

'New' System: CUB BUILDERS Kendrick Bisset has kindly sent details of yet another small, aluminium, American system from, it seems likely, the early post-WW2 years. This one is similar in many ways to SKY-SCRAPER (see 21/595) and its main parts are $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide Strips with holes to take 6-32 N&B, 2 Flanged Plates, 2 Channel Plates, & a 6h Pulley Disc.

Leading Particulars

Name CUB BUILDERS

Country U.S.A.

Maker Playcraft Mfg. Co., Saint Paul 1, Minnesota.

History Very likely to be soon after WW2.

Hole dia. 3.4 – 3.6mm.

Hole pitch 12.7mm.

Sets Only one.

Material/Finish Plain aluminium.

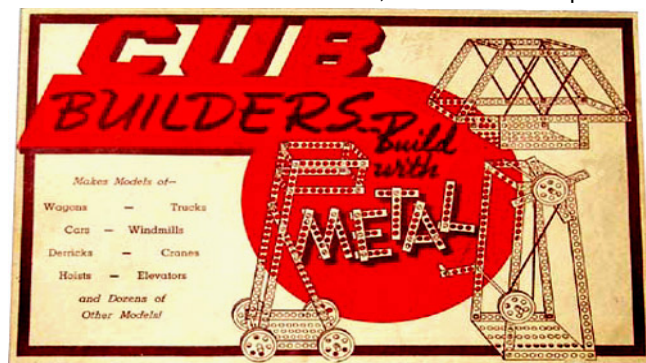
Boss None.

Fixing 6-32 N&B.

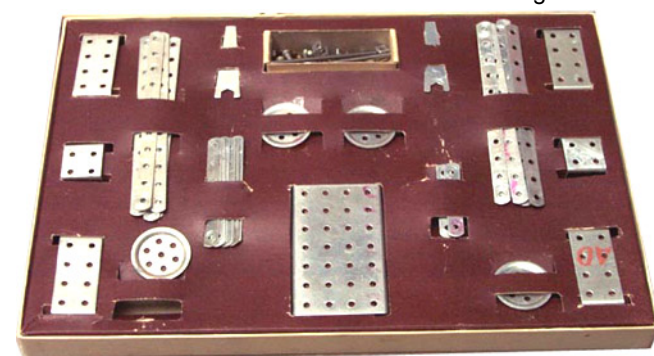
Axles 3.17mm Ø (.125").

Remarks 12 different parts, + N&B. No Gears or Motor.

The **SET** is in a box 9½*14¼*1¼", and the lid and open box

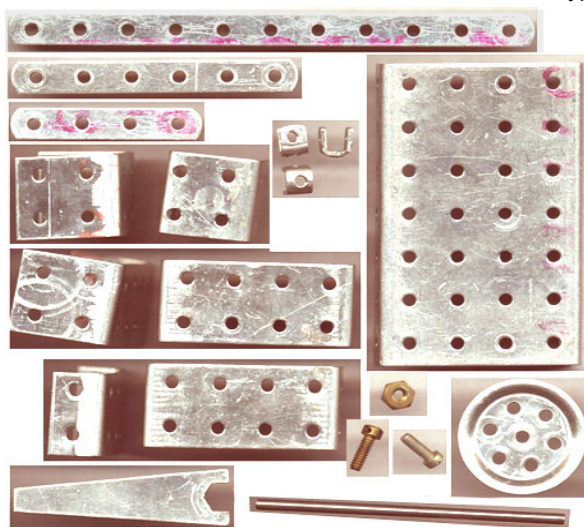


are shown above & below. The Set Contents are given in the



Model Sheet as: 'This set consists of – 4 Wheels, 6 Corner Angles, 2 Wrenches, 10 long Strips, 6 medium Strips, 4 short Strips, 1 Base Plate, 2 Axles, 1 Pulley Rod, 8 bushings, nuts and screws.' The Bushing is also referred to as a Clamp and is the formed ERECTOR-style Collar. The 6 Corner Angles are 2 each of a small Flanged Plate & 2 Channels. The Pulley Rod is probably a shorter Axle found

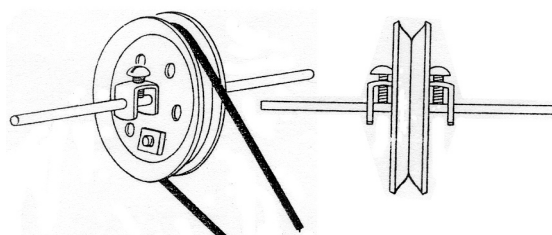
in the Set – it can be seen in the WHEEL BARROW shown later. 21 Nuts were in the Set, & 20 Bolts of 2 different types.



The PARTS These can be seen in a scan above, at 50% full-size. All holes are round. All corners not visible are square. Where not specified below the material thickness is between .040 & .055".

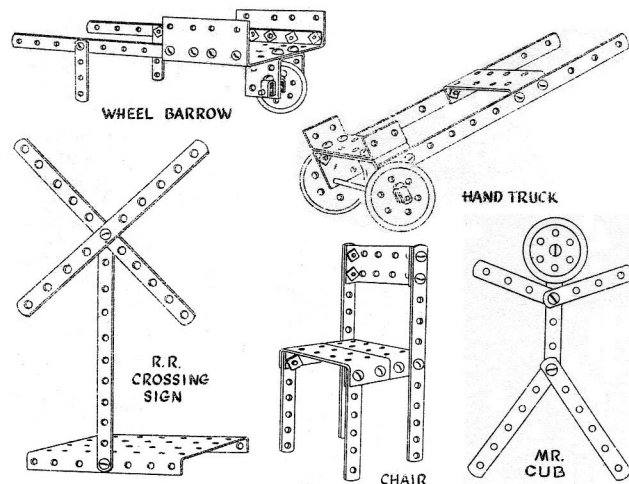
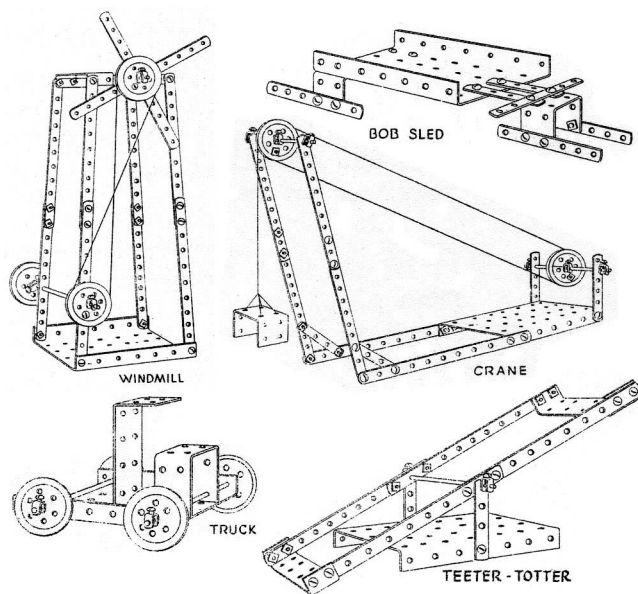
- The **Strips** are almost exactly $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide (9.53mm) and from .040 to .050" thick.
- The 4*7h, & 4*2h **Flanged Plates** have 1h deep flanges.
- The **Channels** are 2*2h, & 2*4h, both with 2 hole deep flanges on their 2-hole sides - they are above the 4*2h Flanged Plate in the illustration above).
- The **Pulley Disc** is 1.125" diameter.
- The **Collar** (there were 2 extra in the Set) is .28" wide.
- The **Axles** are steel. The one shown above is 3¼" long, and the shorter one, not illustrated, is 2".
- **N&B.** The **Nut** is brass, hex, 7.8mm A/F. There are 2 types of **Bolt**, both with 5.5mm Ø fillister heads. One is brass, $\frac{7}{16}$ " u/h, the other is dull plated steel, with a Phillips slot, $\frac{3}{8}$ " u/h. If both types of Bolt are genuine it suggests the use of whatever was available. The brass Bolt has a small hole through its head for locking wire.

The MODEL SHEET This is a single sheet, 8½*13", folded into two. On the front are Instructions, including the Set Contents, and how to make a Pulley (below). They start 'HI FELLOWS!' and are signed by 'Your friend, Mr. Cub'.



Inside and on the back are line drawings of 30 simple models, from BEACH CHAIR to BRIDGE. The company's name & address is also on the back. A selection of models is shown at the top of the next page, the same size as the originals. The Windmill needs more Pulley Discs than are in the Set.

Similarities to SKY-SCRAPER SKY-SCRAPER was described in 21/595, and Kendrick has pointed out the many



similarities between it & CUB, and the differences. First of all both had many (unusual) parts in common, many models in common, and both were made in St. Pauls. The models on the SKY box have 6h CUB-like Pulley Discs, Axles, & Collars, but none of these parts are used on the Model Sheet models, and none of them were found in the two known SKY sets. The wheeled models on the SKY Sheet are fitted with the Rubber Wheels found in the Sets seen, running on Bolts. Said Wheels are represented by black discs, and in the models common to both systems they have been achieved by blacking in the CUB Pulley Discs (without attempting to show the thickness of the Rubber Wheel) and erasing the CUB Axles & Collars. The drawings of the

models without wheels common to both systems are identical. The SKY models not on the CUB Sheets use the 2*6h Plate not in the CUB set. The Intro on both Sheets starts 'Hi Fellows'.

Those then are the facts. My guess is that CUB came first, and SKY followed, perhaps after Playcraft had gone out of business, or sold on the copyright of their Model Sheet to Ames Mfg. (the SKY firm), or even had transformed itself into Ames. From the models on the SKY box it seems that it was initially intended to use the 6-hole Discs as wheels, but at some point it was decided to change to the Rubber Wheels, presumably too late to change the box. The new SKY models like the Steam Shovel & Snow Plow (see MCS) were no doubt worthwhile additions, but by deleting the Pulley Discs interesting models such as the Crane & Windmill (above) had to be dropped.

CUB BUILDER: S2

OSN 28/838

SNIPPET: 'New' System: GLORIA A photo of a small set from this German system is shown to the right. The '1' on the lid & manual cover perhaps indicates that there were other sets. The maker was a company called Hermidag; it isn't listed in *Baukästen*.

No dimensions are available but the parts look as if the holes might be 4mm at 10mm pitch, or possibly slightly larger holes, or a slightly shorter pitch. The parts that can be seen in the photo are:

- Strips with 4,5,6,7,9,11,13,15,21,25 holes.
- 1*4*1, 1*5*1, 1*6*1, & 1*7*1 DAS.
- A part, perhaps an A/G, with square corners & 7 crosswise slotted holes.
- What are probably Bossed Pulleys of about 3 & 4 1/4 Ø.
- What looks like a 4h Bush Wheel.
- Axles & a Crank Handle.
- Collars, some of which, at least, have short spigots at one end, and so may be unpeened bosses.
- CH Bolts & large hex Nuts. A 1h Ø Washer, & larger ones of 1 3/4 Ø.
- A short wire Screwdriver with triangular handle.



- What may be a 1*2h Bracket to the right of the top of the Screwdriver's handle. No other small parts are evident, perhaps they are in the paper bag above.

No Plates of any sort can be seen.

GLORIA: S1

OSN 28/839

4. **Snippet. CUB BUILDERS** This small American system with aluminium parts, including several Flanged & Channel Plates, was described in 28/838 and it was thought to date from soon after WW2. This has been largely confirmed by a CUB Model Sheet which was found in a file marked with the year '1946'.

CUB BUILDERS S3 [42/1261]

5. **Snippet. More on METALL-BAUKASTEN [5]** A little on this small German system was given in 36/1070 and now Jan Ringnalda has send the much better photos below from an Ebay item. The box was said to measure 200*100*27mm but from the photos the 100:200 ratio is incorrect. Some of the parts in the box are obviously from a 'Matchbox' set and scaling from them gives the 200mm dimension but the other is about 150mm. Then scaling the Strips & Flanged Plates gives



their hole pitch as about 13mm, so possibly that figure or 1/2". Looking at the OSN 36 parts again there are a few Strips among them that match the colour of the present ones (not the rusty ones mooted as possibles before). So are the non-Matchbox parts in this set genuine? Quite likely I suppose, though the Plates on top of the towers in the Bridge on the lid are shown as having 5*4h.

METALL-BAUKASTEN [5] S2 [42/1261]

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6. **Snippets. ANKER** The cardboard lid from a Richter ANKER set was shown in 38/1134 and the Ebay photo below is



of an outfit in a wooden box. The top of its lid wasn't shown but the manual cover resting against its underside is of a similar design to the OSN 38 lid label.

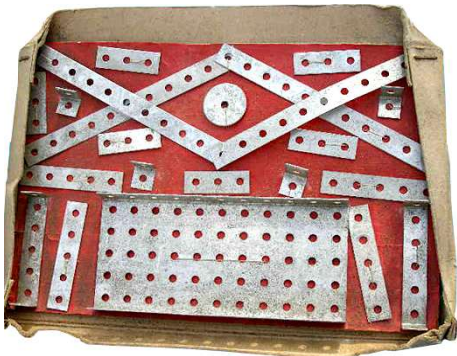
As can be seen the different types of part include various lengths of Strip, the longest probably 25h; some Brackets; 5*11h & 3*5h Plates (the former not fully perforated); a 5h Ø Disc; a 1 1/2h Ø Pulley, probably aluminium; Rods, most likely fully or partially threaded; and a Crank Handle which probably has a threaded end. The 3*5h Plate and the Pulley can be seen among the parts (a mix from several systems) that were with the OSN 38 lid.

A second set is in a cardboard box with a lid label identical to the OSN 38 one. Most of the parts mentioned above can be seen including the 5*11h Plate, and it has only the edge & centre line holes. Also in the box are 2 Winding Drums which may not be original because they look exactly like those in the METALL-BAUKASTEN set described in 28/820 & 34/1035. The size of the box was given as 32.5*16*3cm and scaling from that gives a hole pitch of 12.5mm, so certainly near 1/2".

ANKER [2]: S2 [42/1261]

7. **Snippet. A METAL CONSTRUCTION and BUILDING OUTFIT**

The Ebay set right has a box 11*7", very slightly larger than the one in 35/1037, but with the same label except that it has a narrow outside orange border. Compared with the earlier outfit this one has no 5*5h Plate and neither the Span'driver, nor the small Pulley? Wheel (between the Discs), can be seen. Another very noticeable difference is that all the Strips and the A/B have square corners. The quantities of the Disc & Strips cannot be compared because the Discs in this set, and the Strips in the OSN 35 outfit are probably stacked.



METAL CONSTRUCTION and BUILDING OUTFIT: S2 [42/1261]

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