

**EDITORIAL** Talking to a confirmed Meccanoman recently, we got on to the subject of how to get youngsters interested in MECCANO, or the like, and he felt strongly that remotely controlled Robots, preferably with a computer interface, were the way forward. A major player in this field is VEX, who promote competitive events, including a 'world championship'. Some notes on VEX were given in 34/1006 and since then a \$200, simplified, 'almost ready to run' kit called Revell Vex Vexplorer has been introduced. I can see that such Robots could well have appeal and any constructional 'toy' that creates interest among the young, and not so young, is to be welcomed. Many would of course soon lose interest but that doesn't matter, it's the very few who get hooked, or return to the hobby in later years, who count. I would be interested to hear from any reader who has first hand knowledge of any of the VEX products, or of similar types of robotic kits.

## Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. Jeannot Butex wrote that Constructorama had found a 'new' French system called **JEU FAIT TOUT**. It dates from around 1935.

### JEU FAIT TOUT: S1

[38/1132]

2. **Snippet. 'New' Belgian System: BAYOT** The photo below was taken from German Ebay but the set's maker was given as a company called Bayot of Brussels, and this is borne out by the label in the picture. It was also said that the parts are aluminium and that the box measures 28.5\*29.5\* 2cm. By scaling the pitch of the holes in the parts is between 22 & 23mm. To the left of the open box is what seems to be part of the lid, overlaid at the bottom by the manual. It's rather strange though that the name label in the lid's top right corner looks to slightly overlap its edge. Looking at the Aeroplane model, the cross pieces on top of the fuselage at the tail and half way along could be the shortest of the Braced Girders, the wings the long Plates, and the propeller just possibly the two spoon-shaped parts in the box. But there doesn't seem to be any parts that could be used for the fuselage longerons.



### BAYOT: S1

[38/1132]

3. **Snippet. 'New' System: CONSTRUCTUS** This Austrian system was made by a toy firm called Stomo Spiele. The Ebay ad spoke of Patent Angemeldet (Patent Pending) and the first word under the name on the lid is Patent. Several, perhaps



most, of the bright parts look to be A/Gs, and some at least with a 1\*2h section. Of the latter the bend angle seems far from 90° in some cases but perhaps that is a trick of the light. Though without some unusual parts one wonders what basis there would have been for the patent application.

### CONSTRUCTUS: S1

[38/1132]

4. **STOKYS** The company has changed hands again. A new web site, <http://www.stokys.ch/index.html>, says that it has been bought by 3 business men and is now Stokys Systems AG, at Widen 7, 8494 Bauma. Production of parts and sets was scheduled to restart last January and a new web site/shop was to be online in mid-March. New products are promised in due course.

Another site about STOKYS is [http://homepage.bluewin.ch/kurtaebischer/Kurts\\_Stokys\\_Geschichte.htm](http://homepage.bluewin.ch/kurtaebischer/Kurts_Stokys_Geschichte.htm) where Urs Flammer gives a history of the system. It's in German but a Google translation isn't bad and worth a look. I was interested to see that as originally conceived in 1941, the hole pitch was to have been 10mm. It was changed to 1/2" before production began, but perhaps that is why the Strips are 10mm wide (although if I've understood correctly this difference was claimed as a virtue in the 1947 Max Stockmann Patent No.255449). Originally the Strips and Plates were a zinc alloy, with steel N&B; aluminium and brass for these parts came in 1945-46.

### STOKYS: S2

[38/1132]