

**EDITORIAL** All I have to say this time is to point out that on some of the OSN 32 pages the Issue No. before the Page No. was incorrect, with '31' and even '30' instead of '32'. The pages in question were 950, 959, 960, 964, 965, & 970. Sorry about that.

## Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. David Hobson showed me his Type 1 **MERCATOR** (see 29/848) No.3 set. The red box is 307\*405\*25mm with a portrait label like the one in OSN 29, pasted lengthways onto the lid, and a No.3 sticker on the lid apron. The parts were obviously the remains of more than a No.3 (they weighed nearly twice as much as the weight given for the set in the Manual) and the green parts were in both the dark & medium shades mentioned in OSN 29. Nearly all the parts described in OSN 29 were present with only minor differences. Points of interest follow. • Some of the 10.5mm Ø **bosses** were 11.0mm, and vice-versa. The peening had the 4 indents in most cases but in a few instances it was very shallow with no indents. • The **18mm Pulley** (see also 30/876A) was double-tapped but with a different thread on each side. Neither could be recognised but the bores were 2.55 & 2.75mm – if 'DIY' it was neatly done. • The **N&B** were all the brass sort. • The slots in the **A/B** were 7.7 & 7.9mm long o/a. • The **Loose Pulley #109** was as in OSN 29 (it was not mentioned there that it is nickel plated) but its **Rubber Ring** was smaller, 4½mm wide & 36½mm o.d. • The 6 **Collars** were 10.0-10.7mm wide and one was double-tapped. • The **Spring Clip #210** was bright steel, 3mm wide with 4½mm long wings. • The **Spanner** was 98mm long o/a, cranked as in OSN 29 but with both ends angled (as illustrated in OSN 29 – the 'straight end' mentioned there was probably an error). • The **Crank Handles** were 102, 109, & 145mm long o/a. • A **small parts box** in the Set was red steel, 58\*37\*21mm, with a 38\*20mm clear celluloid panel in the lid.

The **Manual** was identical to the one in OSN 29 except that the address of the Bureaux was 73 rue Pierre Decoster, Forest-Bruxelles, and the address of the Usines (works) is also given – 97B rue de Fierlant, Forest-Bruxelles.

A **TRIX**-type dc **Motor** (as Fig.1 in 4/52) with a black painted base was in David's set but the only reference to a motor in the known **MERCATOR** literature is that 2 of the 'Supermodels' on C4 of the Manual are said to be powered by a 'moteur puissant (powerful)'.

### MERCATOR: S7

[33/972]

2. Don Redmond wrote that while 3 of his **STRUCTO** Spider (Bush) Wheels are flush on the face side (as were the parts noted in 15/424) the fourth has a boss projecting out about 3mm. All of course are cast parts.

### STRUCTO: S13

[33/972]

3. Don also mentioned the **1914 handed ERECTOR 12" Girders**, see 32/940, and wondered if those in the set on p51 in *Greenberg* had been packed upside down, thus making them appear to be the opposite hand to the norm.

### ERECTOR [2]: S2

[33/972]

4. Orion DreamDancer has just bought the new, enlarged versions of the **METALLUS** Berlin, the largest standard set, and the Archimedes gear set. He finds them very impressive and he is also impressed with the factory who rapidly replaced some missing/unsatisfactory parts. The only manuals supplied are the old **TEMSI** ones which were of

course for much smaller outfits, but the set contents allow models from the old **MÄRKLIN** manuals to be made. In doing so Orion has had to resort to **MÄRKLIN** & **MECCANO** parts on some occasions though, and he mentioned 3 cases: short Grub Screws, Thin Washers, and the Reversed A/B which has a 5/8" long centre portion in the **METALLUS** version.

### METALLUS: S2

[33/972]

5. **Snippet – A KUKO Lid** The name **KUKO** was mentioned in 20/587, and the lid below, from Ebay, is all I have on it. As can be seen the maker is the East German **VEB Ankerwerk** of Schmalkalen, a town 45km southwest of Erfurt. Presumably the parts are metal, & certainly, from the Screwdriver &

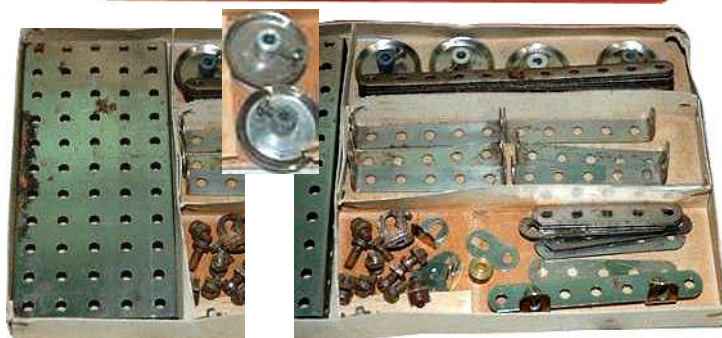


Spanner in the picture, they are joined with **N&B**. The date given in the Ebay announcement was late 1950s.

### KUKO: S1

[33/972]

6. **Snippet – 'New' System: MILO** Two identical boxes of this simple system, German presumably, were offered as one lot and the lid is shown below. The contents varied a little



between them and above the left & right ends of the one that looked the most representative, with inset between a slightly

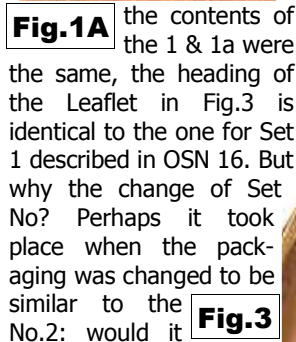


**More MEX** Some details of this 1930s UK system were given in 16/452 and since then some points of interest have come to light, mainly about the packaging. Thank you to Rob Mitchell (Editor of the *Sheffield Meccano Guild Journal*) & David Hobson for their help.

**SET 1.** The parts were in a packet, 162\*115cm (Fig.1) inside the box (Fig.2). The Set No. is shown on the Packet but not on the lid. The words in small letters along the bottom of the packet are 'PRINTED IN BAVARIA' (Fig.1A), and this supports the theory that the parts were made in Germany (despite the 'British Made' claim in the G&T ad mentioned in OSN 16).

**Set 2.** The lid is shown in MCS, and it is very similar to the one in Fig.3 – the only differences are '80 PIECES' by the boy's head, and the text along the bottom: 'EIGHTY PIECES INCLUDING FOUR RUBBER TYRED WHEELS'. Said Wheel is a yellow loose Pulley of about 1" Ø, fitted with black, treaded Tyres of about 1½" o.d. The Pulley is shown with an eyelet boss in an ad, see 19/554, but the examples in a poor photo of a set appear to have no boss of any sort.

**SET 1a.** This set has not been noted before. Fig.3 shows the lid and a corner of what is probably the packet which contained the parts. The 'a' after '1' might indicate a linking set but this seems unlikely since 60 parts are claimed on the lid, the same quantity as in the No.1, whereas there were only 80 in the No.2. Possibly



the contents of the 1 & 1a were the same, the heading of the Leaflet in Fig.3 is identical to the one for Set 1 described in OSN 16. But why the change of Set No? Perhaps it took place when the packaging was changed to be similar to the No.2: would it be too cynical to suggest that it was hoped that the 1a would be bought as a new, different set? Or maybe that the Sets 1a & 2 would be preferred to Trix's two basic sets, numbered 1 & 1a at the time.

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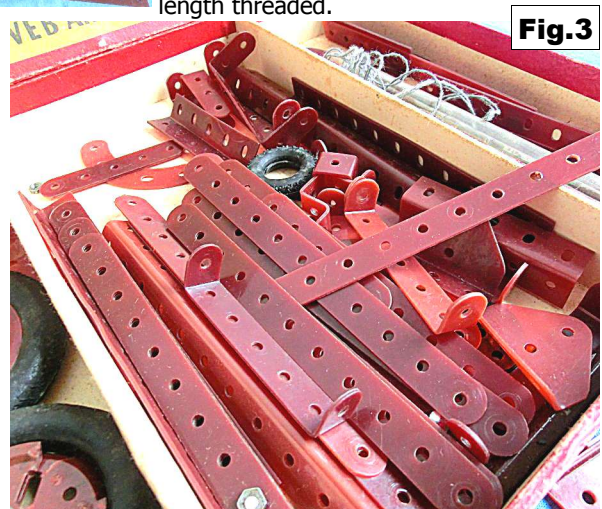
MEX: S1

**Snippets. KUKO** This is about the set right seen on German Ebay. A box lid was shown in 33/972 and it gave the maker as the East German VEB Ankerwerk. The Ebay lid is identical except for the white circular label bottom right with the set number, said to be '1H', on it, though the 'H', if 'H' it be, is too small to be seen in any of the Ebay photos.

A list of the parts that can be seen in all the Ebay photos follows and most of them can be picked out in the snippets shown here. 'Probables' are asterisked. As no indication of size was given diameters etc are given in terms of the hole pitch, 'p'.

The N&B, Axles, bosses, & small fittings look to be steel; the large Pulleys were said to be Bakelite. From their appearance the other parts are most likely plastic.

The parts: • 5 & 11h Strips; 5h Curved Strip.  
• 1\*5\*1 & 2\*5\*2h DAS.  
• 5 & 11h A/Gs.



- A/B. • Reversed A/B.
- D/B\*. • 3h high D/B.
- Trunnion. • Flat ditto\*.
- 5\*5h Flanged Plate. • 8h long Flanged Sector Plate. • 5\*5h Perforated Plate.
- 2¾p Ø Bush Wheel with 4 round & 4 slotted face holes.
- 3p Ø Pulley with Tyre. • 1p Ø Loose Pulley with Tyre\*.
- 2-hole Coupling. • Collar of the same diameter.
- Threaded Pin 2p long with 40% of its length threaded.

- Axles: 2p, 4p, 6p, & longer.
- Cheeseheaded Bolt. • Hexagonal Nut. • Grub Screw.
- Grey Cord.

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KUKO: S2