



with two boys in a white circle making a large but simple grey colour Crane. It is shown left. The name is white on red, and the set number is stamped in the red circle top right. The parts are mostly clipped to

yellow cards, with the N&B, etc in a dark blue tin with 'Italmecc' on it in white.

The **Contents** are very similar to those in a MECCANO No.0 of the late 1920s, plus Tyres & a Flanged Sector Plate. Most of the parts may be visible in the open box but all are mentioned below. K before a MECCANO PN indicates MÄRKLIN pattern. • The 5 & 11h **Strips**; **Curved Strips**, like M90a; & **Brackets** (M10, K11, M12, K125, & a deep M102 seen within the lower Curved Strips) are all a bright mid to light green. The **DAS** looks dark in colour, nickel or chemical black perhaps. • The tops of the **Flanged Plates** are like K52 & K54, the flanges can't be seen. They are light red, as are the **Trunnions**. • The **Bush Wheel** & **1" Fast Pulley** are blue, and the latter looks as if they may be cast, with radial raised 'spokes' on the boss side. The **Tyres** are black, and fat like MÄRKLIN. The small **Loose Pulley** (in the middle of the Trunnions) looks gold and about 1/2" o.d. • The **Axles** are under the Flanged Plate and can't be seen clearly. The **Crank Handle** is 6 1/4" o/a. • The flat **Wire Hook** looks brass, and the **Cord** is red. • The nickel wire **Screwdriver** is over 5 1/2" long, and the **Spanner**, black probably, is the MÄRKLIN type.

The **manual cover** is about the same size as the lid label, and is similar in design, but the large circle is blue instead of white. Outside the small circle top right is 'n.', & inside 00-0.

LETRIXMEC The name of this electrical set was mentioned in 9/227 and it is from the same OPSET stable as the METALMEC system described there. The set below is a



No.1 and it is in a blue **box** with the parts in a yellow moulded tray. The lid has a large label identical to, and about the same size as the 25*18cm manual cover at the top of the next column. It has an orange/yellow power station (chemical plant ?) superimposed on scenes in natural colour including a Lockheed Constellation fitted with wingtip tanks.

The **parts** that can be seen are: • A nickel 5*11h **Flanged Plate** with extra small & large (about 10mm) holes. • A nickel **Bell**, with coil & striker on a dark base. • 2 black formers wound with thick wire (red on one, green on the other), which might be **Coils** or **Connecting Wire**. • 2 each of **Bulbs**; round, dark **Bulb Holders**; silvery **Reflectors** (probably incorporating bulb holders); & **Push Switches**. • 2x 9h **Strips** & a **Trunnion**. These, the **Spanner**, & the

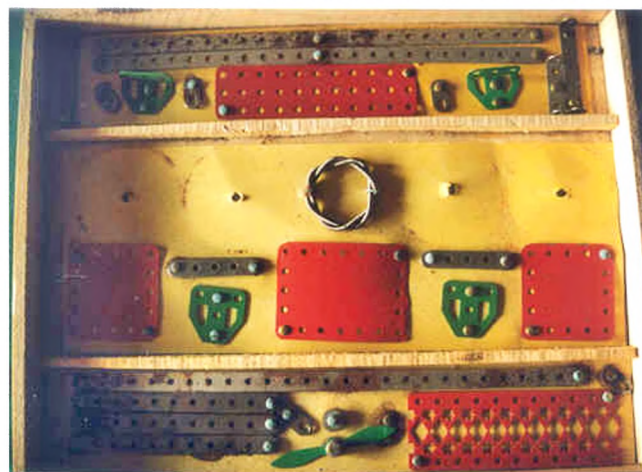


wire **Screwdriver**, match the METALMEC parts except that in the photo they all appear black instead of nickel. • **Pliers** & the part with 2 curved arms and what looks like a bulb holder at its apex – a **Continuity Tester** perhaps.

STAR The name was mentioned in 23/658 and Umberto's set is middle sized, packed in a wooden box. Most of the parts have a MECCANO look to them, but with some exceptions, the most notable being the unusual Braced Girder with diamond- & star-shaped holes in it. The pitch of the holes isn't known exactly, but the scaled dimensions given below assume it is 1/2". The **box** is about 12*15", polished on the outside with the (torn) label below covering about a third of the lid. It has 2 (1950ish) boys building a quite large Gantry with a slewing Crane on top, against a yellow backdrop. At the bottom is a red name panel with a white circle for the Set No. -



but the number, if there is one, is too faint to be seen. The model's colours are correct but the box on the table is blue and its label has a different Crane on its lid. The parts are clipped, or tied in a few cases, to yellow backing cards. There are 3 in the bottom of the box between wood partitions (below), and the other 3 are in a blue card tray,



shown overleaf. The N&B, etc are in a white box with STAR on it in blue.

Now for the **parts**. Strip parts, Brackets, & Tools look to be nickel plated; Flanged Plates, the Curved Strip, Trunnions, & the Propeller are a bright mid-green; the other Plates, the Braced Girder, & the 1" Pulleys are a lightish red. The Bush Wheel & Hook look black.

The parts mentioned below can be seen in the original photos and the notes about them that follow may help if

Snippet. An OPSET LETRIXMEC No.4 SET

A No.1 outfit from this Italian system was described in 26/759. Although some of its parts are missing in the No.4 described here (from an ebay offering), it is likely that the sets are progressive with all the No.1 parts in the No.4.

The SET The box scales at 45*30cm; it is blue, as was the No.1, and the parts are again in a moulded tray (Fig.2). The lid label (Fig.1) is once more about the same size as the manual cover, 25*18cm (Fig.4), but the No.1's label was identical in design to the manual cover.

The PARTS Apart from the structural parts from the



Fig.1

companion METALMEC system (described in 9/226 & 37/1108), the main electrical parts are the Bell Unit (Fig.3) as in the No.1, plus an Electromagnet (Fig.6), Morse Sender & Receiver Units (Fig.3), & a small Electric Motor (Fig.5).

The No.1 parts which are missing from the No.4 are the Flanged Plate pierced with standard & larger holes, the 2 Lamp Reflectors, the Push Switch, & the 2 Coils (or Connecting Wire). The Plate would have been housed in the rectangular recess at the top of the tray, the Reflectors in the circular recesses below the Curved Strips (the Pulleys there could sit in the circular recesses by the Bush Wheels), & the Switch in the recess to the left of the green Bush Wheel on the right side (replacing the Hook). There is no obvious home for the Coils but there would be room for them in



Fig.2

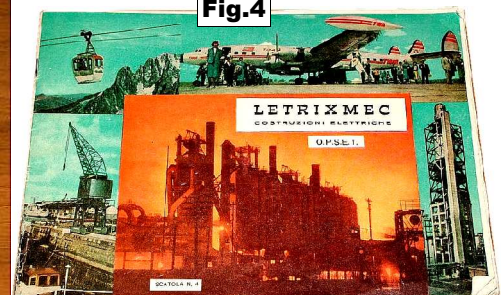


Fig.4



Fig.5

Fig.6



Fig.3

the well under the Flanged Plate. The three shallow circular recesses, similar to the one with the Segmented Disc in it, probably contained similar size Discs – 4 are shown in one of the models in the Ebay photos, all segmented.

Of the other parts in the tray the 2-arm nickel part at the top was in the No.1 and is perhaps a Continuity Tester, the small parts in the well under the Flanged Plate include a number of Bulb Holders, the Hook near the tray's left edge in METALMEC pattern while the one next to the Bush Wheel on the right isn't, although a not dissimilar one is shown in Fig.7.

The MANUAL 8 pages were shown on Ebay: an Intro; notes on the Electromagnetic Telegraph; & 6

models. The latter: the Morse Units connected together; a simple Crane with the Electromagnet; the Motor with 1 of 4 Segmented Discs on its shaft; a similar model but with the Disc lit by a Bulb in a Reflector; the Bell Unit with added lights, operated by a built-up tapper key; & the Hoist with Lighting left. The latter, which can be made with Set 3, shows the Reflector, Flanged Plate, Electromagnet, and the 4.5v battery used in all the models needing power. And there are Connectors mounted in two of the large holes – the only use for them seen so far.

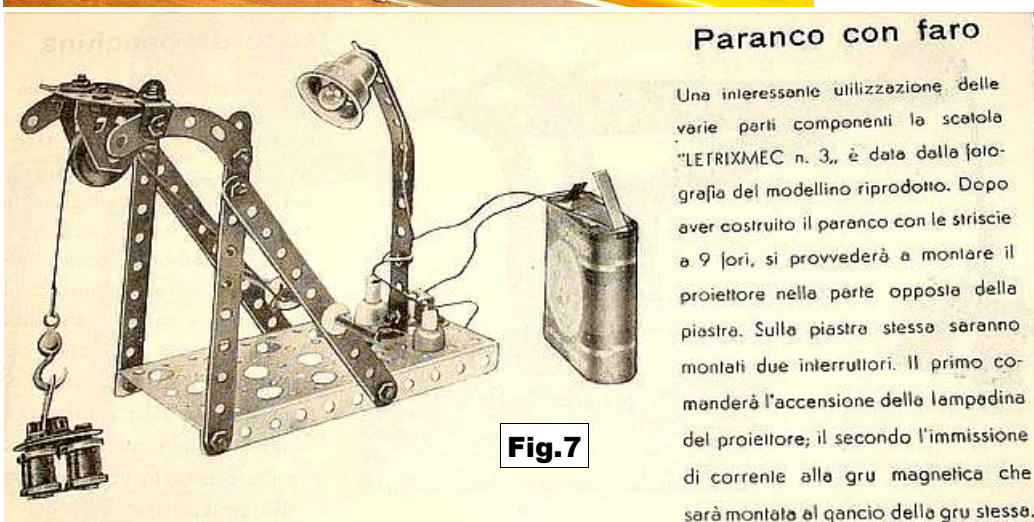


Fig.7

Paranco con faro

Una interessante utilizzazione delle varie parti componenti la scatola "LETRIXMEC n. 3," è data dalla fotografia del modellino riprodotto. Dopo aver costruito il paranco con le strisce a 9 fori, si provvederà a montare il proiettore nella parte opposta della piastra. Sulla piastra stessa saranno montati due interruttori. Il primo comanderà l'accensione della lampadina del proiettore; il secondo l'immissione di corrente alla gru magnetica che sarà montata al gancio della gru stessa.