

A CLIRO No.2 Manual Notes on the No.1 set & model sheet were given in 26/775, and now David Hobson has kindly lent me a No.2 manual he has found. It has 8 pages including covers, 248*184mm, all printed in blue, like the Model Sheet, and the front is shown below. It was probably printed after the

New parts that can be seen in the models are the Loose Pulley & Long Screw right; a 3 1/2" Threaded Rod; and, probably, a larger Road Wheel of about 1 1/2" Ø. One of the models, a Log Truck on p5 is identical to one on the Model Sheet, and many of the others are similar but a little more elaborate to

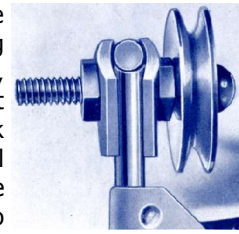
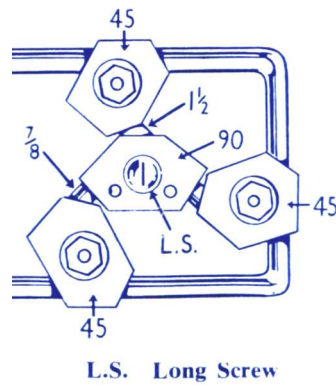
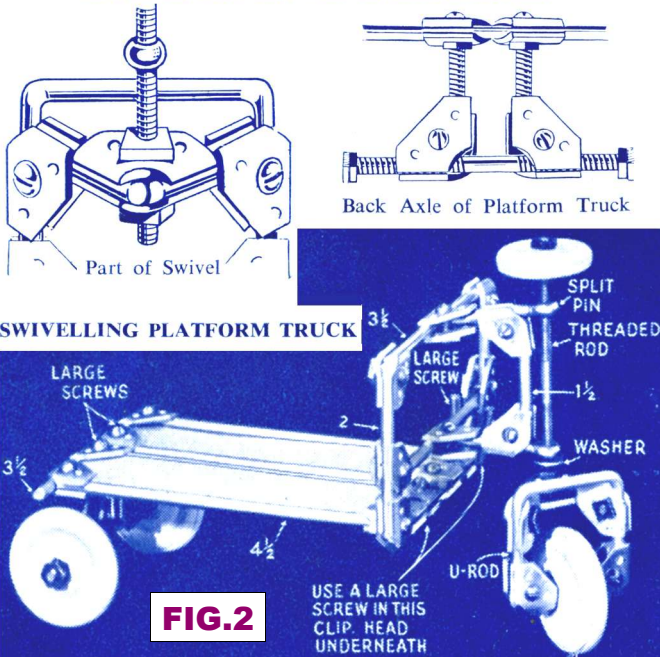


FIG.1 Model Sheet because it has 'British & Foreign Patents' at bottom right instead of 'Patents Granted & Pending'. Also 'Conversion Sets', not heard of before are mentioned on the cover.

The other pages are devoted to 17 models, from TRAILER to BREAKDOWN CRANE. As on the Model Sheet there is one photo and brief constructional details for each, but in addition line drawings of tricky constructional details in a few cases.

Before you start to make this model look at the two drawings below. When fastening the plates at the front end put large screws through the outer clips with the head underneath.



L.S. Long Screw

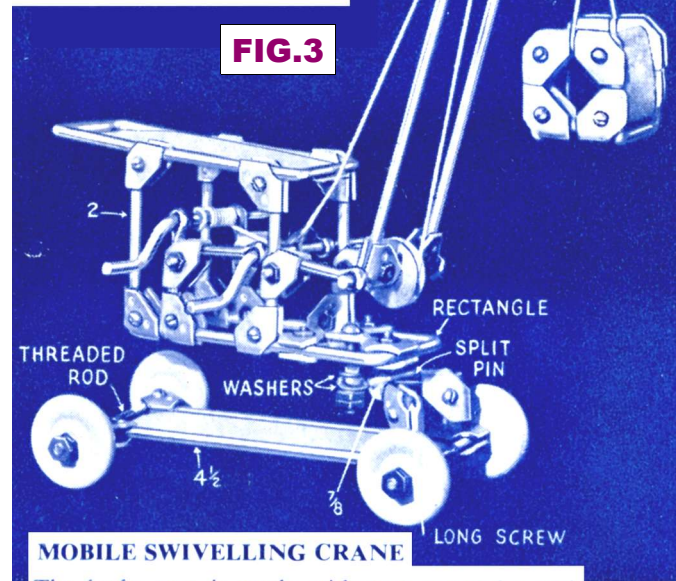


FIG.3

The body part is made with two rectangles and four 2 inch rods. A large screw is used to form the swivel and it goes through the split pin as shown. Look at the small drawing before you make it. Seven split pins are required, two each for both handles and two for the bottom of the jib, and one for the swivel.

reflect the greater number of parts in the No.2. There is a second Plate for instance. The most interesting innovation is a swivelling movement which can be seen in two of the better models, the Mobile Swivelling Crane above (on p6 & the cover), with a luffing movement too, and the Swivelling Platform Truck, left (on p8). Both are shown here about 30% larger than in the Manual.

OSN 41/1249

CLIRO: S1

Snippet. 'New' Italian System: UFSA This Ebay set was said to be from the 1930s. The box measures 18*23*3cm and 'UFSA' on the lid (Fig.1) is presumably the name of the maker. The words underneath translate as 'mechanical engineering technology for children'. The 'No.1A' in the bottom right corner reminds one of the German system of numbering TRIX Units, though as will be seen not all the parts are TRIX-pattern and the quantities often differ.

Scaling the parts (Fig.2) from the size of the box, the pitch

of the holes came out to be very near 7.8mm, so probably the TRIX value. The parts that can be seen are as follows with the holes counted along the outside edges, and the non-TRIX parts in red: • **Strips** with 4, 6, 12, & 14h. • **Brackets**. Angle & Double Brackets. A 2*1h A/B at 'a' • **DAS** with 4, 6, 8h bases. • **Circular Parts**. 8h Disc and the one at 'b' which looks to be dished and could be a Pulley Disc (TRIX has a quite different Pulley Disc). A Loose Pulley (2 1/2h Ø) with 4 face holes, or perhaps it is a smaller Pulley Disc. A Tyre or Rubber

OSN 41/1249

UFSA: S1

Ring, smaller than the smallest TRIX Tyre, which might fit the Loose Pulley or possibly the 8h Pulley



FIG.1



FIG.2

near their pitch. • The (home made from the 14h Strip?) parts at 'e': a 12h base DAS, with an SAS under it.

As can be seen the pages of the manual appear to be bound

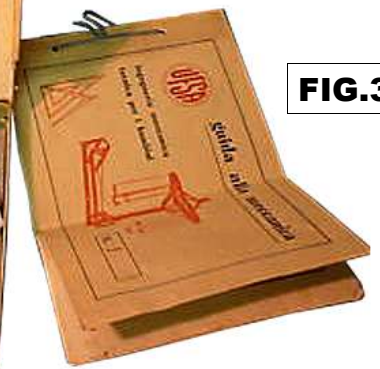


FIG.3

Disc (as at 'b'). • Spanner or Span'driver 'c'. • The part at 'd' which might be a conventional A/G – its finish doesn't really match the other parts but its holes are at or very

together with string. I don't recognise the model on the cover (and the lid) from TRIX or any other similar system.

UFSA: S2

OSN 41/1250

Snippet. A 'New' Turkish System: TEKNIKO Below photos of a set offered on German Ebay but the language on the lid and manual cover is Turkish. TEKNIKO doesn't sound a very Turkish name and conceivably this set was an export version of a German set, but I've no record of another TEKNIKO. And as will be seen the Set seems to have been inspired by MECCANO, and that would have been unusual for a German system. So, for the time being at least, TEKNIKO is Turkish.

from the 1962 MECCANO 2/3 manual and the parts & recesses in the box match those that would be needed for a 1962 MECCANO No.1 outfit. The Nuts in the small parts box are small hexagons & the Spanner has no centre piercing.

The wording on the lid includes 'wonder and joy for all', and promises 24 fabulous models (the number in the Meccano's 1962 No.1 manual). The words on the manual cover translate as 'Technical assembly' & 'Each time a new game'. Curiously the upright Strips in the model the boy is holding have TRIX pattern holes.

The models on the lid are

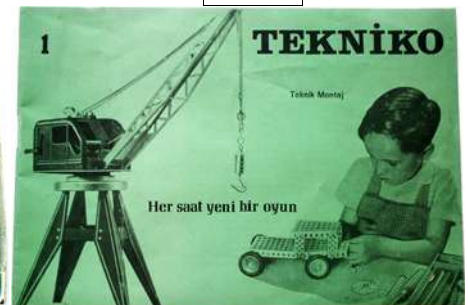


FIG.1

FIG.2



FIG.3



TEKNIKO: S1

OSN 41/1250

Snippets. MEKNEX Update A check on the Argentinian Ebay recently showed a few more sets than those that have been mentioned in OSN already.

First, 3 more single-model sets in the same style as the one in 38/1133. The models are a Helicopter, a Crane, & a Space Vehicle, and as before the parts in them, as shown on the lids, are all more or less one colour, silvery-grey in this case.

3 multi-model sets are now offered: K50, K75, & K100. They have respectively 127, 201, & 261 parts for 3, 7, & 13 models. The K50 is the set shown in 36/1078 and the other two were originally in the same type of packaging. But now all three have boxes similar to the K75 right. The featured model on the K100 box is a sort of Tractor with centre-pivot steering operated by turning a Bracket above the centre of the axle beam. The only new parts visible are the Pulley & Hook at the front of the K75 Mobile Crane.



MEKNEX: S3

OSN 41/1250

Snippet. Another UFSA Set A No.1A set was described in 41/1249 and now a No.1 offered on Ebay adds something to the story.

On p1 of the manual it is said that the system has 38 parts and 6 sets. The set structure is shown as below though there

N. 0 - N. 1 formanti la scatola N. 1a
N. 2 - N. 2a formanti la scatola N. 3 } formanti la scatola N. 3a

appear to be 7 sets. Perhaps there were models for N.3a but not an actual set.

There is nothing to identify the maker but the printer on the manual's back cover is Arti Grafiche INVERNIZIO Tortona Tel. 3-28. Tortona could be a town between Milan & Genoa, or a district of Milan. Perhaps the phone number would identify it.

In the Ebay ad it was said that the phone number indicates the 1930s or 40s.

The set's box, right, measures 23¼*18½*2½ and the label is similar to the No.1A's. The parts are shown in Fig.2 with the open N&B tin below it. The parts that can be seen and were not in the No.1A are the wire Hook, the Cord wrapped around it, the 2 & 10h Strips, the 2 lengths of Screwed Rod which scale at 10½ & 4½cm long (they were in the 1A but not noted before), and the N&B (that look plain steel).

Points of interest. The 4h disc is a Pulley Disc, not a Pulley. The tool is definitely a Spandriver. Top right in Fig.W are 8x 14h A/Gs, a part noted as probable in OSN 41.

So 24 different parts in all in the 2 sets, so some way to go to reach the 38 claimed.

The manual is bound in the same style as the OSN 41 and has the same cover except that it is a deep pink colour (like



the sleeve of the N&B tin above), and it is marked n.1 rather than N.1A. The page in Fig.4 was shown on Ebay.



OSN 52/1611

UFSA: S3

More MAAKEETS Two 'School' sets have come along since the notes on a No.3 outfit in 51/1567. One is a No.30s, unused but the parts have been unstrung, the other a 31s still strung. Both have a manual identical to the School edition in 51/1568 (with no 'extra' pages), and both are in red boxes with the small parts in a blue box as in the No.3. The main parts are strung with red cord into the recesses of a white, formed plastic tray, with a recess for virtually every type of part. As expected the sets are very similar to Nos.3 & 4 of the standard range except that each has 2 Screwdrivers & 2 Spanners extra.

No doubt sets with this type of plastic tray packaging would have been later than those like the No.3 with its parts strung onto a card, and the No.30s tray would have been perfectly suitable for the No.3.

The 30s box is the same size as the No.3, and with the same label except for a small, '30s' label, in the top right corner, and a bilingual 'FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY' label top left.

Compared to the Set 3 inventory in OSN 51 the parts in the 30s, as found, are the same except as follows: **PLUS:** 2 Spanners; 2 Screwdrivers; 1 Handle Crank #46; 2 Bolts (but there are none in the bosses etc.); 9 Nuts; 1x 2" Axle; **MINUS:** 1x 3½" Axle; 1x 5*3h Flanged Plate; 2 Flat Brackets; 1 Hank of String (probably as in the No.3 & 31s).

The 31s box, 17¼*12¼*1", has the same design of label as the 30s but smaller, 10¾*5¾". The 3*5h Flanged Plate, with flanges along its long sides and round holes in them, is

packed under the 5*11h Flanged Plate, together with the Hank of String, identical to the one in the No.3.

Compared to the No.4 inventory in OSN 51 the 31s parts, as found, are the same except as follows: **PLUS:** 2 Spanners; 2 Screwdrivers; 2 Collars; 12 Nuts; 4x ¼" Bolts (again none in the bosses, etc.); **MINUS:** 6x ¾" Bolts; 1x ½" Pulley.

Parts not seen before, and points of interest. Most can be seen in OSN 51. **#11,15.** 5½" Angle, Flat Girder. 7½mm slotted holes. **#11** is 14*17½mm; **#15** 30½mm wide (the MECCANO #103 is 27¼mm). All dimensions approximate. **#20, 21.** Flat & Angle Brackets, plated a dull silver colour. **#25.** 1*3*1h DAS. **#31.** Slotted Strip, 3½". **#29** Rev. A/B, red (it was dull silver in the No.3). **#43.** Flanged Sector Plate. 6¼mm slotted holes in flanges. **#45.** 4½" Face Plate with boss. **#46.** Handle Crank with a tapered web & the pin offset about 1¼". **#48.** Universal Gears. Light red plastic, 29½ & 53¾mm o.d. with 12 & 24 teeth. **#61.** Loose Pulley, brass, 12.7mm o.d. **#81** Hook, 2mm wire, 26½mm long o/a. **#85,87.** N&B, brassed steel. **#85.** ¼" Bolt, 6½mm Ø cheesehead with pronounced taper. **#87.** Nut, pressed, 6.2mm A/F, 2¼mm thick.

Quality. The parts with glossy paintwork and no splits in the Tyres, look very well in the new packaging. The only obvious quality issues are that the bend angle of the A/Gs is noticeably more than 90°, and the holes in about half of the 2h Brackets are in-line but offset sideways by up to 2mm.

OSN 52/1611 (the last page of OSN 52)

MAAKEETS: S4

An UFSA No.2 Manual and some parts. Notes on these items follow on from those in 52/1611.

The SETS The somewhat unusual set structure of the system's 6 sets is given in the Manual's Intro and is the same as in the No.1 manual in OSN 52.

The PARTS All except the N&B and the Spanners are aluminium. See Fig.1 for examples. The Strips look like TRIX but differ slightly with 3.5mm holes at 7.9mm pitch, against TRIX's 3.8 at 7.8mm. The parts are listed below under their PNs, with the quantities found in curly brackets. All but one PN start with 'N.' (= No.) followed by, for Strips, DAS, Brackets, & A/Gs, a number denoting the number of holes along the centre row for a Strip, or the number in a Strip before it was formed into a DAS, Bracket, or A/G. Then after this number a letter: 'F' for all Strips, 'p' for DAS & Brackets, and 'a' for an A/G. Other parts have letters after the 'N.' followed by a number denoted the size. These are given in the list below.

- **Strips**, N.15F,13,11,9,7,5,3F. {6,4,6,4,6,8,3} • **DAS**, N.15p,13,11,9,7p. {1,0,3,5,8} • **D/B**, N.5p. {3} • **A/Bs**, N.4p,3p, both bent across 2nd row from end. {6,2} • **A/G**, N.15a (called F.A.p in model parts list), bent along centre line. {8} • **Screwed Rods**, N.S.B.15,13,11,9,7,5, (in cm?, in the parts they are 12,10,8cm long), brass, M3. {1,4,3}
- **Crank Handles**, N.M.A.15,13,11,9,7,5, (the one in the parts has an 11cm shank), brass, M3. {1} • **Hook**, N.G.A., (in the manual models, & the No.1 described in OSN 52, they are the flat wire type, as right (from a photo of the No.1 not shown in OSN 52). {1} • **Discs**, N.R.9,5, 24,20mm Ø with holes at 8¼,5½mm radius. {5,2} • **Pulley Discs**, N.R.9p,5p, made from the Discs. {4,10} • **Tyres**, N.R.G.9,5, to fit the Pulley Discs. See Note 2 below. {5,0} • **Spanners**, N.C.H.1,2, one with a screwdriver end is shown in Fig.2, the other is the same but plain ended. {0,0} • **Bolt, Nut**, N.V.T.1, N.D.A.2, nickelled steel, M3 thread, Bolt with 5.6mm Ø tapered cheesehead, 10mm u/h (those in the No.1 set are similar but round-headed, see OSN 52, Fig.3); Nut 6.1mm A/F. {10,2} • **Mystery part**. The part without the initial 'N' is 'S.B. speciale', & is listed after the Spanners. Possibly a special threaded part. No S.B.s or Spanners are called up for the manual models. • **Note 1**. The 2 Pulleys at 'A' in Fig.1 were with the parts but for several reasons are almost certainly not UFSA, for example their bore is 4.3mm & bosses are tapped M4. They are 26 & 39mm Ø – can anyone identify them? • **Note 2**. The Tyre is 36mm o.d. & fits the 26mm Pulley above but it may be UFSA because it also fits the R.9p Pulley Discs & looks similar to the Tyre in the No.1 outfit. It has circular ribbing all round. The smaller Tyre R.G.5 has not been seen.



Fig.2

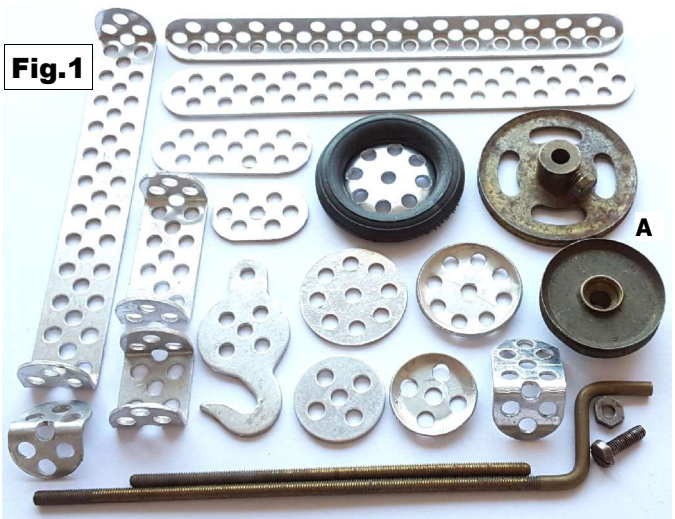
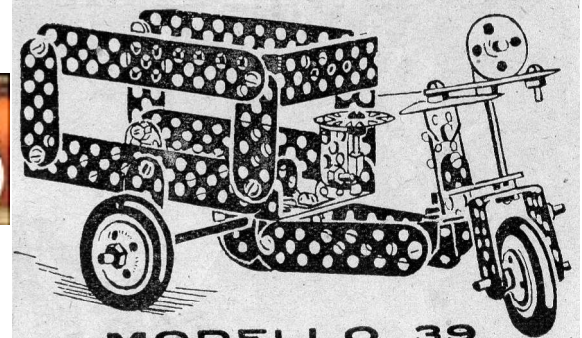


Fig.1

Moto furgoncino con ruote gommata



MODELLO 39

PEZZI NECESSARI!

N. 4 - F. 11	N. 1 - R. 9
N. 2 - F. 7	N. 6 - R. 9 p
N. 7 - F. 5	N. 7 - R. 5 p
N. 4 - F. 3	N. 3 - R. G. 9
N. 4 - F. 9 p	N. 1 - S. B. 11
N. 1 - F. 7 p	N. 1 - S. B. 7
N. 3 - F. 5 p	N. 1 - S. B. 5
N. 3 - F. 4 p	N. 25 - V. T. 1
N. 1 - F. 3 p	N. 37 - D. A. 2

Fig.3

Scale 1:1

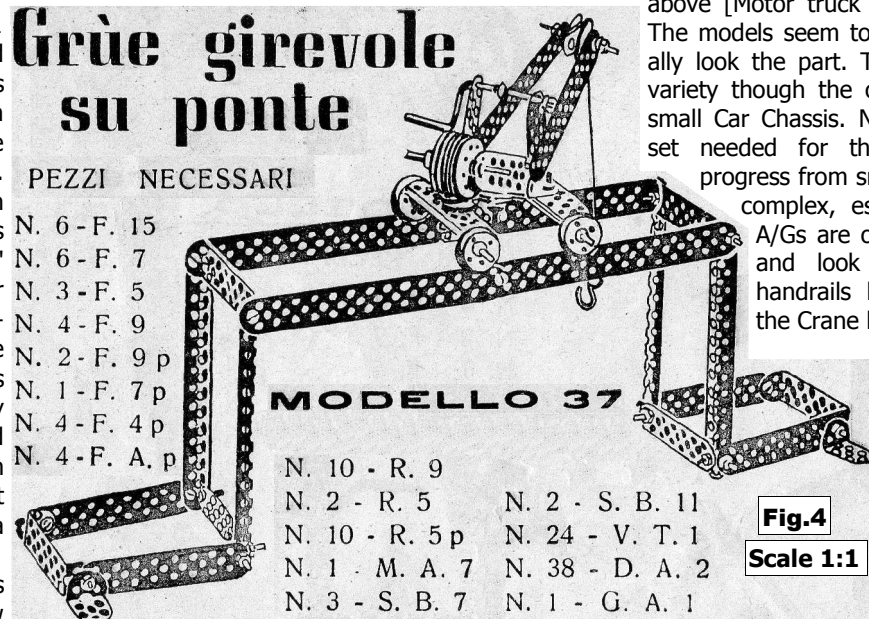
The MANUAL has 11 leaves, 24¾*17cm, held by 2 metal clips. C1 is as Fig.3 in OSN 41, which in turn is the same design as the lid label. The only difference in this case is that it is stamped '2', after 'N' bottom right. The other 3 covers are blank, without the printer's name on C4. Of the 11 leaves 2 are printed on only one side. One is headed **IMPORTANTE** and has an Intro including the set structure; the other a list of 40 USFA parts.

The remaining leaves are double-sided & show models 1-39, from Freccia indicatrice [Arrow indicator], to the Truck in

Grùe girevole su ponte

PEZZI NECESSARI

N. 6 - F. 15
N. 6 - F. 7
N. 3 - F. 5
N. 4 - F. 9
N. 2 - F. 9 p
N. 1 - F. 7 p
N. 4 - F. 4 p
N. 4 - F. A. p



MODELLO 37

N. 10 - R. 9	N. 2 - S. B. 11
N. 2 - R. 5	N. 24 - V. T. 1
N. 10 - R. 5 p	N. 38 - D. A. 2
N. 1 - M. A. 7	N. 1 - G. A. 1
N. 3 - S. B. 7	

Fig.4

Scale 1:1

above [Motor truck with rubber wheels]. The models seem to be original & generally look the part. There is a reasonable variety though the only car or lorry is a small Car Chassis. Nothing is said of the set needed for the models but they progress from small & simple to more complex, especially after No.29. A/Gs are only used in 2 models and look well as Footbridge handrails but rather spindly in the Crane left.

From the parts lists for the models in the Manual, those in this item are probably most of a No.2 set, but certainly many N&B, some Discs, & a few DAS are missing. Also perhaps the smaller Tyres.