

Snippet. 'New' Taiwanese System:

FANCY The set here was offered on American Ebay and it was at first assumed to be from an American firm, but when enlarged the words bottom right on the lid's apron (Fig.1) reads 'MADE IN TAIWAN'. It could of course have been made for an American company but this seems unlikely with a name like FANCY and clumsy wording, 'STEEL AND PLASTIC GOOD' for example, bottom left on the lid (Fig.2). The Crane & Tiering Machine on the lid are ERECTOR models of the period for Sets 2 1/2 or 3.

The parts, though not necessarily their colour, look to be copies from ERECTOR's 1932-62 period. 250 parts are claimed on the lid and the different ones which can be seen are as follows, with ERECTOR PN's. **Girders**, 2 1/2, 5, 10", A, B, C. **Girders, Curved**, 2 1/2, 5", D, E. **DAS, N. Wire Hook**, AF. **Axle**, 4" AT. **Bush Wheel**, BT. **A/B**, CH. **Flanged Plates**, 3*1 1/2, 5 1/2", MC, MD. **Perforated Plate**, 1 1/2*5 1/2", MF. **Nut**, N21. **Pulley**, 7/8", P7. **Crank Handle**, P24. **Cord**, P34. **Trunnion**, P79. **Bolt**, S51. **Long Bolt**, S62? **Rubber Ring** (on the 'Tierer'), CL was a Small Rubber Tire but not listed after the late 1920s. Doubtless

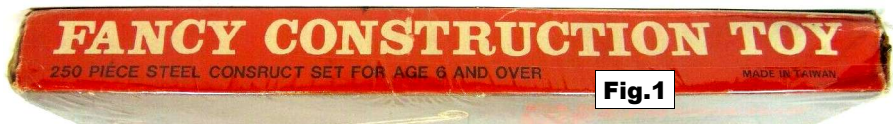


Fig.1



Fig.2

there were other small parts, & perhaps some large ones too; for instance a 1950 ERECTOR Set 2 1/2, which had less than 200 parts, included 4x 3" Disc Wheels.

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FANCY: S1

Snippet. 'New' System: ALA

IMPERIALE The firm Braglia, best known for its BRAL outfits, marketed similar sets under other names. One of these was MECCANICO and a manual, said to date from the 1940s, had ads for the aero set shown right, and for the METALGENIO system at the bottom of this page. Google renders Ala Imperiale as Imperial Wing, and the rest of the ad talks of aeroplane & seaplane models powered by a clockwork motor. The parts in the Set look just like BRAL Aero but I don't recall an Aero Motor for the BRAL aero models. Italy's interest in empire was strong in the 1930s and ALA IMPERIALE could well date from then.

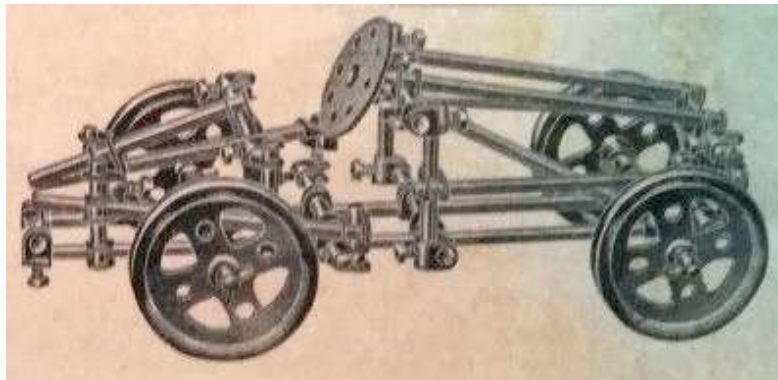


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ALA IMPERIALE: S1

Snippet. 'New' System: METALGENIO

As explained in ALA IMPERIALE above there was an ad for METALGENIO in a MECCANICO manual, said to date from the 1940s. MECCANICO of course was one of the names Braglia used for their conventional sets mainly sold as BRAL. The ad featured the model right and as can be seen its framework is made of Tubes or Rods joined by Clamps. These parts, or certainly the Clamps, are not standard BRAL, but the steering wheel could be a BRAL Bush Wheel, and the road wheels standard BRAL Pulleys fitted with Rubber Rings. The ad's text translates as: 'Modern Pastime for Youngsters. Compatible with MECCANICO. Patented.'



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METALGENIO: S1