

'New' System: OUR BOYS David Hobson kindly sent details of his recently acquired set, still strung and with only the Screwdriver & some of the N&B missing. If the parts look familiar that's because they are very like those of two other early post-WW2 UK systems, ARWILL & BELMONT, see 29/856, 37/1102, 41/1230, 43/1294, & 36/1076. But there is one big difference, OUR BOYS has 1" bossed Pulleys with Rubber Rings, against the 1" Discs in ARWILL & BELMONT.

The PARTS Details that can't be seen clearly in Figs.2 & 3 are the 4*8h Flanged Plate which has all its sides flanged, the green 2*2h A/B & 2*4*2h DAS, and the 2 Collars, one between each pair of Wheels.

Holes are at 1/2" pitch, as would be expected, but at 3.7mm Ø they are slightly smaller than those in ARWILL & BELMONT. The thread is again 4BA. The Pulley is brass, 1" Ø, and the Rubber Ring is 1 3/8" o.d. Bosses & Collar are 3/8" Ø, single-tapped. The Axles & Crank Handle are about 3mm Ø, and are respectively 4 & 4 1/2" long.

The missing Screwdriver is described in the manual as 'chromium' but so is the actual black painted Spanner in the Set.

The Strips etc are dished with ragged holes and they are poorly finished. The black parts have a dull look to them.

The N&B (Fig.3) are brass, probably commercial items. The Bolt is round-headed of about 1/4" Ø, & 3/8" u/h. The hexagonal Nut is about 1/4" A/F.

The SET The red box measures 15*12*3/4" and the lid has no label. It is shown in Fig.1 with the manual on top of it. The N&B are in a small fawn envelope loose in the box. The Screwdriver would have been held to the left of the lefthand 3*8h Plate. The set contents are listed in the manual and, apart from the missing Screwdriver, are as in the box except that there should be 30 N&B.

The MANUAL It has 8 pages, 252*182mm, including covers. Covers C2-4 are blank. The first inside page has the Bridge 'supermodel' in Fig.4, then 2 pages with 4 models on each. None of the models are named, and the 3 model pages have no text at all. The 8 models run from a Settee to the Flying Machine as well as Trolleys & domestic items. There is one rather poor photo for each. Several need more parts than are in the Set, and one or two are former (4 Strips, 5 Pulleys, 4 Rings, similar to ARWILL models. The final page lists the parts with their quantities – some have strange names, the Flanged Plate is a Centre Box MECCANO prices for the parts, & the Strips are called Plates. All the ARWILL names are different with account for all of the difference. Box-Plate & Strips for the parts above. The price is given on this page, 18/2 including Purchase Tax.

REMARKS There is no indication that there were any other

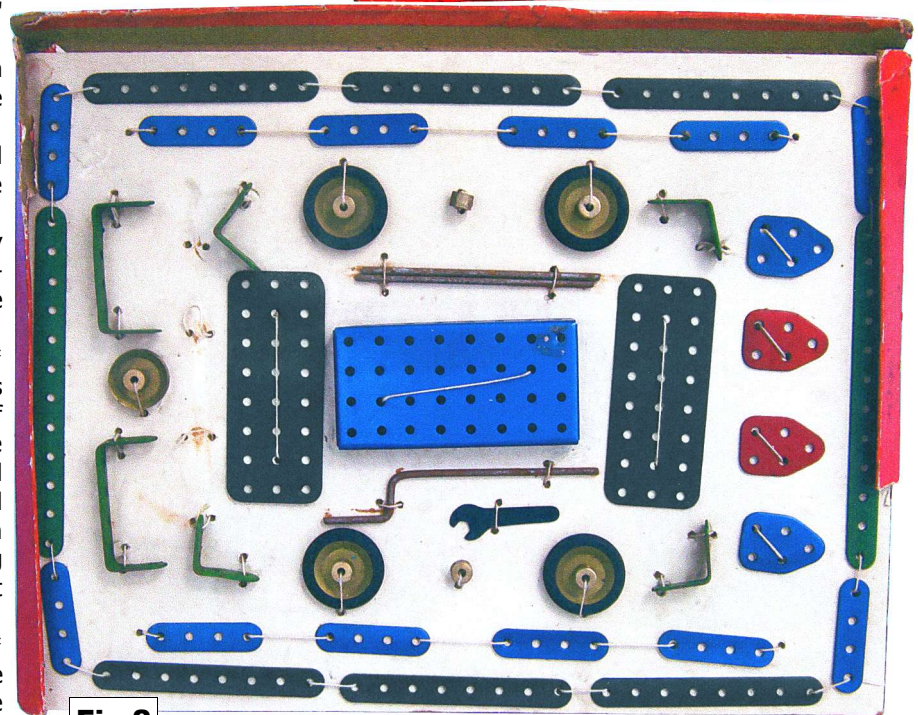
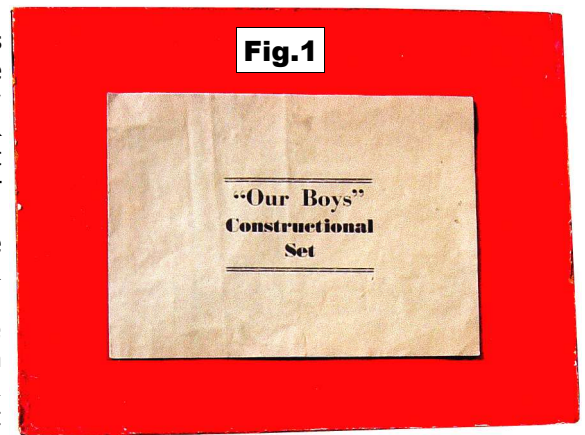


Fig.2

OUR BOYS sets.

The OUR BOYS set cost 50% more than the ARWILL and I wondered if this might indicate which came first. But the extra parts in the set (4 Strips, 5 Pulleys, 4 Rings, similar to ARWILL models. The final page lists the parts with their quantities – some have strange names, the Flanged Plate is a Centre Box MECCANO prices for the parts, & the Strips are called Plates. All the ARWILL names are different with account for all of the difference. Box-Plate & Strips for the parts above. The price is given on this page, 18/2 including Purchase Tax.



Fig.3

Fig.4 is 60% of the original size; Figs.5 & 6 are 100%

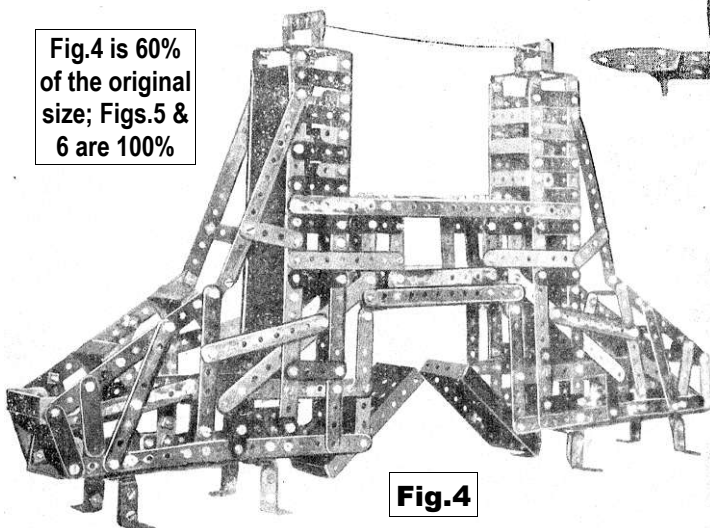


Fig.4

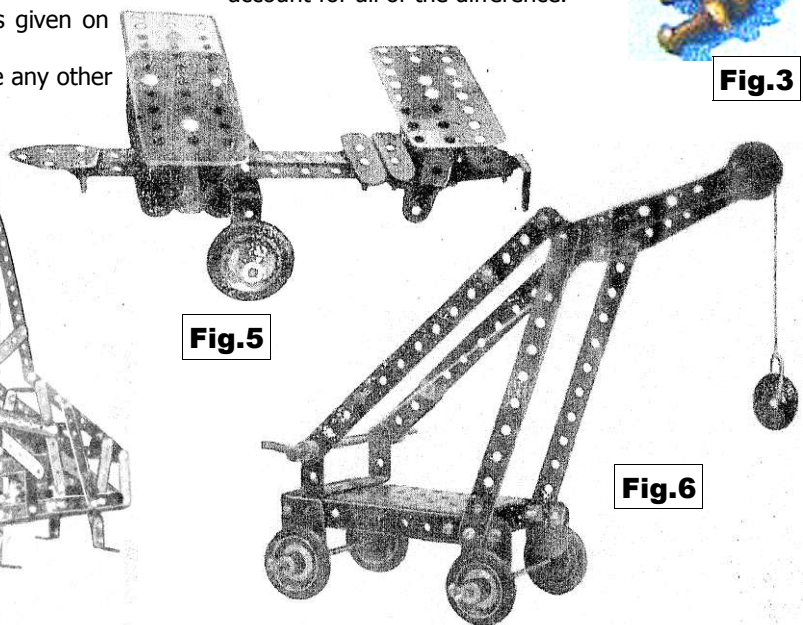


Fig.5

Fig.6