

## TEST

by Jacques Pitrat

MCS has an entry for this MECCANO-like French system, and OSN 16 (p448) gives a short description. Both are based on a photo of a set, so I will complete them with information from a mint set. The maker's name is not indicated on the box, and no manual was ever produced. It seems that there was only one unnumbered set, and all the known examples are of exactly the same set. The period given in OSN, the 1950s, is likely, but no positive indication of date is known.

**The set** is in a 420\*280\*30mm blue cardboard box with a small label (Fig.1) on the lid. A model label (Fig.4) nearly fills its underside. The parts, including the small parts box, are fixed to a yellow insert using the set's Nuts & Bolts.

**The parts** are listed below with their quantities in brackets. Nearly all can be seen in the open box, Fig.3, & the small parts box, Fig.2. All are steel, except the brass bosses. The latter are single-tapped and fitted with a Grub Screw. The thread is  $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW, like MECCANO. The diameter of the holes is 4.0 mm and their pitch 12.0 mm. The only slotted holes are in the Cranks & Trunnions. All the Plates have square corners. The light coloured parts have a sprayed silver/aluminium finish.

**Perforated Strips:** 27h (4), 13h (4), 7h (4), 5h (4), & 3h (5). **DAS** 1\*5\*1h (4). **Curved Strip**, 5h (6).

**A/G** with square corners, 9h (2).

**Double Bracket** (2). **Angle Bracket** (10).

**Cranked Bent Strip** (1). **Double Bent Strip** (4).

**Flanged Plate** 9x5h (2).

FIG.2



**Flat Plates:** 9x5h (2); 9x3h (2); 5x5h (2)

**Flat Trunnion** with 6 round & 3 slotted holes (2).

**Trunnion** (4 - 2 sit atop the Flat Trunnions).

**Pulleys:** 70mm (2); 30mm (4).

**Bush Wheel**, 36mm diameter.

**Cranks:** with 1 round & 1 slotted hole (1); with 1 slotted hole (1).

**Axles** (silver painted), 3.9mm diameter: 80mm (3); 30 mm (1).

**Crankshaft** 85 mm (1).

**Crank Handle** (1).

Card of red **Cord** (1).

**Wire Hook** (1).

**Rubber Driving Band** (2), see Fig.2, it almost looks like a tyre.

**Spring Clip** (10).

**Nut**, hexagonal, 8.0mm A/F (45). Many of them have lost part or the whole of their silver paint.

FIG.4

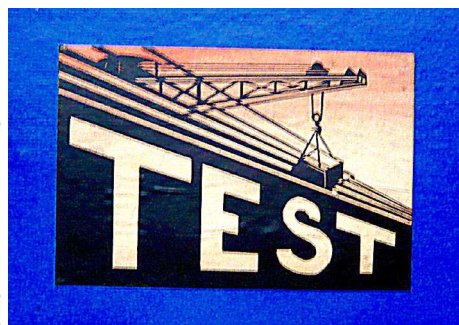
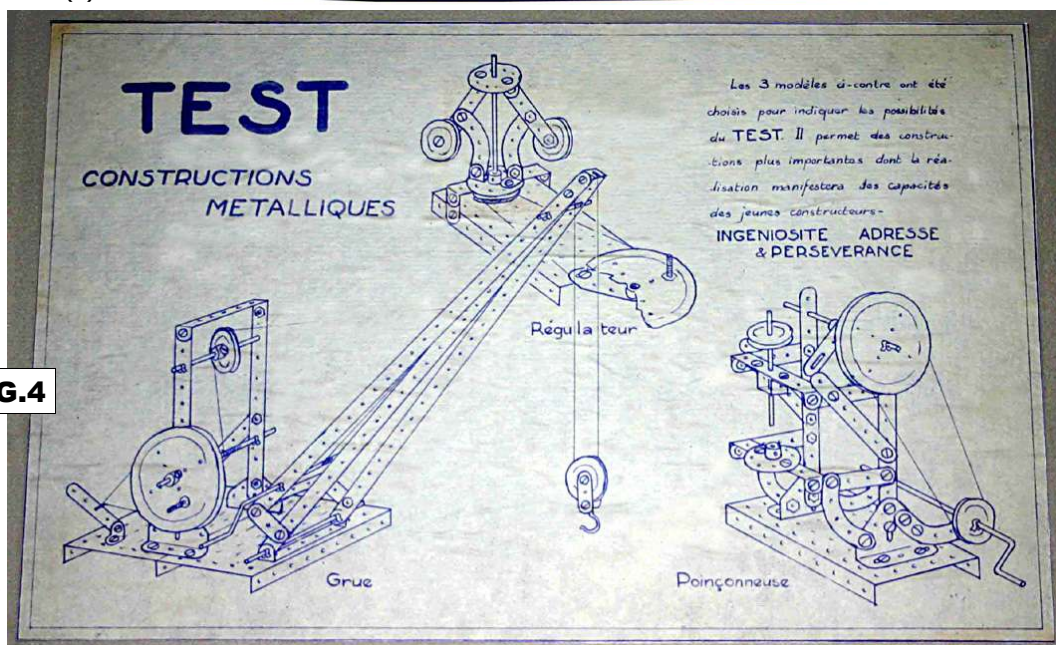


FIG.1

**Bolts: Short**, with pan head, length 10mm (35); **Long**, with mushroom head, length 15 mm (10).

**Screwdriver** (1). **Spanner** (1).

**Remarks** The parts of this system are well made, but the set does not include a manual and only three models are displayed on the inside of the lid. They do not take advantage of all the possibilities of the set: none use the A/G, the Flat Plates, the Flat Trunnion, or the Crankshaft. The

inability of the maker to offer better models is described in the top right corner of the model label as a virtue: this system 'allows more important models whose realization will show the capabilities of the young builders'. It would also have been interesting and useful to show the maker's ability in this direction. This system was not successful, and sales were certainly not very high - mint sets are very rare, while used sets are still rarer.

**Editor's Note** Thanks are also due to Jean-Pierre Guibert who sent photos of another mint set, and to his fellow club member who provided them. The set looks identical to Jacques' but the holes were 4.3mm Ø (at 12.0mm pitch), and the Axles 4.0mm Ø.

FIG.3

