

one additional set, the Classic CO2. It is said to have the same number of parts, 929, as the original CO1 Classic set described in OSN 33, and the lid shows the same Bus, but it is in B&W and is plainer in style. The box, 380*290*65mm, is a little larger than the CO1, and weighs more, 3.2 against 2.7kg.

The sets available from the U.S. Girders & Gears web site (www.girdersandgears.com) include the AH-64A Apache set which hasn't been mentioned in OSN before, and seems to be for the American market only. Its box is 10¾*14*1¾" and the



lid, above, claims 470 parts & over 40 models. The name M-KUR on the box is used because Ford (I believe) use the name 'Merkur' and had registered it before the Czech firm entered the U.S. market. The larger parts are dark green while the small ones, 4 Worms (used as 'decor') & Brackets have a bright finish, probably BZP. As is usual in MERKUR the model isn't powered. 9 of the other models are shown on the G&G web site with 2 reasonable small Helicopters and the rest, well look for yourself.

MERKUR [1]: S5

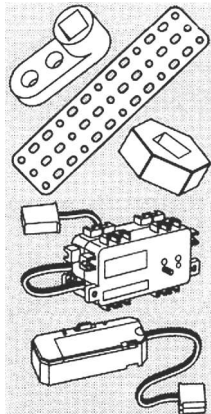
[37/1103]

13. COSTRUZIONI MECCANICHE These are the only words on a No.1 manual cover shown in an entry under this name in Jeux de Construction Métallique (JCM). Also shown, a page with 2 models whose illustrations are identical with those in a 1920s MÄRKLIN manual, and a page with a list of the Set Contents of the No.1. In JCM it is implied that the manual would be from an AMI-LAC outfit, and indeed COSTRUZIONI MECCANICHE is the main name on all AMI-LAC manuals I've seen, though with an AMI-LAC logo as well, or just the AMI logo on earlier ones. I couldn't find either of the models in the AMI(-LAC) manuals to hand and this, together with the absence of a logo, made me wonder if this was actually a manual from a different, and hitherto unknown system. To support this the names of the parts in the Set Contents and their PNs don't correspond to those in the AMI(-LAC) manuals seen. One further thought, it is said that prior to their post-WW2 production, the AMI firm made sets for a short period in the early 1920s, so could this manual have come from that time?

COSTRUZIONI MECCANICHE S1

[37/1103]

14. DELTA-X Since the notes in 36/1096 an MD-153 Stegosaurus set has come to hand and it contains the parts right which were not known before. The 3*13h Perforated Plate is nicked and its slotted holes are 4.3mm long. The other parts are grey plastic: a Geared Motor with a square section output shaft on each side, the 1x AA Battery box shown in the OSN 36 model, a Crank which snaps onto the Motor shafts, and an hexagonal Spacer with a square bore. All the metal parts in the set are nickel plated. A few errors



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crept into the OSN 36 notes, the hole pitch is actually 8.0mm and the thread is M3.

The finished model is about 15" long and it waddles along quite well on a smooth surface. Its speed scaled up to match a 30ft long animal would be about 8mph.

The Stego set came from www.hlj.com/top/Sci, an English language Japanese mail-order toy shop called Hobby Link. When I looked in July six DELTA-X outfits were listed (to see all of them I had to type 'delta-x' into the Item Name box on the home page). 5 of the sets were mentioned in 36/1096, the other was the Robot Soldier set below. It was said to be a



31cm high model of a figure in the Japanese cartoon film 'Castle in the Sky: Laputa', made in 1986, with eyes that light up. It was marked as discontinued though and I couldn't find it on the Epoch web site, so perhaps small-scale DELTA-X dates from earlier than was suggested in OSN 36.

P.S. Since the above was written I've been told that the small scale DELTA-X was definitely on sale before 2000.

DELTA-X [b]: S4

[37/1103]

15. ENTECH in 2007 From www.toy-kraft.com, the range of these Indian sets, made by Aries, is unchanged from 2005, see 33/995.

ENTECH: S3

[37/1103]

SMALL ADS

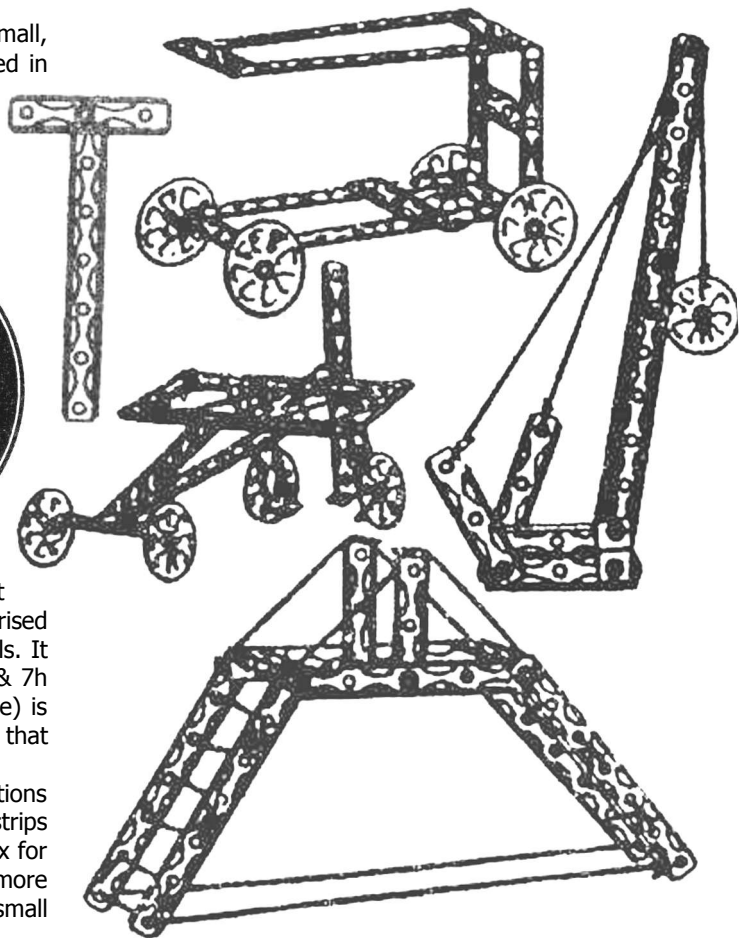
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Wanted Information on the history & products of the **Kelmet Corp.** (who made STEEL ENGINEERING) and the **Nobel Mfg. Co.** (who made Trumodel Construction Equipment in Miniature). Please contact John H. Emmons at jemmons@neo.rr.com or phone (330) 492-3601 (in U.S.A.). I already have the material in Greenberg Vol.1, and the ACGHS & S.Cal. Newsletters.

Tri-ang ARKITEX 75% upwards of the different parts (all plastic) from a Bridge Set (no box), and a manual/catalogue which also covers Sets 1-3 for Buildings. All in good condition but the models are not very exciting. Some of the parts look as if they could be used in Buildings. Free from the Editor but new owner to collect or pay postage - packed weight 2¾lb. (If more than one person wants it I'll draw a name from a hat on 1st November.)

For sale: MCS Don Blakeborough 1983, as 14 clip-bound books with card covers. Weight about 5.4kg. £20 plus postage. Will post to UK only. David Hobson, Woodington, Edford Green, Holcombe, Radstock, BA3 5DB; tel: 0171 232741.

The '100-in-1' TOY Some information on this early small, 10¢, U.S. set, contributed by Steve Riddlebaugh, appeared in The Southern California Meccano and Erector Newsletter of April, 1989 (Vol. XIII, No.2). Both sides of the Model Leaflet were shown, plus some details of the parts. I am grateful to Anton Calleia, the present editor of the S. Cal. N/L for permission to reproduce parts of the Leaflet.



The 100-in-1 material was found in an ERECTOR outfit which was thought to be from 1916, and **the parts** comprised 4 each Long Strips, Short Strips, DAS, & embossed Wheels. It can be seen from the models right that the Strips are 3 & 7h long (as in the 'T'), and the DAS (at the top of the Bridge) is 1*3*1h. Steve wrote that their cross-section is similar to that of the New (narrower) Erector Girder.

No **fixings** were found with the parts but the Instructions on the Model Sheet include ' to fasten the strips together press through holes the steel clips used in box for attaching the parts to the card. When building more substantial models use the nuts and screws (found in small envelope) in fastening the parts together.'

The **Model Sheet** as found was folded in half, to a size of 7*5½", perhaps so that it would fit into the original box. It is double-sided with promotional text, including the 'circles' above, on half of the front side, and, underneath, the Letters of the Alphabet, Numbers 0-9, and a few other 2-D models. On the other side are the Instructions with 29 models above and 31 below them. With the 2-D models that makes 101 models in all, each has just one small line drawing. The models shown here are about 3 times their original size.

All this reminded me of the **mystery parts** in 32/960: the Strips found in an ENGINEERO set with illustrations of them, and the matching DAS seen in a lot of AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER parts. Since then more such parts have been seen in another Ebay lot of AMB parts. The 7h Strip and DAS can be

seen in the part of the Ebay photo right, and also a 'spoked' Wheel that looks like the '100-in-1' TOY part. 3h Strips can be seen elsewhere in the lot. Scaling gave the pitch of the Strips as in OSN 32, 1.00" for the 3h, and .76" for the 7h. The value for the DAS came out at .94", so perhaps actually the 1" of the 3h Strip, or perhaps not. The Wheel scaled at about 1¼" Ø.

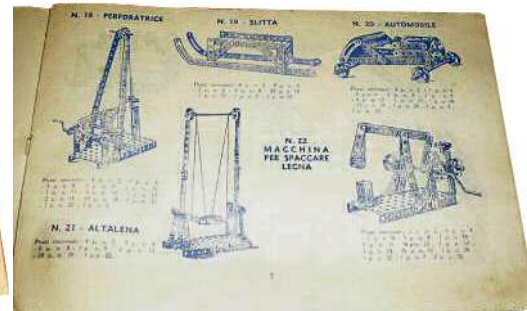


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THE 100-IN-1 TOY

Snippet. 'New' System: DISCO LUDENDO

The manual right, from the Italian Ebay, was described as 'Disco Ludendo n.2' with 28 pages, from September 1985. Disco can mean record and so perhaps DISCO LUDENDO was a promotional set, but I've not been able to trace the Ludendo connection. The Babel Fish translation of the words in white on the cover, imparo giocando, is 'I learn playing'. The cover gives no indication of the set's origin but the 5 models on the manual page top right are all No.2 models in the AMI 1-2 manual described on p1152 elsewhere in this Issue. The drawings are identical (one is shown on p1152) and 3 of the names are the same, the others similar. The DISCO manual was said to contain 129 models, probably



numbered from 1-150 because Nos.14,26,39, 50,64,68,71,72, 86,87,93,94,105,111,117,125,129,130,138,141,146 were said not to be used. None of the models are in the later AMI-LAC manuals and one wonders about the 1985 date given that AMI became AMI-LAC in the mid-1950s.

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DISCO LUDENDO: S1