

supplies would be available.

3. Al Sternagle wrote about the **GILBERT RIDE-IT** set too. He once made up all the models from a Set for his 5 year old son, and the biggest hit was the 'Kenworth' tractor complete with double exhaust stacks. His daughter's favourite was a Fire Engine. Conclusion - a much underrated toy for young children, though they might have difficulty building with it.

4. Clive Weston sent a copy of a page from his wife's magazine **Doll's House World**, which shows an ad for a 1/12 scale **MECCANO Set**, 'price £19 (instructions included)'. You can see the name MECCANO on the lid but you can tell it isn't genuine, the Strips are red and the Plates green.

He also recounted a cautionary tale about the interesting looking '**mystery part**' opposite (1/4 scale), that he once found in a mixed lot. Was it an architectural part? or a trunnion from a large axle system perhaps? Well no, all was revealed at an outdoor market where numerous examples could be seen on a rail with necklaces and chains hanging from them. Clive added, 'My wife was amazed by my sudden interest in jewellery stalls but quickly lost interest when I explained what had attracted my attention.'



5. Richard Symonds sent an ad showing the **Hook** which was loose in the **UMAKIT Set** (13/339), and it is listed as a **TONKA** replacement part.

6. Notes from Don Redmond. • **ERECTOR** and **AMB Worms**. The first phase ERECTOR Worm is steel, 21mm overall. It has a 3-turn length of thread (16 DP) and a rather long and slightly tapered boss with a small countersink to the bore at that end. The thread-end is flat. My AMB Worm is brass, 16mm long, with 4 turns of thread at 3mm pitch, and a round or bulbous end. The boss is very short (6mm long), and is fitted with a Grub Screw. It is 16mm long overall and is much shorter than it looks in the manual. (The reason the ERECTOR boss has to be so long is its round-head Set Screw) [A couple of first phase ERECTOR Worms to hand are as described above and are nickel plated. The pitch is about 5mm. Later 24 DP Worms are steel but brass plated, and the pitch is about 3 1/4mm, much nearer the AMB. Again there are 3 turns of thread and the ends

shapes are similar. The boss is even longer (11mm), but with no taper. The overall length is 19mm.]

• Some orange-red heavy steel **Disc Wheels**, 13<sup>13/16</sup>" dia, with 1/4" axle bore, which came in a job lot, turned out to be **ERECTOR** part DM. It was listed from 1927 through 1932, and was included in the larger sets. The 'Duplex' parts of the period had alternate standard and 1/4" holes. DM Wheels are shown on p107 in *Greenberg* fitted with white Tires (#DR) which are actually rubber 'skins' that fit over the formed 'balloon' rim of the wheel. The brass bosses are on the outside face of the wheel and take an 8-32 setscrew. [The original DM was the 6-spoked Front Wheel shown on the Van in OSN 2, p28, and there was a different spoked Rear Wheel, DN, with a much larger hub. The Tires for them, DR, look as if they are of rectangular section, with one on the front, and two on the rear wheels. These three parts were only listed in 1926.]

• Some aluminium parts in a miscellaneous lot, including blue Wheels Discs and a Crank Handle. They correspond to **JUNIOR MECHANIC** (12/327, 13/361) except that the Strips and Angle Brackets have rounded ends. There were also some 6-32 N&B, but 1/4" and 1/2" in length.

7. Karst Quast sent the Jan. 1962 issue of a Dutch hobbies magazine called *Na Vijven* (After Five), and in it were featured 6 models from a **JUNEERO** competition that had been announced the previous September. One of them is a nice Lifting Bridge that looks about 3' high. There's also an ad from a company called *Uitgeverij Esks N.V.* of Utrecht which offered a JUNEERO Set at f17.50, material (by the kilo), and parts, including plastic gears.

The end date for JUNEERO isn't known but it was obviously alive in Holland in 1962, some 10 years on from the last ad in ME, noted in 9/216.

8. Kendrick Bisset mentioned a book on Richter Anchor Blocks that he enjoyed despite not being a Richter enthusiast. It describes the history of the company and the stone block sets, and covers the metal additions used with the blocks, as well as (briefly) the metal construction sets. It costs about \$60 and can be obtained from the author/publisher, George F. Hardy, 1670 Hawkwood Court, Charlottesville, VA 22901, U.S.A.

---

**EXTRA MCS SHEETS** The Sheets listed below are available at 15p per Sheet plus postage. That makes £2.70 + post for all 18 Sheets.

MCS Amendments, List No.3 [1 Sheet]

AJET: X1.1,7 [1 Sheet]

CLIP-CRAFT: X1.1,7 [1 Sheet]

CONSTRUCTION TRUCK: X1.1,2/4/5/6 [1 Sheet]

CONSTRUKTA: X1.1,2,4,5,6 [3 Sheets]

COOL STEEL: X1.1,7 [1 Sheet]

KITSPOCK: X1.1,7-b [2 Sheets]

MEC-BRAS: X1.1,2,4,5,6-a [3 Sheets]

METALCRAFT: X1.1,4 [1 Sheet]

STEEL TEC STARTERS: X1.1,2/4/6,4/6a-b,5 [3 Sheets]

TECHMASTER: X2.4a/5a/6 [1 Sheet]

---

**ACCOUNTS** Dear Subscriber,

Your remittance of \_\_\_\_\_ received with thanks.

Your credit balance after deduction for this Issue and

is \_\_\_\_\_

Please renew your subscription if you wish to receive the next Issue.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES** For 1996 (OSN 14 and 15), including postage, at Printed Paper Rate where appropriate: UK £6; airmail to Europe and surface mail anywhere, £7; airmail outside Europe, £8. **BACK NUMBERS** For the zones above: OSN 1: £1/£1.30/£1.50; OSN 2,3: £2.30/£2.70/£2.90 each; OSN 4-13: £3.60/£4.10/£4.50 each.

**SMALL ADS** Up to about 150 words free for each subscriber in each Issue; above that by arrangement. Insertion guaranteed in OSN 15 if ads reach the Editor by the end of July, 1996.

**PAYMENT** Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances in other than Pounds Sterling will be cashed locally and the resulting Sterling credited, but bank charges are often prohibitive.

• Overseas subscribers can pay by VISA, ACCESS or MASTER cards: please send Card No, Expiry Date and Name and Address of Card Holder. Debits appear under the name 'SIMPLY COMPUTERS'.

• Overseas subscribers need not send sums of less than £5 for Back Numbers, purchases from the Editor, etc, until it is time for subscription renewal.

if you are thinking of going: either 080/54 90 06 (Belgian) or 06557/920640 (German). Euro Tecnica is also home to a large HO model railway with 60 trains on 1000m of track.

5. Clive Weston has bought one of the 1/2"-scale 'MECCANO' doll's house sets mentioned in 14/395. They are made by Black Country Miniatures, 63 Church Street, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62 9LQ (tel: 0121 5615052) and are apparently strong sellers. The parts are produced by photo-etching - the Plates are painted brass and the Strips stainless steel. Clive's Set contains a dozen Strips of different lengths, 3 Wheel Discs, and 20 Plates, some green and some red. All are flat and the flanges of the #52 are not bent over. There are no Rods, N&B, or brassware. The box cover and manual are photo reduced and have varied from time to time. Some time ago the firm produced a batch of 50 'No.10' sets in cabinets, with more of the same parts plus some Rods and some blue parts. They cost £140 and there was 1 left last April. The 'standard' set costs £19 plus postage.

6. From Jacques Pitrat. On the parts in the large Gilbert

**COLOUR PICTURES** As mentioned in the Editorial certain illustrations from OSN can be downloaded from the OSN web site in colour & pasted over the B&W originals. If more convenient the Editor can supply the colour versions as A4 Sheets, price 40p per Sheet + postage. Sheets currently available: OSN 2 (1 Sheet); OSN 3 (3 Sheets); OSN 20 (3 Sheets); OSN 21 (2½ Sheets).

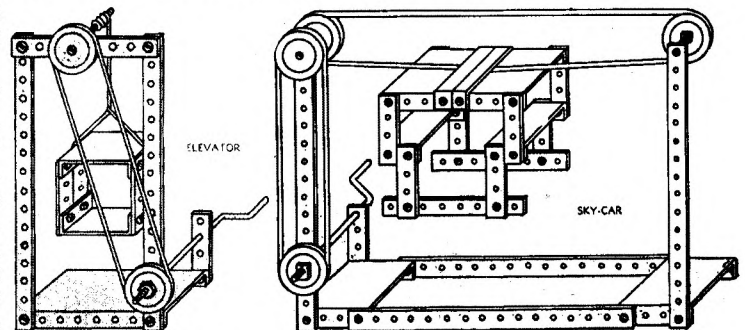
**MECCANO Sets, #115 & upwards** (see 12/317 & 19/546). They didn't contain any 1/4" Ø Axles, the 19½" long Axle was of standard diameter and was used as part of the mast in one of the Ship models. The 1/4" bore Bush Wheel was only used to hold the Quill for the Propeller in another of the Ship models. [More on the Ship parts & models later - Ed.] The hole in the top of the Foot Block, #176, mentioned in 12/317, was large enough to take the boss of the 6" Pulley, 19c, and the upper one of the two in the detail of the No.125 Builders Derrick in OSN 12 (bolted above & below the Flanged Plate #53), is used for this purpose.

**JUNIOR MECHANIC** In 18/522 the cover of a manual for this small American system was shown and Kendrick Bisset has now kindly sent a copy of one that he found recently in a No.101 outfit.

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Name: "Junior Mechanic" CONSTRUCTION SET •Details of maker: Mechanicraft, Inc., Jackson Heights, N.Y. •No dates or Ref Nos. •Page size: 210\* 134mm deep. •No. of pages: 8 unnumbered inc covers. •Language: English. •Printing: line drgs of models; cover as 18/522. •Page Nos. of Parts List (no PNs): 8. •No Set Contents. •Sets covered: 101 & 201. •No. of models for each set: 13,14. •Name, Page No. of first & last model of each set (no Model Nos.): 101: ELEVATOR,3; BAGGAGE CART,4. 201: DRAW BRIDGE,5; SKY-CAR,7. •Other notes: 3 other small models are on p2 with Constructional Hints.

The 101 models are typically small items of furniture or wheeled Trucks & Wagons, but the Elevator (right) is more ambitious, though I can't see what is used for the top shaft or how it's supported. The models in 12/327 are among the No.201 models, and in addition there are brave attempts at

a Steam Shovel, a Wrecking Truck, & the Sky-Car below.



Kendrick also wrote that the box lid of an ALUMINUM CONSTRUCTION SET he has acquired has red & blue panels separated by a white band, the same arrangement as that used on JUNIOR MECHANIC lids. Other similarities were noted in 12/327.

**EXTRA MCS SHEETS** Each Sheet costs 15p + postage if the whole batch made available with each Issue of OSN is ordered in advance. That makes £7.70, £8.10, £9.30 for the 48 below, including postage to UK/Europe or by surface elsewhere/elsewhere by air. For all other purchases each Sheet costs 20p + postage. (But 15p + postage if ordered before 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2000.) All back Sheets can be supplied.

AUTOMAT: X1.1; AUTOMAT [a]: X2.5,5a,6-b [3 Sheets]  
AUTOMAT [b]: X1.2,5/6,6a,6b,3/4-m [9 Sheets]  
AUTOMAT [c]: X1.2/6,3/4-o [9 Sheets]

CLIP-CRAFT: X2.2,4,4a/5,5a [2]  
CONSTRUC: X1.1,2,4,4a,5,5a,5b,6 [4]  
DER KLEINE ELEKTRO-INGENIEUR: X1.1,2/5,3/4/6,3a/4a/6a, 5a,5b,5c,7 [4]  
EPA [B]: X1.1,4,4a,4b,5,7 [3]  
GF Metallbaukasten: X1.1,2,3/5/6,7 [2]  
JUNIOR MECHANIC: X2.2/3a,5a [1]  
KONSTRUKTOR [12]: X1.1,2,4,4a,5 [3]  
KONSTRUKTOR [13]: X1.1,2,3/4/6,5 [2]  
MALYSH: X1.1,2,4/5 [2]  
MULTIMOTORE: X1.1,5,7 [2]  
SKY-SCRAPER: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]

**ACCOUNTS** Dear Subscriber,

Your remittance of \_\_\_\_\_ received with thanks.

Your credit balance after deduction for this Issue and

is \_\_\_\_\_

Please renew your subscription if you wish to receive the next Issue.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES** For 2000 (OSN 22 and 23), including postage, at Printed Paper Rate where appropriate: UK £6; airmail to Europe and surface mail anywhere, £7; airmail outside Europe, £8. **BACK NUMBERS** For the zones above: OSN 1: £1/£1.30/£1.50; OSN 2,3: £2.30/£2.70/£2.90 each; OSN 4 onwards: £3.60/£4.10/£4.50 each.

**SMALL ADS** Up to about 150 words free for each subscriber in each Issue; above that by arrangement. Insertion guaranteed in OSN 21 if ads reach the Editor by the end of January 2000.

**PAYMENT** Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances in other than Pounds Sterling will be cashed locally and the resulting Sterling credited, but bank charges are usually prohibitive. However U.S. Dollar bills are acceptable at an exchange rate of £1=\$1.60. Overseas subscribers need not send sums of less than £5 for Back Numbers, purchases from the Editor, etc, until it is time for subscription renewal.

**1934 SETS known (with Snap Rivets & no N&B)**

**No.1025** This is the set that has been seen most frequently on Ebay and an example to hand is shown in Figs.8-10. The box measures 25½\*22\*1½cm and the main parts are as in the 1026 except that it has no Screwed Rods and only 2 (instead of 4) 2¾" Strips. As can be seen the lid differs from the 1933 version only in the models shown, the centre illustration of the Rivet, and the note about it by the boy's head. The DAS, Flanged Plate, & A/Bs push into slits in the card insert, the other parts are held by Snap Rivets. The 12 Rivets used for this are enough to make any of the Manual models.

The Manual (Fig.10) is 280\*178mm and its 48 models go from Table on the first page to Parcel Truck on the last. Many of the 1025 models shown in *MCS* were carried over but not some of the more interesting ones, the Toy Horse (see 12/319) for example, and the Jumping Jack puppet. In some cases this was because of the smaller number of Strips in the Set, in others, as explained below, it would have been the difficulty in providing adequate bracing, or reliable freedom of movement for pivoted parts. The virtues of the Snap Rivet are explained on the front page, together with hints on using them. If they became too loose it was suggested that a knife be used to spread the prongs. In the non-Wide Beam Gilbert MECCANO sets a Rivet Extractor tool was included which could be used to do this. More importantly it was used to remove the Rivets and in its absence they were to be pushed out from the prong side using 'a screw driver, a small piece of wood, or even the fingers' – with a tight Rivet the wood worked quite well though some force was needed, a screwdriver tended to slip between two prongs, and all I achieved with my fingers was to make dents in them. It was also said that if two parts were to pivot the Rivet should only be pushed partially through the second part.

In practice the Rivets hold the parts together quite well but a part held by a single Rivet can be easily knocked out of position. Most of the parts in the models were adequately braced, sometimes by cord in suitable models. Using a Rivet to hold parts required to pivot, and especially to rotate, was less satisfactory – wheels usually either wobbled or jammed.

Jacques Pitrat has an identical 1025 except that the Wheel Discs are red; 4 other 1025's have been seen on Ebay, all identical save the Wheel Discs with one blue and 3 red, and in one of the latter the red parts look to be a much lighter shade.

There is no mention of a 1050 outfit in the Manual.

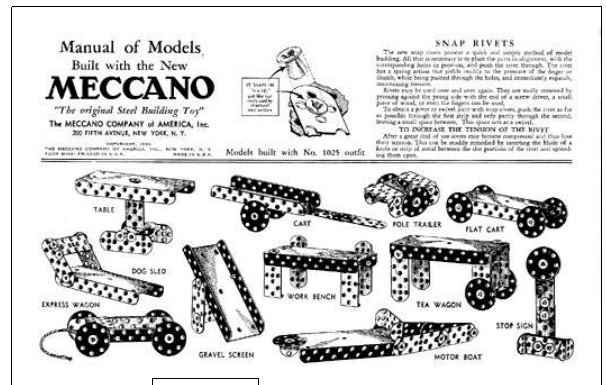
**No.1050** A line drawing of this set taken from an advertisement was shown in 19/546, and was said to have been listed from 1934 to 1936. It was shown as the smallest of the then range of Gilbert MECCANO outfits, but the absence of the 1025 may have been due to Gilbert's habit over the years of not including very small sets in his main lists. The parts were attached, in the same way as in the 1025, to an insert which was larger but in the same style. The main new parts in the Set, as in the N&B version, were 5¼" Strips.



**Fig.8**



**Fig.9**



**Fig.10**

**GILBERT MECCANO: S3**

**OSN 49/1488**

**Snippet. 'New' System: MECCANO (for Dolls)**

Thanks to Urs Flammer for sending photos of the set right, with the manual's back cover inset top right. He spotted them on the German auction site Ricardo. The Set No. on the lid is blurry but might be No.14! In one photo the box was shown against a ruler and it was 4.5cm long. Scaling the hole pitch from this gives between 1½ & 1¾mm, appreciably different from the 1/12-scale often used for dolls house accessories.



**Fig.2**

And if that pitch is about correct this outfit is not one of the 1/12-scale Black Country Miniatures sets mentioned in 21/619. The example described there differed too in having red & green Plates. In my files I found the photo left of a miniature set (set against an inch ruler) and it may be from the Black Country range, but I can't be sure.



**Fig.1**

**DOLLS' HOUSE SETS: S1**

**OSN 49/1488**