

model of each set: 1: TABLE AND CHAIR, 1,1; SCALES, 30,8. 2: TABLE, 31,1; GATE CROSSING, 58,8. •Other notes: the Motor is advertised on the IFC; printed on art paper.

The Manual still has the quotes at the top of each page but no Intro of any sort. Despite 'New BUZ Builder'

on the cover, the models in this Manual (for Sets 1 & 2) are exactly the same as in previous manuals. The 'New' no doubt referred to the changes to the sets and the new packaging. Quite likely the models for Sets 3-7 also remained the same but the old No.9 models were replaced by a number of separate Model Leaflets (PN143). 4 of them are known, including the Tip Truck shown in MCS BUZ (2). The others are a Mono Tower [Crane], a Fork Lift, and a Fire Engine. They are all nice looking models which make good use of the parts in Sets 8/9, and include steering and some simple mechanical features. None however is fitted with the Motor that was in the No.9 Outfit.

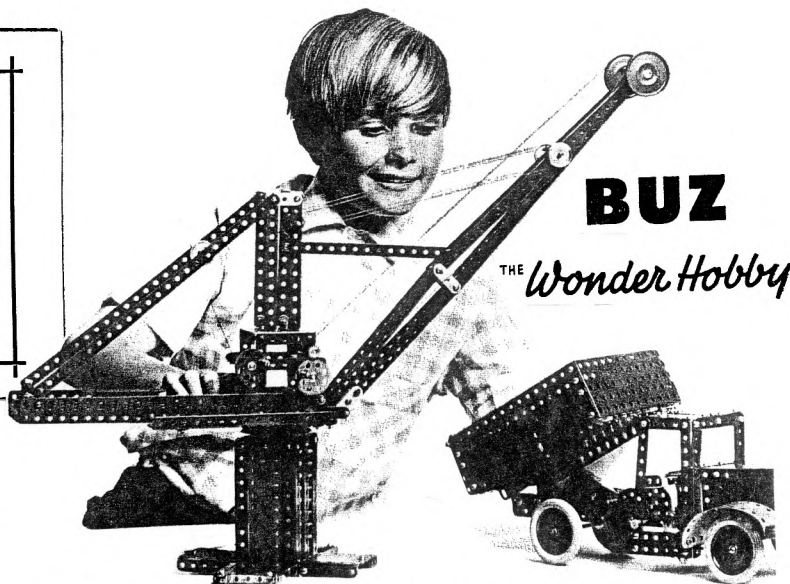
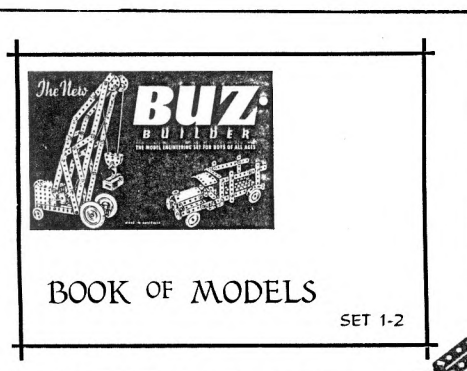
Some parts were with the above Manual and are probably the remains of a No.2 Set. Details are as follows:

• **DATA** (in mm) **STRIP** (11-hole): •hole pitch/dia, 12.7/4.3; •width, 12.9; thickness, 1.06; •end radius 8.7. **BOSS**: •o/d, 9.55; •i/d, 4.11; •brass; •double tapped. **THREAD**: $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW. **AXLE DIA**: not seen. **DP (Mod)**: Probably 38. **NUT & BOLT**: not seen.

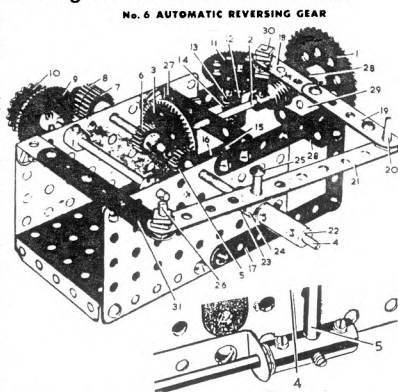
• The 5 & 7h Strips are .77mm thick and have fully radiused ends. The **Curved Strip** is almost like a M90a but without the steps. All these are a darkish green, not unlike VOGUE. • The **Flat & Angle Brackets** have similar hole/slot patterns to M10,12 but are slightly longer at each end; the Flat Bracket is nearly 25mm long o/a. The **Reversed Angle Bracket** is nearer M125. All of these Brackets are nickel plated. • The **Flat Trunnion** is $1\frac{1}{2}$ " o/a each way, and is painted a medium red. • The **Bush Wheel** is a lighter red, and is very similar to M24 except that the peening is recessed. • At 3.9mm, the V of the 1" **Pulleys** is slightly wider than current M22, and the peening is smaller in diameter and with several radial splits. The 1" **Loose Pulley** is 2 solid discs held by an eyelet bush with a bore of 4.5mm and narrow, split peening. The discs of both these parts are nicked steel. The **Tyres** for them are quite fat rubber rings which were probably light grey originally. • **Quality**. The bushes of the Pulleys aren't first class but otherwise these parts seem well made and finished. All but the Brackets and some of the Pulleys are stamped BUZ. • **Colours**. In photos of other parts (from no known era) the green Strips all look about the same dark shade, and most reds look lightish, but with a few quite darker. Trunnions, all Brackets & DAS, a few 5h Strips, and all 1" Pulleys, are nickel. The 1" Tyres are light or black rubber rings. Flat Trunnions, Flanged Plates, 2" Pulleys (both types), 3" Pulleys, Bush Wheels, and Flat Girders are red. A 2" Tyre is light coloured and like a fat rubber ring, but it may have some circumferential ribs on the outside. No Braced Girders have been seen but they were probably green.

• In the photos the solid 2" Pulley (right) looks as if it has an annular ridge at about $\frac{1}{2}$ " radius.

The 1970s The last Price List to hand is for 1972, and the range of parts and sets in it is unchanged from the 1967 edition. 2 of the No.8/9 Leaflet models are featured, and the illustrations of them are shown at the top of the next column, although the tower of the Crane is shorter than the one in the Leaflet.



The Gear Set Full details are given in MCS/FB. As well as the structural parts needed to make various mechanisms & gearboxes, including 60 N&B, the Set contained 2 each of 1" & 2" Sprockets, 19 & 25t Pinions, and the 25t Contrate; and one each of the 50 & 57t Gears, the 50t Contrate, and the Worm. One of the mechanisms is shown opposite.



The $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip in the Set has the normal PN but is described as 'slotted hole'. Were all 3h Strips thus? In the model in MCS the 5*9h Flanged Plate can be seen to be flanged on all sides, and there's a Coupling with a transverse hole, #77a (above), not listed elsewhere.

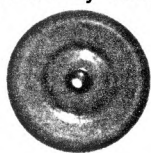
SUNNY TOY This was a cheaply packaged version of BUZ, with a small selection of parts shrink-wrapped onto a cardboard backing board. It was for sale only through chain stores, and it was hoped that it would act as an introduction to the full glory of BUZ. No dates or further details are known.

BUZ in New Zealand - At First The earliest item is a copy of a manual for Sets 3 & 4 from Tri-ang Pedigree (N.Z.) Ltd., 127 Pilkington Road, Panmure, Auckland. Someone has written 1960s on it but that can't be unless production ran in parallel in N.Z. & Australia. The cover (on the next page) is different to the last Australian one but inside the page numbering is the same, starting at 1 for each Set, and the models are the old faithfuls from the 1950s. The only change is that (most of) the 2" Pulleys have had their cut outs retouched out, to match the solid type in N.Z. sets. And there are no quotes at the top of the pages.

The Set Contents are as before, and so is the Parts List, except that the Screwdriver is as shown below. However in MCS (p7) is a typed Spare Parts Price List from Pilkington Road, dated Sept. 1977, which gives only the parts that were needed for the Sets. (The Plastic Flexible Plates are included but not the metal ones.)

The Model Leaflets for Sets 8/9 are in that List but aren't in the Manual PL, instead there's a Set 5-9 Manual. MCS has the cover of an 8-9 Manual, and part of a Model Leaflet model, the Tip Truck, in the N.Z. BUZ section. The illustrations & text of the model are as the Australian version, but the layout is different, and two page numbers can be seen, so the model no doubt came from the 8-9 Manual.

SUMMARY OF MANUAL •Name: BUZ BUILDER •Details of maker: Tri-ang Pedigree (N.Z.) Ltd., 127 Pilkington Road, Panmure, Auckland. •Page size: 212*150mm deep. •No. of pages: 28 inc covers, numbered 1-10,1-12 for Set 3,4. •Language: English. •Printing: photos





FOUR ?? same price and contents of present United States made set catalogued and advertised in the States as Number Six. / The A. C. GILBERT MENZIES CO., Limited / Manufacturers of Erector and Gilbert Toys / TORONTO, CANADA'.

From Greenberg: (a) Menzies & Co., Ltd. became the official Canadian representative of the A. C. Gilbert company in 1917; (b) the manual cover in the lot (Part 1, pale green with the man/2 boys/bridge design, ERECTOR in a red panel, & about 10¾" wide) was the U.S. design in 1916. So this may give an indication of the Set's date, but the parts do include two of the first flanged Gear Box Side Plate which, from Al Sternagle's Erector Parts, appeared in about 1919 as #541. This could though be a red herring as it was said that some parts may have been added to the Set.

ERECTOR [2b]: S3

[36/1069]

6. **Snippet. 'New' System: STRAUSS** Below the German Ebay photo. The obvious parts are the green 5h Strips, the 4



Wheels, & the rather rough looking 5*9h Flanged Plate. There are some other darker parts at the bottom of the main compartment, dark red or brown Strips & DAS perhaps. And in the small tray, a cast Loaded Hook & roundheaded Bolts. The manual is for Sets 1 & 2, with respectively 145 & 213 parts.

STRAUSS: S1

[36/1069]

7. **A SUNNY TOY Set** SUNNY TOY was mentioned in 19/542 as a small set with BUZ parts, shrink-wrapped onto a backing board. The set in the next column is properly boxed with the parts in a moulded plastic tray, and it is actually larger than the standard BUZ No.1 outfit. No maker's name can be seen but the Trunnions & Hook are characteristically BUZ, and some of the models shown in the Ebay photos of the manual are in the No.1 BUZ manual. The 5h Strips at centre top in the box look rather out-of-place but other rusty looking Strips,



including a 5h Curved Strip (2 are used in a Crane model), can be seen in another photo under the red 5*11h Flanged Plate. One anomaly is the red Trunnion top right and the nickel one top left. The 4x 2½" Axles at bottom left are also suspect; 2 each of 2½ & 3½" would be more likely, as in the No.1.

Of the 25 models claimed on the lid, 10 were shown on Ebay, and 5 of them are in the No.1 BUZ manual. The others make use of the Flexible Plates & the 5*11h Flanged Plate, neither of which are in the BUZ No.1. (There were very few Flexible Plates in the smaller BUZ sets, with none in the No.1 and only 3 in the No.4. A 5*11h Flanged Plate wasn't included until the No.8 - the smaller sets had 1 or more of the 5*5h size. So the SUNNY set moved back towards the well-tried MECCANO formula).

SUNNY TOY: S1

[36/1069]

4. **Snippet. 'New' System: SPLINTOFIX** The set shown in the next column was listed on German Ebay as SPLINTOFIX Metallbaukasten, and the photo also included a number of loose parts which looked to be a mix of 3 East German systems, MKA/MFC, THALE, & PIONIER. Not much can be seen of the parts in the box but those in the top centre bay look as if their holes might be widely spaced, & if so match the Strips used to form the frame on the box lid label. On the name SPLINTOFIX, one meaning of Splint in German is split

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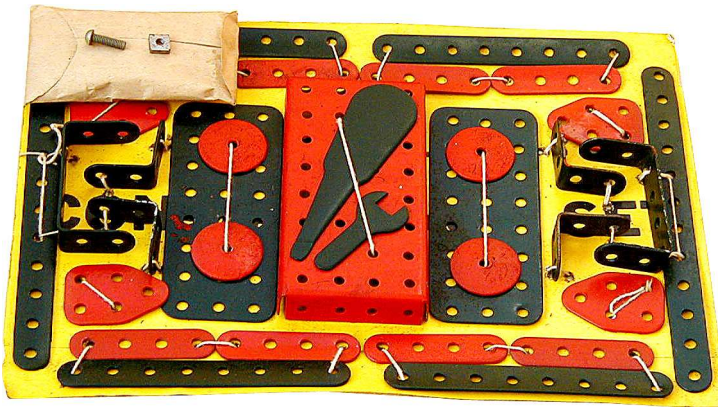


photo above the parts are attached to a yellow card by thin white cord. ARWILL | CONSTRUCTION SET is printed in black on the card but it is mostly hidden by the parts. The N&B are in the light brown envelope, 82*47mm.

Compared with the parts seen earlier the obvious difference is that those that were green or blue are painted black. Notes on other differences between these parts and those in OSN 29 follow.

- The holes in the 4h Strips are about 4.1mm, those in the 8 & 12h are 3.9mm.
- The 8 & 12h strips are about 12.9mm wide as before but the 4h are only 12.1mm.
- The Nuts are square and the Bolts have a dull greenish finish. Their dimensions are unchanged.
- The Screwdriver is 91mm long and 26mm wide. It and the Spanner are 1¼mm thick.
- The Discs are 25.8mm Ø.

ARWILL: S3

[41/1230]

7. **Snippet. A SUNNY TOY Set** Two SUNNY TOY sets, both with BUZ BUILDER parts, but of distinctly different character have been noted previously in OSN. Details of one with coloured parts were given in 36/1069, and a simpler set, probably earlier, with parts shrink wrapped onto a backing card, was mentioned in 19/542. The example below, recently offered on Ebay, seems to be of the second type although the parts probably sit behind a formed cover. It was said that models were shown on the back of the card. Apart from Strips the parts that can be seen are 2 each of the characteristic BUZ Trunnions & Flat Trunnions, 4 Loose Pulleys, a Crank Handle,



and some red parts with the N&B, probably fibre Axle Stops. As can be seen the metal parts look to be nickelled, a finish noted in 40/1208 for those in an early BUZ No.1 outfit.

SUNNY TOY: S2

[41/1230]

8. **Snippet. 'New' German System: MIKLA** The Ebay photo is shown in the next column. The slogan under MIKLA 303 means 'The Building Set for Young and Old' The main parts bottom left on the lid are a wooden Rod, and a U-Clamp.



The latter appears to take 2 Rods at right angles, presumably held by friction alone because, as can be seen from the actual parts in the box, there seems no other means of tightening the Rods against one another. Also on the lid what looks like a Bolt, though its purpose is unclear, and a sleeve which, shown dark against the light Rods in the Bridge on the lid, no doubt acts as a Rod Connector.

In some respects MIKLA reminds one of the American MAKUMAL (see 18/519). However the MAKUMAL Clamp has a Set Screw to hold the Rods positively, and it has slotted sides which also allow Rods to be parallel to each other. Unlike MAKUMAL there are no Pulleys in MIKLA, at least not in this set.

No indication was given as to the size of the MIKLA parts, the Ebay ad said only that the Set was from the 1940s.

MIKLA: S1

[41/1230]

9. **Snippets. FERMO Parts** Two sets have been seen on Ebay since the account of this German system based on Triangular Plates appeared in 27/784. In both the largest Triangular Plate was like those in the Manual with no cutout and 2 holes between the hole in the centre of the hypotenuse and the one in the apex. In one set the parts had the same colour scheme as those in OSN 27, but in the other the Pulley and the black Screwdriver look black and all the other parts a silvery colour.

FERMO: S2

[41/1230]

10. **MULTIMAKE** I have a reference to an item in the 1911 French Printemps department store catalogue for Sets 1 to 6 of a constructional toy called MULTIMAKE. It claimed to allow youngsters to build many different models and to allow them to develop a taste for mechanics. I don't know where the reference came from and I'd be grateful for any more information about it. MULTIMAKE doesn't sound a very French name.

MULTIMAKE: S1

[41/1230]

SMALL AD

[41/1230]

For Sale Mike Rhoades has some MCS volumes available. Contact him for details at 137, Fairfield Avenue, Kirk Ella, Hull, HU10 7UW, or Tel/Fax: 01482 650463/658327.