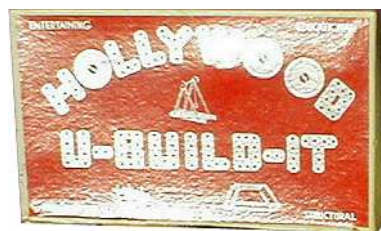


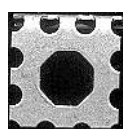
'New' System: CONSTRUCTO A set recently to hand is very similar to the HOLLYWOOD U-BUILD-IT outfit described in 11/287. The most unusual feature in both is the pattern of holes in the Strips - $\frac{3}{16}$ " \varnothing at $\frac{7}{16}$ " pitch, with two $\frac{1}{8}$ " holes between each pair of $\frac{3}{16}$ " holes, near the Strip's edges. The Model Sheets too (with their ERECTOR models) are the same, but with two exceptions. At the bottom the GOLDEN STATE CONSTRUCTO name remains, & only F.K.HAAS has been obliterated. And rubber stamped on at the top in red is: LITE STEEL PRODUCTS COMPANY // 4427 SAN FERNANDO ROAD // GLENDALE 4, CALIFORNIA. So it seems that CONSTRUCTO came before the HOLLYWOOD period.



The **boxes** are probably similar for both sets, 10*6*1", and divided into 5 areas by partitioning stapled to the sides of the base. The CONSTRUCTO lid is shown above and the Haas name can still be seen at the bottom - it had been obliterated but the ink has faded with time. The LITE STEEL etc has also been stamped on the bottom border but is very faint. Under CONSTRUCTO & 'OF HOLLYWOOD' is: 'REG. U.S. PAT. OFFICE.'



The models on the lid show the actual Strips, Flanged Plates, & Wheels, whereas the 3 models on the ERECTOR models on the Model Sheet. (The HOLLYWOOD lid is on p2 in MCS and as can be seen from the small blurry photo of it above, it is completely different.) The SET NO. 200 at the top of the CONSTRUCTO lid is the only indication that there might be other outfits. Only one, unspecified, size of HOLLYWOOD is known.



The only difference in **the parts** is the A/B. Both arms are the same, as shown left, full size - the width varies from 14.5 to 15.1mm. Before bending the part is cut from a steel plate pierced with octagonal holes, .28" A/F, at about .58" pitch, and with rows of .11" \varnothing holes at .19" pitch in between.

I wonder what the plate was used for originally.

A few other points about the parts, and they most probably apply to the HOLLYWOOD ones as well.

- Different **Strips** vary from 12.6 to 13.0mm in width.
- The centre hole of the **Wheel** is 6.4mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") diameter. The Bolt is just long enough to locknut a Wheel to another part but it is difficult to centre it accurately enough to prevent wobble.
- The holes across the **Flanged Plates** are at $\frac{7}{8}$ " pitch, twice the $\frac{7}{16}$ " of the Strips, but along the length they are at $1\frac{3}{8}$ " pitch, or multiples thereof. Thus they do not quite mate up with the $x\frac{1}{16}$ " holes, and this is most likely another case of parts made from an item originally intended for some other purpose.

The **contents** of the Set as found were: 10,9,10,7,10, 17 of 18,14,12,7,5,2h Strips; 18 A/Bs; 8 Wheels; 1x 6" & 2x 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long Flanged Plates; 26 bolts & 19 Nuts. There were no Tools (MCS shows a Span'driver & a pair of Pliers for HOLLYWOOD).

Leading Particulars

Name GOLDEN STATE CONSTRUCTO

Country U.S.A.

Maker Lite Steel Products Company, 4427 San Fernando Road, Glendale 4, California.

History Perhaps soon after WW2.

Hole dia. 4.8mm.

Hole pitch 11.1mm ($\frac{7}{16}$ " in Strips; $\frac{7}{8}$ " across & $1\frac{3}{8}$ " along in the Flanged Plates.

Sets Only No.200 known.

Material/Finish Natural aluminium with plain steel A/Bs.

Bosses None.

Fixing 6-32 steel N&B. Hex Nuts, 7.8mm A/F, untreated; $\frac{5}{16}$ " \varnothing mushhead Bolts with cross recess, $\frac{7}{16}$ " u/h, and a pale green finish.

Motors/Gears/Bosses/Axles None.

Remarks Identical to HOLLYWOOD U-BUILD-IT in most respects, and probably preceded it.

The Crane on the lid would need a Hook, a Pulley smaller than the Wheel, and a winding drum of some sort, but none of these were in this set, nor in photos of 2 HOLLYWOOD sets.

The 20h Strip, DAS, & Axle Rod mentioned in MCS haven't been seen either, and it's possible that the last two at least are parts needed to make the ERECTOR models on the Model Sheet and were never CONSTRUCTO or HOLLYWOOD parts.

Models There aren't many different parts but as found there were a reasonably generous number of each, enough to make much better models than those on the Model Sheet. A quite respectable Bridge would be possibly & I made the little Railway Crane below. The non-original parts are the wire hook, some RH bolts & smaller hex nuts (over 60 N&B were needed). A winding drum of oblong cross-section was contrived from 5h Strips & A/Bs, with the shank of a Bolt at each end to allow rotation and to carry a winding handle on one side. Other 'features' are a built up pawl to engage with the drum, and pivoted outriggers on either side. I tried and failed to make a band brake and a jib head pulley. A Screwed Rod would be needed for either. The Wheels on the undercarriage look rather too large perhaps, but one was just the right size to act as a slewing ring.

