

## Federmotor N° 250

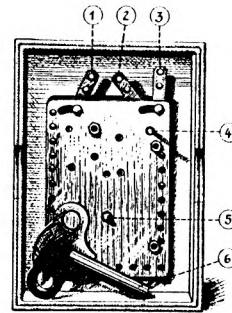


N° 186

N° 186 Ansatzmutter

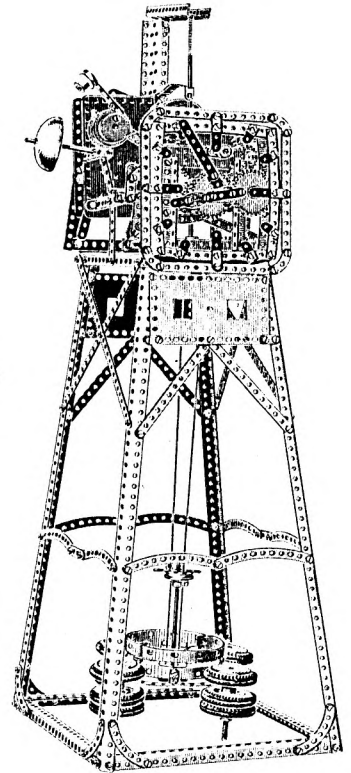
Modell gebaut mit Kasten N° 3

Kirche



1. Schnell- und langsamgang
2. Abstellhebel
3. Vor- und Rückwärtsgang

4. Arbeitswelle
5. Aufzugachse
6. Aufzugschlüssel



Jahresuhr

Gangdauer 15 Stunden

**SOME NOTES ON KWIK BUILDER** There is an account of this Belgian system in MCS but now a few more particulars have become available from Jean-Louis Figureau, who kindly sent details of the parts in his unused No.4 Set, and a copy of its Manual. For those without MCS this is a small system of some 30 different parts; as far as is known the largest Set is the No.4 but the manual cover and the box lid do show other parts, like longer Strips and a larger Wheel, that are not in the #4. The main parts are Strips up to 8 holes long, DAS, and Plates which range from 2x2 holes to 3x9 holes. The width of the Strips and the pitch of the holes are both  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", but the holes are larger than usual at 5mm.

The new facts are as follows: • The Manual contains models for a No.0 Set, as well as those for the Sets 1-4 mentioned in MCS. No Set Contents are given but an idea can be gained from illustrations in the Manual, each box is shown with its lid removed. • The No.0 has Strips from 2 to 7 holes long, 1x3x1 and 1x5x1 hole DAS, 6 Angle Brackets, 2 small Plates, and 15 N&B. The No.1 doesn't follow on directly from the #0; it has no DAS but a 5x3 hole Flanged Plate instead, and its small Plates are in different sizes. The most noticeable difference is the 4 Pulley Wheels and Axles for them. The other Sets progress from the #1 - the No.2 has 8 hole Strips, larger 5x4 hole Plates, a Crank Handle and 1x4x1 DAS. In the #3, 1x3x1 and 1x5x1 DAS are new, and longer 7x2 Plates, but otherwise just more of the same parts. Similarly for the No.4 with the extra parts including a second Flanged Plate and 2 more Pulleys; and with 2x9 and 3x9 Plates as new parts. • The Manual cover is as shown in MCS, and all the text (except the name) is in English and French. The box lids all carry a label with the same illustration as the cover, but surrounded by Strips, and Pulleys of about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia.

• The parts are made of steel; the Strips are painted green, the Plates blue and red, and the Pulleys are polished steel or perhaps nickel plated. The Plates have square corners. All the parts are of good quality.

• Axles are 4.5mm in diameter; the Pulleys which look to be about 30mm dia, have no bosses but are held in place by 'Collars' made of red rubber, one on each side. The thread used is 5/32 BSW; the Bolts are cheeseheaded and the Nuts are hexagon, the large pressed type.

• Turning to the list of parts in MCS, additions are 2, 5 and 7 hole Strips, 2x5 hole Plates, 1x5x1 DAS, and the rubber Collars. Also, in the Manual some of the models appear to have ordinary Spring Clips on their Axles, and what appear to be Washers can be seen. The Fishplate in the MCS list may be the 2 hole Strip already mentioned; as far as can be seen the Angle Bracket is the only part with an elongated hole. The holes in the flanges of the 5x3 hole Flanged Plate can be seen as round in some of the models, also it is the 5 hole sides that are flanged. The tops of 2 of these parts can be seen in the #4 Set shown in MCS but in my NZ version only the end 3 holes of each can be seen as such, the rest are 'filled in' by something underneath, probably packets of small parts.

No date is given in MCS for KWIK BUILDER but Jean-Louis hazards a guess of around 1950. Nor is there any clue as to the manufacturer but as noted in MCS under MERCATOR, the parts of the two systems have similarities - one difference is that the Axle dia in the MERCATOR List is 4.9mm.

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL.** #Name: KWIK BUILDER. #Details of maker: none. #Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. #Page size: 265x164mm deep. #No of pages: Probably 8 inc covers, none numbered. #Language: French, English. #Printing: the front cover shows 2 boys working on a model aeroplane; there are halftone photos of the outfit models. [No Parts List or Set Contents] #Sets covered: 0,1,2,3,4. #No of models for each set: 6,4,3,9,8. #Name, Page No of first & last model of each set [No models Nos.]: 0: Piece of furniture,2;Ladder,2. 1: Cart,3;Handtruck,3. 2: Sailing cart,4;Tugboat,4. 3: Hay cart,5;Road crane,6. 4: Trolleybus,7;Small truck with eking-piece on wheels,8 [the French version is: Petit tracteur avec allonge sur roues]. #Other notes: details taken from photocopies.

**AMENDMENTS TO MCS** SETS: 0,1,2,3,4. PARTS: about 28. PERIOD: possibly about 1950. MANUFACTURER: may be as MERCATOR.

**AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6:** THREAD: 5/32W. DAXL: 4.5.

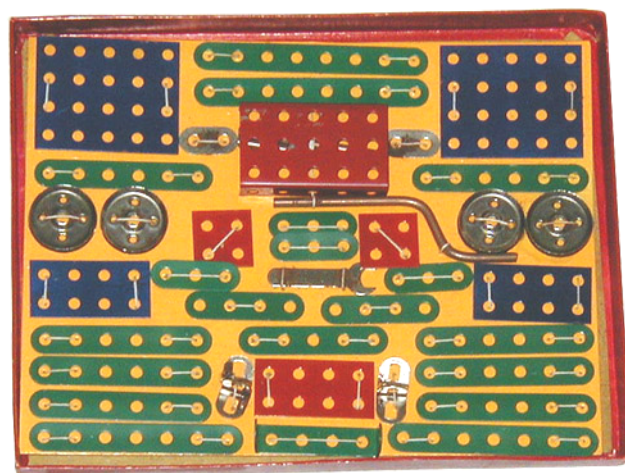
**KWIK BUILDER** Harry Marien recently acquired some unused sets from this small Belgian system & kindly allowed me to examine them. They are the first actual sets I've seen & a few of their details are not totally in agreement with previous information about these systems. The differences will be discussed after Harry's sets have been described.

**The SETS** are Nos. 0, 1, & 2. All are in red boxes with a label similar to the No.0 below. All the main parts in the Nos.1 & 2 are strung to an orange card with white cord, with the NBW & Axle Stops in a white paper bag. The layout of the parts in these two sets corresponds to the photos of them in the manual with them.



**The No.0** The box is 15½\*18¾\*2cm, and green 'Strips' are printed along the sides of the lid. The parts can't be seen because they are all in an unopened brown paper bag.

**The No.1** The box is 15½\*26½\*2¼cm, and the label is like the No.0 but with, on either side, a red panel with 4 green 'Strips' on it. The main parts can be seen in the No.2 box below and the **Set Contents** are 2,6,1,2,4,2 of 7,6,5,4,3, 2h Strips; 1x 3\*5h Flanged Plate; 2 red 2\*2h & 3 blue 3\*3h Perf. Plates; 4 Pulleys; 2 Axles; 4 A/Bs; 14 N&B; 4 each Washers & Axle Stops; 1 Spanner.



**The No.2** The box is 20½\*26½\*2¼cm and the label is as the No.1 but with 3 green 'Strips' & 4 yellow 'Pulleys' above and below it. The **Set Contents** are 2,2,8,1,2,4,2 of 8,7,6,5,4,3,2h Strips; 1x 3\*5h Flanged Plate; 2 red 2\*2h, 3x 3\*3h, & 2x 4\*5h Perforated Plates; 1x 1\*4\*1h DAS; 4 Pulleys; 2 Axles; 4 A/Bs; 20 N&B; 4 each Washers & Axle Stops; 1 Spanner.

## Leading Particulars of KWIK BUILDER

**Name** KWIK BUILDER

**Country** Belgium

**Maker** May be the same as MERCATOR

**History** Probably late 1940s or 1950s.

**Hole dia.** 5.0mm but 4.9mm in Flanged Plates.

**Hole pitch** 13.0mm.

**Sets** Nos. 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.

**Material/Finish** Green Strips, blue & red Plates, nickel Pulleys & Brackets.

**Boss** None.

**Fixing** ⅝" BSW brassed steel N&B. Pressed hex Nuts, 8.0mm A/F, 2.5mm thick; CH Bolts, 7.0mm Ø, 8.0-8.3mm u/h.

**Axles** Plain steel, 4.5mm Ø, with sheared ends.

**No** Motor or Gears.

**Remarks** A simple system with parts similar to MERCATOR but with a different hole pitch.

**The PARTS** A few points of explanation:

- All **Plates** have square corners. **Holes** are round except in the A/Bs. The **DAS** is below the red 2\*4h Plate in the photo.
- **Strips** are 13.1mm wide with fully radiused ends.
- The **Pulley** is 29mm Ø, about 5.6mm wide, with a 5.2mm centre hole. Some are not well made, with slightly misaligned discs, and centre holes up to 5.6mm.
- The **A/B** has 2 slotted holes with 'BRAL' ends, one 7.6mm long, & one 7.9mm.
- The **Axles** are under the Flanged Plate & are 66mm long.
- The **Crank Handle** is copper plated steel, 4.5mm Ø, 106mm long o/a, with a 27mm offset. The lengths of the shaft & handle before the start of the bends, are 58 & 22mm.
- The **Axle Stop** is red rubber, 6mm o.d. & 4.2mm long.
- The nicked steel **Washer** is 10.0mm o.d., & 5.0mm bore.
- The **Spanner** is flat, 48mm o/a, with a 8½mm wide shank.
- The 2h Strip, A/B, Pulley, & Spanner are **nickel plated**.

**The MANUAL** All the Sets have the same manual, the one described in 10/263. The cover is in MCS and it, like all the pages, is printed blue on white.

**Another No.0 Set?** Harry has also found a dark blue card, 14¼\*25¼cm, with the parts on it strung with brown cord. It is believed to be the contents of a No.0 set, less the N&B etc, which would have been packed separately. All the parts common to the Sets 1 & 2 above correspond exactly except that the 3 to 7h Strips are blue & yellow, and the Axle is copper plated. Parts not in the 1 & 2 are a 3\*3h Flanged Plate; 1\*3h & 1\*5h Plates (square-ended Strips); & a 36mm Wheel Disc with 6 holes at 13¼mm radius. All the 'new' parts are red.

The **Set Contents** are: 2,8,2,2,2 of 7,6,5,4,3,2h Strips (the 4 & 5h are blue); a 3\*3h Flanged Plate; 4 each of 1\*3 & 1\*5h Plates; 4 Wheel Discs; 2 Axles; 4 A/Bs; 1 Spanner.

The No.0 Set in the Manual above differs in not having a Flanged Plate or the Discs – it has no wheels of any sort.

**A No.4 Set** This was described in 10/263 and the parts tally with those here except that the hole spacing & the Strip width were both ½". Perhaps simply an error but the possibility of 2 versions of K B cannot be ruled out. This is because MERCATOR, usually assumed to be from the same maker as K B, may itself have 2 phases, one with 12.7mm pitch holes & one with 13mm. More of that in the next Newsletter.

the Liverpool  $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW. In round terms 7-32 is 4 thou smaller in diameter and despite the difference in thread angle between the two (see 7/160), 7-32 Bolts & Screws can be used in BSW tapped parts, bosses for instance. They are a little loose but tighten satisfactorily. This means that 7-32 Bolts/Screws would fit bossed parts imported from England.

It is believed that 7-32 was the thread in all the U.S. produced parts, that is from 1922 onwards, but it also seems likely that 7-32 Bolts & Screws were used from as early as 1916. This could possibly have been to circumvent wartime shortages. It is also possible that certain parts were made in America before 1922 and used 7-32. An example is the 56t Gear with the square centre hole & zinc boss (see Mystery Part No.45, in 27/795).

7-32 was used in the 1929 Gilbert 'double-digit' MECCANO sets (see 27/788) but from 1930 onwards ERECTOR threads were used, 8-32 N&B, and 6-32 tapped bosses.

#### U.S. MECCANO: S1

[29/846-7]

10. On the **No.0 KWIK BUILDER** set in the 1<sup>st</sup> column of 28/827, Harry Marien has succumbed to temptation and opened the envelope with the parts in it. The contents are 2,6,2,2,2,2 of 7,6,5,4,3,2h Strips; 4 each of 1\*3 & 1\*4h 'Plates'; 6 A/Bs; 10 N&B; and a Spanner (as in the No.1). The 3-7h Strips are green, the Plates red, and the other parts are bright looking. The contents are as in the photo in the Set's manual (described in 10/262) except that the 1\*4h Plates replace the 1\*5h, and the 4 Washers, & 5 of the 15 N&B, shown in the Manual are lacking. (The set contents of No.0 given in OSN 10 was incorrect, it is now apparent that the DAS and the 'small Plates' are actually 4 each of 1\*3 & 1\*5h 'Plates'.)

#### KWIK BUILDER: S2

[29/847]

11. Some more information on an **MKA No.II set**, from Jacques Pitrat, see 28/830. The colour of the manual (with a '2') is cream rather than light yellow and it has 8 pages, plus the covers. There are 8 models, one on each page, from a 'Schiebekarre' (Luggage Barrow) to a 'Dekopiersäge' (Sawing Machine). There is only one Flanged Sector Plate in the set, and only one is used in the manual models. There are two 27mm Pulleys, without Tyres, and Tyres appear in the manual, as in the Set, only on the 36mm Pulleys. There are no backing cards in the set, and it is not sure that there were ever such cards. The aluminium clips are used to hold the Strips of the same size together.

#### M K A: S4

[29/847]

#### WEB SITES

[29/847]

- <http://home.t-online.de/home/HGFinke/metall/engl.html> (from Thomas Morzinck). A German **MÄRKLIN** enthusiast shows pictures and gives some details of his models and mechanisms. In English.

- Werner Sticht has revised his **STABIL web site**, [www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu](http://www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu). Many new items have been added, others have been expanded, and there are additional interesting photos. The new material includes more on the history & parts; on the motors; the Inventors Sets; the Kanonen Sets; the Railway Wagon Sets; the small Sets 46, 48, 48M; the Knirps Sets; and the years up to 1920.

- [www.Merkurtoys.cz](http://www.Merkurtoys.cz) (from Orion DreamDancer). There is an English version of this **MERKUR** site, and now included are new or revised manuals for sets 012, 014, 019, M4, & M6. All manual pages can be viewed/printed.

- [www.bral.biz](http://www.bral.biz) The new **BRAL** site. It is in Italian but is easy to navigate. More details elsewhere in this Issue.

#### QUERIES

[29/847]

**Query 29** On the colour of STABIL Cord, Werner Sticht wrote 'that blue/white Cord (two coloured strands twisted

together) was used in the 1950s & 60s – I remember it very well from my first STABIL set that I got in 1957. Plain white Cord was used in sets from the 20s and 30s.'

#### SMALL ADS

[29/847]

**Wanted.** Any metal nut & bolted together **constructional car or vehicle kits**, or any parts, boxes, manuals, information (see 28/814). Also PRESTACON Tool/Kits.

Please call Gary on 01635 200460 before 8pm or email me at [gary2car@aol.com](mailto:gary2car@aol.com).

**MÄRKLIN 1089 Eiffel Tower set, illustrated instructions needed**, or colour copy, or mono. Happy to pay for copying or full value if original. Graham Colover, L'Escale, Barnet Lane, Elstree, Herts, WD6 3QZ; tel: day 0207 6258899, home 0208 9538143; fax: +44 (0)207 6258866.

#### For Sale CD VERSION of MCS - MECCANO VOLUME

A completely new edition of the Meccano Volume of the MCS has been produced on CD in .PDF format (Adobe/Acrobat Reader is needed). It has been thoroughly revised and updated to the present, with many colour images and consists of over 1100 pages. The format is the same as the normal MCS. The Adobe/Acrobat Reader will be included on the CD (for Microsoft PCs), although it is also available as a free download from the Adobe website for virtually all operating systems. Price including postage for the CD will be as follows:-UK - £5.50; Europe - £6.00 (10 Euros); Rest of World - £6.50 (US\$11). Send cash in UK£, US\$ or Euros, or UK£ cheques drawn on a UK bank to Mr. T Edwards, 5 Burnside Road, Largs, Ayrshire, KA30 9BX, Scotland, Great Britain. Email - [timothy.edwards1@btinternet.com](mailto:timothy.edwards1@btinternet.com). Website - <http://edwards.web.users.btopenworld.com/meccano.htm>.

#### REVIEW: CD of MCS MECCANO Volume [29/847]

Some details of this new version of Frank Beadle's original are given in the ad above. For those unfamiliar with Frank's tome it covered MECCANO in Argentina, the U.S.A, Brazil, the UK, France, Germany, Mexico, & Spain, with one or more sections for each, some 400 pages in all.

What Tim has done is to scan Frank's original pages, updating them where possible, and then add all the fresh material he has been able to obtain, in colour where appropriate. There is quite a lot of it actually, with over 1100 pages now, a labour of love indeed. The format is unchanged and also the countries covered, but apart from Brazil & Germany, there are significant additions to all the countries, and huge ones for the U.S.A., the UK, France, & Spain. In each of these the standard & special/theme sets are all included with separate sections for each identifiable period.

This is an invaluable work of reference for all enthusiasts, and would be a 'good read' for anyone even remotely interested in the MECCANO story. Quite apart from the new material it is very convenient to have so much detail of MECCANO in one place. I'm not going to attempt to summarise the additions but I would like to mention that in the French section Tim has included all the sets produced since Liverpool closed. It's the first time this has been done as far as I know, and it was well worth doing now, before the details get muddled with time.

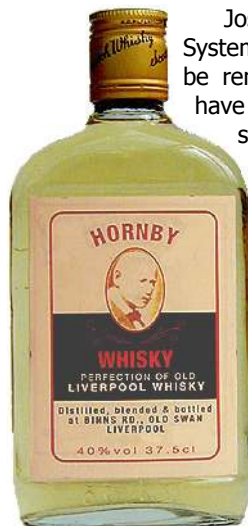
To allow quick access to any section a series of 'bookmarks' can sit permanently on the left of the screen, one for each country. Clicking on one of them gives a dropdown menu with a list of all the sections for that country, and then clicking a section takes one to the first page of it. It's very convenient to use but once in a section the only way to get to a particular page is by clicking through the preceding pages. This doesn't take long, even on my ageing machine, but can be a bit tiresome if one wants to cross-refer between 2 or more pages several times.

Of course if much use is to be made of a particular section it doesn't take long to print off the pages. Provision is made for double-side printing if required with a binding margin on the inner edge of the pages.

Tim has included a slip with the CD asking to be told of errors, & information to fill remaining gaps. More on MECCANO in Germany & Argentina would be particularly welcome.

**EDITORIAL** This time I would like to remember two 'Other Systems' men who died recently, Karl Debik in July, aged 82, and Josep Bernal Moreno in February, aged 87.

Karl was a well known German collector of constructional sets, and while always a STABIL-boy at heart, in his working life he became a university professor of child psychology. He will be best known to most readers for his contributions to Baukästen, which drew on his in-depth knowledge of the history and development of all types of constructional toys. After his retirement he achieved a dream by founding the Bauspielhaus museum, ([www.bauspielhaus.de](http://www.bauspielhaus.de)) in his home town of Löbau. It has a display which includes many rare items but children can also play with 'old-fashioned' toys. Karl regarded toys as a bridge to connect people of different ages and of different countries.



Josep was a great MECCANO and Other Systems enthusiast and his models will long be remembered by those lucky enough to have seen them. Many were of conventional subjects but my favourite was a very large model of an ornate, wrought iron, street lamp bracket standard, beautifully detailed and finely modelled, a joy to behold. In lighter vein I'll also remember the bottle of his 'Hornby' whisky (left) that he once gave me - I said I'd keep it and we'd drink to Meccano in its centenary year. For one reason or another that didn't happen but as a happy result I still have it as a souvenir of a great guy. Here's to your memory Josep.

## Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. The two **DAN DARE** Noses below are identical except for their 'windows'. The one on the left is probably the original type & the 15 pane pattern is painted on (or perhaps it is 3 transfers). This is the type shown in: the 1953 advert announcing DAN DARE; in all the models in the manual; & in the Illustrated Parts



(the drawing in the latter is identical to the one shown for AJET elsewhere in this issue). The second type with 9 impressed panes is the one much more commonly found, and is the pattern shown in the Patent (see 14/366). The parts that contained the first type of Nose were the remains of a Spaceship set and apart from the Nose, were entirely as would be expected.

**DAN DARE: S1**

[37/1100]

2. David Hobson showed me an unused, still strung, No.2 **KWIK BUILDER** set. It corresponded almost exactly with the one described in 28/827, including the manual, but the N&B were different with an M4 thread instead of  $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW. The details of the N&B were as before except that the CH Bolts had 6.9mm Ø heads and the Nuts were only 2.0mm thick.

**KWIK BUILDER: S3**

[37/1100]

3. Another item from David, a 1920 **PYFYL** Price List. The sets are listed on the front, and are as on the 28/840 Leaflet prior to the 1921 overprinting. On the back is a list of extra parts packs Nos.1-12 and A-Y. #1-6 contain various mixes of straight Strips, plus Sleeves, and #7-12 likewise but with curved instead of straight Strips. The lettered packs have selections of the metal and all the other parts. Even a summary would take too much space but I can send details to anyone who needs them. #W-Y deserve mention though: they are the fabric covered parts for Chairs, Armchairs, & a Table, and each is said to be 'recouverte en soie impression exclusive' which I take to mean 'covered in rayon (or possibly silk) with an exclusive pattern'. Though hand stitched they were not particularly expensive, Fr.2.50 maximum compared with the other Packs at Fr.2 or Fr.2.50 for most, and up to Fr.5.50 for a few. Sets 1-3 cost Fr.19.95, Fr.49, & Fr.99 at the time.

**PYFYL: S6**

[37/1100]

4. **Snippet: MECANEX** This Swiss system was said to have aluminium parts and it no doubt dates from WW2 or soon after. The makers name on the lid below is E. Musitelli & Cie.,



of Fleurier, a town some 40km north of Lausanne. The parts in the box below mostly have a MÄRKLIN look to them though the slotted end holes in the DAS are not echoed in the top

