

'New' System: AVIONS-CONSTRUCTION

A set of this name came to hand recently, and it has parts to make simple aero models which bear a strong resemblance to another, much better known, French aero system, MÉCAVION (see 26/754).

The BOX is blue and measures 45*30½*4cm. The lid is shown right. The parts were attached to a blue card with pressed through tabs to hold some and stringing holes for others.

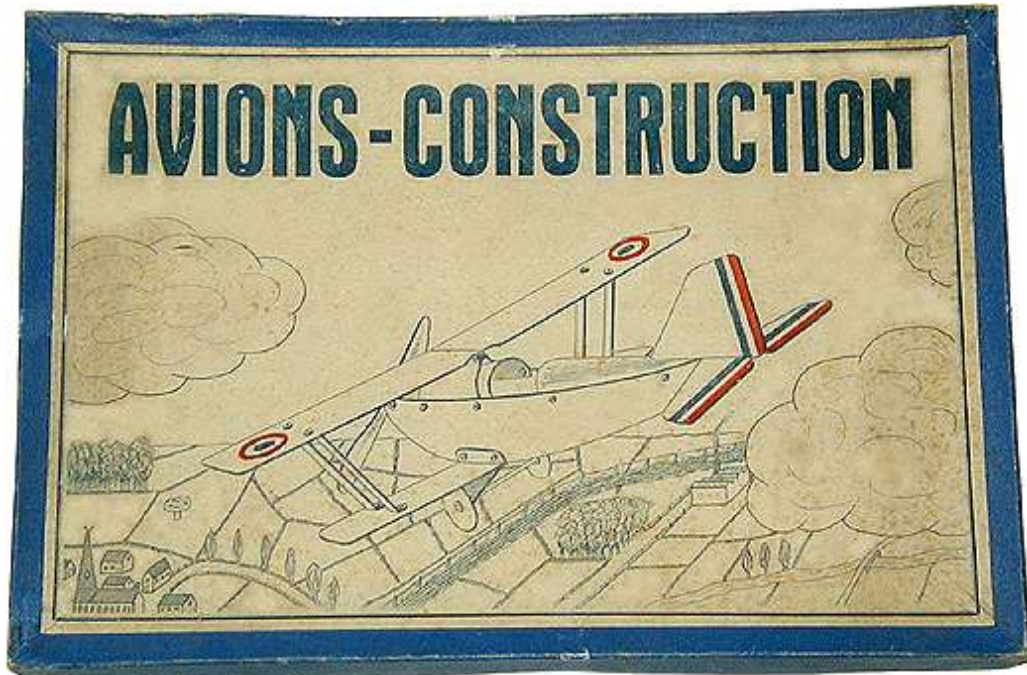
The PARTS All the parts in the Set are used in the model below, the one shown on the lid. Compared with MÉCAVION (MÉC hereafter) the most obvious differences are that the parts are plain aluminium instead of painted steel, the holes are (typically) 4.2 instead of 3.6mm, & the Bolts are 4mm instead of 3.5mm. Apart from that many of them look identical, but the dimensions vary slightly, though often by less than 1mm. Below a list of the parts found in the Set with the few significant differences in the design of the parts noted. Where necessary the MÉC PN is given in brackets.

Fuselage. • 2 **Sides.** • 1 **Top, Front,** deeper than the MÉC part, especially at the nose (by about 5mm), because the top curvature is semi-circular. • 1 **Top, Rear,** with slightly more curvature making it a little deeper. • 1 **Nose/Underside** - it is about the same size as the MÉC part [#21] but because the Top, Front is deeper, there is a 5mm gap above it.

Wings. • 1 pair **Large Wings** [#1] giving a span of 404mm. • 1 pair **Small Wings** [#2]. With these attached flange upper-most, as on the lid, the Wheels foul the underside. • 1 pair **Centre Supports** [#22,23], like the MÉC parts but with out no centre cutout. • 4 **Interplane Z-Struts** [#10], 11mm wide instead of 8mm.

Tail. • 1 **Fin,** without the MÉC alternative higher hole for mounting the Tailplanes. • 1 pair of **Tailplanes.**

Undercarriage. • 1 pair **Legs** [#7], • 2 **Wheels,** quite



unlike any MÉC part. They are discs, 44mm Ø, coned to a depth of 5mm. • 1 **Axle,** 3.9mm Ø, threaded over 18mm at each end. 1 **Tailwheel.** A 15mm steel disc (the only steel part) riveted, but free to turn, to one end of a 30mm long tapering arm with a mounting hole at its other end.

1 **Propeller** [#8], 136mm Ø. It is free to rotate on a Bolt locknutted to the front of the Nose/Underside.

N&B 4mm Ø with a .75mm pitch thread. • 28 **Bolts** with a 7.1mm RH: 15x 8mm u/h & 13x 10mm u/h. • 33 machined hex **Nuts,** 7.0mm A/F & 3mm thick.

The INSTRUCTIONS are on a 20½*13½cm label pasted inside the lid, and 3 models are described in words. The first can, it says, be made from the drawing on the top of the lid and is a model of a machine built to be a distance record-breaker. No.2 is a touring monoplane made by removing the top wing and supporting struts from the No.1. No.3 is a bomber and is like No.1 but with the top & bottom wings interchanged. All three are models for the Standard Set in the OSN 26 MÉC manuals, although the Large Wings are used on the Low Wing Monoplane.

The MODEL The parts are well made and fit together easily apart from the hiccup with the Lower Wings already

mentioned. Compared with MÉCAVION the models looks a little clumsy, mainly due to the Struts & larger Bolt heads.

HISTORY Nothing is known of when the Set appeared, its manufacturer, or even where it was made. I wondered when I first saw it if it might have been the forerunner of MÉCAVION, but I suppose it's much more likely that it was a short-lived copy from the early post-WW2 years.

