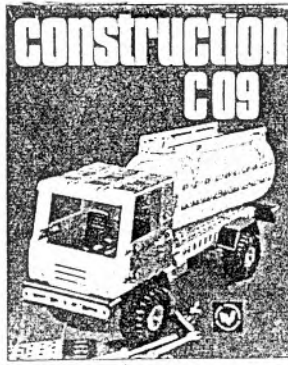


**Construction C 08**

Baukasten mit 367 Einzelteilen, speziell für den Bau von für Fahrzeuge erforderlichen Elementen, z. B. Räder, Türen, Karosserie.

Best.-Nr. 29 78 28-54 **24.50**

**Construction C 09**

Der Baukasten C 09 ist der neueste der Construction-Serie und enthält 416 Teile zum Bau von z. B. Lkw mit Containeraufleger, Jeep oder Kleinbus.

Best.-Nr. 29 78 36-54 **29.70**

**Construction C 20**

Baukasten mit über 270 Einzelteilen zum Bau von Hubschraubermodellen.

Best.-Nr. 29 78 52-54 **27.85**

1147



Windmühlenflügel

C01 C02 C03 C04 C06 C03+06

	4	4			4
--	---	---	--	--	---

1125



Trapezplatte 5 × 3 Loch, abgewinkelt

2	2			2
---	---	--	--	---

Top: New Sets

Centre: New Parts

Right: New Plastic Bosses



USING ... CONSTRUCTION. I have recently made one or two models from this East German system and one of the good points was that there were two types of Angle Bracket available. One had the normal arrangement of a hole in one face and a slot in the other, and the other had slots in both faces. The first type is necessary to provide a bearing but apart from that I often found the second type more convenient.

SMALL ADS.

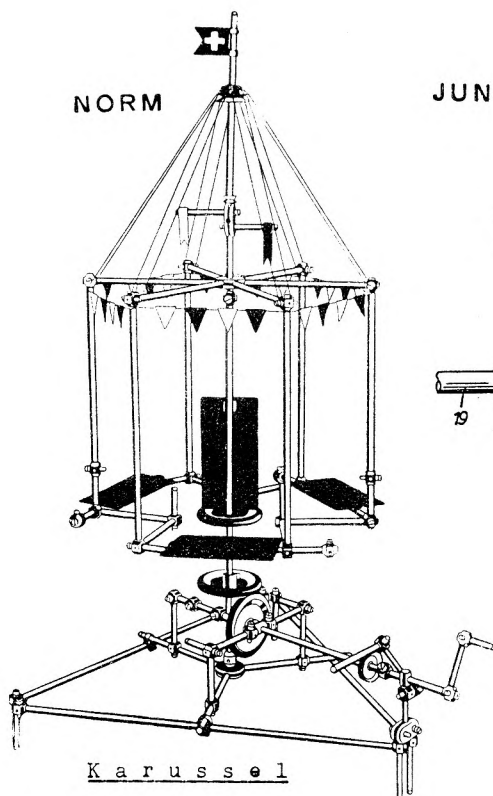
For Sale. Arkirecto parts. 22 red strips, 2" to 12". 8 red connecting pieces. 19 black OAS (3 types). 2x3" faceplates & 6x 1 1/4" pulleys with 5 collets. 1x1 1/4" loose pulley. 1 axle, 4 sprig clips. Some rust on circ parts. £10+Carr - OSN Editor.
Wanted. Esco sets or parts - OSN Editor.

NEW FACTS. Premier parts often turn up in the UK but from time to time there are some which might well be Premier but are not listed in MCS. In the Manual described in the Literature Index, which came to light recently, the following parts not in MCS are listed, they are not illustrated.

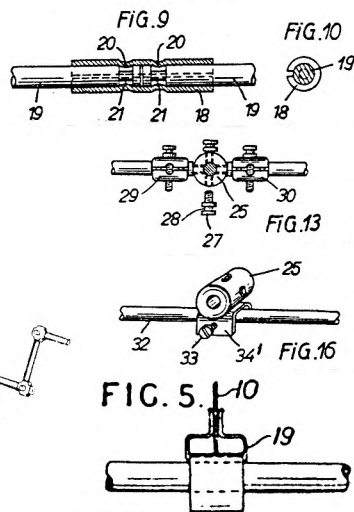
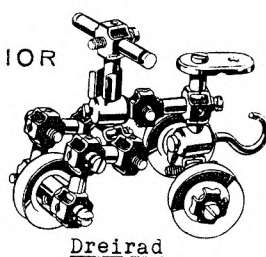
B9 3 1/2"x1"x1/2" Girder Plate
B11 2 1/2"x1 1/2"x1/2" Girder Plate
P3a Rectangular Base Plate 5 1/2"x1 1/2"
P3b " " " 4 1/2"x3 1/2"
P3c " " " 3 1/2"x2 1/2"

P4 Rigid Plate 5 1/2"x3 1/2"
P5 " " 5 1/2"x2 1/2"
W1 1/2" Pulley Wheel
L4 8" Axle Rod
L7 3" Crank Shaft

Parts W5a, W7, W7a which are shown in MCS were not in the Parts List of this Manual.



JUNIOR



Rods and 6 Plates.

Both the PLUS manual and the 6-page Leaflet are A4 size. The models in the Leaflet are a Tower, 2 Cranes, 2 Luggage Trucks, and the 3-Wheeler and Carousel shown opposite. The Manual's cover (on the facing page) shows the 2 boys with several models - a Motorcycle, a Funicular Railway, a Level Crossing Gate with Signal, and a Tower similar to the one in the Leaflet.

The Patents, Nos. 673362 & 673457, are in the name of W. Kobler, a Swiss citizen of Huttenstrasse 42, Zürich, and were both dated October 27, 1948. No Convention Date is given. The first covers the rods, clamps and bearings, and one of the claims is that the method of clamping allows the axis of all the rods to lie in the same plane. Several types of clamp in the Patent weren't produced but most of them were only minor variants of those already illustrated. The one exception, although it isn't really a clamp, is the slit tube, Figs. 9 & 10 opposite, to join two rods in line. The only bearings in the Patent are shown in Figs. 13 & 16 (opposite): the first evolved into the 4-sided Bearing and the second, with the bearing attached to a clamp in some unspecified way, wasn't proceeded with.

The second Patent is to do with the clips and shows the types already described plus the one to hold plates, shown in Fig. 5 opposite.

It isn't known how long KOBLER lasted but the Complete Specification for the Patent wasn't published until June 1952.

Correction At the top of p411 in OSN 15, Al Sternagle's address (for details of his *ERECTOR PARTS ILLUSTRATED*) was given incorrectly; it should have read: RD#2, Box 400, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, U.S.A.

ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. From David Hobson: • He came across ads in the *Boy's Own* of February and December 1921 for the **PA-DI-CA-CO** Gear Set that was included in MCS Part 5. Both are similar in style to the one in MCS but also include the words 'Something quite new'. and mention that they are for use with mechanical construction outfits. [I saw some of the gears recently courtesy of Geoff. Wright and the odd thing is that the Gear and Pinion meshed at centres of about .93", well short of the 1" MECCANO spacing. The measured DP was 39.5 for the 25t Pinion and 39.9 for the 50t Gear. Their bore was a tight fit on a MECCANO Axle and the bosses were single-tapped 8BA with roundheaded brass Set Screws. They are cleanly cast from a zinc alloy with integral bosses, and are all marked with the name and PN. Bosses have a slight taper from about .35" Ø to about .37". MCS shows 2 similar Mitre Pinions, 1G and 1H, and it's not clear how they differ - there was a 1H among the ones I saw and the only noticeable thing was that the boss wasn't tapped.] David wondered if the gears had been produced during the Great War for a particular purpose and the surplus were being sold off.

• Also in the December 1921 *Boy's Own* was a **KLIPTIKO** ad and the list of sets offered was the same as that given in 10/249, with the 7 complete sets 1-4, and the 5 Accessory Sets 0-04.

• **YUNOST'** sets were on sale in Moscow in the early 1990s and the parts in a set bought then are all steel except for the aluminium Flanged Plate.

• Among some early **ERECTOR** parts were a few **P31 Clips**, a little known part that only lasted for a few years after **ERECTOR** was introduced in 1913. It was intended to act as a Spring Clip but the ones found don't grip an Axle very well because they are a U shape in section with no waist, and are made from ordinary soft steel. They are 1/4" wide and 5/16" deep overall, with large radii at the ends of the wings. The illustration opposite came from a 1915 manual.

U

P31

The Clips were in a **No.1 Set**, from about 1915 and the label on the lid has the normal large Railway Bridge and 2 boys, but the man on the left is not the one illustrated in *Greenberg*. He is an older figure with a bald head, bow tie, pipe, and his right hand is in his jacket pocket. It's a UK set with LONDON, ENG. inserted between the MYSTO MFG. CO. and NEW HAVEN, CONN., U.S.A. lines, so perhaps this was an export or UK peculiar label.

A **Part 1 Manual** that was probably with the Set, is interesting because it sheds some new light on how Gilbert sold his products here at that time. On the front cover is: THE MYSTO MFG. CO., NEW HAVEN, CONN., U.S.A., with underneath 22 HAMSELL STREET, LONDON, E.C., ENGLAND. Inside a 'Revised Prices for 1916' label has been stuck in, and another on the back cover, that shows the range of sets, has on it: BEDINGTON, LIDIATT & CO., Ltd., 2, New Zealand Avenue, BARBICAN, LONDON, E.C. | DISTRIBUTORS FOR The A.C.GILBERT Company, New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.

• There's a **Toy Museum** beneath Brighton Station (55 Trafalgar St., Tel. 01273 749494) which has MECCANO, MCS, and building sets on display. David mentioned specifically some 20 including an **ERECTOR** Hudson loco, and I've picked out the following new points.

A boxed set of **SPEDICON**, a name new to me. A Crane has been made up from the parts - aluminium Tubes or Rods with internally tapped ends, held together with Studs and N&B, and blue aluminium Plates. The names on the manual are Williamson-Pinney Ltd., & Chertsey Industries, both of Avenue Chambers, Bloomsbury, London WC1.

A **DAN DARE** small rocket with the windows on the nose-cone printed on in black/dull yellow, instead of embossed in the metal.

Some information on **PREMIER** from the manager of the Museum. It was made for Christie & Jay Ltd., the company named on the manual cover in MCS, by Morris Products, Jubilee Works, 39 Albion St., Dunstable. They started up in 1955 making stove enamel goods and kitchen toys, and the manual shown in MCS is believed to date from 1960. It had been thought that **PREMIER** was much earlier than that, even prewar.

2. Josep Bernal sent a copy of a 28 page manual for the Spanish Electrical Sets **ELECTROMECCANO** Nos.1 & 2.

Corrections • Jeannot Buteux has pointed out that for the second time (!) I got the name of MAYKO wrong, see MAKKO/MAYCO in 15/427. But I did get it right in 16/447. • In the 3rd para of 'A Russian Baby' (16/435), the '5*10h Flanged Plate' should read '5*11h Flanged Plate'. • At the top of the 2nd column of 15/420 the 'red or blue' colour of the painted ZICK-ZACK parts should read 'green or blue'.

ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. From Don Redmond: • John's Photo & Hobby, 2188 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M4C 1K3, tel/fax: 416-421-1850/7441, stocks **TEMSI** sets and parts. • Parts which may be **CASTLE BUILDER** have a hole pitch of 12.77mm±. • In a large lot of **AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER** parts there were two types of N&B: the normal ones, plus 3mm thick, 3/8" square Nuts, and Bolts with 7mm Ø heads, both brass. And AMB Sprocket Chain has 13 links in 4". • The lower **STERLING** Screwdriver in 16/430 looks like the bought-in commercial item that is found with post-WW1 White sewing machines, and in other sets as well, including **AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER**. • A **BRAL 400** Set has deceptive packaging: it is in a carton 18*14*2" but the indentations for the parts are contained within 12¾*9*1½", so 34% of the volume of the carton. [I hadn't any record of a BRAL 400 Set and Don has now sent me more details. It's a small outfit from the current 'BRES' period, but before 1994, and it's based on 4 1" Pulleys/Tyres and a 5*11h Flanged Plate. I'll include more about it in a later Issue.]

2. From Jeannot Buteux: • From 15/413, there is also a Danish **EIFFEL** which is compatible with **MECCANO** and the parts are marked **EIFFEL**. [Could this be the **EIFFEL** mentioned in 16/458?] • The French **ASSEMBLO** patent (see 15/420) was No.720276 and was granted on 3 Dec. 1931. • **FALCO** [1] (15/426) was a **MECCANO**-type system with very colourful parts. • On **RODOPI** (see 16/458), it is confirmed that Bratsighovo is in Bulgaria.

Some new names: • **ARMA**, Czechoslovakian from 1955. • **CONSTRUCTAM**, French, perhaps from the 1950s. • **E.B.S.**, new theme sets from The Czech Republic introduced in 1996, with large, heavy, steel parts, nickel plated. • **LA CONSTRUCTION MÉTALLIQUE**, a French architectural system with 60 different Flanged

Plates as the main parts, each of which was available chromed, or painted in 10 different colours. • French **MA TOUR CONSTRUIT**, from the 1930s, with light steel parts. • French **TECHNIC**, 1939, with nickel plated steel parts but wooden Wheels.

3. In some French **TRIX** literature that Jean Estève kindly lent me the **BTB PENDULE ÉLECTRIQUE** (see 15/427) is included in a 1935 catalogue, price fr.59, and isn't among the new lines for that year, but it isn't in a list and brochure from 1938.

4. On **PREMIER** (16/457), David Fellows wrote that his brother received a set at Xmas 1955, and he remembers the Flanged Plates which were of a heavier gauge than contemporary **MECCANO**, and were finished in mid-blue semi-gloss enamel, similar to the current French colour.

5. From Keith Cameron on the **STABIL** article in OSN 14. 'Those Inventor's Outfits are extraordinarily advanced for their day, including the very early attempt to introduce heavy axles. But like so many innovations, these **STABIL** items have passed into oblivion almost unnoticed, perhaps due to failure to correct imperfections in the original design. I still think that the single metal teeth assembled in a metal strip around a hub was a brilliant idea - surely something should have come from it.'

6. From Kendrick Bisset. The **STRUCTO** Bridge (16/459) was the result of a marketing agreement between Structo, of Freeport, Illinois, and American Flyer of Chicago (before Gilbert bought the firm), which was formalized in 1922. AF advertised Structo non-constructional vehicles (trucks, autos) with AF trains, and acted as Structo's distributor. The 'constructional' Bridge is shown as an accessory in a (reproduction) 1918/19 AF catalog, and this would have been before Structo ceased producing their standard constructional outfits (see 15/424).

7. From Josep Bernal on a point about the production of **MECCANO** in Spain by Exin around 1970. Their last address (now closed) was Exin-Lines Bros. S.A., Roger de Flor 86, Barcelona 13. Later production was transferred to Mexico using the same machinery. The thread used for both the Spanish and Mexican parts was M4.

EXTRA MCS SHEETS The Sheets listed here are available at 15p per Sheet plus postage. That makes £7.95 for all 53 Sheets.

MCS Amendments, List No.5 [1]

ANCHOR: X1.2,5a,5b [2]

ARTS ET MÉTIERS Série 3: X1.1,2,3/4/6 [2]

BERGLAND: X1.1,2/5 [1]

BURGER: X1.1,2 [1]

CONSTRUCTION JEEP [2]: X1.2/5,2a/5a,4 [2]

DITMAR: X1.1,2/5 [1]

DORANDO: X1.1 [1]

FANTASIE "R": X1.1,2 [1]

FERROX: X1.2/5 [1]

FIX: X1.1,2,4/5 [2]

FRYDAGH: X1.1,2/5 [1]

GLOBUS Der Kleine Ingenieur: X1.1,2/5 [1]

GLOBUS LEICHTBAU: X1.1,2 [1]

KONSTRUX: X1.1,2,5 [2]

MAC et NICK: X1.3/4a-3c/4d,5-a [3]

MAFELL: X1.1,5 [1]

MÄRKLIN: X1.2,3,4/6,4a/7c [2]

MECHANIC: X1.1,2,5 [2]

MECHANISKAIS KONSTRUKTORS 'SKOLENS':

X1.1,2,5,3/4,3a/4a/6-3c/4c/6b/4d [4]

METEOR (M): X1.1,2,3/6,5 [2]

MINIATUR: X1.1,2,3/4/6,5 [2]

MKA: X1.1,2/5 [1]

MÖWE: X1.1,5/7 [1]

MWK: X1.1,5 [1]

PHANTASIE: X1.2/4,5 [1]

PLASTICON: X1.2 [1]

SACHSENMEISTER: X1.1 [1]

SPEDICON: X1.1,2/3,4,5 [2]

STEEL TEC: X2.2a/5b,4a-c,5a [3]

TRIANGLE: X1.1,5 [1]

TRI-SECTOR: X1.1,7-7b [2]

TUBA: X1.7 [1]

ZICK-ZACK: X1.1,2,5 [2]

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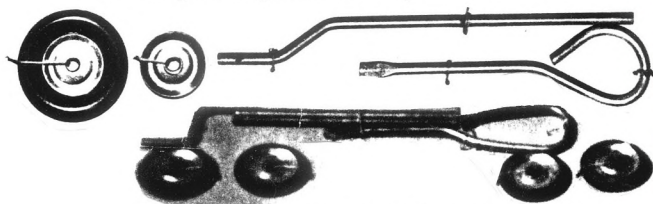
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SMALL ADS Up to about 150 words free for each subscriber in each Issue; above that by arrangement. Insertion guaranteed in OSN 18 if ads reach the Editor by the end of January 1998.

PAYMENT Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances in other than Pounds Sterling will be cashed locally and the resulting Sterling credited, but bank charges are usually prohibitive. But U.S. Dollar bills are acceptable at an exchange rate of £1=\$1.60. Overseas subscribers need not send sums of less than £5 for Back Numbers, purchases from the Editor, etc, until it is time for subscription renewal.

Two PREMIER No.1 Sets Roger Baker recently sent me a photo of an unused No.1 PREMIER outfit, and I found I also had one of another unused No.1 (courtesy Frank Beadle), and the two aren't the same. The red boxes are about the same size, roughly $10\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ ", the labels that nearly cover the lids are identical, and in both the parts are strung to yellow backing cards. But some of the parts are slightly different, and the contents vary a little as well. Before going on, the label is in rich, vivid colours, with a boy standing beside a Tower that's slightly higher than he is tall, and in the background the earth with the Atlantic in the centre. Across the top 'EVERY BOY'S DREAM SET'.

The parts in the sets differ as follows: • The Flat Trunnions in Frank's have sharp corners; those in Roger's are properly rounded. • The Crank Handles are shown below, Roger's, the lower one, has 90° bends. • The Screwdrivers, also below, with Frank's at the top with the round handle. • The Rubber Rings on the 1" Loose Pulleys scale at $1\frac{3}{8}$ " o.d. in Frank's set (below, top), but are much thinner in Roger's. (The Pulleys are listed as 1" but Frank's scale at about $\frac{7}{8}$ " and Roger's at just under 1".)



The parts shown in both known manuals are like Frank's and his is almost certainly an earlier set. As mentioned in 16/457, little is known of PREMIER's history.

Since no Set Contents for PREMIER sets is available, I'll record the main parts in these No.1s. The early one has: • A 5×11 h Flanged Plate, and two 3×5 h Flat Plates (they look like Flexible Plates with holes only around the outside but are made of quite thick steel - mine vary from 21 to 42 thou). • 2×13 h, 4×5 h, 2×3 h Strips; $1 \times 1 \times 5 \times 1$ h DAS. • 2 Flat Trunnions, 2 Angle & 1 Double Bracket. • 4×1 " Loose Pulleys with brass eyelet bushes & 2 Rubber Rings for them. • 1 Crank Handle, 1 Screwdriver, 1 (single-ended) Spanner. • A packet of small parts and at least one Axle tucked under the Flanged Plate.

Additional parts in the later sets are: • A 5×5 h Flat Plate. • 2 each, 3 & 9h Strips. • A 1" Fast Pulley. 2 Rubber Rings. (2×4 " Axles can be seen). The Fast Pulley is unusual because instead of the usual double-tapped boss it is single-tapped with a smaller hole at right angles to it.

While writing about PREMIER it's worth mentioning some other points. Although its 69 parts include no Gears or mechanical elements, there are a number of unusual structural items. Among them are 2×3 h, 2×5 h, & 3×11 h Plates, each flanged along one long side, and the Flanged Sector Plates shown opposite at about $\frac{1}{4}$ -scale. The larger one is the same pattern as TECNIT (10/250) but is, like all PREMIER parts, made of thicker than usual steel. Other unusual parts are 5×5 h Flanged Plates, & 21 h long Strips & A/Gs. The latter have all round holes, and in fact there are no elongated holes at all in the system. The 8h Bush Wheel is $1\frac{3}{4}$ " \varnothing , with the holes at $1\frac{1}{2}$ " radii; and there's a corresponding Wheel Disc with an eyelet bush in the centre hole.

PREMIER is easy to recognise because quite apart from the unusual parts, the holes, though at normal $\frac{1}{2}$ " pitch, are larger than usual at about 4.6mm. Both the 4BA N&B and the 4mm Axles rattle around in them. The Nuts are believed to be large and square, like VOGUE, but this needs confirming. The colours are distinctive too with the $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Pulleys and Flat Plates a light red, the other Plates a medium blue, and most of the other parts a lightish, fresh green. Some small parts are dull plated, including the 3h Strip. The 1" Pulleys in both No.1 Sets are tinplate, but others are found painted green.

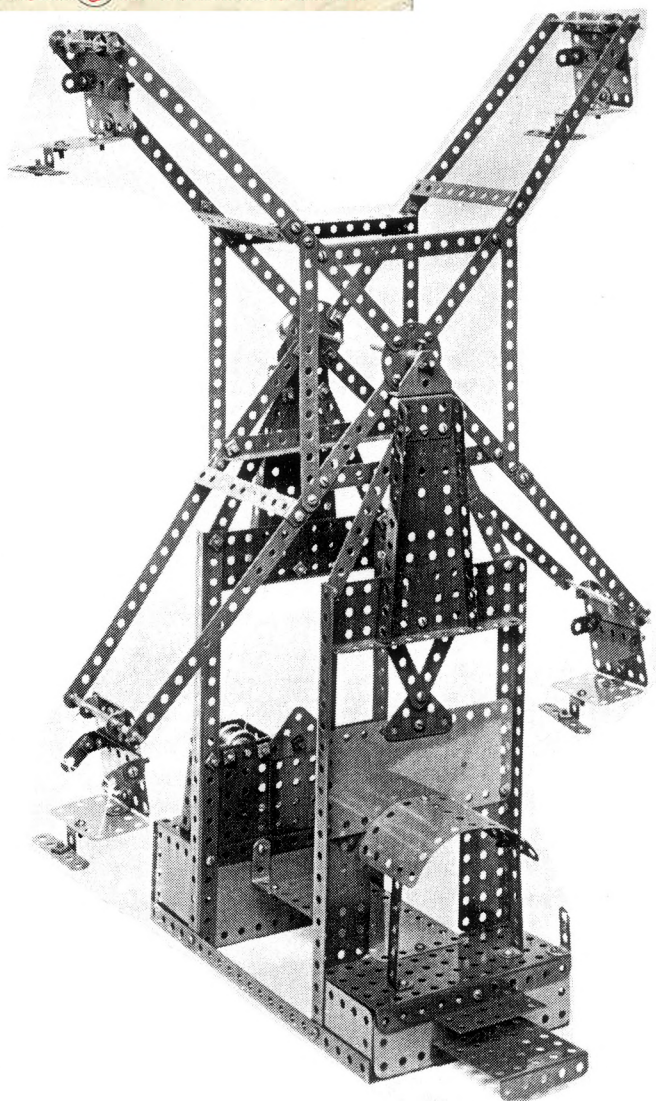
2 manuals are known, a small one (see 1/6, the cover is opposite), and the large one, summarised below, that is usually found. Both have one photo of each model with a few words about the prototype. The models in each are the same except that 3 models for Sets 4 & 5 are replaced in the large one. One of the new No.5 ones is shown below - no means of driving the 'wheel' can be seen.



MANUAL SUMMARY •Name: The PREMIER STEEL CONSTRUCTION SET •Details of maker: Made in England for Christie Jay Ltd., Dyers Buildings, Holborn, E.C.4. •No dates/ref nos: •Page size: 250×184 mm deep. •No. of pages: 20 unnumbered, inc covers. •Language: English. •Printing: Photos of models; cover red & black on white. •Page Nos. of Illustrated Parts List & highest PN: 17-18,W7a. •No Set Contents. •Sets covered: 1-5. •No. of models for each set: 4,4,4,4,5. •Name, Page No. of first/last model of each set (no Model Nos.): 1: Coster's



Barrow,3; Electric Truck, 4. 2: Railway Siding Crane,5; Breakdown Lorry,6. 3: Windmill,7; Motor Launch,8. 4: Tower Trailer,9; Tipper Lorry,12. 5: Mobile Railway Crane, 12; Travelling Jib Crane, 16. •Other notes: an ad for the 'Powerful Magnetic Lifting Unit' is on the back cover.

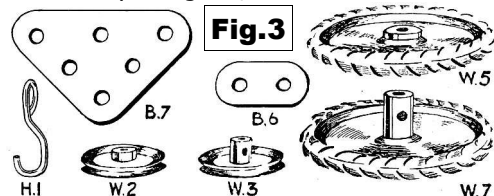


PREMIER Update Notes on Sets 1 & 2, plus an outline of the parts, were given in 18/505 & 21/602. Since then a few sets have been seen on Ebay and David Hobson has kindly sent details of his No.3 outfit, unused & still strung. What follows also includes a recap of some of the earlier material.

THE PARTS The range, with my MECCANO-style names: S1-5 Strips 3,5,9,13,21h. A1,2 A/G 11,21h. C1-4: D/B; DAS 1*3h, 5,9*1h. B1-5 A/B: 2*2h; 2*1h; 1*1h; Rev. 2*1*1h. B6 Fish-plate (shown as 2h Strip). B7 Corner Bracket 3*3h. B8,12,10, 11 L-Girder: 1*2*5,3h; 1*3*11,5h. F1-5 'Flexible' Plates: 3*5, 11h; 5*11,5h; 5*5h Curved. P1,1a Flanged Sector Plates 4,11h long. P2,2a,3,3a,3b,3c Flanged Plates 5*11,5,3h, 3*11h, 7*9, 5h. P4,5,6,7 Perf. Plates 11*7,5h, 7*5,3h. T1,2 Trunnion, Flat ditto. W1,2,3 Pulleys: 1/2",1", 1" Bossed. W4,6 1 3/4" Bush Wheel, 1 3/4" Wheel Disc. W5,5a,7,7a Road Wheels: 1 1/2",1"; Bossed 1 1/2",1". L1-3 Axles 1,2 1/2,4". L5,6 Crank Handles 3 1/2,6 1/2". L7 3" Crank Shaft. D Screwdriver. NB Nut & Bolt. SC Spring Clip. H1 Hook. N5 Spanner.

Those shown in red above were listed in the small format (early) manual but not in the later one; the blue ones were additions in the latter.

The actual parts – to supplement the earlier notes on the parts the No.2 box right gives some idea of many of them (the missing right end matches the left). The red colour though is too pallid & the green parts found are usually a lighter, fresher shade. Below,



parts from the large-format manual (no parts are illustrated in the earlier, small manual).

As explained in OSN 18 there were some changes to a few of the parts at some point, and the later ones can be seen in Fig.2. Earlier: • **Screwdriver** The shape of the wire handle was similar to Meccano's. • **Spanner** It was flat with an angled end. • **Pulleys** W2 & W3, nominally 1" Ø, were made of two 7/8" Ø formed aluminium discs held by a brass bush: short & 5/16" Ø on the Loose part; longer on the Fast & either 5/16" or 3/8" Ø, single- or double-tapped. (Later 1" Ø tinplate discs were used.) • **Road**

Wheel It was originally reported as being a fat rubber ring on a pulley, but was actually, as right, a dished, tinplate, 1 1/2" Ø balloon wheel painted black, with one of the Pulley discs on the



outer face held by a short 5/16" Ø boss, as on the Pulley W2. (The later Road Wheel, W7, was a 1 1/4" pulley made from 2 unpainted tinplate formed discs held by a brass boss and fitted with a rubber ring, 1 3/4" o.d. (but not the treaded tyre shown in Fig.3). It may have had a 3/8" Ø boss. As shown in Fig.2 there was also a Rubber Ring for the 1" Pulleys which when fitted to them presumably gave the W5 & W5a Road Wheels). • **Crank Handle** It had shallow bends of about 30°. • **Trunnions** Their base corners were square.

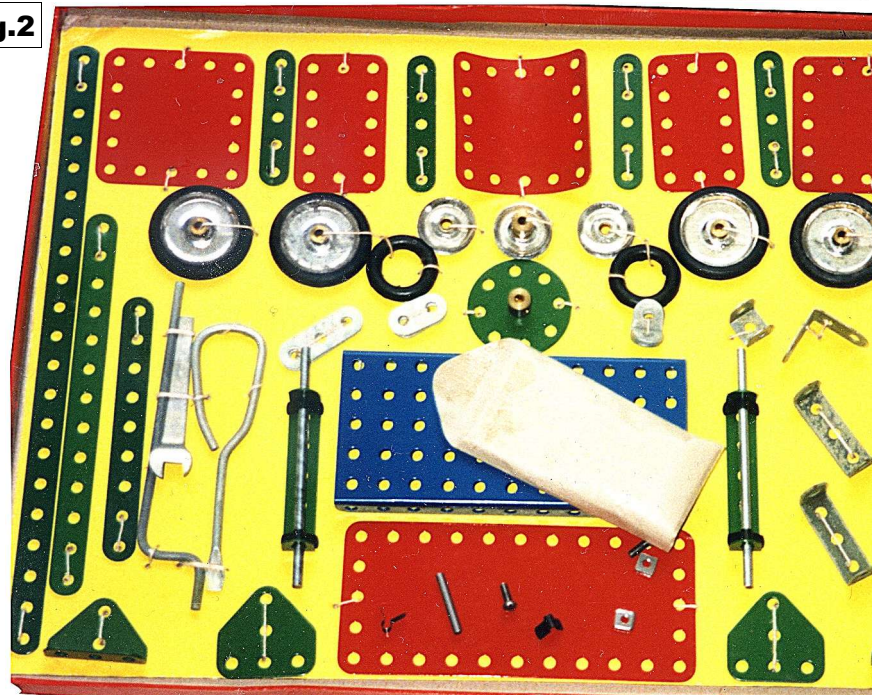
The Screwdrivers & Crank Handles were shown in OSN 18.

THE SETS Five, Nos.1-5, were produced and the boxes for Nos.2-4 were the same size in plan, 16*12", and had the same lid label (Fig.1), except for the round box size sticker. The No.1 was in a smaller box, about 10 1/2*9 1/2", and the label, again

Fig.1



Fig.2



nearly as large as the lid, was the centre of the Fig.1 design surrounded by the green Strips plus a narrow yellow outer border. The Every Boy's Dream Set slogan was along the top yellow border in black outlined letters.

As explained in OSN 18 more parts were added to the No.1 set at some stage and it is likely that the larger sets were improved too. These changes seem to have occurred at the same time as the changes in the parts, though some of the 'new' sets still have one or two of the old parts in them. Nearly all the 'new' sets have the large format manual; the 'old' ones the smaller version (see 18/505 & 1/6).

David's No.3 SET As already mentioned the box is as the No.2 except that it is 1 3/4" deep (against a bare 1") because it has 2 layers of parts. The backing boards are yellow as before and all the parts, apart from the N&B and other small items, are individually strung. The set has the early pattern parts and the small format manual. The N&B are untreated steel.

The contents are: 4,2,2,4,4 of 2,3,5,9,13,21h Strips; 2,2,2 of 3,5,9h long DAS; 4 A/B & 1x 2*2h A/B; 2 D/B; 2 each Trunnions & Flat ditto; 1x 5*11h Flanged Plate; 1x 11h long Flanged Sector Plate; (non) Flexible Plates: 2,2,2,2,1 of 3*5, 3*11, 5*5, 5*11, 5*5h Curved; 1 each Bush Wheel & Wheel Disc; 7/8" Ø Pulleys: 2 each Fast & Loose; 4 Road Wheels, 1 1/2" Ø; Axles: 2,4 of 1,4" (2 of the 4" are housed in the lugs of 9h DAS, held by Spring Clips); 1 Crank Handle, 6" long o/a; 1 Screwdriver; 1 Spanner; 33x 4BA square Nuts; 35 round-headed Bolts; 8 Spring Clips.

The Price? 24/6 is pencilled on the underside of the box and if that is the price it about the cost of a No.2 MECCANO in the late 1950s. So how do the sets compare? A No.3 for the

price of a No.2 and the PREMIER looks the more impressive with the parts in 2 layers in a larger box. In terms of content the PREMIER has a few more Strip parts (though a higher proportion of shorter ones would have been better), about the same number of Brackets & Plates, but fewer N&B (33 Nuts v. 46). Its parts also include the Sector Plate but the MECCANO has useful parts like a Hook, $\frac{3}{8}$ " Bolts, a #187 Road Wheel, & a Rod & Strip Connector. Another big plus for the MECCANO is the manual models, 33 against 4, better looking & more interesting.

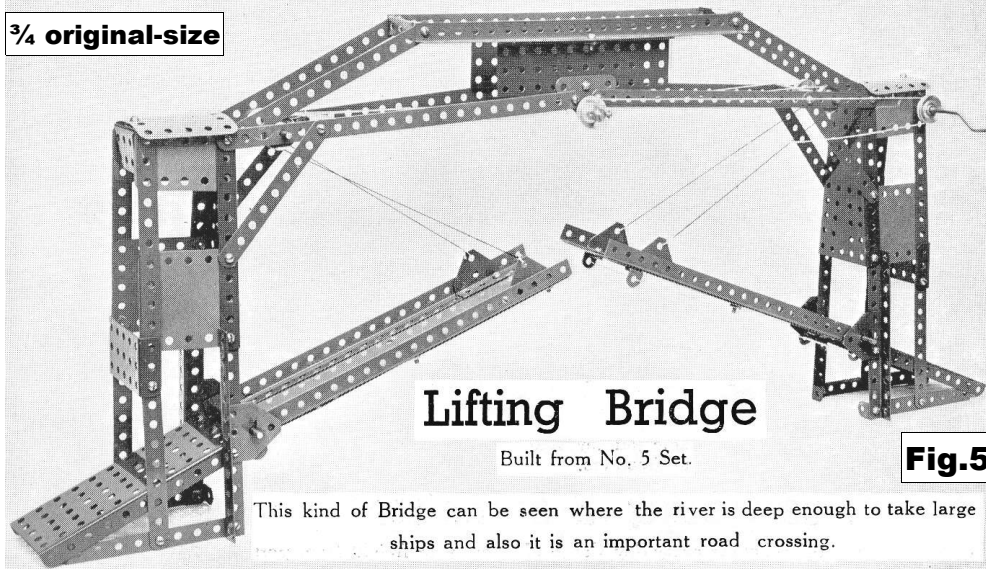
SETS 4 & 5 All the Ebay sets seen are simply the box with a few remaining parts. All that can be said is that the boxes are

deeper than the No.3, perhaps $2\frac{3}{4}$ " for the No.5 and somewhere between for the No.4. So possibly they had 3 or even 4 layers of parts.

The models for these sets, though few in number, are much larger & more interesting than those for the smaller sets. For the No.4 are a Tower Trailer with a Cord-operated rising platform, a good Mobile Railway Crane, a fair, 2ft span Transport 'Plane, & the Lorry below. The No.5's are another Mobile Railway Crane, the Lifting Bridge below, a 27" Sea-going Steamship, the Giant Wheel in OSN 18, & the Jib Crane below.

MYSTERY PARTS A Screwdriver and 2 Road Wheels have been found in each of 2 lots which contained mainly PREMIER parts. The Screwdriver is very similar in shape to the early pattern round-handled PREMIER part but is made from $\frac{1}{8}$ " \varnothing wire. The Road Wheel, below, is $2\frac{1}{8}$ " o.d., with an eyelet

$\frac{3}{4}$ original-size



Lifting Bridge

Built from No. 5 Set.

This kind of Bridge can be seen where the river is deep enough to take large ships and also it is an important road crossing.

Fig.5

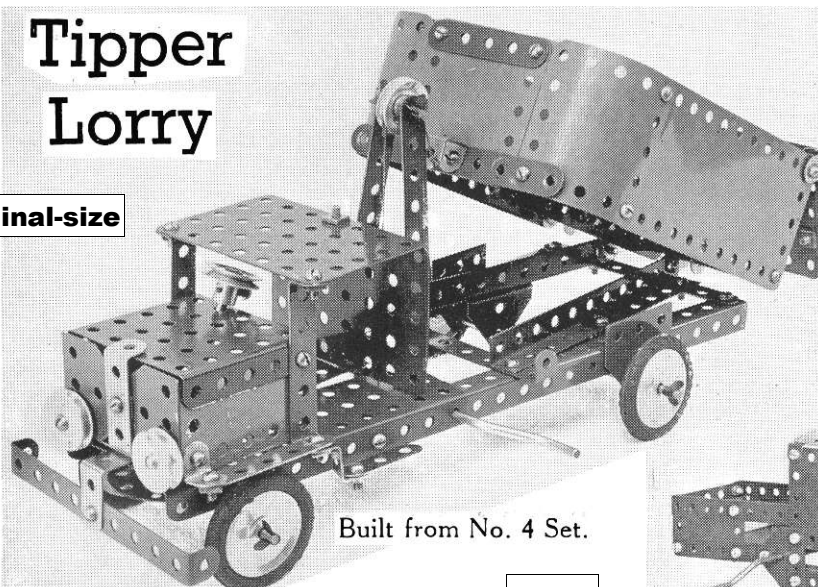


Fig.8

bush. Its tyre has 3 rows of tread. It reminded me of the illustration of W5 in Fig.3 but it is of course much bigger in diameter. Was there ever a PREMIER treaded tyre? Details of any other sightings of these parts would be very welcome.

Tipper Lorry

Original-size



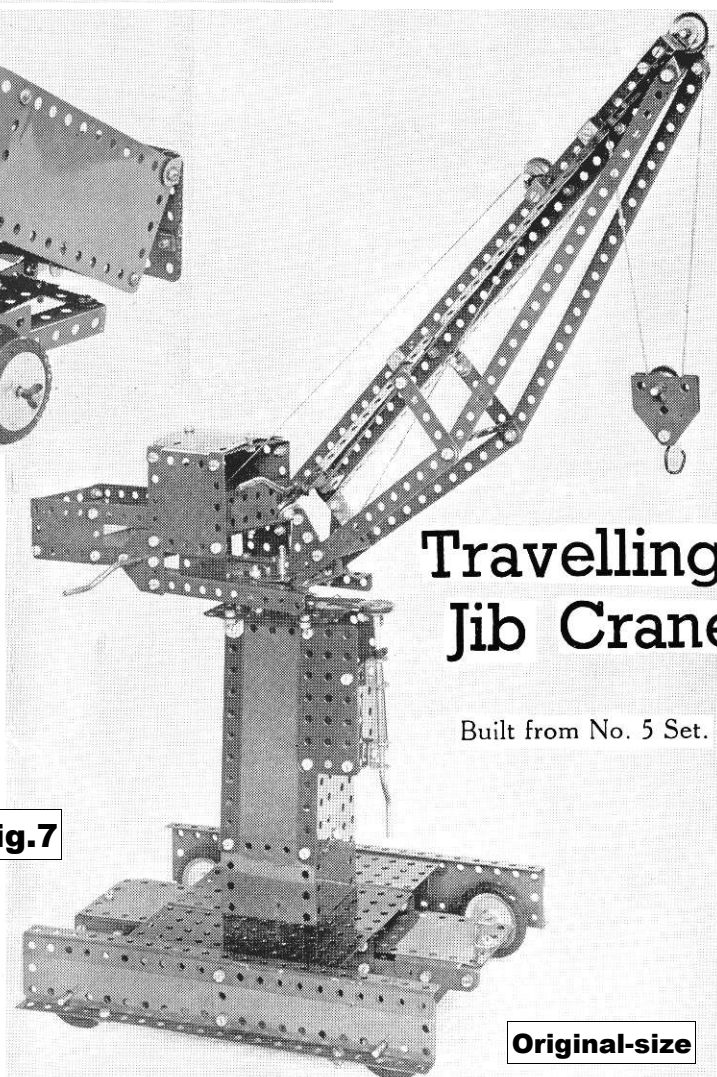
Built from No. 4 Set.

Fig.6

Builders and Road Repairers find this kind of Lorry very useful because it can carry loose materials, such as sand gravel and ballast, which can be tipped out just where needed, thus saving half the work.

These Cranes can move along the Dockside — unloading cargo from the ships. They are guided right over the hold and lift the cargo straight out into Railway Trucks and Motor Lorries.

Fig.7



Travelling Jib Crane

Built from No. 5 Set.

Original-size