

'New' System: CUBAL Jeannot Buteux has kindly sent details from Constructorama of this small French system. It was patented in 1946 and produced in 1947 by a firm called Decal in Lyon. There was one set and only about 10 different parts. The lid, right, scales at 40cm long and under it: the centre & left side of the open box (on the right a Crank Handle replaces the Strips); to the left, the printing on the manual cover with basic constructions A,B,C; to the right, basic constructions (B,C,D,#); & along the bottom, 4 of the manual models. The text on both the box & manual are in French & English. The part names used below are mine.

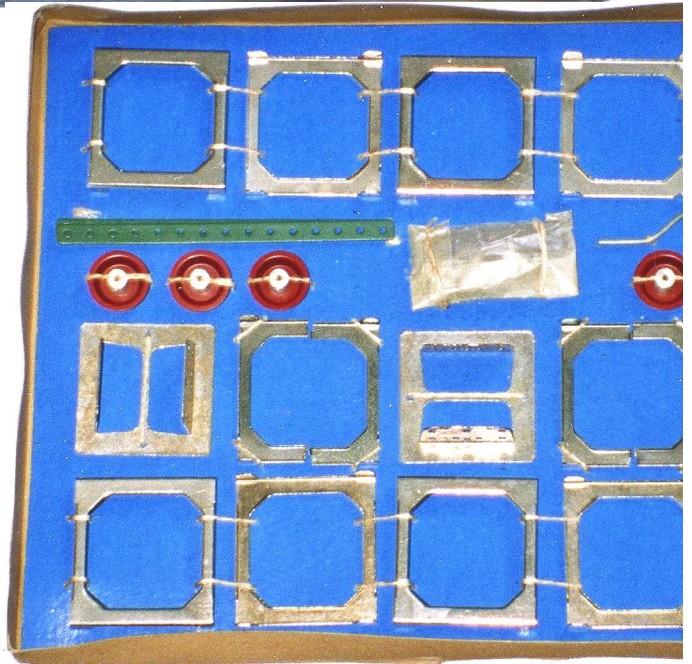
The basic part is the Frame, 6*6cm, and there are 10 in the box, 5 in the top row, and 5 in the bottom. They have a right-angled tab at each corner and 'B' below shows 5 pushed together to make a cube. Half Frames (4 in the box's middle row) are used to close the top face (at 'C') if another cube is to be attached there ('D'), or if a piece of card (user provided) is to cover that side (at '#'). The other main part is the Flanged Frame and there are 3 of them in the middle row. It has a centre bar and the areas on each side of it are pressed through to form deep flanges. The part, and the 8 holes in each flange, can best be seen in the models below. It seems likely that this part has no tabs and slides into place like the card. It's not entirely clear but I think that a Flanged Frame could also be slid under the tabs on the top of a cube like 'B', and if so perhaps it could be used on any face that has 4 tabs showing - the side face of 'B' for example. Equally a card could be used instead but it would need to be stiff enough to support itself on sides which have no Frame, the top of 'B' for instance. All the Frame parts are nickel plated steel.

Other parts in the Set. 2 dark green painted 15h Strips with 3.1mm Ø holes at 10mm pitch. 6 red painted steel Wheels, about 3cm Ø, with tapped aluminium bosses. In the models the Wheels look to be flanged. Axles, possibly in 2 lengths. The Crank Handle below which scales at 11½cm long o/a. Tapped aluminium Collars. Set Screws.

The manual pages are 21*13½cm. As already mentioned it is suggested that card be used to fill in the sides of the cubes and that it could be suitably decorated - with windows & doors for a House for example, or with the spots on a die (hence the 3 on the card at '#'). I don't see how a card could be attached on the bottom face of 'B' though. Under the

models below it is said (in French only) that with extra parts, available everywhere, skyscrapers, metal frameworks, bridges, cranes, etc can be built.

Jeannot wrote that the parts are strong and well made, but that, as can be imagined, the system's scope is very limited.

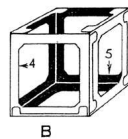
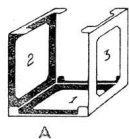


CUBAL

CUBAL est un nouveau système de construction
 Le cube se construit sans boulon ni écrou



A new type of construction!
 Cube is built without bolt or screw... It's a game!



Avec ce jeu vous pouvez construire des wagons, grues, tramways, funiculaires, etc... comme l'indiquent les illustrations

With cubes and accessories, you can make: wagons, cranes, cars, and so on as illustrations show

