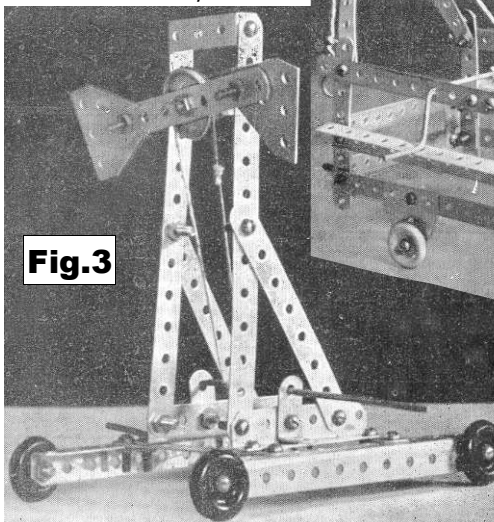
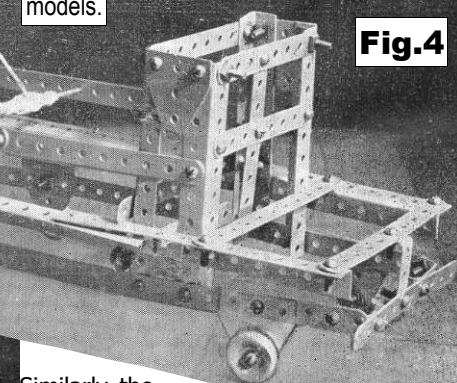
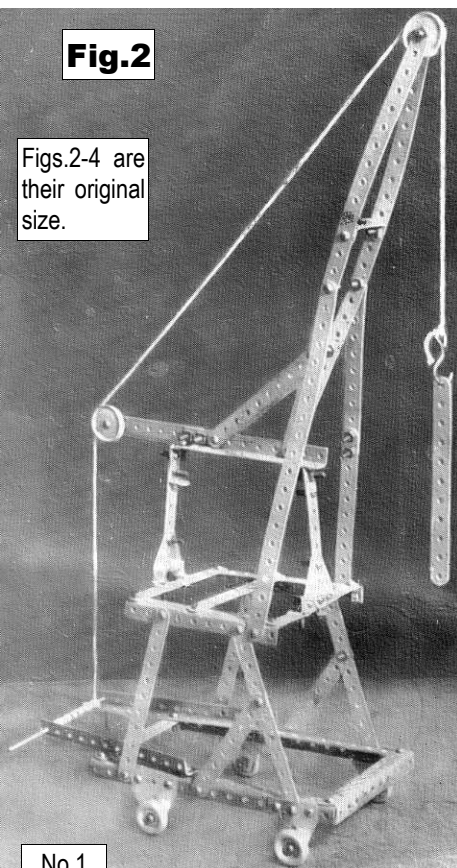
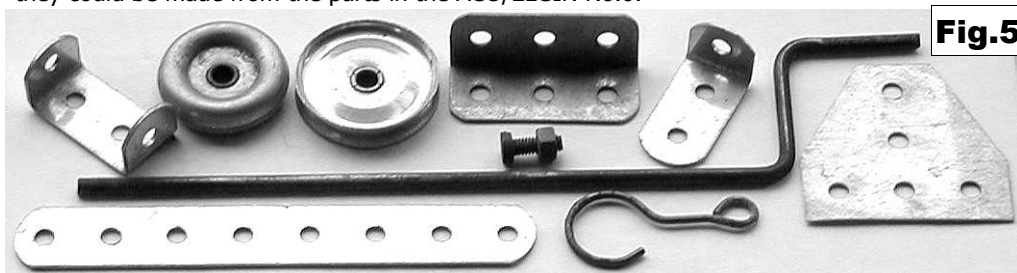


'New' System: EASY-DO As will appear this UK system is closely related to the ALUMINIUM CONSTRUCTION OUTFIT (ACO) & ELGIN, two small early post-WW2 systems which were discussed in 11/282, and which were virtually identical. To recap the structural parts & Wheels were aluminium alloy, holes were 3.9mm at 12.7mm pitch, but Strips were $\frac{9}{16}$ " wide. One of each type of the parts is shown in Fig.5. A few A/Gs seen have square corners. There were Sets 0 & 1, but also for ACO, a Set A identical to the No.1 (an ACO No.1 is said to exist but the 3 larger ACO sets seen have all been Set A). One strange thing was that there seems to have never been a manual for either – each set had a large drawing of a model on the lid, and a leaflet (always entitled ACO even in the ELGIN outfits) which extolled the system's virtues, gave the contents of Sets 0 & 1, and had small drawings of 4 models, 3 very simple plus a 6-wheel Van or Bus. Nothing is known of the maker.

For reference the ACO/ELGIN Sets 0 & 1 contained 3/0,0/5,2/0,0/6,0/6,3/0,0/1,0/2 of 7,8,9,10,11,13,20,25h Strips; 1/2,2/0,0/4,2/2,0/2 of 3,5,10,12,16h A/Gs. 4/1 of 1*2h A/B. 2*/1,0*/1 of 1*2,3*1h DAS. 3/6 Flat Trunnions. 4/4 of Balloon Wheels, 26mm Ø. 1/2 Loose Pulleys. 28½mm Ø. 1/1 Crank Handle. 1/1 Hook. 36/72 of 4 BA N&B. The sets are not progressive in the strip parts & A/Gs. ** probably a misprint in the original: 2x 3h & no 2h DAS are found in the No.0 and one at least is needed in the featured Digger.

EASY-DO The only material known is a booklet with 8 unnumbered pages, 185*124mm which goes some way towards being a manual. The front, Fig.1, lists Nos.0 & 1 Sets 'Polished', and No.2 Set 'Coloured'. At the bottom is the printer, H.A.Richardson, St. Albans. p2 has a photo of 4 Set 0 models, p3 an intro half of which is word for word the same as in the ACO leaflet, & p5 has more promotional text including that to show the full range of models 'would spoil the inventive mind of the young enthusiast'. p7 has an entry form for a model competition with a Presentation Set offered for any model printed in the booklet. Also on this page the maker: Messrs. H. F. Pepper & Co., Tudor House, 13 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts.

The other pages, 4, 6, & 8 have photos of 5 models, 2 of which are in the Set 0 group, and the others can, it is implied, be made from Set 1. One of the No.0 models is the Digger on the lid of the ELGIN No.0 set in OSN 11, the others: a Ship, a Monoplane, & the Windmill in Fig.3. Little detail can be seen in the photos of the Plane & the Ship but the latter is 35h long. All 4 models look as if they could be made from the parts in the ACO/ELGIN No.0.



Similarly the 3 No.1 models, a Propelled Windmill (it can be pulled along but the rotor is cord driven from a Crank Handle), the Crane in Fig.2, & the Breakdown Lorry in Fig.4, look possible from an ACO/ELGIN No.1.

All that is said of the No.2 is that it is a coloured 'De-luxe Model'.

So it seems that the EASY-DO Sets 0 & 1 may well have had the same content as the ACO/ELGIN ones.

It is said of the boxes in the Booklet that 'The children shown on the front of the box were the actual constructors of the Models illustrated from the No.1 Sets.'

Chronology One can only surmise. The fact that ACO is the heading on the Leaflet found in ELGIN sets might indicate that ACO appeared before ELGIN. ACO seems a descriptive but not inspiring name, and perhaps it was thought that ELGIN had pleasant connotations. EASY-DO, an unappealing name, could have come last on the basis of boasting a manual of sorts, and the talk of a No.2 Set 'Coloured'. The popularity/time span of the sets may be indicated from the number of items seen over the years: ACO: 1 Set 0, 3 Set A; ELGIN: 6 Set 0; EASY-DO: 1 Booklet.