

**Snippet – 'New' System: METAL WORKSHOP**

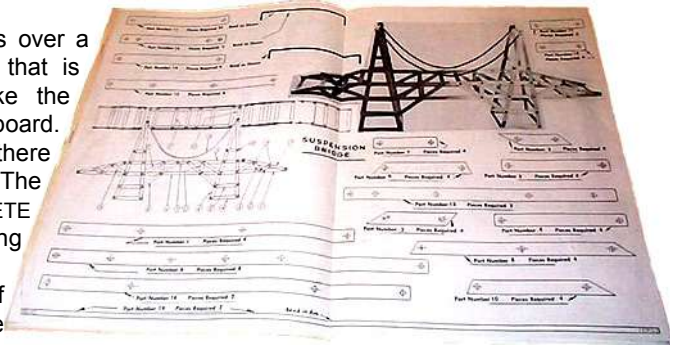
Judging from the numbers seen on Ebay, 'DIY' sets don't seem to have been very popular in America, but they did exist, witness the LITTLE GIANT MODEL MAKER (21/603), & BILD-R-JIG (29/853) with its wooden Strips.

Now a third called METAL WORKSHOP, made by Ray Lewis Associates Inc., Buffalo, NY in 1937. The Tool looks as if it is comparable to JUNEERO (8/176, 9/216), and is said to be capable of 'shearing, forming, and punching'. The ad also told of '40 pieces of round/flat stock, wheels, and nuts & bolts'. All of them neatly housed in or on the wooden baseboard.



The lid, left, fits over a plain cardboard box that is deep enough to take the Tool mounted on its board.

Notice the 'NO. 2' on it, so there may have been other sets. The slogan reads 'A COMPLETE WORKSHOP FOR BOYS Young & Old'.



Small drawings of various models can be seen on the lid, and on the manual cover, left. They include a Big Wheel, a Gantry (Crane?), a Railway Bridge with Signals, and the Bridge shown on the pages of the manual opened above.

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METAL WORKSHOP: S1

**Snippet – Another MECHANIC Set**

This set was being sold from Germany. The top of the box, right, is very similar in style to the outfit shown in 31/939. Again it has a 4-figure number in the bottom right corner, but in this case it looks to start with '19'. The underside of the box, below right, shows the parts in the set (240 in all), and most of them could be 'Chinese' pattern. The main new parts are the Wheel for the Motorcycles, and the Disc below it of about 3/4" Ø - it is used, for example, with the black part, as a rear view mirror. The red circle below the Flat Trunnion could be a Pulley but I can't place the larger red part to its left.

The models look a reasonable selection and as far as I can recall they have not featured in any Chinese sets before.

I wondered about the connection between this set and the one in OSN 31. For the latter, it didn't occur to me at the time that it might have 'Chinese' parts, partly because if it was the same as the METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET (MSE henceforth), its hole pitch would be 12.3mm, not the usual Chinese 12.5mm. But assuming it is the same as MSE, many of the OSN 31 MECHANIC/MSE basic parts (see 31/938) could well be the same as those in this set, with a hole pitch of 12.3mm and parts with 'too much' metal outside the holes. Two other sets described elsewhere in this Issue, STEEL BUILDER & STIHL, have parts like that too.

It seems therefore that for the future it will be useful to distinguish between the basic, 12.3mm pitch parts in all these new sets, I'll call them 'new Chinese', and 'old Chinese' parts with 12.5mm pitch, as in the earlier Chinese sets, WISDOM, MECHANIC [1], MECHANIX, etc.

There is one anomaly though: Of the two sets I've been able to examine, the MSE hole pitch was 12.3mm; the STIHL pitch, 12.2mm. Remaking the measurements as accurately as possible I now have averages of 12.26mm for MSE & 12.23mm for STIHL; a small but real difference which could no doubt arise from different tooling, subcontractors, etc, etc. For the moment though I shall lump them all together as 'new Chinese'.



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MECHANIC [2]: S1