow Trunnion (S – 2) with a 3 hole base & 2 vertical holes. • Nuts & Bolts (B.L – 12) • Rubber Collar (J.C – 4). • Rubber Ring (P – 4) for the Pulley Wheel. • A Card of White Cord, printed METALLO. • A Loaded Sack, printed METALLO in red.

The quality is not very good, and there is some rust on the nickelled parts. However, excepting the Trunnions, the painted and rubber parts are still in good condition.

The **MANUAL** has 8 sheets 21\*27cm, stapled along one side. Everything is printed in both French & Dutch, except the cover (Fig.1), which is only in French. The latter indicates that it is for Set 1 but models for Sets 2 & 3 are also included. 3 pages explain the system's qualities, and one has the Parts List (without mention of the Cord or Sack). Another page announces a model-building competition but unfortunately without a date or the maker's address: models could only be left at stockists.

8 models are shown for Set 1, 6 for Set 2, and 6 for Set 3. All are very simple, but it would be difficult to make better models for such small sets. For each model, the manual gives its name and the necessary parts. No instructions were needed for such simple models. 2 Set 1 models and 2 for Set 3 are shown in Fig.3 at about 70% full-size, with the text rearranged. They are in B&W – the manual's inside pages are actually pale brown.

METALLO [3]: S2

OSN 45/1370

**LINX/LYNX: an early Price List** LINX was the name used for home repair outfits with parts that morphed into the LYNX constructional system, see 43/1321.

A recent Ebay lot consisted of a Size 7 LINX Complete Home Outfit, and with it 2 printed sheets, one a Model Leaflet and the other the Price List below. The List is the main item of

**ALL STEEL PRODUCTS** DECEMBER, 1945.  
 THE BAY MANUFACTURING CO., 15 VICTORIA STREET, MORECAMBE, ENGLAND.  
 have pleasure in furnishing details of Goods now available for Home or Export.

**OFFICIAL PRICE LIST**  
 "LINX" CONSTRUCTIONAL TOYS

No. 1 OUTFIT	- - -	6/1 (5/- plus Tax 1/1)
No. 2 OUTFIT	- - -	12/2 (10/- plus Tax 2/2)
No. 3 OUTFIT	- - -	18/3 (15/- plus Tax 3/3)
No. 4 OUTFIT	- - -	24/4 (20/- plus Tax 4/4)

CARRIAGE PAID ORDERS 6-DIGZ LOTS

LATEST ADDITIONS:  
 RUBBEROID AERO WHEELS 50 per 4  
 RED OR BLUE ENAMELLED STRIP LINX 10jd per piece of 4

MODEL TANK      MODEL TRAILER

"LINX" MODEL INSTRUCTIONAL FOLDER (M.B.2) PRICE 3s.

TO SHIP... TO UNFOLD... TWO EXAMPLES

SIMPLIFIES TOYMAKING

CORNERLINX

Fitted Glass Tops Cafe Tables ETC.

The "Linx" Repair & Constructional Plates (Carriage Paid Orders - 1 Gross)

No. 1 REPAIR OUTFIT	2/- each
No. 2 REPAIR OUTFIT	2/9 each
No. 3 REPAIR OUTFIT	3/9 each
No. 4 REPAIR OUTFIT	5/- each
No. 7 REPAIR OUTFIT (Complete)	15/6 each

"HOW TO MAKE IT" Series of Instructional Patterns. Price 3s.

The "Linx" Refill Packets (Carriage Paid Orders - 1 Gross)

Diamondlinx (Nickel-plated)	7jd. per pkt. of 4
Angelinx (Nickel-plated)	10jd. per pkt. of 4
Striplinx (Nickel-plated)	10jd. per pkt. of 4
Bracketlinx (Nickel-plated)	1/- per pkt. of 4
Cornerlinx (Nickel-plated)	1/- per pkt. of 4
Edgelinx (Nickel-plated)	9d. per pkt. of 4
Washers (Nickel-plated)	9d. per pkt. of 4
Wood Screws (Nickel-plated)	6d. per pkt. of 24
1/2" x 5 B.A. Nuts & Bolts N.P.	1/- per pkt. of 24
3/4" x 5 B.A. Nuts & Bolts N.P.	1/- per pkt. of 12
1" x 5 B.A. Nuts & Bolts N.P.	1/- per pkt. of 12

TOOLS - (Hardened Spring Steel)

Screwdrivers	6d. each
Bradaws	8d. each
Spanners	3d. each

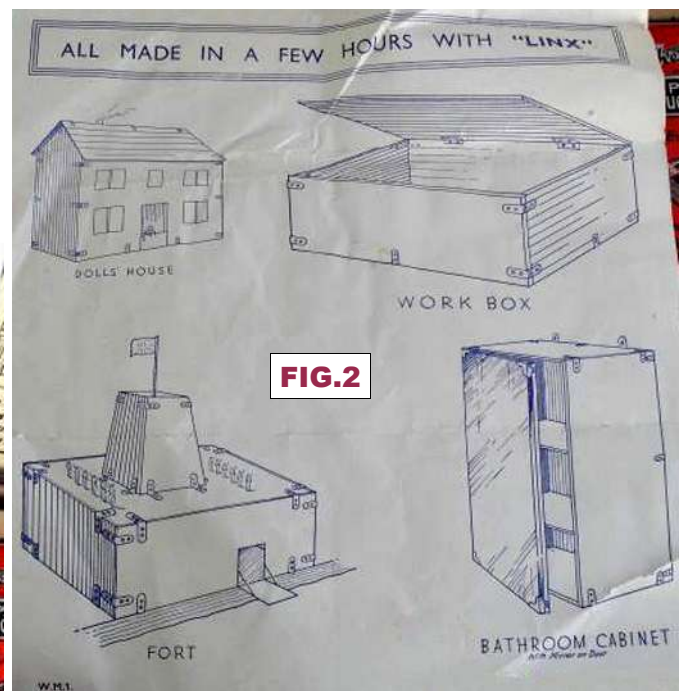


FIG.2

which was no doubt the part later called the Rubber Model Wheel, and Strips enamelled in red or green. Listed under these parts is the 'LYNX Model Instructional Folder M.B.2', see OSN 43, Fig.7.

The LINX sets and parts are in the main as might be expected, except that the Cornerlinx is a part not noted before, or ever seen as far as I know – it is shown being used to hold the glass onto the table top in the Leaflet's bottom left corner. Also I still wonder why the gap between Sets 4 and 7. A Set 6 was noted in OSN 43 but seemed to be from 1946.

The LINX Model Leaflet, W.M.1, is shown above, and Cornerlinx are again used to hold the mirror on the Bathroom Cabinet.

Turning to the Set itself, its lid was identical to the one in Fig.4 of OSN 43 except that the lettering was blue and the background purple on pink. Again the box has Packets in 10 compartments, 17 in all and 3 deep in some of them – and in this set they include a Diamond Linx.

The Set was said to be from 1947 but unfortunately with nothing to justify that date. It would be before the Sept.1947 Price List in OSN 43 because the prices of the Packets are slightly lower (as they were in the OSN 43 outfit), and it could be earlier in as much as the prices match those in the 1945 List.

**FIG.1** interest because it is dated (top right) DECEMBER, 1945, and is thus the earliest known reference to LINX/LYNX. The address along the top is 15 Victoria Street, Morecambe. The PR along the bottom is blurry but could be P.L.2. As can be seen LYNX sets are listed as well as LINX and that is a surprise because until now the earliest known reference to these was in Nov. 1946. Two new parts were advertised between the models, a 'Ruberoid [sic] Aero Wheel',

LYNX: S5

OSN 45/1370