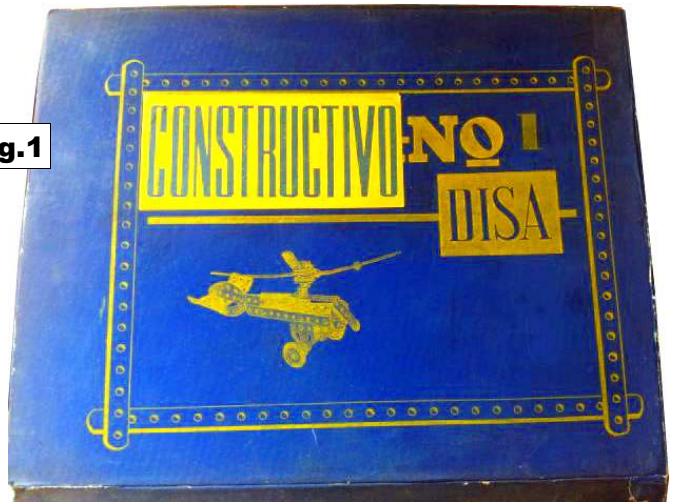


Snippet. 'New' System: CONSTRUCTIVO This is about a set seen on the French Ebay, or rather 3 sets but with only one lid. Said lid and one of the boxes are shown right. The other boxes have the same insert but the parts in them are sometimes in different recesses, and two parts can be seen in only one set (they are shown in Fig.2A). The Ebay ad said that CONSTRUCTIVO is compatible with MECCANO.

Fig-1



Despite the French connection it seems likely that the system was Spanish rather than French: Constructivo is not a French word but means 'constuctive' in Spanish, and DISA is a Spanish oil company. Another likely pointer is the Autogiro on the lid. It is no doubt a Cierva, a machine invented and developed by the Spaniard Juan de la Cierva in the 1920s. But given its moulded plastic insert, the set shown here would date from well after WW2, most probably sometime after the mid-1950s.

The parts that can be seen are:

- 2, 3, 7, 11h Strips (the 2h is in Fig.2A, on top of the 3h). Unexpectedly, no 5h Strip could be seen in any of the Sets.
- A Curved Strip with its 2nd & 4th holes slotted.
- A 5*11'h Plate, probably flanged on its long sides (it is strange that it has no centre hole, a very uncommon feature but not unknown, one version of the UK BILT-E-ZE comes to mind, see 22/629).
- A 5*5h Plate, see Fig.2A.
- A 5h Trunnion & Flat Trunnion.
- An 8h Wheel Disc with eyelet boss.
- A Pulley with Rubber Ring; its boss is perhaps not tapped.
- A smaller bossed Pulley.
- An A/B with 2 round holes.
- A D/B.
- 2 Axles, probably about 3½ & 1" long.
- A Crank Handle.
- A roundheaded Bolt & largish, square Nut.
- A Screwdriver & a Spanner.

Fig.2



Postscript There seemed something familiar about CONSTRUCTIVO and by chance I realised what it was: see MECA, described in 36/1070 & 39/1177. Both have the same type of box insert and most of the parts look identical. The most noticeable difference is that the corners of the MECA 5*5h Plate are much more rounded. The lids are different in colour but otherwise quite similar and both have 'DISA' in large letters. MECA was said to have been made in Mexico and there are several Mexican companies of that name which are seemingly not connected to the Spanish oil company. But if CONSTRUCTIVO was Spanish it would not be the only Spanish

construction system to move production to Mexico – Exin moved its production of MECCANO there around 1970, see 17/491.

A final thought on the CONSTRUCTIVO lid: is the yellow panel with the name on it a label stuck on to cover MECA?

Fig.2A

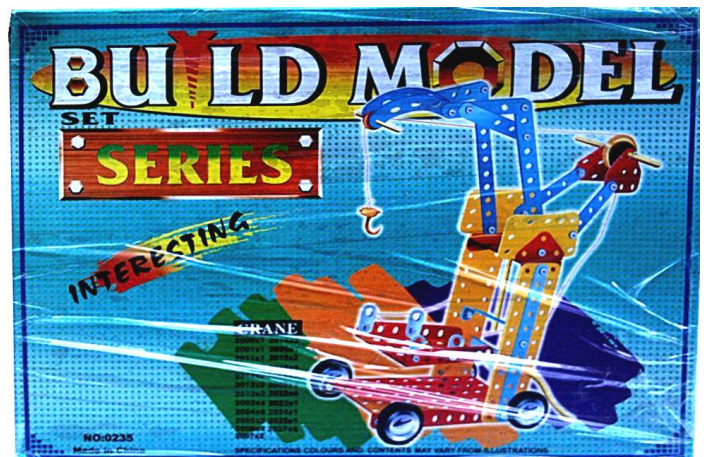


CONSTRUCTIVO: S1

OSN 49/1502

Snippet. New System: BUILD MODEL The photo right, seen on American Ebay, is all that's to hand of the 'Series' claimed on the lid. In the bottom left corner is 'NO:0235' and 'Made In China'. The latter would be expected these days and in fact the parts in the featured Crane look, apart from their colours, like the Chinese WISDOM, and its other lookalikes. Note especially the 7h long Flanged Sector Plate, the Trunnion, the Flat Trunnion, and the Wheels with their bright, pressed hubcaps. Only the Hook is perhaps not quite the WISDOM pattern (flat and similar in outline to the MÄRKLIN part).

The only caveat in the comparison with WISDOM is that though the parts in the later Chinese-made STEEL BUILDER are in the main very like WISDOM, its hole pitch is 12.2mm (see 32/961) against WISDOM's value of 12.5mm.



BUILD MODEL: S1

OSN 49/1502