

CANADIAN STEEL INSTRUCTOR - New System

John Wapshott has kindly sent details of a set he came across recently. It was in a box approximately 14*9*1" and on the green cover, in gold, faded but readable, 'Canadian Steel Instructor // No.1 Set \$1.' Also a Canadian red ensign flag (a symbol of Canada until well after WW2), with 'Made in Canada' under it. Inside the lid is a sticker on which are listed the contents of a No.1½ Set. The lid hasn't copied well enough to reproduce here but the sticker is shown below.

John wrote that all the parts in the box are nickel plated and that about a third are American MECCANO (1916 patent date), about a third Phase 2 MODELIT (the one with alternate round and square holes, see 12/326), and the rest are MECCANO-like but include some unusual parts which seem to correspond to those on the Sticker - 2 of 4" A/Gs, a flat Sector Plate, and a 5*7h Perforated Plate, which would be the Medium Plate. In fact all the main parts in the '1½' Contents List are present and John sent dimensioned sketches of them. My first reaction was to think of Phase 1 MODELIT (see 8/186) or the Canadian CASTLE BUILDER, both of which had a similar range of parts, including a 4" A/G, and the flat Sector and 5*7h Plates. CASTLE BUILDER can probably be ruled out because the ends of the Sector Plates are a slightly different shape. The MODELIT parts described in OSN 8 are very similar but there are some differences:

- The CSI Strips are wider (.556" against .500±.005"), and thinner (.038"~.042"). The CSI Plates are 8 thou thicker at .032". The average CSI hole size is .167", against .173" for most MODELIT ones.
- The CSI Axles and Crank Handle are a thou or two smaller in diameter (.157") and the Crank Handle doesn't have a hole through it. The CSI bosses and Collars are

No. 1½ Set Contains

6 1½ inch Strips	1 Medium Plate
10 5½ " "	24 Nuts and Screws
2 4 " Angle Girders	2 ½ inch Cranks
2 2½ " " "	3 5 " Axle Rod
2 1 inch Wheels	1 4 " " "
2 Collar and Set Screws	4 Wood Screws
1 Double Bent Strip	1 Instruction Sheet
1 Sector Plate	1 Cord

.388" o.d. against the MODELIT .376". Both are single tapped 6-32. The thread of the N&B in both systems is 8-32, but the CSI Nuts are rough cut a nominal 5/16" square.

Of course these differences could be ascribed to production at different times, but given the close correspondence between the types of part found and the ones in the '1½' Contents List, it seems likely that the original parts were in the box.

I wondered about the Contents sticker. There's no explanation of why the Set No. on it is different to the one on the outside, unless there was originally a '1½' label over the '1' and it has fallen off. It's reasonable to assume that the '1½' contents are those of a linking set, and with some differences they correspond quite closely to the MODELIT No.1-A outfit. The use of '½' numbers to denote linking sets is unusual - AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER used them but their parts aren't at all the same. Many of the names of the parts are the same or similar to those used by MODELIT, but not all. I can't draw any firm conclusions from all this but it may point to a definite but perhaps tenuous connection between MODELIT and CSI. One day a manual will surface, and that may help.

The manufacturer of the Set isn't known - the dealer it came from marked it Proule Co., Toronto, c1910, and, perhaps not by coincidence, that name and town is stamped in large capital letters on the underside of the box. However John searched the City of Toronto Directory from 1910 to 1925 and didn't find a Proule. There were some Sproules and the only likely connection was Collett & Sproule, listed as box makers from 1913 onwards. In that case the first part of the name would have been chopped off during manufacture. If CSI was not made by Proule, then John suggests that one possibility would be the Reliance Toy Co. of Toronto (1916-24).

Since all the available information has been given here, an MCS Sheet will be deferred in case anything new comes to light.

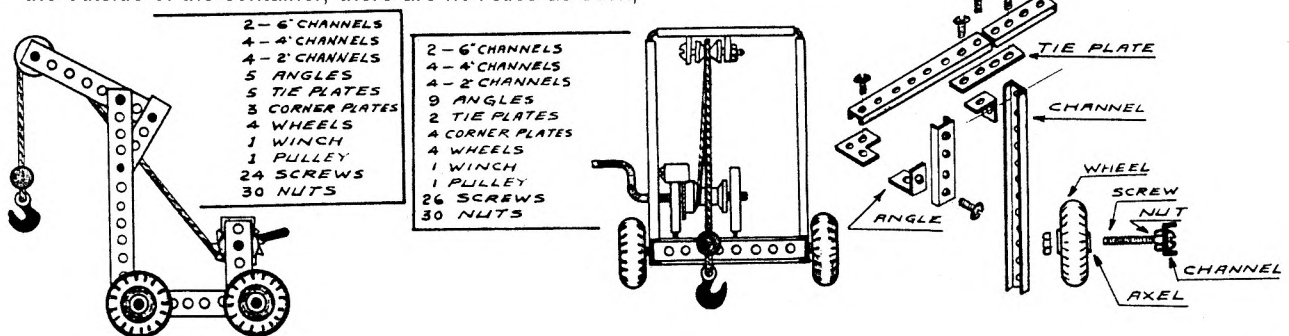
Another TECHMASTER Outfit In OSN 13/346 an account of this system was given based on a Model Leaflet which referred to Sets 1,2&3. Now John Seaverns has kindly sent details of an actual Set, the #50, and a copy of the single side Model Leaflet that was in it.

From John, 'The Set is packed in a pasteboard tube with a 'tin' top and bottom, and is covered with paper printed in yellow, red, blue and green. #50 appears in small type near the bottom of one side. The majority of the parts are made of steel, with a bright, perhaps plated finish, but the Corner Plates are aluminum. The pitch of the holes is ½", they match MECCANO spacing perfectly. The 2" dia Wheels are moulded from black plastic. The Spool is wood, painted green, and the Handle is aluminum. Despite being listed in the Contents on the outside of the container, there are no Axles as such,

but ¾" long Screws are included for the Wheels to run on. The thread is 6-32 and the Nuts are made of aluminum, about 9mm square.'

The Leaflet shows 8 unnamed models, all running on 4 Wheels, and all cranes or winches of one sort or another. For each a list of the parts needed is given, together with a side view, or for one an end view. Two are shown below, plus two of the illustrations showing how the parts are used.

Notice the 6" Channel not seen in OSN 13, and also the Corner Plates with 3 instead of 5 holes, and the Angles with 2 instead of 4 holes. The #50 Set includes 10 Channels, 2,4 and 6" long; 21 brackets; and about 30 N&B. The complete contents and the entire Leaflet will be included in an MCS Extra Sheet.



CANADIAN STEEL INSTRUCTOR This is about new information that has come to light about this rare WW1-time system since the note in 14/391, mainly an article by Don Redmond & John Wapshott in Canadian MeccaNotes (#26, June 2002) about a model sheet that John had found, and some parts from Canada which are most likely CSI.

The Model Sheet is 18*25", printed on both sides. The front side has 25 models ranged around a centre panel with the Illustrated Parts & a Price List of Separate Parts in it. The Illustrated Parts is identical to the Phase 1 MODELIT in MCS except that a wire Screwdriver with a triangular handle replaces the wooden-handled one, & a single-ended Spanner the MODELIT double-ended type. The CSI versions of these parts are as in the CASTLE BUILDER Illustrated Parts in MCS. The names of the parts & PNs are also identical to MODELIT but the CSI list does not include the Instruction Books #65 & 66.

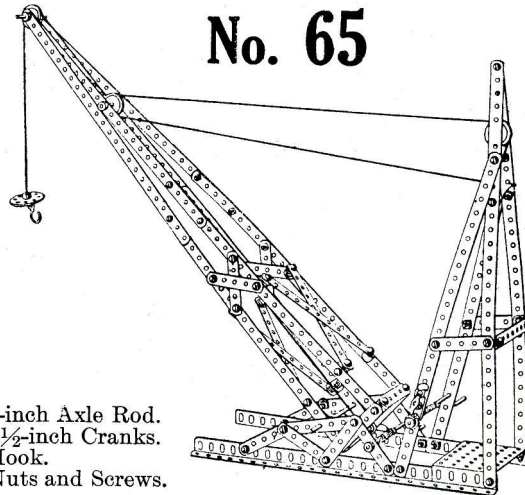
The models are numbered 1-25 but are not arranged in any particular order and they go from FIRE TRUCK No.25 in the top left corner to PAPER TRUCK No.3 at bottom right. There is a small photo for each, plus a list of the parts required. The outfit needed for these models isn't mentioned but it is no doubt Set 1 because Set 2 & 3 models are shown on the Sheet's reverse side. It is said in MeccaNotes that comparing the models with those in other systems at about the same time, 7 show a reasonable resemblance to MECCACO, 8 to AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER, and 5 to STRUCTOMODE.

The reverse side shows extra models which can be made with Sets 2 & 3: 12 for Set 2, Nos. 32, 33, 37-40, & 42-27, ending with No.37; and 12 more for Set 3, Nos. 60-71, ending with No.70. As before there is one illustration and a parts list for each model but all the No.3's are line drawings rather than photos. And again many of the models have a familiar look to them. One is shown below, at the original size, and is a straight copy of an AMB No.3 model. Hence, as in a number of the other models, a Flanged Plate is shown instead of the Perforated Plate with A/Gs which would actually be used.

PLATFORM DERRICK

No. 65

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Small Plate. | |
| 1 Bush Wheel. | |
| 3 1-inch Pulleys. | |
| 1 1/2-inch Pinion. | |
| 1 Pawl. | |
| 7 Collars. | |
| 2 12 1/2-inch Angle Girders. | |
| 2 2 1/2-inch Angle Girders. | |
| 14 Angle Brackets. | |
| 12 12 1/2-inch Strips. | |
| 6 5 1/2-inch Strips. | 1 5-inch Axle Rod. |
| 3 3 1/2-inch Strips. | 2 5 1/2-inch Cranks. |
| 18 2 1/2-inch Strips. | 1 Hook. |
| 3 2-inch Axle Rods. | 60 Nuts and Screws. |

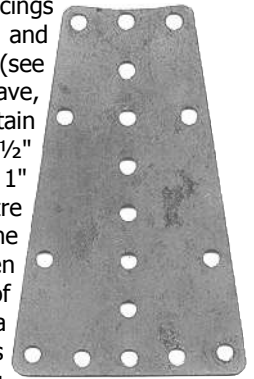


Based on the parts needed for the models the MeccaNotes article, and an earlier one (#7, Sept. 1997), give possible inventories for Sets 1-3. Broadly they look very similar to MODELIT, the most obvious difference being that the CSI No.3 does not contain a Pawl & 1/2" Pinion, but does have the 4 Flange Wheels which are not in MODELIT until the No.4. The question remains as to whether there were CSI sets larger than the No.3. Some 30 parts of the CSI range are not in the No.3 but since prices are given for them on the Sheet, presumably they were available. None have been found so far though, but CSI parts are not common and, as far as I know, no CSI Flange Wheels are known either.

The Parts They are those from a mixed lot which remained after taking out some AMB parts (including Flanged Plates), and some mystery tin plated, now dark grey, parts of a

quite different character. Of the remainder, the Strips & Brackets are judged to be CSI and not MODELIT because all are well over 1/2" wide, and it is assumed that the Plates are CSI because they were with the wide Strips. **The types of part** are: 5,7,11,25h Strips; 5,8,11h A/Gs; 5*7h, 5*11h Perforated Plates; Flat Segment Plate; 1" Pulley; Collar; A/B; Single & Double Bent Strips; Axle & Crank Handle; N&B. The quantities indicate more than one set, or a No.2 with extras perhaps. As explained in the notes on the parts below, there are two types of a few of the parts and some could be AMB.

- The width of the **Strips & Brackets**, 14.2mm, is as in OSN 14 and their thickness, .9-.95mm, is similar.
- **Holes** too are similar, generally 4.3mm but 4.2mm in the Perforated Plates.
- At .7mm the **Plates** are slightly thinner. The **Sector Plate** right (1/2 full-size) is as in the tracings that John sent of his OSN 14 parts, and exactly matches the MODELIT part (see 8/186). The 5h end is flat, the 3h concave, the end holes are on arcs that maintain the corner holes on each side at 3 1/2" pitch, and the centre edge holes are at 1" pitch from the corner holes. The 4 centre side holes are not shown in the Illustrated Parts but can be clearly seen in a photo elsewhere on the Sheet of how to bolt 8h A/Gs on to make a flanged sector plate.
- The A/Gs correspond to those in John's drawing except that the bend point varies a little for the different lengths, giving arms typically 15 1/2 & 14 1/2mm. The slotted holes are 8 1/2mm long, as in the A/B.
- The **Single Bent Strip** is 11.3mm wide o/a.



Now for the parts which might be AMB or CSI. • Two types of **1" Pulley** were found, both nicked including their 10.0mm Ø brass bosses, single-tapped 6-32. The differences between them are: rim width, 3 1/4/4mm; bore, 4.2/4.1mm;

boss depth, 6 1/2/5 1/2mm; peening section, semi-circular/rectangular with a raised inner ring; 4 1/2mm u/h nicked steel Set Screws with 1 1/2mm deep tapered cheeseheads 4.3/4.1 Ø. Neither type can be positively said to be CSI, but the one with the rectangular peening is perhaps more likely to be. This unusual peening matches the unplated boss of the MODELIT 1" Pulleys to hand, and although it also matches the nicked boss of a reputed AMB 1" Pulley, the latter has a 'belled' rather than a 'V' rim. And the 1" Pulleys in a largely complete AMB set have belled rims and semi-circular peening. • There were also two types of **Collar**, both brass, single-tapped 6-32, with a 4.1mm bore. The differences between them are: 10.0/9.5mm Ø; 6/4.7mm wide. It is more likely that the first type is CSI because its diameter is the same as the 1" Pulley bosses and

the second is identical to those in the AMB Set. • The only **Axle** in the parts is 4 1/2" long, 3.99mm Ø, and has square ends. • The **Crank Handle**, 3.98mm Ø and 5 1/2" o/a, has a small cross hole 1 1/2" from the inner bend, and matches the part in the AMB Set. John's part is the same shape but doesn't have the cross hole. • **N&B**. There were 2 types of both the Nut & the Bolt, with a dozen or two of each pattern. The **Nuts** are square pressed; plain steel/plain brass; 8.0/6.6 A/F; 3/2.2mm thick. The **Bolts** are plain steel, about 8mm u/h, with 7.5mm Ø round/6.5mm Ø fillister heads. All are threaded 8-32, though 5/32" BSW parts screw onto/into most of them. The N&B in the AMB Set are brass steel but otherwise the Nuts matches the smaller one in the Lot, and the Bolts have a similar round head but are only 6 1/2mm u/h.