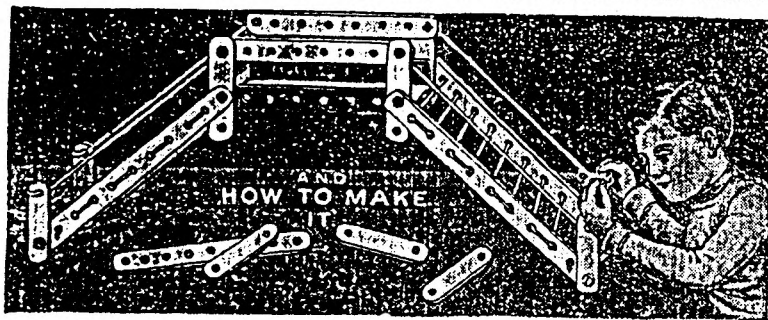


THE BRIDGE BUILDER In OSN 5, p85, the MODEL BRIDGE set was described and since then Jim Gamble has come across an ad in an old wholesaler's catalogue (Whyte, Ridsdale & Co., 73-76, Houndsditch, London, E.) which shows a similar set. The illustration and text from it are reproduced opposite. Its date is not known for certain but judging by the MECCANO sets listed on the next page it would most likely be 1913 or 1914. The bridge design is rather simpler than that in OSN 5 and the Flanged Plate is 8 holes long. Unlikely you might think, but also since OSN 5 just such a Plate has turned up chez MW Models; it is 2" wide, has only the 8 holes in each flange and has a black metallic finish. With this Plate were a few other parts - a 5½" Strip with holes every 1" as before; a 2½" DAS, again as before except that it has two extra 1/8" dia holes, ½" on either side of its centreline, though they may have been added after the part was made; and finally three Flanged Plates, identical to the OSN 5 one but with 4 additional holes, each 1" away from the end holes in the flanges.



THE BRIDGE BUILDER.

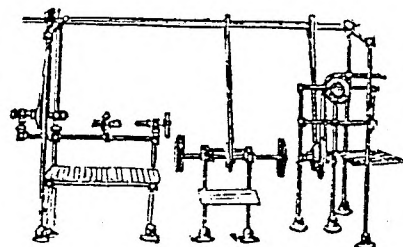
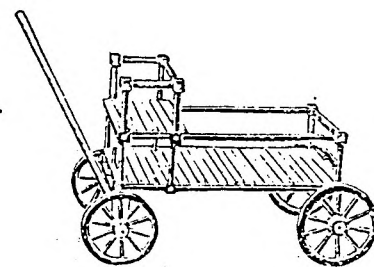
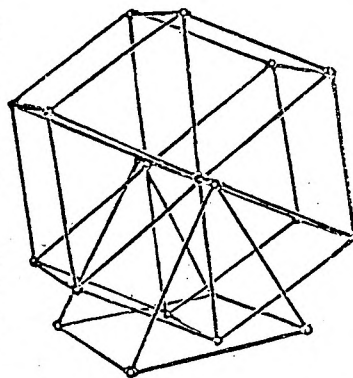
Licensed by MECCANO. Only one of the many models that can be made with our wonderful value sets, supplied complete with all directions. F 8100—Price 8/6 per dozen sets. In 3 dozen lots, 8/- per dozen boxes.

NEW SYSTEM - SIMPLICO In the same catalogue as the BRIDGE BUILDER above was the ad opposite. At first sight it looked as if it might be STRUCTATOR under another name but the reference to screwing the bars into the supports and connectors, rules this out I think. Nevertheless it might be an 'improved' version, and the 'Requires no Pincers, ..' could be easily recognised perhaps, by anyone who knew STRUCTATOR, as a distinct improvement.

As a matter of interest the BRIDGE BUILDER at 8d a box, and SIMPLICO at 2/6 or 3/3, compare with the Meccano No 0 at 2/3 and No 4 at 18/9. KLIPTIKO sets are also listed, in three sizes, at 4d, 8d and 1/8 per box. The MECCANO sets are priced per box, all the others are sold by the dozen. All these prices are wholesale of course, and the MECCANO are 80% of the then retail prices.

"SIMPLICO."

The Improved Building Toy.

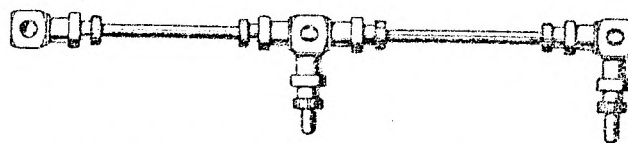


Requires no Spanner, Pincers, nor Screw-driver, Builds Carts, Chairs; in fact, dozens of models can be made without any previous experience, the bars are fitted with threads for screwing with the finger into the supports or connections. All parts are made of nickelled metal.

In strong boxes, with full instructions and displayed designs.

N F8238—Makes 16 models. Price 30/- per dozen
N F8239— " 28 " " 39/- " "

STRUCTATOR This is a page of one thing leading to another, and on the subject of STRUCTATOR Roger Baker has a No 3 Set which has two points of interest. First the 'corrugated' Plates (#10) while still made of light alloy, have a black metallic finish instead of being left in their natural colour. Secondly the Joints (#1-3) are made of steel and have a squarer shape, as shown in the Parts List of the manual; the rounded ones in MCS are cast from a zinc type alloy and are sometimes found with part of the outer housing broken away. The action of the Wedge Rings (#4) might cause this type of damage, but alternatively it could be deterioration of the metal with age. Most of the models in the manual show the rounded type so it is likely that the steel ones were introduced as an improvement, perhaps after trouble had been experienced with the cast ones.



Showing the principal joints fixed to a Standard Bar by means of Wedge Rings.

IRON VEHICLE*. Small model sets seen on New Zealand & Argentinian Ebay which may be in the style of the second type of IRON VEHICLE set in 34/1011.

JOE-MO. Fig.8 shows a set with 95 parts seen on German Ebay.

MENTALITY TOYS. Small model sets, with the name sometimes prominent and sometimes not. The model is usually named as well but sometimes as just 'Engineering'.

METALL BAUKASTEN. Small & medium size models identified only by the logo of a German store called Habermann & Eichler – a red chilli pepper with 'hot.stock' to its right.



FIG.7



FIG.8



FIG.9



FIG.10



FIG.11



FIG.12

POLYLONG: S14

OSN 41/1256

More MODEL BRIDGE / BRIDGE BUILDER Type

Parts? Sets with these parts – nickelled Strips and chemically blackened Flanged Plates – date from 1913-1914 and were described in 5/84 & 6/115. In both sets the parts were pierced with only the holes needed to make a simple Bridge model. Other sets for a Signal and a Crane were also advertised. A label stuck on the lid of the BRIDGE BUILDER set indicated a Meccano connection, and all the parts looked generally similar to MECCANO with holes spaced at multiples of 1/2". Over the years 3 more of this type of part have come to hand and recently some other possibilities were offered on Ebay.

Fig.1 shows the 3 parts to hand. The 1 1/2*4" Flanged Plate has the same overall dimensions as the one in OSN 6 but a different pattern of holes. Of the 2 1/2" Strips, the ends of the 2-hole one match those of the earlier Strips; those of the 3-holer are fully rounded and the part is stamped FABRIQUE EN ANGLETERRE | MECCANO (Fig.1a). So, a French connection? But I seem to recall

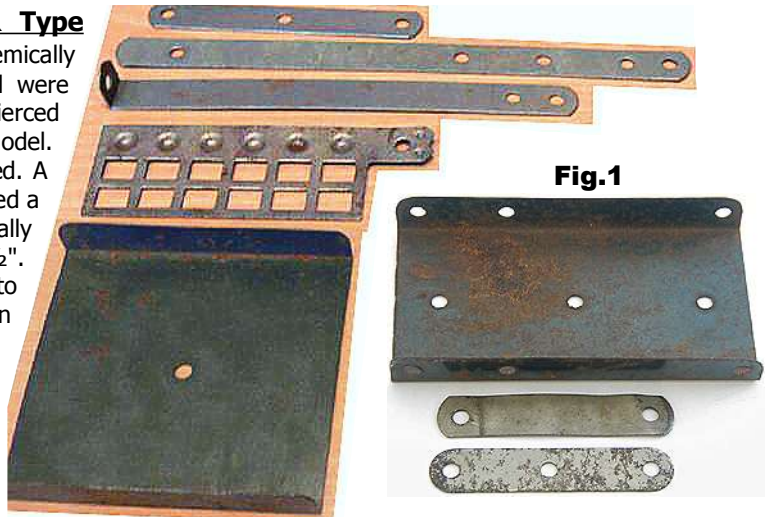


Fig.1

Fig.2 that the FABRIQUE EN ANGLETERRE stamp was not used until after WW1. The Ebay parts were said to have been found in a pre-WW1 German MECCANO set. They are shown in Fig.2 with one of the MECCANO parts, a Windmill Sail, for reference. Scaling from it the Flanged Plate is 3 1/4" square; the Strips are 3 1/2 & 7" long; and the SAS is 5 1/2*1/2". The only use I can think of for the Flanged Plate with just the one, centre hole, is as the base of a Crane.

Fig.2 that the FABRIQUE EN ANGLETERRE stamp was not used until after WW1.



Fig.1a

MODEL BRIDGE / BRIDGE BUILDER: S1

OSN 41/1256