

**'New' System: CURTAIN WALL BUILDER**

My thanks to Kendrick Bisset for details of a Set No.620 from this American architectural system, and to Jacques Pitrat for notes on a No.630 outfit. The models are said to be 1/8" to the foot, as for HO trains. The 620 set is shown right, the cannister is cardboard with a metal lid, just like TINKERTOY, and CWB was made by the same firm, The Toy Tinkers Division of A.G.Spalding & Bros. Inc., 807 Greenwood St., Evanston, Illinois (near Chicago). 'Patents pending' is printed on the cannister & on the Model Leaflet. The only date known is © 1959 on the Model Leaflet.

**The PARTS** Most of them are shown in Figs.1 & 2, & the latter also includes some sketches of details. 8 of the 17 parts are painted steel: pierced Window Wall panels (WW), blue-green with silver, impressed ridge up-rights), 1 1/2" high & 1, 2 & 3" long); Solid Walls (SW, similar to WW but not pierced, and in the same 3 sizes); and the Outer & Inner Corners (OC, IC) finished to match the Panels. Each metal part has a tab on one side flange & a slot in the other. Short round spigots are formed into the top flanges of the Walls & Windows and their bottom flanges have a row of 3.1mm Ø holes at 1/4" pitch.

5 parts are off-white plastic: the Copping parts (OCC, SCC, ICC); the Door Section DS, 1" wide, with 2 opening doors, & grooved sides; and the Flag Pole FP.

The yellow plastic transparent Windows are in 3 widths to suit the Window Wall panels. The Roof Sheet is the rolled cardboard sheet to the right of the tube in Fig.1.

**ASSEMBLY** Walls are made from the steel parts. The tabs & slots engage to join the Wall & Window panels to each other & to the Corners. The Windows spring into tabs at the top & bottom of the window framing. The Door Unit slides over the flanged ends of the Walls or Windows on either side of it. To add a storey the spigots



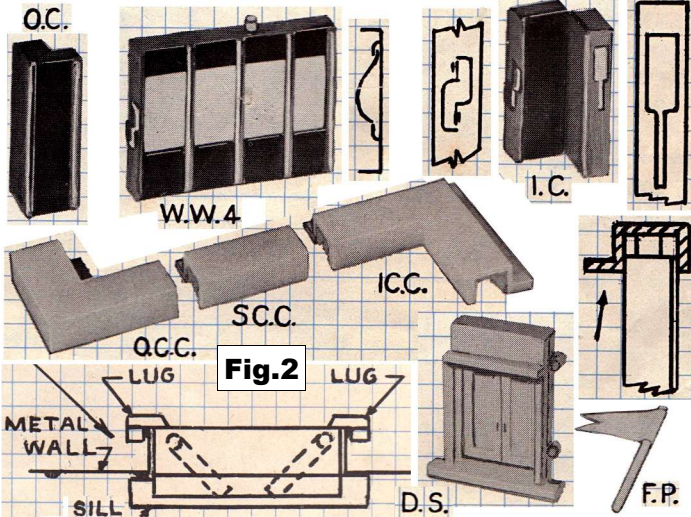
**Fig.1**

**Set No.620**

simply locate in the holes in the walling above. The Copping parts are pushed down over the top of the finished walls. Only flat roofs are possible and the Roof has to be cut to fit the model so that it lies on the inner flanges of the coping (arrowed in Fig.2). If one storey is set back on all sides from the one below it isn't located in any way. The Flagpole is pushed into a hole 'to be punched in the roofing'.

**The SETS** There were 5 sets, Nos.610 to 650, from \$2 upwards. All were packed in similar cannisters but with a different size for each set. The 630 is 357mm high & 141mm Ø; the others range from approximately 28cm\*11cm Ø to 47cm\*16cm Ø. No set inventories are known but the smallest must contain most, if not, all of the different parts. According to the cannisters the 620 has 123 pieces and the 630, 197.

**The MODEL LEAFLET** is headed 'CURTAIN-WALL BUILDER (with a hyphen) Plan Book', and is a sheet folded over to give 4 pages 8 1/2\*11". Most of the parts are illustrated and pp1 & 4 have quite thorough instructions on how the parts are assembled and models constructed. The models are on pp2-3: 4 are shown which can be made from any set, plus

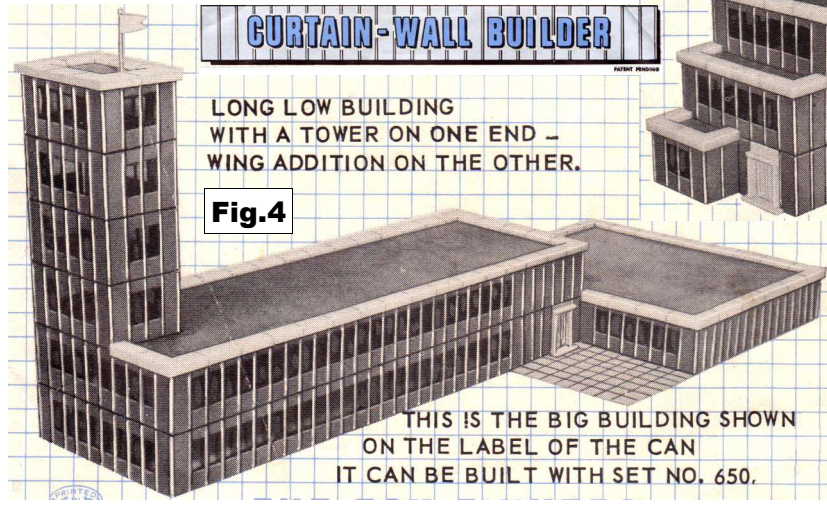


**Fig.2**

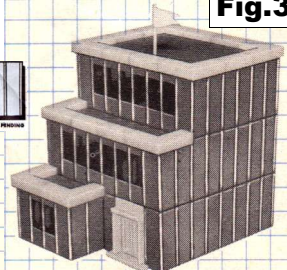
3,2,1,1 for Sets 620-650. A front view & floor plan is shown for each, and a rear view for most, but there is no Parts List. p4

**Fig.3**

also has 6 examples of different building layouts and they include just 1 view of another 650 model (Fig.4). All the models are of the 'office-block' variety, with for example no trackside buildings. Figs.3-5 show one view of representative models at their original size: Fig.3 is an 'any set', Fig.5 a 630 model, & Fig.4, as already mentioned, the p4 650 model.



**Fig.4**



**Fig.5**

