

## MÉCAVION

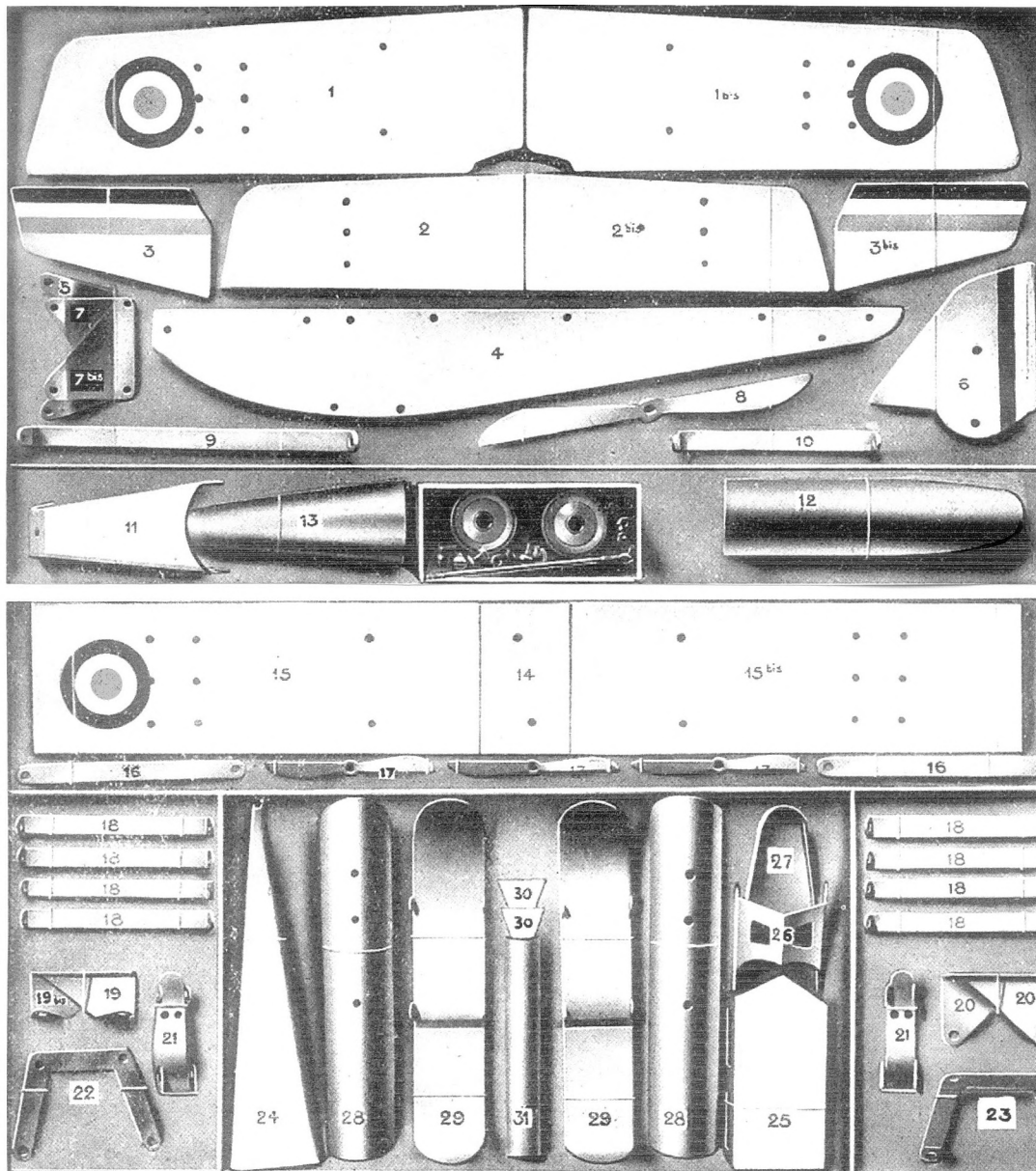
This French aero system is in MCS but only some of the parts are shown. This account is based on: • a manual that Philip Woodcock very kindly sent; • a small lot of parts; • a 'Standard' set, incomplete but with manual, and some additional parts, all kindly lent by David Hobson. None of the material tells anything about the maker, or even where the system was made. Dates too are uncertain: MCS gives 1930 but 1928 has also been mentioned.

**The SETS** An ad in MCS labelled '1930' shows 2 outfits, a Standard & an add-on Complémentaire. Opposite are the illustrations of them from the manuals. A 'Coffret de luxe' is also mentioned in the manuals, and had all the parts from the aforesaid 2 sets plus a Motor Unit. This Unit was sold separately as well.

The other MCS ad is from 1934 & lists 12 sets: '000 Baby; 000 bis Baby complet.; 00 Baby complet.; 0 Baby; 1 Standard; 1 bis complet.; 2 bis complet.; 3 complet.; 4 moteur; 5 standard moteur; 6 standard compl.; 7 standard complet moteur.' Presumably 'complet.' is 'complémentaire' abbreviated. Some of the prices in the ad can be seen and the '1 Standard' cost Fr50, the same as the Standard in the first ad. '3' is probably the Complémentaire of the first ad, again at Fr50, with the 1 bis & 2 bis intermediate add-on sets. 4 is the Motor Unit at Fr30, & 5 would be the 1 with Motor; the 6 the 1+3; and the 7 the 6 plus Motor, that is the earlier Coffret de luxe. It cost Fr130. In the Baby series the No.000 cost Fr23 & the No.0 Fr35. It's hard to see how the No.1 could be reduced in scope to create these sets, so, at a wild guess, perhaps a range of different, smaller parts was used in them.

By way of comparison a MECCANO No.1 Aero Set, very broadly equivalent to the MÉCAVION Standard, cost Fr65 in 1931.

The lid of David's Standard set is shown below. It is 23\*43cm, about the size given for the two boxes in the first



ad, and is an imitation dark brown leather on the outside & light blue within. The large, colourful label is blue with yellow rays and a silver plane, plus boys & models against red wallpaper in the bottom corners. The slogan across the top is 'L'Avenir est dans les Aïrs' – The Future is in the Sky. A yellow label on one side of the lid gives the set's name and says that 7 models can be made from it. The depth of the box is 4½cm and the parts all sit on false floors: 2cm high for parts #11-13, and the box for small parts in the middle; 3½cm high for the card to which the other parts #1-12 are strung.

The Set shown in MCS is a No.1 Standard and, compared with the above, all the major parts 1-13 can be seen, but differently arranged. Small parts are in a box of about the same size, 90\*38mm, but it is a rich blue with an 'ACCESSOIRES MÉCAVION' label on the lid. The main box lid is red and the label, in blue, white & red, is much smaller & simpler. It has MÉCAVION at the top, Constructions Aéronautiques at the bottom, and clouds & a Biplane in between. The Instructions, for 7 models, are inside the lid.

**The PARTS** Holes are 3.6mm at variable spacing. The thread is M3.5. Dimensions given below are overall unless otherwise stated. Struts are 8mm wide; the lengths given for them are between bends for those with angled ends, and between end hole centres for flat ones. Handed parts have 'bis' after their PN. The numbered parts, #1-13, in the Standard Set are as follows.

• **The Wings** #1 & 2, a pair of each in the Set, are 203 & 126mm long, and are flanged at their inner ends. Neither

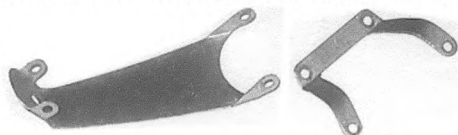
## MODÈLE 5

### Avion de chasse

Monoplan parasol (1)



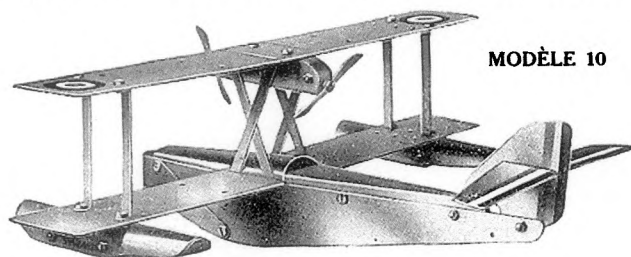
they nor the tail surfaces have any chordwise curvature. • The **Tailplane**, 3, 80mm long, also has an inboard attachment flange, triangular with 1 hole. • The **Fuselage Side**, 4, is 309mm long. • In Model 5, above, the Wings are bolted together through their flanges and joined to the fuselage by a **Centre U-Strut**, 5, below, at each side, also bolted to the



flanges. • The **Fin**, 6, is 72mm long, with an upper hole to provide an alternative position for the Tailplanes. • The triangular **U/C (Undercarriage) Leg**, 7, is 42mm long; the **Propeller**, 8, 140mm diameter, the **Wing Stay**, 9, 127mm long, and the **Interplane Z-Strut**, 10, 75mm. • The Fuselage Sides are joined by the **Front Top**, 12, the **Rear Top**, 13, & the **Nose Underside**, 11, (above, left). The Propeller is attached to the upturned nose section of #11, and the part is bolted to the Sides by the lugs at the back and on the nose. #12 is 125mm long, with the flanges on each side cutback at the front to clear the N&B in #11's nose lugs. #13 is 112mm long, flanged along each side.

Other parts in the Standard set are: • The **U/C Wheel**, a loose pulley, 25mm Ø, with eyelet centre, and fitted with a white rubber ring. • The **Axle**, 3.50mm Ø, 86mm long with the ends threaded M3.5 over 12mm. • **N&B**. The hex Nuts, 6.0mm A/F, & the 6.0mm Ø fillister Bolts, 6mm u/h, are both nicked steel. • A wooden round handled **Screwdriver**, 11½cm long with a 5½cm blade, was found in the Set, and the flat nickel **Spanner** left, 62mm overall, in one lot of parts.

The numbered parts in the Complémentaire set, 14-31, are described below. Items not seen are starred. • Two pairs of rectangular **Wings**, 15 & 15 bis, 180mm long, again flanged inboard. • A wing **Centre Section\***, 14, used in the top wing of a Biplane. • 4 flat **Struts**, 16, 85mm long, used as cross bracing between the Floats, and to support an Engine Nacelle above the fuselage, as in Model 10 below.

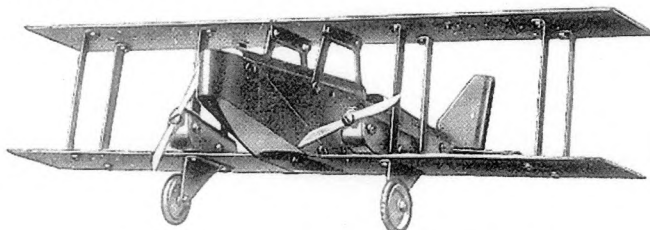


MODÈLE 10

### Hydravion, type "GRAND RAID"

Biplan bi-moteur à moteurs en tandem

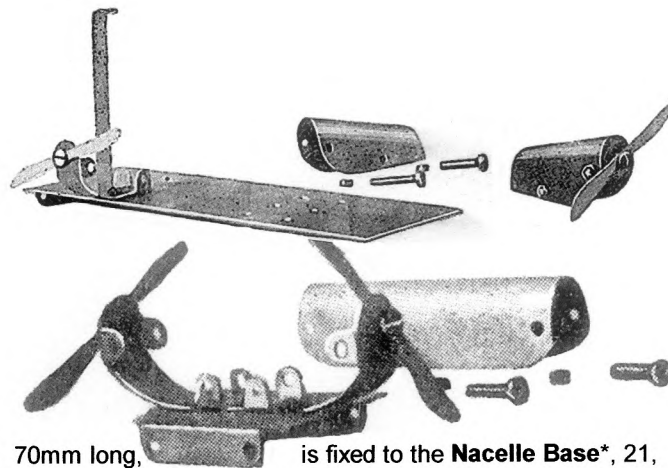
'Grand Raid' by the way means long range. • The shallow U-shaped **Interplane Struts**, 18, 76mm long, are used with the Wings 15, as in Model 9 below. • The **Small Nacelle**, 30,



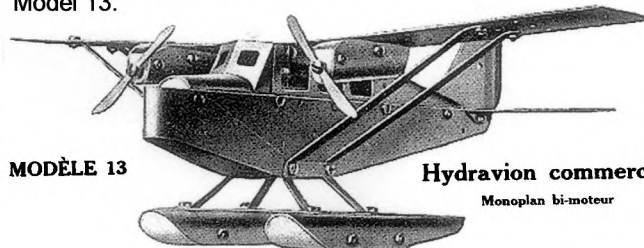
MODÈLE 9

### Avion de bombardement

Biplan bi-moteur à moteurs latéraux



70mm long, is fixed to the **Nacelle Base\***, 21, as above, top. • The **Large Nacelle**, 30, 92mm long, sits on two of the Nacelle Bases, one at each end, (above), bolted here to the wing Centre Section. • The **Support Bracket**, 19, is used to support an Engine Nacelle clear above a Wing, or, bolted to the bottom of a fuselage side, as a horizontal U/C leg. It is the U/C Leg, 7, but formed into a shallow 'U'. • The **Wing U/C Leg**, 20, (see Model 9) is the U/C Leg but flat apart from the 90° flange at the top. • The 3 small **Propellers**, 17, are 70mm diameter. • The **Flat Centre U-Strut**, 22, is bolted to the flanges of the Wing & Centre Section, as in Model 9. • The **Float Strut**, 23, is made from PN 22 but angled top & bottom, and is used to attach the Float to the fuselage, as in Model 13 below. • The **Float\*** is assembled from a Base, 29, & a Body, 28, as shown under Model 13.



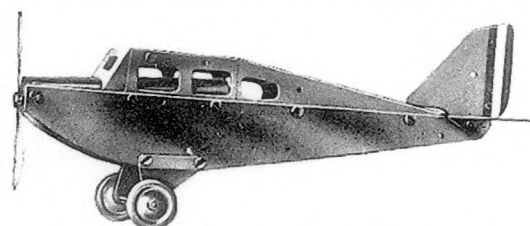
MODÈLE 13

### Hydravion commercial

Monoplan bi-moteur



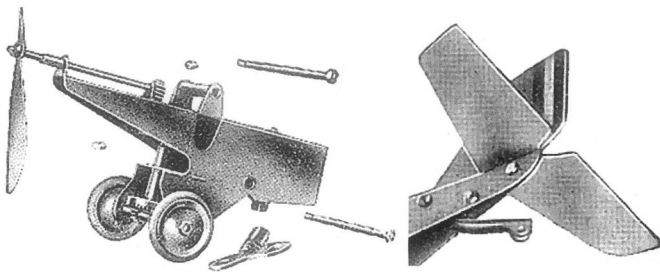
There are 4 extra fuselage parts. • The **Nose Extension\***, 27, wraps around the normal nose, as in Model 9, leaving a forward cockpit, but with no floor, by the look of it. • The **Cabin Front** 26, bolts to the **Cabin**, 25, which in turn is bolted over the existing Front Top Fuselage, as in the fuselage E below, with the Top Fuselage showing through



the windows. The cabin is continued backwards by the **Cabin Rear Fuselage**, 25, which replaces the Rear Top Fuselage. It can also be bolted to the Sides with the front lowered, as in Model 10, but I'm not sure what the discontinuity this leaves is meant to represent.

Other parts are a **Short Axle\*** for use with the Wing U/C Leg, and 3 **Studs**, 18, 21\*, & 36mm long, each 3.5mm Ø rod threaded at each end (like the Axle). They are used instead of long bolts in assembling parts like the Float & Nacelles.

The clockwork **Motor Unit\*** is shown overleaf, with contrate drives to the Prop & Wheels. It fits inside the standard fuselage, held by the two long Studs. Also shown is an **Adjustable Tail Wheel** that was supplied with the Motor – it is a U-section arm 44mm long, which has a 13mm Ø,



thin wheel at one end and a Bolt allowing adjustment in azimuth at the other. This holds it fast against a 20mm long shoe above it, which is bolted inside the fuselage and holds the nut for the adjustment bolt fast between its sides. All the parts are brass steel.

**COLOURS** The parts are painted silver, with red & blue areas in some cases. One lot has all the parts silver but with French roundels on the top of the Wings #1, and 2 of the 4 Wings, #15. The Fin & top of the Tail have French flashes as in the manual photos. (These flashes are on all the known parts and define where the rudder & elevators might be.) Other Wing parts have red on the top of all the wings behind a diagonal from the inboard leading edge to the trailing edge (as in MCS), and sometimes a roundel is added on the silver part of the top wings. A decorated Fuselage Side is red, with the nose & a long, lengthwise teardrop flash silver – on the other side blue replaces the red. A Fuselage Rear Top has a blue top. In lots with these red or blue parts the Propellers and Wheels are red. In one such some of the Struts & U/C Legs are nicked instead of the normal silver paint.

The parts in the MCS set are given as buff, red, & white.

**The MANUALS** The one with David's set has 32 pages, 186\*132mm deep, plus covers. The latter are grey,



and plain except for the black words on the front (left) and the printer 'IMPRIMERIE H.PONTAUT – COSNE –' on the back. After an Intro on pp1-2 there are 2 pages about the parts of full-size aircraft and a little on how they fly, with men-

tion of the role of the elevator & rudder, but not the ailerons. Pages 5 & 6 have the photos of the Sets shown earlier, and 7-12 show Assemblies A – L, from Fuselage to Groupe Moteur (the Large Nacelle). Then come Models 1-7 for the Standard Set, from Avion de tourisme on p13, to Avion de bombardement on p19, and Models 8-19 using the Complémentaire set, from Avion type 'Grand Raid' on p20, to Hydravion torpilleur on p31. p32 is blank. There is a reasonable photo, a parts list, & brief building instructions, for each model. With one or two exceptions the models are interesting looking and credible. The open cockpit looks rather stark and it's perhaps surprising that no Pilot was supplied. The parts seen are well made and fit together neatly, except that there is a small gap between the back of the Cabin Rear Fuselage and the tailplane.

Philip's manual is similar but probably slightly later. The covers are brown and the printer (on p32 with his logo on C4) is A.Waton, St. Etienne. Pages 1-6 are the same but p7 now has a photo of the parts in the Coffret de luxe. Then the Assemblies & Models 1-14 are the same except that different photos are used in some cases and minor changes have been made to 2 models. The earlier Model 15 (a low wing, 3 engine Seaplane) is omitted and thereafter (pp28-31) the Models 15-18 are the previous 16-19. p32 shows the Motor Unit, mentioned but not shown in the earlier version, and how to fit it, and the Adjustable Tail Wheel. The model photos in this edition are clearer than in the first one.

As already mentioned the Instructions for the MCS Standard Set are inside the lid. Not all the detail can be seen but if they contain any general instructions they are much

abbreviated. Most of the space is devoted to the 7 models shown, each with a picture and a few lines of print under it. Only 5 of the models can be seen at all clearly and they seem to be those from the manuals above.

**QUESTION** Why did none of the makers of Aero sets include items such as (imitation) bombs & machine guns? It would have increased their 'play value' and even a simple release mechanism for bombs could have been included.

**SNIPPETS** The items in this and all later 'Snippets', are based on pictures culled from eBay, unless stated otherwise.

**CONSTRUMECANICO** This name is in my Database but with no details except that it is Mexican (and that's in some doubt because I can't now trace where the information came from). But the box lid below proves the name, and from the U-09 Set No., there may have been a number of outfits. The whole lid is in colour with the Crane on a green table, and a



brown-grey wall behind. The models has silver Strips, and probably A/Gs, with red Flanged Plates including a Sector Plate at the back, and blue Flexible Plates. 'METAL BUILDING SET' can be seen on the lid's apron, and the bottom of the box is blue.

**A BOYCRAFT SET** The metal box below may well be a red herring. It is light blue and has a red label inside the lid with the name, and U.S.A. in small letters under it. To the left are 2 boys standing by a bench which has a vice on its foremost corner, and they are examining a something which can't be seen clearly but doesn't really look as if it's made from the parts in the box. The latter appear to be ERECTOR and are silver, perhaps aluminium, in colour, apart from a red Trunnion, a brass 1" Pulley, and the red/yellow little House. In another view some pages from a manual, almost certainly ERECTOR, can be seen to the left of the box.

I understand that Boycraft made a range of toys but I've no reference to ERECTOR being sold under that name. Probably at some point the empty box was found to be a convenient receptacle for some homeless ERECTOR parts.



**Snippets. More MÉCAVION** The two original sets, and the Motor for them, were described in 26/754. This account mentions the changes which subsequently occurred to the



**Fig.1**



**Fig.5**

numbering & packaging of these 'classic' sets, and to the colours of the parts. And it also describes the various new outfits with different parts that were added over the years. These comprised two different series of 'Baby' sets and two post-WW2 outfits, one for modern multi-engined machines, and one for jet aircraft. Most of the material used has come from Ebay photos, but my thanks also to Jacques Pitrat for his help on particular aspects.

**The MAKER** A leaflet from sometime in the 1930s gives the maker as Ets. M Coudray of Fourchambault (a small town near Nevers in central France).

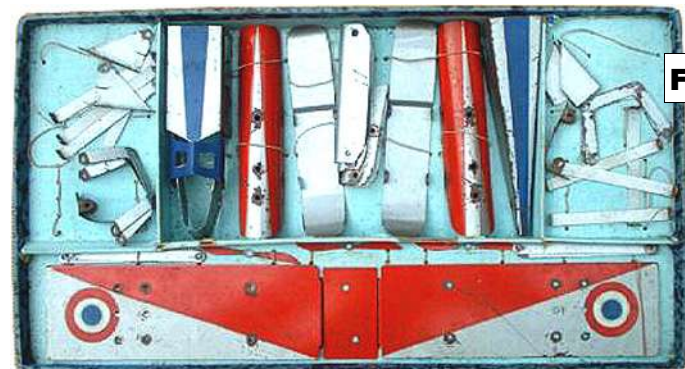
### The CLASSIC SETS

**The ORIGINAL SETS** As explained in OSN 26 these were the basic outfit called Standard and an add-on Complémentaire. 5 such sets have been seen, with the lid described in OSN 26 (Fig.1). Of these 4 Standards are in brown boxes with all silver parts (apart from the roundels & tail flashes). The one Complémentaire set is also in a brown box and the parts are shown in Fig.2. The Motor was available in this period.

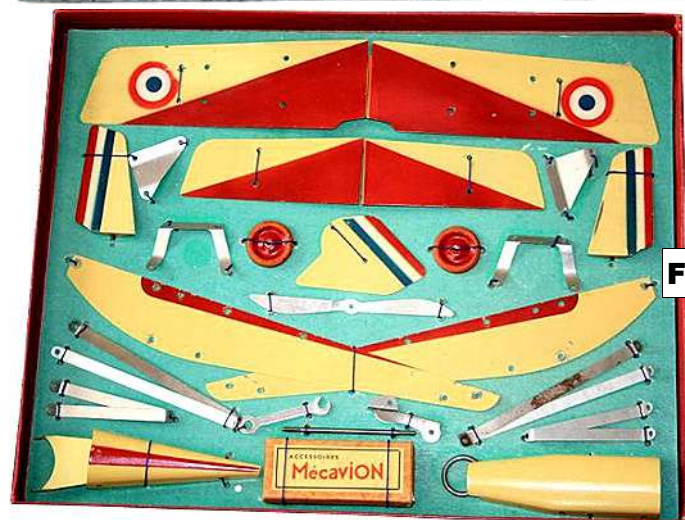
**The NUMBERED SETS** Again from OSN 26: by 1934 the sets were numbered 000 to 7, with the Standard becoming No.1 and the Complémentaire No.3. The 0, 00, & 000 were smaller sets with, as will be seen, some different parts, and the other sets, none of which have been seen, were the No.3 in two parts; an outfit combining Sets 1 & 3 (No.6); and sets which included the Motor, Nos.5 & 7 based on Nos.1 & 6.

Three of the numbered sets have been seen, all with the Fig.1 lid: a No.1 with all silver parts, and a No.3 with red/silver parts. Both are in brown boxes and both have an OSN 26 type manual.

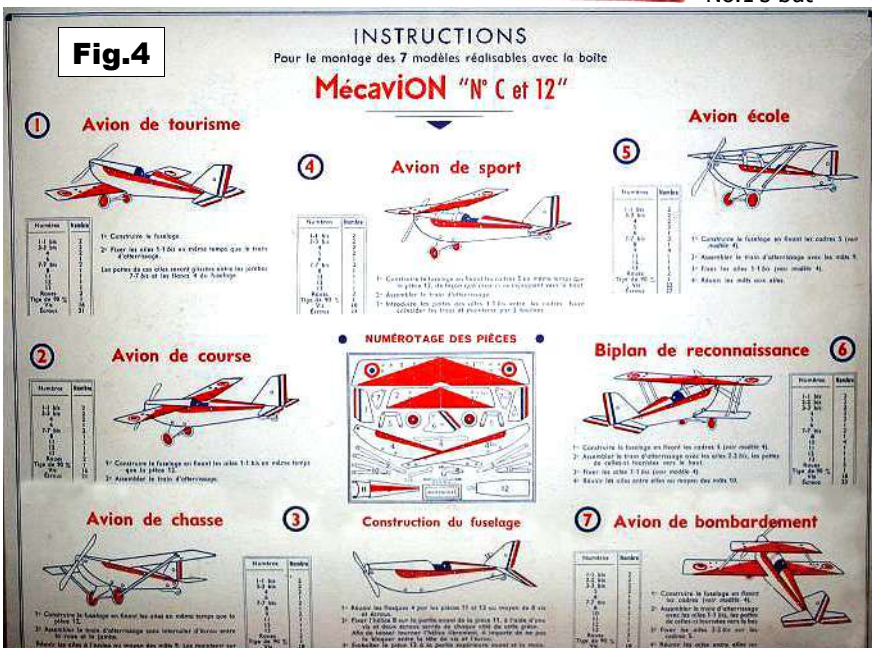
Before going to the third set, mention of 3 other sets, all probably No.1's but



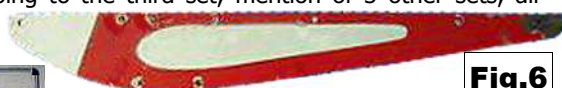
**Fig.2**



**Fig.3**



**Fig.4**



**Fig.6**

not positively identified as such They could come after the first two sets (above) and before the third (below). They have the same Fig.1 label and the colour scheme mentioned in 26/756, with 'diagonal' wings, and the 'teardrop' fuselage (above). 2 of the 3 sets are in blue boxes with red/silver parts and the third has a brown box with the red on the fuselage parts replaced by blue.

The third definite No.1 is typical of later sets. It has yellow/red parts in a red box (as in Fig.3, a later set) with a completely different flash on the sides of the fuselage. The new lid label (Fig.5) is seen for the first time, and the instructions, headed 'Standard', are pasted inside the lid. The 7 models shown are those for the Standard set in the OSN 26 manual. The later example in Fig.4 is identical except for the heading.

In the 1930s leaflet mentioned earlier an additional outfit, No.8 Coffret de Luxe was

included – no doubt with the same content as the No.7 but with different packaging.

**The LETTERED SETS** The set designations were changed to letters. A lettered Baby set has been seen but no Classic sets. However they probably existed because the instructions in the lid of a set identical to the No.1 (Fig.4) are for sets 'C et 12'.

**The DOUBLE-DIGIT NUMBERED SETS** Set 12 was part of the range after this final change to the numbering. Both No.12's seen have the same parts as the No.1 except that they have wire Screwdrivers (with MECCANO shaped handles) instead on the wooden-handled ones in earlier sets. One was said to be from the 1950s. One of their open boxes is shown in Fig.3 and the inside of the lid in Fig.4.

Two other double-digit boxes have been seen, No.14, the Motor, in a red box with a plain yellow label, and a new set No.15 described later. So, assuming that it existed, No.13 would have been the successor to the Complémentaire/No.3 add-on outfits.

### The BABY SETS

There were two series of Baby sets with many of the parts quite different, and I'll call them Types 1 & 2. It's not known when the first outfits were introduced but their lids were in the Fig.1 style. Nor is there a date for the second phase, and though all have the final, Fig.5, style of lid, it was also used for some of the Type 1 outfits.

**TYPE 1 with the FIG.1 LABEL** The first lids were blue



Fig.7

with labels which differed from the Fig.1 pattern in only a few details, notably by having the set name across the tailplane (instead of 'Amuse et Instruit'). A Price List with one such set was dated 12/34.

**Set 00** Most of the parts can be seen in the set above, in a box 24\*43cm. The main Fuselage is in one piece and the part in the top left corner fits into it to provide the nose and under part of the front of the fuselage. It appears to be the casing of the Motor unit in Fig.8. Of the other parts the red Centre Top Wing (top, right) is new, & the narrower Floats, but most of the other parts appear to be from the Classic range. Possibly not the Fin though, it seems a little smaller with no centre hole. The holes in new parts are about 3mm, smaller than the 3½mm of the classic pieces. The old and new parts marry together quite well in the models. The 4-page instructional leaflet has 'Type "Baby" 0 et 00' on the front and 8 models are shown on the other pages with written instructions for each.

**Set 0** Subject to confirmation, it was identical to the 00 except that it included the Motor Unit instead of just its Casing. Said Motor Unit has a prop shaft at the front and a large contrate underneath which meshes with a pinion on the undercarriage Axle. (One Ebay seller mentioned a missing Key so presumably it is clockwork and not simply the prop shaft



Fig.8

geared to the contrate so that the Propeller turns when the model is pushed along the ground.)

**Set 000** No examples of a 000 from this time have been seen but a later Type 1 Set 000 is described below.

**TYPE 1 with the LABEL BELOW** Only 'Baby' sets have been seen with this lid label.



Fig.9

**Set 0** The set seen is in a blue box with a model leaflet as in the No.00 already described, and with the same parts except that the Floats look to be the wider Classic type. A similar set, but probably a No.00, has the same wide Floats, and has the instructions glued inside the lid. None of the other Baby sets seen, earlier or later, with this type of label or otherwise, have the wide Floats.

**Set 000** The next two sets have brown lids, and are probably both No.000. The first, 28\*16\*2.8cm, looks unused and has a Motor, no Floats, no Struts, only 2 Wings, and the parts are painted all silver with only the usual roundels & flashes as decoration. It was said that there were instructions for 2 models. The few remaining parts in the second set match those above and there are instructions inside the lid (in B&W) for 2 models (the only ones that would be possible, a Low Wing and a Shoulder Wing Monoplane). They include an illustration of the Motor Unit.

**New Colours** The next set is in a red box with the Model Leaflet for Sets 0 & 00, as before. The parts too are as before except for their colours. The main parts are yellow, with the Fuselage nose and the flash on the Floats blue, and the coloured triangles on the Wings red.

**TYPE 1 with the FIG.5 LABEL** The sole set seen with this label is a No.000 in a red box. The only remaining parts are the Fin and Tailplanes, silver with the usual flashes.

**TYPE 2** All the sets have the Fig.5 label and all, except as noted, have red boxes.

**TYPE 2 NUMBERED Sets** Of these first sets, examples of Nos.00 & 000 have been seen and neither include a Motor.

**Set 00** The parts can be seen in the box below, and in a model overleaf, made from a later equivalent outfit. The parts that are definitely new are the Wings, Fin, Nose (to the right of the LH Float), the Float, the 'V' Interplane Struts, 3-bladed Propeller, and Span'driver. The Fuselage could be the same as before though the models are said to be 23cm long, against the 21cm quoted for Type 1. The span is also slightly greater – with the Wings bolted to the Fuselage it is 31½cm

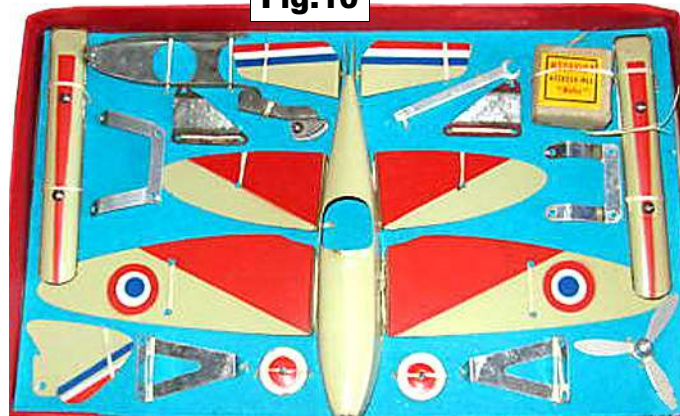


Fig.10

**5. MÉCAVION Parts in 1933** Some details of MÉCAVION were given in 40/1199 but with practically no dates, and no complete list of the parts. So an illustrated Parts Price List dated Dec. 1933 now to hand is very welcome, and lists both the 'Classic' & the Baby parts. The maker is as given before and below the details of the parts, rearranged. The Baby parts are the Type 1 in OSN 41, and include the Motor unit (it cost less than the price of a pair of Wings). The Wings etc which were thought to be as the Classic parts have slightly different prices but that might be because of their different finishes. 1933 seems to have been the last year of the Type 1 sets because the 1934 list of sets in MCS that was mentioned in

N°	Pièce		N°	Pièce	
1	Aile.....	4.75	30	Capot.....	1.40
1bis	.....	4.75	31	.....	1.80
2	.....	2.50	32	Essieu.....	0.45
2bis	.....	2.50	33	Tournevis.....	1.75
3	Aileron.....	2.75	34	Clé.....	0.45
3bis	.....	2.75	35	Roue.....	1.25
4	Flasque.....	3.85	35bis	métal.....	0.40
5	Cadre.....	1.20	36	Tige de 36 <sup>3/32</sup> .....	0.40
6	Gouvernail.....	2.75	37	.....	21 <sup>3/32</sup> 0.25
7	Flasque.....	0.70	38	.....	18 <sup>3/32</sup> 0.20
7bis	.....	0.70	39	Axe.....	0.35
8	Hélice.....	1.20	40	Béquille.....	1.80
9	Mât.....	1.35	41	Axe de béquille.....	0.45
10	.....	1.15	42	Entretoise de	0.35
11	Ventre.....	3.35	43	Clé pr moteur.....	1.80
12	Dessus AV.....	3.15	44	Bandæ de roue.....	0.30
13	AR.....	2.80	Boîte 10 vis.....	1.35	
14	Plan.....	1.85	10 écrous.....	0.85	
15	Aile.....	4.60	10 boulons.....	1.95	
15bis	4. »				
16	Entretoise.....	0.95			
17	Hélice.....	0.40			
18	Mât.....	1.15			
19	Entretoise.....	0.70			
19bis	.....	0.70			
20	Flasque.....	0.70			
20bis	.....	0.70			
21	Bâti.....	1.25			
22	Cadre.....	0.90			
23	.....	1.20			
24	Cabine AV.....	2.85			
25	AR.....	2.50			
26	Pare-brise.....	1.15			
27	Nez.....	2.45			
28	Flotteur (a).....	2.85			
29	..... (b).....	2.90			

#### Pièces BABY

N°	Pièce		N°	Pièce	
100	Aile.....	2.75	108	Hélice.....	0.70
100bis	.....	2.75	109	Plan.....	1.25
101	Aileron.....	2.50	110	Roue.....	0.45
101bis	.....	2.50	111	Essieu.....	0.50
102	Gouvernail.....	2.50	112	Entretoise.....	0.25
103	Flasque.....	0.70	113	Mât.....	0.90
103bis	.....	0.70		Moteur Baby.....	5. »
104	Fuselage.....	4.25		Assortiment boulons.....	1.75
105	Cadre.....	1.20			
106	.....	0.90			
107	Flotteur.....	4.80			

26/754, has an picture of a Type 2 Baby model with elliptical Wings & a 2-cockpit Fuselage. Oddly the Motor for the Classic sets isn't listed though its Key is.

#### MÉCAVION: S6

[43/1293]

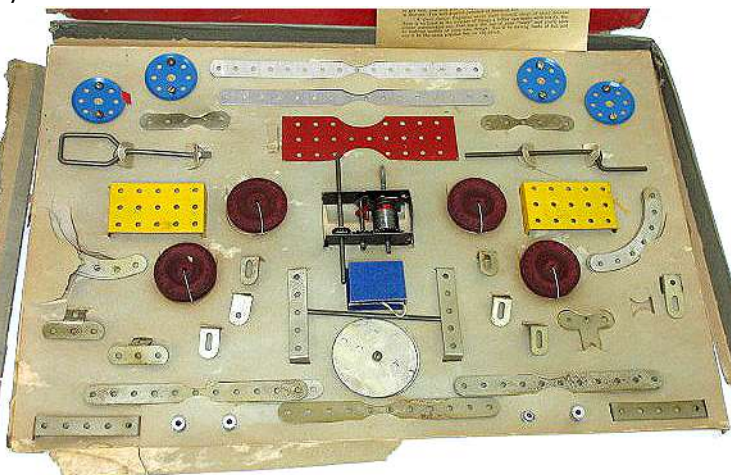
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**Small Ads** Short ads are free to subscribers; insertion guaranteed in OSN 44 if received by mid-February (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask).

**6. Snippet. A JR ENGINEER Special Outfit** An account of the parts & manual from this Set was given in 33/976, and now a boxed set has been seen on Ebay, somewhat the worse for wear but probably complete.

The box is the same size as the one for the '4½' Set and the lid is also the same, see 33/975, except that the bright yellow colour of the name and other details is unfaded.



From the parts that can be seen in the box above, the quantities given in OSN 33 are correct subject to the following.

- Only 4 of the 11h Strips can definitely be seen but more could be hidden under them – however only 4 are needed in the manual models.
- There are 4 Curved Strips.
- As in the OSN 33 parts there is only one Steering Bracket (under the righthand stacked pair of Curved Strips), and though the cutout next to it could take another, only one is needed in the manual models.

- Other points. • The Wheels look dark red-brown rather than black.
- The white Cord poking out of the small parts box matches that noted in OSN 33.

The front of the manual was shown on Ebay and it is identical to the OSN 33 example except that the bottom of the 'Fun and Education' box, blank before, now has 2 lines printed in it. The first is indecipherable but the second is 'Playthings Inc. So this adds to the suggestion in OSN 33 that the Special was produced after a change of maker (despite the Coledi name still being on the lid – old stock being used up?).

#### JR ENGINEER S5

[43/1293]

**7. Snippet. An early BENCO Brochure.** It was suggested in 26/772 that BENCO was introduced in 1950 but a 4\*A4 page brochure seen on Ebay was said to date from 1949. And that is credible because a model building competition was advertised in it with an end date of Easter 1950.

Only Sets A & B were available, price DM5.50 & 11.90, and they had 129 & 282 parts. That compares with the 131 & 282 in later sets (ignoring the Paper Clips in the latter – there is no mention of them in the brochure). 26 parts were advertised in the brochure and though many of their names can't be seen clearly, they are almost certainly all but 2 of the 28 different parts included in Set B later. All the main parts of the later Set B can be seen in the sets & models shown in the brochure, but there is no sign of the small Tyre #32, so that may be one of the 'missing' ones.

#### BENCO: S1

[43/1293]

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