

New System: MECHANTRIX Thank you to Richard Symonds for sending an Illustrated Catalogue dated Nov. 2002 for this new Canadian copy of MECCANO – ‘Compatible with other popular brands’ it says on the front cover, not with TRIX though. MECHANTRIX is made by John Overeem, Box 542, Picture Butte, Alberta, Canada, T0K-1V0; Phone/Fax: (403) 732-4974/5017; Email: mechtrix@telus.net. Richard has a set and wrote that the parts are well made.

The PARTS Over 150 are listed (using MECCANO PNs) and can be supplied unpainted or painted - the colours aren't stated but see SETS below. The range includes most of the strip/girder parts & brassware, many of the plates, and some gears. The complete list is given below with variations from the MECCANO pattern noted (Br = brass).

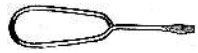
1-6a;6(4h);7-9f;9g(2h);10-11a;11b(1*2*1h);12-12c;12e(12b but 3 round holes);13-18b;18c(1¼");19h,s,b;20a,b(solid Br);21;22;23a,b;24-4b;25-26b;27,a,d;35;37a&b(brassed steel: Nut 6.3mm square; Bolt 6.0mm CH);40(white on a flat card);43;46-48e;51-52a,b(7*3h),f(25*7h),g(13*7h);55a;57;57c;59;62-62b;63,b;64;70;72-74;79;80a;80c;82;90a;97;99-100;103-103h;103j,k,l,r,t,u(13,15,2,49.37.31h);120c;125-126a;133a;142;144;155;155b,c(1½", 2" Flexible Rings);171;173a(Br);176;193,d(3*11h);194-194d;195-197;195a(11*5h);200;215. Note: the Flexible Plates 194-197 are all listed painted/unpainted & are thus presumably metal.)

The whole catalogue can be seen on the web (type mechantrix into Google).



The SETS The basic outfits are 00,0,1,2 with linking sets 0A-1A. Boxes are red (except the 00A is green) with the label above, and the parts are shown arranged on a yellow ground. The general colour scheme is 1950s MECCANO with green Strips etc, red Plates, bright small Brackets, & the larger Pulleys black. However in some sets all the major parts are shown red. The parts in the sets include some not in the list of separate parts (#34, 36, 38, 111c, 212), and the Flexible Plates

are numbered 188-191. The wire Screwdriver below is shown in the 00 & 0 outfits and one with a red plastic handle in the 1 & 2. The contents of the sets are given and are somewhere between those of 1950s & 1960s MECCANO. A No.00 costs \$30 & a No.2, \$100. No mention is made of manuals but 3 small models are shown that can be made from Set 0.



Various special sets are available. In the same packaging as Sets 00-2 are Packs V & W (6 in each of #22, 24), and X, Y, Z (4 each of #19b, 20a, 21). These cost around \$20 each. Also a Pulley Wheel Set (\$31) with 2 each of 19b, 20a, & 21. Then there are 3 Gear Packs A, B, & C with 6 each of #27, 25, & 25a. They are around \$40 each, and are packed in boxes with the design above on the label against a yellow or green ground.



Finally 4 sets with parts to make a particular model. These are: a Model 21 Self Propelled Massey Harris Combine, over 2ft long, at \$1650 including power supply; the John Deere Tractor below (\$375, power supply \$75); a Cultivator 32½" wide with 'wing sections, depth control, floating hitch, tandem wheels' (\$395); & a John Deere Swather, 22" wide, with 'power take off, transport feature & hitch jack' (\$410). They all look nice models and include some special parts for added realism.



MECHANTRIX: S1

OSN 30/906

A METALCRAFT Set The details of UK METALCRAFT (like VOGUE, see 25/714 & earlier) are slowly appearing, and the latest find is a box, the first one seen, with some parts in it, and 2 identical manuals, probably the remains of 2 sets. It's David Hobson's and he kindly lent it for this account.

The **box** is 9*16*1" and the lid, red edged, has its top printed all over with the same colourful scene as on the manual cover in OSN 25. The tray is yellow and the parts are strung to a yellow card with thin, red cord. The small parts are in 2 end-opening, yellow & red card boxes, about 1½*2½*½", which are glued to the card. Their tops are printed with 'METALCRAFT/ CONSTRUCTIONAL SET/ ACCESSORIES'.

The **parts** are as would be expected from OSN 15, painted dark green & the lightish red. No Axles remain but the Crank Handle, Hook, & Span'driver are painted black. The Semi-circular Plates have no extra holes in them. Nuts are square.

The **manuals** are identical to the one described in OSN 25.

No official **Set Contents** is known but from the parts needed for the manual models, and those in this Set & the OSN 15 lot, the likely inventory is: 2,6,2,4 of 25,9,7,5h Strips; 4 A/B; 4 Semi-Circular Plates; 2x 5*5h Plates; 2x 3*3h Triangular Plates; 4 Balloon Wheels; 2 Axles; a Crank Handle; a Hook; 2 Pulleys; 1 Flanged Plate; 1 Span'driver; perhaps 48 N&B (but 158 Bolts were in David's set); 4 each of the 2 types of Spring Clip; 2 DAS.

So compared with VOGUE, in terms of the number of parts excluding N&B, the METALCRAFT set has about a third more than the No.1, and about half of a No.2. The most significant change is the Flanged Plate (not included in the VOGUE sets until the No.3) instead of the 2x 11h A/Gs in the VOGUE No.1.

Also in David's set were the **VOGUE leaflets** in French & Dutch that were mentioned in 17/466. They have the same Abbey Lane address at the bottom (wrongly said to be Abbey Road in OSN 17).

METALCRAFT [2]: S2

OSN 30/906