

**3 OTHER SYSTEMS from BRAZIL** The only Brazilian system in MCS is MECANIC, and the 4 sets illustrated were in a catalogue No.20 of 1956/57, from a company with a logo in the form of a 4-point star with 'ESTRELA' underneath. They look just like the MECCANO outfits of the period except that the name on the box lid is MECANIC instead of MECCANO. Now thanks to Carlos Machado of São Paulo, some details of three other systems, all certainly made in Brazil, are available - he gave Geoff Wright some parts and copies of literature, and Geoff kindly lent them to me for this account.

**MEC-BRAS** I'll start with this one because it seems to have been made by the company above, Brinquedos ESTRELA S.A. (Star Toys), Rua Joaquim Carlos, 508 - São Paulo; the logo on the manual cover is as in MCS. Carlos said that it was made from 1950 to the mid 1960s. From the manual and the handful of parts available, it seems to follow MECCANO of the 1954-61 period quite closely, including the same general colour scheme, although the hole and axle diameters are very slightly smaller.

The manual is for Set 5 and as well as models for that outfit a few for Sets 1-4 are included. All are MECCANO 1954-61 models, in the same order, and with the same page layout, although the text is in Portuguese of course. One noticeable difference is that the set numbers are greater by one than their MECCANO equivalents, so the MEC-BRAS No.1 is the MECCANO No.0, etc. The illustrations used are identical except that most of the evidence of the Magic Motor fitted to some of the No.1-4 models has been removed. The Magic or No.1 C/W motors in the No.5 models remains and in the Introduction it is suggested that a MEC-BRAS electric motor (Set No.9110) should be used instead.

The Set Contents shows Outfits Nos.1-6 and Nos.10 & 11. As would be expected the former follow their MECCANO counterparts almost exactly, and small differences, like a 1½" dia 6-hole Wheel Disc, are probably misprints. Sets 10 & 11 both contain a Bulb with Socket, an Electric Motor, and a Control Box, which no doubt houses the 3 off 1.5v Batteries that are also included in both Sets. None of these parts are illustrated. In addition the No.10 contains a small selection of common parts including 10 N&B and an 11\*5h Flanged Plate, and is clearly an accessory set. The No.11 has many more parts, more than in the No.3 Set, but with a different mixture: it could have stood on its own, but would have needed special models to use the parts in it to advantage. It is possible that the No.10 is the No.9110 Set mentioned above. Neither Set contains the 6" Driving Band and the Gear and Pinion that are in the No.6 Outfit.

Most of the parts are shown on the page of Illustrated Parts. None of the illustrations has been copied directly from MECCANO, but only the 1" Pulley without Boss, which has a fourth hole in its face, and the 8h Wheel Disc, in which two opposite holes have been omitted, look unusual. Apart from the 12½" Strip none of the PNs correspond to MECCANO, and the last of the 80 odd parts that are listed, (all of which are included in the Sets) is No.250. Notes on the actual parts to hand follow and unless stated they are very similar to their MECCANO opposite numbers.

• DATA (in mm) Strip (11-hole): •Hole pitch/dia, 12.7/4.1

- width, 12.8; •thickness, .82; •ends near fully radiused.
- Boss: •o/d, 9.6 (1 of 4, 10.3); •i/d, 4.06-4.17; •brass (some painted); •double tapped. Thread: 5/32 BSW. Axle Dia: 3.95 (Crank Handle). DP (Mod): probably 38. Nut: sq., probably 6.4 A/F; Bolt: RH 7.2 dia, CH 5.4 dia, both brass.
- The 11h Strip is a mid, bright, slightly emerald, green; the Flanged Sector Plate is medium red, and the 5\*5h Flexible Plate (with no centre hole) is slightly lighter.
- The Road Wheel (red/black) is very similar to the original MECCANO pattern except that the rim is not so rounded. The 3" Pulley (77mm dia, 4mm wide rim) is glossy black; the 1" is steel painted yellow, including the brass boss. Its Tyre is a bluey-grey colour with a near rectangular cross section, ribbed circumferentially around the outside.
- The Bush Wheel is brass and the boss is larger in diameter than the others at 10.25mm. The Crank Handle has a wooden grip dyed red. The Spanner has MEC-BRAS stamped on it, the only part seen that is so marked.
- The parts are well made and with a generally good finish.

SUMMARY OF MANUAL •Name: MEC-BRAS Catalogo No.5. •Details of maker: Brinquedos ESTRELA S.A., Rua Joaquim Carlos 508, São Paulo. •Dates or Ref Nos: none. •Page size: 287\*204mm deep. •No. of pages: 32 + covers. •Language: Portuguese. •Printing: models are halftones. •Page No. of Illustrated Parts & highest PN: IBC,240. •Page No. of Set Contents & highest PN: OBC,250. •Sets covered: 1-5. •No. of models for each set: 6,11, 12, 8,35. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 1: ELEVADOR, 1.1,1; CAVALINHO BRAVO, 1.6,1. 2: FORD BIGODE,2.1,2; CARRO DE CARGA,2.11,3. 3: PONTE ELEVADORA, 3.1,4; PRENSA DE PEDAL,3.12,6. 4: ROLO COMPRESSOR C/ REBOQUE, 4.1,7; CARRO DE CIGANO,4.8,9. 5: MISTURADOR DE CONCRETO,5.1,10; CARRO COUPÉ, 5.35,32. •Other notes: Model No.3.10 has no title or number. Details taken from a photocopy.

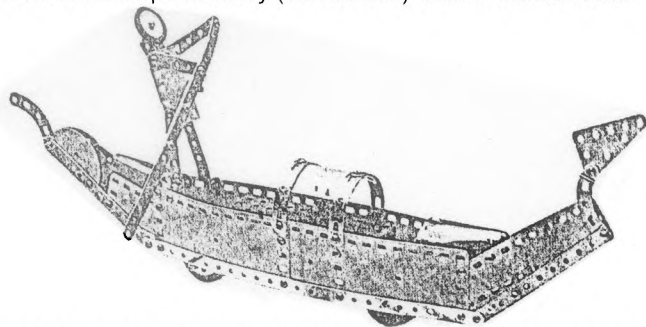


Given the models in it, the Manual above couldn't have appeared before 1954, and given also that Estrela were selling the MECANIC sets in 1956/57, it seems likely that it would date from after that. In MCS it is supposed that the MECANIC outfits, or the parts for them, were made in Liverpool, but it must be a distinct possibility that they were produced by Estrela in Brazil. Perhaps there was an arrangement with Liverpool, rather like that which existed with EXACTO in Argentina.

**KITPOCK** This is another system that was compatible with MECCANO, except perhaps for the size of the Axles, and it was made in São Paulo from 1980 to around 1990, by Spock Brinquedos (Spock Toys). The address on the literature (of Spock Industrial Ltda.) is Rua Acopiara 203, Alto da Lapa, São Paulo. In this case a manual isn't available but there are some parts, and copies of three leaflets, two of which (in Portuguese, English and Spanish) are mainly about the sets.

'Steel construction sets' Nos.1-5 are listed in what seems to be the earliest leaflet and for each there's a picture of the (trilingual) box lid, with some of the models from that particular Set on it. The sets are also named - Junior, Senior, Master, Super Master, and Premium (with no Portuguese or Spanish equivalents). The Gondola, the main model featured on the leaflet is shown on the next page. The number of parts in each set is given and also the number of manual models for each - 163 parts/35 models for the No.1, to

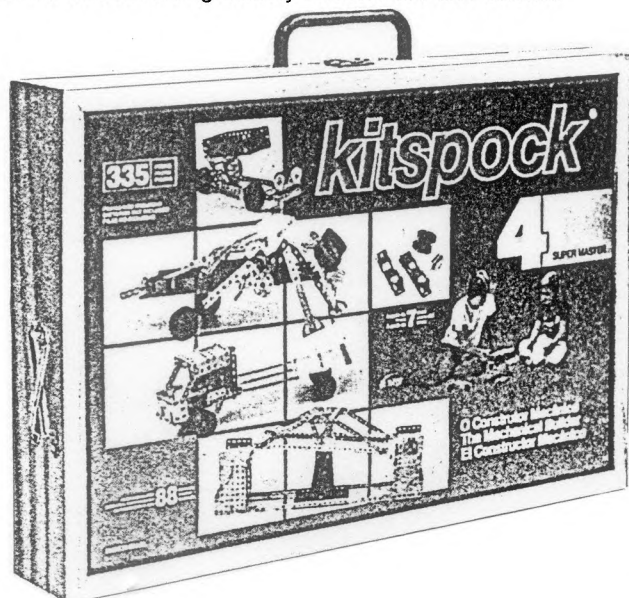
408/137 for the No.5. In terms of the number of parts the No.1 is nearly as large as the MEC-BRAS No.3, and the No.5 lies between the M-B Nos.5 & 6. The sets are progressive and Complementary (conversion) Sets 1-4 are shown.



All the sets except the No.1 have an electric motor, and the motor itself looks about the size and shape of the one in Meccano's 'Crane' and M0 motors; the accompanying parts can't be clearly seen but may be shaped mounting brackets to hold the motor in position. The No.3 Set box is also shown open and two Flanged Sector Plates, a 2" Pulley, Road Wheels or Tyres of about 2" dia, and various smaller pieces can be seen. From them, and from other parts which are shown around the box, and from the parts in the model above, the following can be identified, using MECCANO PNs: 2,3,5,6,6a,9f,10,11,12,Axles,19s,20a,22,24,34,35,36a,37,38d,48,48a,54(but 8h long),57c,90a,126a,142c,188,189,214,215,221. The parts all look like their MECCANO counterparts except that the Spanner isn't cranked, the Flat Trunnion has a flat top like the BRAL version, and all the slotted holes have large radius ends, again like BRAL. In addition to the MECCANO Hook, a flat MÄRKLIN pattern one can also be seen.

The models shown on the box lids don't remind me of any I remember from elsewhere and seem a fair selection ranging from a Horse and Chariot to a Helicopter, and a Windmill to a Swing Bridge. The majority run on the four 2" Wheels that are included in all the sets.







The second leaflet is headed 'New Kitspock'. It shows the same number of sets as before, but they no longer have names. The number of parts in them, and the number of models for each set, remain the same, and while the Ref. Nos. for the main sets have changed, those of the Complementary Outfits are as before. So probably the contents remained similar. The new features that are evident are that the main sets are packed in wooden boxes with hinged lids, and the casing for the motor now looks identical to the MECCANO M0 type, with the flanges at each end to run Axles in. The matching Battery Holders are also shown.



The illustrations on the lids of the sets are unchanged, and the No.4 is shown at the foot of the last column. But some of the models shown elsewhere in the leaflet are probably new, like the Robot opposite in which the Battery Holders form the main parts of the legs. And there's a reasonable looking Jet Plane and modern Racing Car.

From the various illustrations the following parts, not already mentioned, can be seen: 23,26(?),52,126,190,199. Also a 3\*11h Plate, fully perforated. The third leaflet mainly shows how to assemble the M0 style Motor and Battery Box but also notifies some changes to the parts shown in the then current catalogue.

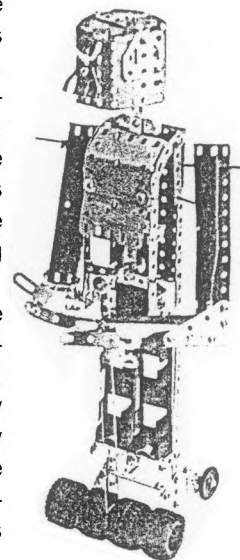
The main points are that the 25 and 15mm dia Pulleys with Boss are made of aluminium; the Washer is 10mm o.d. and not 19; the 5\*11h Flanged Plate is only flanged on the long sides, and not on all four; the Flat Trunnion does have a flat top; the 3\*5 and 3\*11h Plates are fully perforated instead of having the hole pattern of a Flexible Plate; the Semi-Circular Plate has extra holes around its edge; a 45mm black plastic Road Wheel is shown instead of the previous #76; and 11h Angle and Flat Girders are introduced (with a paint finish). Some of the 'before and after' illustrations are shown below. The highest PN mentioned is No.76, but the Girders aren't numbered. Under the list of changes is a note - 'Em todas as nossas os furos redondos são equivalentes aos furos oblongos, permitindo sempre a montagem de todos os modelos independentemente do formato dos furos.' My rough translation is that some parts have oversize round holes instead of oblong ones but the models can be made with either type. I'd welcome an authoritative version.

Especificação Correta			Seu Catálogo Atual		
Polia 25mm c. cuço		Alumínio	Nº18	Polia 25mm c. cuço	
Meia lua c/11 furos		Pintada	Nº73	Meia lua	
Pneu 45mm "Estrado"		Plástico preto	Nº76	Pneu 45mm	

Notes on the sample parts follow:

- DATA (in mm) Strip (7-hole): •Hole pitch/dia, 12.7/4.1 •width, 12.0; •thickness, .90; •ends near fully radiused.
- Boss: •o/d, 9.6; •i/d, 3.98-4.19; •brass; •double tapped (1 of 3 single). Thread: 5/32 BSW. Axle Dia: probably 4mm. DP (Mod): ? Nut: hex., probably 6.4 A/F; Bolt: RH 6.9 dia; both steel/BZP.
- The 7h Strip is slightly less than 1/2" wide. The 3" Pulley (75mm dia, 5 1/2mm wide rim) at 50g is noticeably heavier than a MECCANO one (30g), and runs very truly. Its boss is double tapped while that of a Bush Wheel is single tapped. The latter is in worse condition than the Pulley and so might be from an earlier phase of production. The flanges on a 5\*7h Flanged Plate are 16mm deep against 13 for the MECCANO part. A fully perforated 11\*3h Plate is .60mm thick and so is not equivalent to a Flexible Plate. It has slotted holes at each end - so does a 5\*11h Flexible Plate, and the latter also has a centre hole.
- The 25mm Pulley is turned from aluminium with an integral d/t boss, which at 10.4mm, is greater in diameter than the brass ones.

[Cont. >]



- The Trunnion has a flat top, and all slotted holes, except those in the 3" Pulley, are BRAL pattern, 7mm long. Bosses are deeply recessed at the peened end and have a definite chamfer at the other.
- The Strip, Trunnion and Bush Wheel are BZP; the 3" Pulley and 3\*11h Plate are light red; the Flanged Plate is white; and the Flexible Plate is dark blue on one side and yellow on the other. The parts may not all have come from the same period of course: for instance the comparatively thick modern powder type of paint has been used on the red and white Plates. All the parts are very well made except that the bore of the aluminium Pulley is rather oversize. The paint finish is excellent - the Flexible Plate has obviously been sharply bent across its middle and straightened again without any flaking. Two of the zinc parts have corroded a little but probably looked smart when new.

On dates, Meccano announced the M0 motor late in 1983 so the new KITSPOCK sets must have been after that.

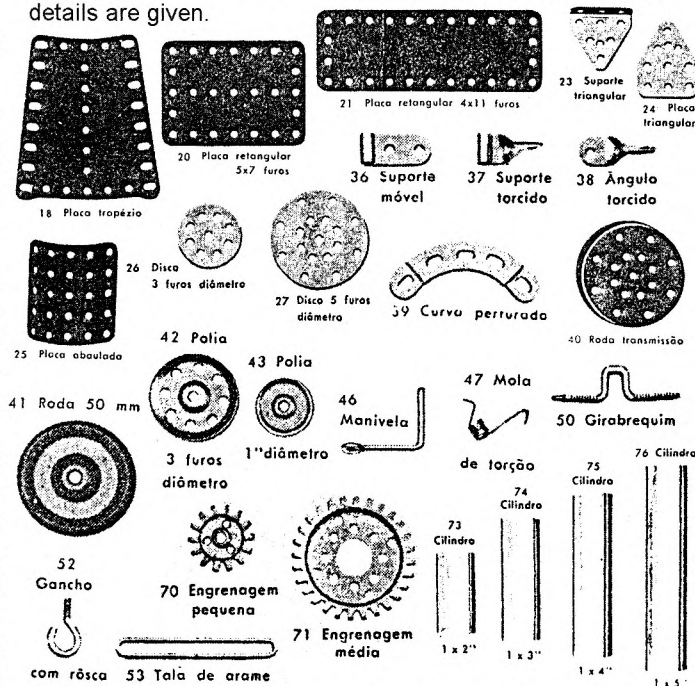
**CONSTRUCTA** This system, for which only a manual is available, looks as if it was influenced by STABIL, with touches of MÄRKLIN, rather than by MECCANO. Threaded Rods are used as axles, exclusively in the 2 smallest sets, and as far as can be seen only the Road Wheel has a boss. The hole spacing can't be given positively but is probably either 12.7mm or the STABIL 12.5mm. The size of MECCANO parts were described in inches; KITSPOCK used the number of holes; CONSTRUCTA used both, plus millimetres. It was made in Brazil by a company called EFTA but no address is given.

The cover of the manual has No.1 on it, on what may be a sticker. On the first introductory page it is said that there are 4 basic sets; on the second a No.V is mentioned and also V-a, VI-a, and VII-a, to give Nos.VI to VIII. Elsewhere in the Manual arabic numbers are generally used, and I will use them too. The Set Contents are given for Sets 1-5 only and all the parts listed are included in Set No.5 (the 2 Gears that are illustrated aren't in the Set Contents list), but there are gaps in the PNs, so there may be other parts in the system that are used in larger outfits.

The parts shown or listed in the Manual are described below. Unless otherwise stated they look like MECCANO parts - the PNs of the unusual ones are given in brackets and are illustrated at the end of this section. MECCANO PNs are indicated by an 'M' before them.

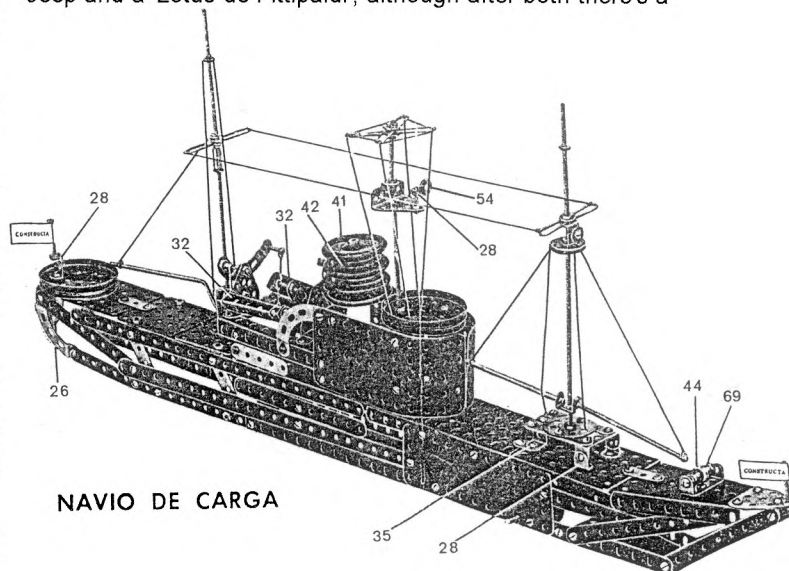
- Strips with 3,4,5,6,7,9,11,17,25 holes. A Curved Strip like M90a but with all slotted holes (39). DAS: 1\*3\*1,1\*5\*1,1\*7\*1,1\*9\*1,2\*5\*2,2\*7\*2,3\*11\*3,3\*1\*3. Double Bent Strip. Formed Strips with 5,7,9 holes (no illustration). A short Strip twisted through 90° with a hole at each end (38) - a useful part sometimes.
- Angle, Flat, and Double Brackets. Reversed Angle Bracket with no slotted hole. Trunnion and Flat Trunnion rather like the MÄRKLIN parts simplified (23,24).
- A/G 5,7,9,11,17,25 holes long with square corners. Also parts of the same length which aren't illustrated: they may be 5h wide Plates but are more likely to be Flat Girders.
- Flanged Plates: 5\*11h MÄRKLIN-style with slotted holes along the 2 flanges and lengthways outer edges; 5\*7h; Sector Plate with a single centre row of 8 holes.
- Flattened versions of the three Flanged Plates (the Sector Plate is PN18). Other Flat Plates: 5\*5h, fully perforated, and a formed version curved through some 60° (25); 5\*7h with the outside holes and a centre row (20); 4\*11h (21) and 4\*25h with only the outer holes - and none slotted.
- The parts that resemble STABIL are: Bearing Brackets (36, 37); Threaded Hook (52); 5h dia Flanged Disc with pul-

- ley groove, but without the large centre hole (40); 3 & 5h dia Wheel Discs (26,27); 1" and 3h dia Pulleys but with 0 and 8 holes (43,42); Wire Crank (46); Crankshaft with threaded ends (50); Wire Stay (53); Gear Wheels with 14 & 28 teeth that look like the STABIL '1926' type (70,71), see 13/349.
- Hex Nuts; roundheaded Bolts,  $\frac{3}{16}$ ",  $\frac{3}{4}$ ",  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long; Washers. 7 Threaded Rods from 30 to 300mm; 6 smooth Axles from 30 to 200mm; a Crank Handle; a Rod Connector and a Threaded Rod Coupling (M63e); a Collar.
- A 50mm Road Wheel which appears to be a pressing with a 'half' tyre (41). A 1" Flanged Disc which looks like one half of the Pulley. A  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " Tyre for the 1" Pulley. 1" dia Cylinders, 2,3,4,5" long, with no holes showing (73-76). A flat S wire Hook. A Torsion Spring (47).
- An Electric Motor is mentioned in the introduction but no details are given.



The sets are above average in size. Apart from 92 Nuts, Bolts and Washers, the No.1 contains 49 parts including 4 off 1" Pulleys, but only 2 tyres. There are 4 in the No.2 plus 2 Road Wheels, and by the No.5 there are 8 of each. Said No.5 has 530 parts (plus 794 N,B&W), including 28 A/Gs, 40 Plates, and 8 of those Cylinders.

Although the Manual has '1' on its cover, models for Sets 1,2 & 3 are included, and the 10 for Set 1 differ in presentation to the others, and are on pages within the sequence of No.2 models. Some of them look more modern too with a Jeep and a 'Lotus de Fittipaldi', although after both there's a



**More on KITSPOCK** This MECCANO compatible Brazilian system was described in 14/374 and now Edmundo Veiga has kindly sent photocopies of the manuals for the 5 sets produced.

**The PARTS** The manual for the No.1 outfit has the Set Contents of all the sets and a page of Illustrated Parts. Using MECCANO PNs the latter comprise: 1,2,3,5,6,6a,10,11,11a, 12,12c,15b,16,17,18a,19s,20a,22,22a,23,23a,24,26,27a, 27c,27f,34c,35,36,36b,37b(RH),37c,38d,40,48,48a,51,52, 53a,54(8h),57c,69a,90a,111,111a,111d,125,126,126a,142c, 155,176,186,186a,187? push-on Road Wheel (the narrow type, but wide ones are shown on the models, see 14/375), 188,189,190,191,192,193,193a,193c,194,194a,199, 200,212,212a,213,214,215,221, & the parts for the M0 Motor (shown with one mounting flange but in the models it has two). About 80 parts, with PNs 1 - 94, and more or less the range needed for a 1970s MECCANO No.5. The main differences, apart from the Motor, are that KITSPOCK has the 3 Gears, and the 3 & 4h Strips, but no 3" Pulley.

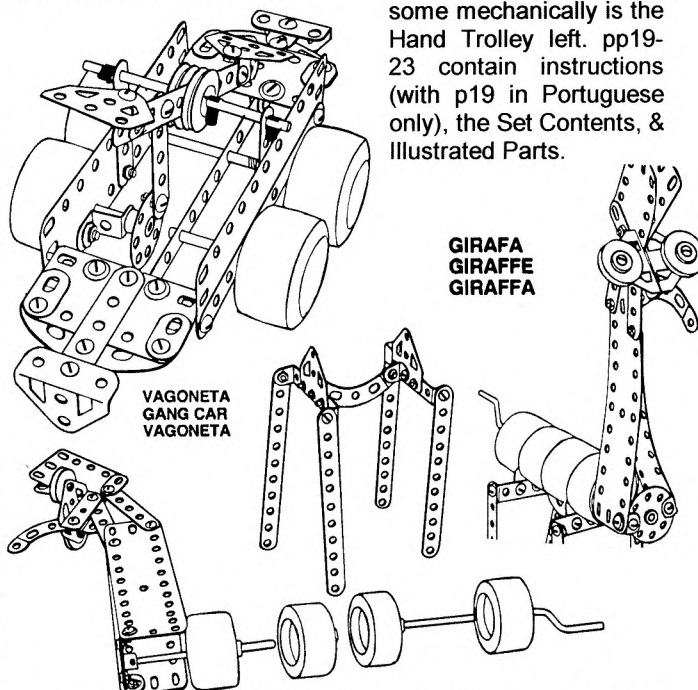
**The SETS** are progressive and the contents of linking sets 1C - 4C are shown. Apart from the Gears, short Strips, & 3" Pulley, the No.5 is very similar to Meccano's No.5, but the smaller sets don't correspond so closely. The differences increase as the sets get smaller and the No.1 is quite distinct with 4 Road Wheels and more parts in most departments (40 N&B against 24), but no Flanged Plate. The Motor is included in the No.2 and the Gears in the No.4, except that the Multipurpose Gears are only in the No.5.

The numbers of parts in the sets correspond, plus or minus a few, to those in the OSN 14 leaflets but whether the sets are exactly the same isn't clear. Not all the models on the lids can be seen clearly but most of those for Sets 1, 2 & 3 are in the manuals; several on the No.4 & 5 lids appear not to be, and two on the No.5 lid are in the No.4 manual and one from the No.4 lid is in the No.5 manual. As will be seen the No.5 manual models are unusual in being exact copies from 1970s MECCANO manuals.

**The MANUALS** All are in B&W with line drawings of the models; and all have the same page size, about 16\*21½cm, with front covers similar in style to the No.4 below. All the back covers have 'Spock Industrial Ltda - R.Acopiara, 203 - CEP 05083 - São Paulo - SP - Tel.: (011) 261-2229' at the bottom, and all have models on them except the

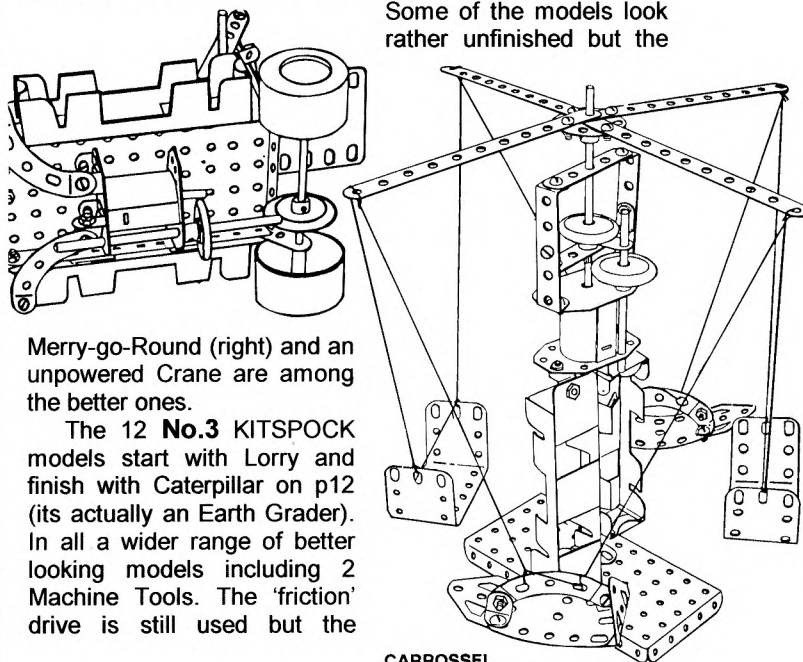
No.1 which is blank. Nos.1-5 have 24, 16, 16, 12, & 40 pages respectively, all including covers. The text is in Portuguese, English, & Spanish. The models fall into 3 groups: unnamed models with no parts list, often quite simple and illustrated by a single view (many look as if they might be copies of BRAL, and in some KITSPOCK parts would need to be substituted for those shown); named models with parts lists, and one or more drawings of intermediate stages of construction (these seem to be original KITSPOCK designs); and exact copies of 1970s MECCANO models but reduced to B&W line drawings and with the PNs changed.

The **No.1** has 18 'KITSPOCK' models on pp1-12, from Racing Car to Airplane, then 12 'BRAL' models on pp13-18, from (my names) Rocking Chair to 4-Wheel Trailer. All the models are simple of course but some of the KITSPOCK ones are unusual, like the Giraffe below. The most venture-some mechanically is the Hand Trolley left. pp19-23 contain instructions (with p19 in Portuguese only), the Set Contents, & Illustrated Parts.



**No.2** has 12 KITSPOCK & then 12 BRAL models. They go from Racing Car on p1 to Fly on p12, and Scales on p13 to 3-Wheel Truck on p16. The Motor is fitted to most of the KITSPOCK models and the two Battery Boxes are usually built into them, sometimes as structural members. The drive from the Motor is normally to the Wheels through 2 stages of reduction, each by the friction of a shaft against a Rubber Ring, as below. I wonder how well it worked in practice.

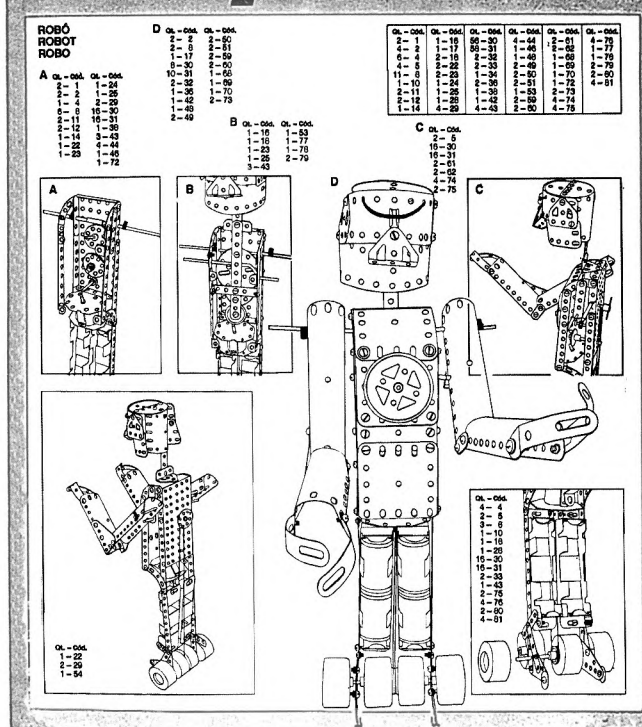
Some of the models look rather unfinished but the



Merry-go-Round (right) and an unpowered Crane are among the better ones.

The 12 **No.3** KITSPOCK models start with Lorry and finish with Caterpillar on p12 (its actually an Earth Grader). In all a wider range of better looking models including 2 Machine Tools. The 'friction' drive is still used but the

# kitspock 4

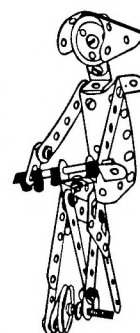
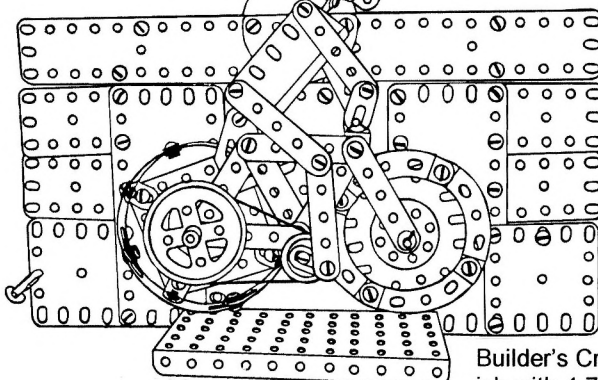
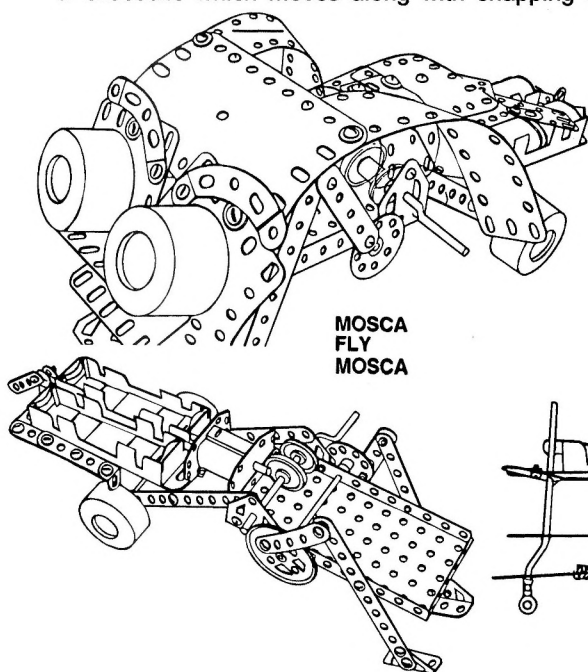


second stage is replaced by a Band drive to a 2" Pulley, as in the Fly below. 10 BRAL models follow, from a Loading Shovel on p13 to a Portable Crane on p16.

Only 12 KITSPOCK models are shown in the **No.4**, from Robot to Crane. The Gears are used in most, usually after a first 'friction' reduction. This is the case for the Robot on the cover with the final drive by Cord from a shaft at the back of the body to a Pulley between the centre Road Wheels. Most of the other models are interesting and original; they include a Crocodile which moves along with snapping top jaw, a

Gondola, and the Cyclist below with a geared drive to the back wheel and thereafter the crank is back driven from it by a Band (with a mountain climbing ratio). The front wheel also has a cord drive (from a 1" on the crank Axle to a ½" Pulley).

The **No.5** has 2 BRAL models on the first, & on the last page (Machine Gun to the model right— I'm not sure what it is). The other 46 MECCANO models start with 1.1



Builder's Crane on p2 & finish with 4.7 Loading Shovel on p39. Their format has already been explained and they are models from the 1970s MECCANO manuals: 2.1 to 5.7 omitting those that are motor driven. It's nice to see them again, one can forget just how good the small MECCANO models of this period were.

**FOOTNOTE** More recently Edmundo has received photos from a friend, Carlos Granja, of the lid & manual cover from a KITSPOCK set, and kindly passed them on. The lid is shown below: it is blue with the name in yellow and under it 'SÉRIE 200' in red. The slogan at the bottom in white, 'O CONSTRUTOR MECÂNICO' (The Mechanical Builder), was also used in the leaflets described in OSN 14. The main Crane has silver (or light grey Strips), with Plates, & AVGs (probably), in yellow. Its load though includes a red Flanged Plate, and some of the parts in the box on the floor are red & green. The inset models of a Triplane, a Tractor, & a detail from a Helicopter, show Plates, Trunnions, & a 2" Pulley in red; silvery Strips & 1" Pulley; a yellow Bush Wheel; and a black Propeller. The 2" Pulley is fitted with a black Tyre, a part not seen in any of the other KITSPOCK material.

The manual cover is almost the same as the lid, but without the yellow circle top left, and with the name in white. Also the inset Tractor model is replaced by a Helicopter.

'Série 200' is presumably the set number but there is nothing anywhere to indicate whether this outfit and its manual came before or after the OSN 14 sets, and the 1-5 manual described above. None of the models in either of the latter are similar to those on the lid or manual cover.



**SNIPPET: STUDIO** Most of a manual cover is shown right. It is pale blue with brown panels, and a boy in a blue shirt is building a model which looks like a Crane made of Strips. An open box of parts with the manual and was



described as an electrical outfit. It contained 2 parts which could be Coils wound with cotton-covered wire, lots of dark grey looking parts (Strips, Brackets, Discs, & a Flanged Plate with centre cutout), and various others including a TRIX Pulley Disc & a TECNIC Quadrant. So a mixed bag and not very useful until other evidence comes to light. A reference to a STUDIO ELEKTRIK is known but with no details, so whether it is this system, or related to it, remains to be seen. *Baukästen* mentions a STUDIO made by an East German firm called Sonni in 1976 but from David Hobson's *Building Toy List*, it had wooden parts.

## SMALL ADS

**For Sale.** Unused, complete **F.A.C. X.1 Universal Construction Kit**, in its original wooden box with 2 handbooks, parts lists, etc. Cost in excess of £125 in 1958 (over 10 weeks wages for me). Buyer to arrange collection. Price £300 or offer. A truly first class bargain. Phone John Jackson, 0208 689 0195.

**For Sale. Set No. 1 Wenebrik.** If interested please contact Ken McCracken, 41 Wemyss St., Sault Ste. Marie, ONTARIO, CANADA; email: rmccracken@hotmail.com. tel: 705-945-5264.

**A CONSTRUÇÕES MECANICAS Manual** Edmundo Veiga also kindly sent a photocopy of the 'No.1 e 2' manual, which was with the Brazilian set shown in 27/806. Apart from the cover below, its pages are a more or less straight copy from a 1930s MÄRKLIN edition. I haven't of course seen such a manual in Portuguese but compared with a 1939 German manual the models, Model Nos., Set Contents, and the Illustrated Parts are virtually the same, except that the name at the top of each page has been changed. The whole MÄRKLIN range is given in the Set Contents & Illustrated Parts even though only Sets 00-2 were produced.



3 pages are probably new, the Intro, a page giving details of CON MEC Sets 00-2 (with exaggerated claims for the models for each set – 750 for the No.2 against (a gener-

ous) 290 for Sets 00-2 actually in the manual), and a page listing linking sets 00A-5A but with no maker specified. Perhaps Irmãos Piacentini were looking towards expanding their range.

Small differences compared with the 1939 MÄRKLIN manual are as follows. **Models** - there are 3 less for Set No.1, including, curiously enough, the Gantry Crane on the front cover. The name 'MÄRKLIN' on one model has been blotted out. **Illustrated Parts** – a picture of a CON MEC manual replaces the MÄRKLIN one and 2 manuals are listed, #70 for Sets 00-0 & #70a for Sets 1-2. The present 'No.1 e 2' manual has No.71A on the cover and, despite the '1 e 2' includes 00-2 models. The 'Transport' parts (see 5/99 or p7e of MÄRKLIN (A) in MCS), dropped from German manuals in the late 1930s, are included. **Basic Constructions** – all the pages have been included except those for Groups B, F, & G (rigid structures & gearing).

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Name: CONSTRUÇÕES MECANICAS No.1 e 2. •Details of maker: Irmãos Piacentini, Rua Indaiá, 163 (Vila Prudente) São Paulo, Brasil. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. •Page size: 250\*172mm deep. •No. of pages: 96+covers. •Language: Portuguese. •Printing: shaded drawings of models. •Page Nos. of Illustrated Parts List & highest PN: 4-9,211c. •Page Nos. of Set Contents & highest PN: 10-11,153a. •Sets covered: 00,0,1,2. •No. of models for each set: 36,94,107,53. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 00: Carro simples,1,13; Guindaste, 36,17. 0: Vagão aberto para mercadorias,101,18; Vagonete elétrico, 194,32. 1:Vagonete,301,33; Trator com reboque,407,63. 2: Escada sobre plataforma com rodas,501,64; Prensa de duas colunas com transmissão á engrenagem,553,93. •Other notes: details from photocopy. Basic Constructions A,C-E are on pp12,94-6. C2-4 are blank.

OSN 29/876

## CONSTRUÇÕES MECANICAS: S1

**A KITSPOCK Set** Finally from Edmundo, photos of a friend's No.4 Set. This is one of the 'New Kitspock' series of sets mentioned in 14/375, and included there is a B&W picture of the same Set, taken from an advertising leaflet. It shows a hinged rather than the sliding lid below, and the

on one side & yellow on the reverse.

- A Semi-circular Plate (in the Flanged Plate) with the 4 extra peripheral holes.
- A yellow 2½" Gear Wheel.
- A pair of silvery 14t Multi-Purpose Gears.



latter has a transparent panel in it, though I'm not sure whether or not it is original. The wording is in Portuguese, English, & Spanish – 335 Parts / Steel Construction Set / With Motor / Batteries Not Included / ? 88 ? (models I expect) / Made in Brazil.

The parts that can be seen in the open box (above, right) are listed below, with notes that add to those in OSN 14.

- A flat Spanner, with no centre hole.
- A 5\*11h Flanged Plate with all its sides flanged.
- The 3\*5h Triangular Plates, blue & yellow – probably blue

- 2 Pinions (above the Spanner).
- A black push-on Road Wheel.
- The red M0-type Motor (its red Battery Box can be seen in one of the models on the lid, and in the panel to its right, with the Motor as well).
- Some bright small parts including a flat-topped Trunnion (close to the left side of the Motor), Brackets, DAS, a Curved Strip, & a Formed Strip. No doubt all these bright parts are BZP.

OSN 29/876

## KITSPOCK: S1

**Snippet. 'New' System: FIFA** The Ebay set was a Nr.1 and was said to be East German. Fig.1 shows most of the open box, Fig.2 the manual cover, and Fig.3 the inside of the lid, with details of the 17 different parts in the set and their quantities. The parts can just about be recognised from the drawings and most can be seen in the box, but the quantities are indecipherable.

The parts look to be made of aluminium, and to have a hole pitch of nearer 10mm than  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", though no dimensions were given. From top to bottom in the lid they are: 3,5,9,13,17h Strips; A/B & D/B; 2 DAS; 3 Screwed Rods; 2 Discs; a Span-driver; a roundheaded Bolt; and a hexagonal Nut. The DAS are made from the 9 & 13h Strips with the lug bend point across the second hole in from the end, leaving 5 & 9 clear holes in the bases. In the box two of the longer ones are joined by their lugs in the top compartment to the left of the 13h Strip. The D/B is probably made from the 5h Strip in a similar way to the DAS.

Were there other parts and sets? No Plates or larger circular parts can be seen in the models on the manual cover, but there is a blue electric motor in the ?Lathe on the table in front of the man.



**FIG.1**

**FIG.2**



**FIG.3**



OSN 42/1265

FIFA: S1

### Snippets. KITSPOCK

Two sets which may be of interest have been seen on Ebay since the last mention of this 1980s Brazilian system in 29/876.

The first is the small set in Figs.1 & 2. From its packaging – the lid & the foam block housing the



**FIG.1**

view – the Screwdriver with a red handle and the Plates fully perforated. With these parts were some red Flexible Plates, 3h wide & up to 25h long, with all their holes elongated – they are not known KITSPOCK parts and could be BRAL. Other foreigners are the 2 grey Pulleys with Rubber Rings in the Set's top recess.

'35' can be seen on the bottom side of the box and might be the number of manual models; but if so it is one more than the 34 in the OSN manual (the 12 'BRAL' models in 26/762 was wrong, it should have been 16).

The lid of the second set (Figs.3 & 4) is completely 'new'. And as all the 5 sets covered in OSN 26 have only four Road Wheels, it isn't one of those. Perhaps the model Armoured Car on the lid denotes an Army theme set, but if so the colour of the parts is surprising. In Fig.4 the inset top right (on the lid) looks to be a booklet of some sort.



**FIG.3**



**FIG.4**

parts – it looks earlier than any of the sets previously mentioned. Also the bright parts are possibly nickelled rather than BZP. The models on the lid are among those for Set 1 in the manual described in 26/762 and from the inventory in that manual (see MCS Sheet X2.4) most of the main parts in the No.1 can be seen in the Fig.2. The large black parts in the top & bottom recesses are push-on plastic Road Wheels. The main parts missing are 3\*5 & 3\*11h Flexible Plates, and a Screwdriver, but these can be seen outside the box in another

OSN 42/1265

KITSPOCK: S2