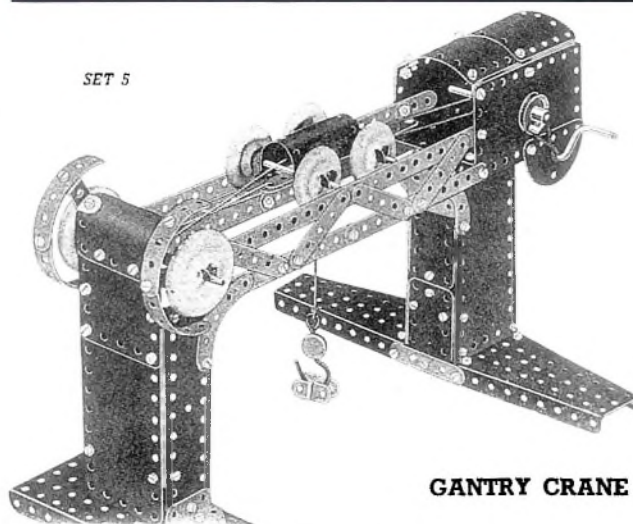


**CONSTRUCTO** That's the UK one, and some notes on probable parts from it were given in 19/539. Now 2 sets have been found, nearly identical, which for reasons to be explained, were likely to have been factory experiments. However the parts in them can be assumed genuine. My thanks to Malcolm Hanson who discovered the sets, & to David Hobson who lent me one, and provided a photo & notes on the other.

The boxes are 16¼\*11¼\*1½", green, with the whole top (above) printed to show a river scene with the name on a red panel, and 2 models in B&W. One is exactly as, and one is similar to, manual models. Above the bridge is an aeroplane which looks very like a Comet IV, and that first flew in 1958. The parts are attached to a fawn backing board which is about 3 times as big as the box. It has 2 wings which fold over with the parts upside down, first one, and then the second, so there are 3 layers of parts in all.

There is no indication of the outfit number. The set looks unused but contains no Brackets, N&B, Axles/Crank Handle, or Tools. There are 2 cutouts which could house boxes for small parts, and there would be room for the other missing items, but no holes have been punched for them. So that is one reason for the 'experimental' supposition. As well, whilst 1" long shaped metal clips are used to hold some of the parts, the others are secured by lengths of paper covered wire. The contents of the two aren't quite the same either, with 2 extra 5h Strips in one & different Road Wheels - one has 8x the 40mm grey balloon type, while the other has 4 similar but 51mm Ø, plus 4x 1" bossed Pulleys with black Tyres. 2 sizes of Wheel are included in the Parts List in the CONSTRUCTO manual (see MCS), and the model in MCS, and others in the Manual, show up to 8 balloon type Wheels, with some always looking larger than others. This can be seen in the No.5 model above, and also visible is the Hook, not yet seen in the flesh.

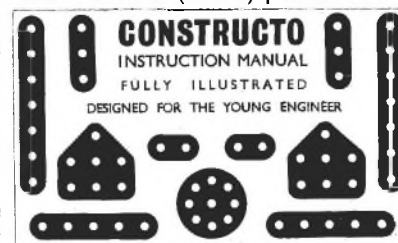
Notes on **parts** not described in OSN 19 follow, together with differences from the previous account. Holes are 4.0-4.1mm Ø unless otherwise stated. • The 25 & 15h **Strips** match the 11h with 4.6-4.7mm holes. The 7h is like the 5h. • The hole pitch in the 11h **A/G** is 12.7mm. • The 1\*5\*1h **DAS** has 4.7mm holes; the 1\*3\*1h is nickel, and one has 4.7mm holes, against 4.0mm in the other 3. • The 40mm **Road Wheel** matches the UMAKIT part (13/339) and the



51mm is the same pattern. • The **Loose Pulley** is tinplate and 26mm Ø as before, but has no face holes, and a ¾" Ø boss which extends for 2mm on one side, with a thin ring of peening on the other. It is also is wider, 5 against 3mm across the V, and is actually made, by accident or design, from 4 discs, 2 each side, held by the boss. From the photo the **Fast Pulley** looks very similar apart from the longer boss. • The 9h **Gusset** is identical to the one in OSN 13. • **Colours**. All the red parts are a light shade; the greens vary with a few medium and the rest lighter, but not as bright as the OSN 19 parts.

A very large lot of what seem to be CONSTRUCTO parts has turned up since the OSN 17 notes were written, and among them were 3.96mm Ø **Axles**, 3" & 4" long, which match the UMAKIT one, and a matching **Crank Handle**, 4½" overall with 90° bends, and a 1" long handle.

The Sets had identical **manuals**, both enclosed in a light brown paper wrapper with the front (below) printed in green. The manual includes the MCS pages, & has the Petrol Tanker on the cover. It contains 12 pages including covers, 191\*114mm deep, all in B&W, with 14 models inside, unnumbered. Those for Set 3 go from Delivery Van on C2 to Light Drawbridge on p2; for Set 4: Hammer-head Crane on p2 to Aerial Conveyor on p5; and for Set 5: Light Army Tank on p6 to Suspension Bridge on C3. There is one good photo of each model and all are slightly modified versions of MECCANO 1937-61 period models, usually from the same numbered set, though the No.5 'improved' Gantry Crane above was for the No.4 MECCANO Outfit. The Spare Parts Price List is on C4.



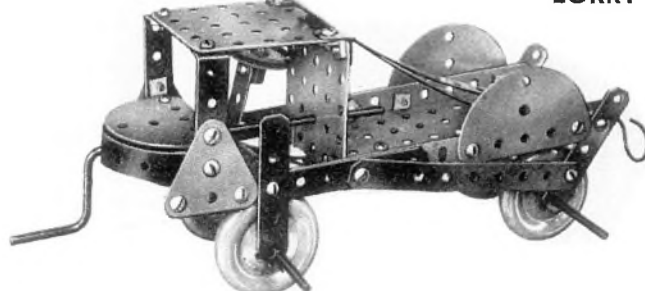
The similarity between CONSTRUCTO & UMAKIT is heightened by 2 points - first the 1" metal clips used to hold the parts are identical in both, and they are unusual, with ends that are reduced in width from 5.2 to 3.5mm - secondly, the backing boards are made from similar, textured card, & the cutouts in them for small parts boxes have the same type of fold-down wings.

**METALCRAFT** This is the METALCRAFT that is closely related to PIONEER & VOGUE, and some details of it were given in 14/393 & 15/421. The only part of the manual available at the time was the back cover, but now thanks to Don Redmond & Clive Weston, particulars of the whole manual are to hand.

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Name: METALCRAFT •Details of maker/dates/Ref Nos: none. •Page size: 223\*141mm deep. •No. of pages: 16 inc covers. •Language: English. •Printing: ½-tone models; colour covers. •Page No. of Illustrated Parts List & highest PN: 16,20. [no Parts List or Set Contents] •Sets covered: one unnumbered. •No. of models: 25. •Name, Page No. of first & last model: BOARD & EASLE,3; AEROPLANE,15. [no Model Nos.] •Other notes: very similar to the PIONEER manual.

**METALCRAFT**  
MODELS

**BREAKDOWN LORRY**





rest of the sheets run up to 267 but in no apparent order, save that models for the smaller sets are probably on sheets outside those with the larger ones. The largest appear on the 4 sheets in the middle of the manual, and the centre opening pages (there are no page numbers) show models 252-257. No indication is given of the set needed for any of the models.

# **YOUNG ENGINEER [1]/LE JEUNE INGÉNIUER: S1 [32/941]**

8. Two similar UK **CONSTRUCTO** sets were described in 25/740 and now Jacques Pitrat has send notes and a photo (below) of one he has found. It is virtually identical, with the same manual, but it is complete with N&B, in the two little green boxes, and with the Brackets, Axles & Tools, in a plastic bag between one of the pairs of Flanged Sector Plates in the centre section of the box. The N&B boxes have UMAKIT on them, which confirms that the two systems came from the same manufacturer. As before there is no Set No. on the box but Jacques points out that one can build all the Set 4 manual models with the parts in the Outfit, and on the contrary, there are not enough Strips & Flexible Plates for those from Set 5. For instance, some require 9x5h Flexible Plates and there are none in the Set. One curious thing is that there are 6 Flanged Sector Plates (against 4 in the OSN 25 sets), and that no more than two are used in any of the manual models.



Another similar set has been seen on Ebay. It is far from complete but it does include at least three 5\*9h Flexible Plates as well as examples of the sizes in Jacques' set. No balloon type Road Wheels can be seen but instead the 5 Pulleys fitted with Tyres left. The 3 smaller ones are about the diameter of those in one of the OSN 25 sets but their 1" Pulleys looks like the 6-hole type shown in 19/539. The larger ones scale at 2" Ø overall, or a little less, and have rather deeper Tyres fitted to larger Pulleys, similar in style to the 1" but with more holes, probably 8. Again there are 2 green boxes - the printing on them that can't be read but the main name doesn't look like UMAKIT, and is the right length for CONSTRUCTO. So was this a larger and perhaps later set than any of the 'No.4s'?

# **CONSTRUCTO [2]: S1**

[32/941]

9. **Snippet - WERNER'S Metallbaukasten** This system was mentioned in 17/477 as being like TRIX and dating from soon after WW2. The Ebay picture heading the the next column shows parts that indeed look identical to TRIX and if the orangey look to a few of them is rust, then they are no doubt made of steel.

The words under the name on the box lid are 'Nr.1 Grundkasten Made in Germany'. The parts may be like Trix



but what of the models? I don't remember the Tractor on the lid as a TRIX model.

# **WERNER'S Metallbaukasten: S1**

[32/941]

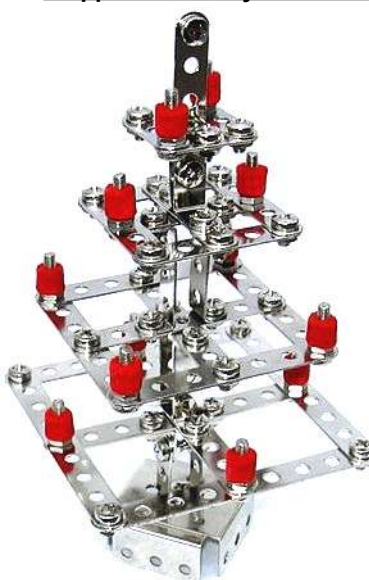
10. **'New' System: MACHINO.** I have a note that this was an Indian system, and that a No.0 set had red & green parts strung to a backing card. I can't trace who sent me this information, so apologies to whoever it was.

# **MACHINO: S1**

[32/941]

# 11 **Snippet - New System: STABILUS**

Just one set with this name was offered for Xmas 2003 by [www. Blechspielzeugladen.de](http://www.Blechspielzeugladen.de) to make the 17cm high Xmas Tree on the left. It is still available from the same site, price €12.50. At first I thought of the BRAL model (29/857) but from the dimensions given, 12cm across the diagonal of the lowest square, the hole pitch must be about 10mm. The parts could easily be from Eitech or Polylong though not all the Brackets can be seen. The Bolts look to be crossheaded. And I'm not sure what the part at the very top is.



# **STABILUS: S1**

[32/941]

# **SMALL ADS**

[32/941]

**For Sale** Repro parts for the **PRIMUS Motor Chassis**, #161-2,167,210-5,214. Please contact R. Green, 21 Groveland Rd, Speen, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1ST; [skyspot46@aol.com](mailto:skyspot46@aol.com).

**For Sale** from the Editor – prices below include postage to UK/Europe & surface anywhere/by air elsewhere:

**Index for OSN 1-30**, 20 A4 sides, £2.30/2.90/3.80.

**MCS Database**, updated edition in 2 parts, 56 A4 sides in all, £6.50/7.00/7.60

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**Payments** Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances must be in Pounds Sterling (GBP) or, as cash, in Euros or US Dollars (at £1=€1.50= \$1.80). Payments from overseas may also be made using PayPal.

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