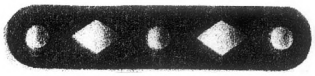
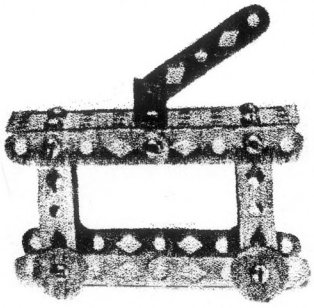
'New' System The TOY PLANNER Kendrick Bisset kindly sent the following account of his latest find.

'We finally got to visit the local Historical Museum near our new home, and were surprised to find a small 'other system' with an unfamiliar name on display. Inquiries led to the set owner, Peter McDonough, lending the set to me to study.

The TOY PLANNER is a very simple system, and was made by The Hadley Smith Manufacturing Co. of Moodus, Connecticut. The company name appears in the Toy listing of the Thomas Register of American Manufacturers from 1916 through 1920. These are not necessarily the dates of the system, but it does give an idea of the era.

At first, I thought that the parts were brass, but a magnet quickly revealed that this is only plating. The system appears to have only six parts: Nut, Bolt, Angle Bracket, Wheel (a large washer), '5 hole' Strip (left), and a 3*9h Plate. The hole spacing is a nominal 12.7 mm, but averages a bit less with a fairly wide range; the holes are a little larger than usual, and the Strips a little wider. The unusual diamond shaped holes are only in the Strip and measure about 10.0*6.9mm. It's likely that there are no longer Strips; the larger models seem to use the 5h Strips bolted together for longer members. However the printing of the single-sided Model Sheet is not good quality, so it is hard to tell for sure in all cases. The holes, in the plate especially, are rather rough and have very apparent burrs, and the hole spacing is a little irregular.





The small cardboard box, 240*130*16 mm, has the rather attractive label (top center) nearly filling the lid. It is printed in yellow, red, & black (colors used by many toy producers). A bad water stain had affected some areas, but I was able to almost remove the damage with the 'restoration' features in the program which came with the scanner I use.

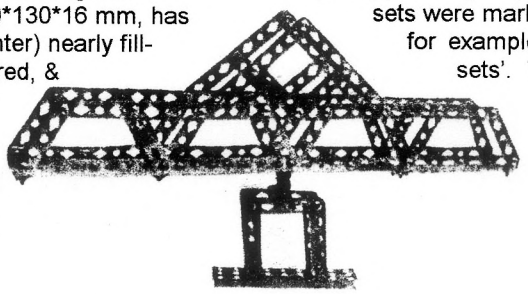
• **DATA** (in mm) STRIP: •hole pitch/dia, 12.5-13.0/4.8; •width, 13.7; thickness, .66; •ends near fully rounded. THREAD: 8-32. NUT: square 8.9 A/F; BOLT: 7.5 Ø roundhead; both plain steel. [No bosses, Axles or Gears.]

The box contained:

• A 3*9h hole Plate with square corners. • 3 Wheels, 23.2mm Ø • 13 Strips. • 5 Angle Brackets, square cornered, with a round & a 9mm long slotted hole. • 10 Nuts, about .12" thick. • 11 Bolts 9.5mm long u/h.

The Wheels are 1.27mm thick; the other parts the same thickness as the Strip. Some parts are certainly missing, one Wheel, for example. I didn't find any model shown for this Set that needs more than the 13 Strips & 5 Angle Brackets, but 16 N&B are required. It is interesting that 16 are used in one of the more 'complex' models, the Trolley Car (left), and the 2 that would hold the bottom of the 'side' members together are left out. Note also that double nutting does not appear anywhere, even though the Wheels run on the Bolts.

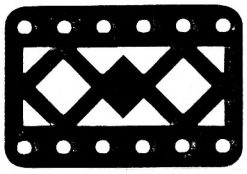
The models are all quite simple, as would be expected of a system with so few parts. The box lid mentions 'Seventy Toys', but only 9 are on the Instruction Sheet for 'One Set'. It is not clear whether there are more sets than the one examined. The box lid has '100', probably rubber stamped, in a space for the set number. It is unclear to me what this means - the set seems too small to have cost $1.00 when compared with other systems such as MODELIT & MASTER BUILDER, and the Instructions only mention 'one set', 'two set', 'five set', and so forth. This seems to mean 'two sets', and as far as can be seen the larger models do not need any additional types of parts, just larger quantities of the same. Some other U.S. sets were marketed in this manner: STEEL WORKER, for example, was sold in boxes containing 'three sets'. The largest model shown. A Building with Tower needs 10 Sets, & the Bridge (left) needs 5.



SWING DRAWBRIDGE.

Moodus, Connecticut is about 7 miles from East Hampton, where MODEL IT (The Watrous Mfg. Co.) & STERLING TOY BUILDER (The N. N. Hill Brass Co.) were made. The latter, incidentally, was available in nickel or a copper finish.'

MYSTERY PART No.39 6 of the Braced Girders below were found by Josep Bernal in Spain. They were in a large lot of MECCANO parts which dated from the end of the nickel era and the beginning of the painted period. They are painted a similar green to the green MECCANO parts, but the finish is matt are not glossy. The hole spacing is exactly to the MECCANO standard.

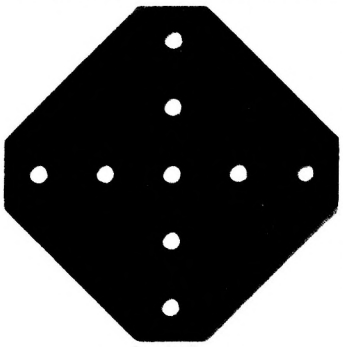


MYSTERY PARTS No.40 A dealer gave David Hobson a handful of parts as samples from a large consignment which, it is said, W.H.Cornelius imported into England, possibly from Czechoslovakia, just before WW2.

The parts David has are listed below; all are made of steel with holes of 3.5 to 3.6mm Ø at 12.7mm pitch.

• One each of 5, 8 & 12h Strips. They are 12.6 or 12.8mm wide, with from 3½ to 6mm of metal outside the end holes.

• 2 of 12h A/Gs with all round holes.



• 4 Perforated Plates, 5*7h, and 2 of the unusual Plates opposite, which are basically 5.4cm square.

The ends of the Strips, and the corners of the A/Gs & Perforated Plates are nearly fully radiused. The parts are generally accurately made but the 5h Strip has some sharp nibs at one end, & the 12h at 3 points along one edge, 4 holes apart. They may have arisen from bad registration between successive punching operations.

The parts are painted a dull red, except the 8h Strip, which is a similar colour but glossier.