

**LINX and LYNX, this and that** For anyone unaware of it, LINX was the brand name used by the Bay Manufacturing Company for a few steel parts intended to be used for simple DIY repairs to wooden frameworks and the like; LYNX was a constructional system which started using only the DIY parts, or very similar ones, and grew over the years to have a reasonable range of parts, ultimately nicely made of anodised aluminium. Something of this progression was given in 16/436 and later notes in 19/552 & 35/1061. Various items of interest have since come to hand, mostly relating to the Phase 1 1946 period. My thanks to all who have contributed material.

**Where did it start?** The first 1946 address for the Company was just Morecambe, but, see later, Windsor Terrace, Sefton Road, Morecambe was also used in 1946. Thereafter Sefton Road, or just Morecambe, was used (along with all the non-Morecambe addresses during the early years) with Sefton Road in the last known ad from 1952. So Windsor



**FIG.1**

Terrace, Sefton Road sounded promising as the home of LINX/LYNX and David Hobson has found some interesting references. In those days there were no DIY shops/stores, and LINX would have been an ironmongery item, so was there an ironmonger at Windsor Terrace? Yes, and the photo above is of a shop on the corner of Windsor Terrace and Sefton Road. Its sign reads 'Rogers, Furnishing Ironmonger', and in the original photo 'Sefton Rd' can be seen of the dark end wall. The date of the photo isn't known but Rogers, ironmonger, was listed in the 1947 telephone directory at the Windsor Terrace address. And there is one possible, albeit very tenuous connection with the toy trade because a 1934 directory lists Rogers, F.W. & L. under Fancy Goods & Toys at Main Street., Lower Heysham, a town near Morecambe.

I can't find Windsor Terrace on any of the online street



**FIG.2**

And as it is today.

maps but Fig.2 is a photo from Google's Street View which looks like it – it is now on the corner of Sefton Street and Heysham Road, and no doubt the latter name was adopted as more houses were built along from Windsor Terrace. And the Furnishing Ironmonger whose enterprise may have given us LINX and LYNX is now Dorothys Launderette.

**The LINX Repair Outfits.** The first reference to them in OSN was the Feb. 1946 ad reproduced in 16/436 for 5 outfits priced at 2/-, 2/9, 3/9, 5/- & 15/6, plus refill packets at 6d to 1/-. But David has found a paper packet which has 'Packets 6d to 5/-' on it (right), and so may be earlier. The Diamond, a rather unusual 'OS' part, but well suited for appropriate repairs, is featured.

In an April '46 ad only the largest 15/6 outfit was mentioned (together with the packets of parts price 6d to 1/-, as in February).

Its lid was shown with 'Size 7' on it, and apart from being in B&W, it looks identical to the one below, except that the 'Size 7' line is above the 'Complete Home Outfit'.

An Ebay photo shows a lid identical in design to the one in the April ad above except that the background (in the Fig.4 colours) doesn't have the sunray pattern on it, and it is Size 6 (a size not encountered before) rather than Size 7. It is probably later than the April ad but before Sept. 1947. Later than the April set because a leaflet with it advertised the DIAMOND-, STRIP-, ANGLE-, & BRACKETLINX Packets at 7½d, 10½d, 10½d & 1/-, the slightly higher prices that were given in a Sept. 1947 price list. Earlier than Sept. 1947 because by then Set 6 was a LYNX constructional set and the only Repair outfits were Nos.7 & 8. (No.7 still cost 15/6 so the change from Size 7 to No.7 may not be significant, and in fact none of (the admittedly) few Repair sets seen have 'No.' rather than 'Size' on them.) Also each packet was said to contain 6 parts, or 4 'with Screws', and by Sept. '47 the 'with Screws' option was not offered.

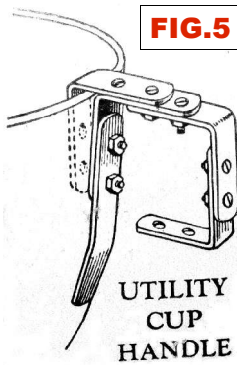
**FIG.4**



The Size 7 lid above is from one of David's sets. Its contents are suspect because they include many 'non-Repair' parts such as Road Wheels, 24h Strips, & 21h A/Gs, and a similar set seen on Ebay has only Packets it it. Its box is formed into 10 compartments by 2 rows of card trays along its length and as seen each contains one 'Linx' packet of parts, as follows: 3 labelled 6 B.A. Nuts & Bolts; 2 Wood Screws; 1 each of Angle Linx; Strip Linx; Bracket Linx; Screwdriver, Bradawl, Spanner;



and one, yellow in colour, with an unreadable name. It is not Diamond though, & this part would be expected in a set of this size. So perhaps there were originally more packets, & the trays would be deep enough for 2 layers. As to date, the prices on the Packets match those in the Sept. '47 list. The inside of the set's lid is covered by an orange label which shows the use of the parts in 'make-do-and-mend' activities. Left one of the more way-out examples (in B&W for clarity) – new crockery was scarce around the end of WW2 and I remember seeing second-hand cups with broken handles being sold on market stalls. The long strip that runs downwards isn't a known LINX part.



**The Construction Sets** Examples from 1946 are few and far between and I have yet to see one of the type shown in a Nov. 1946 ad with a lid label matching the MB 4 manual cover (see 16/437). And perhaps there never were any because the set in question was a No.5 and so probably was one of the '1947' range but before the label & manual cover changed to the MB 6 type (16/438).

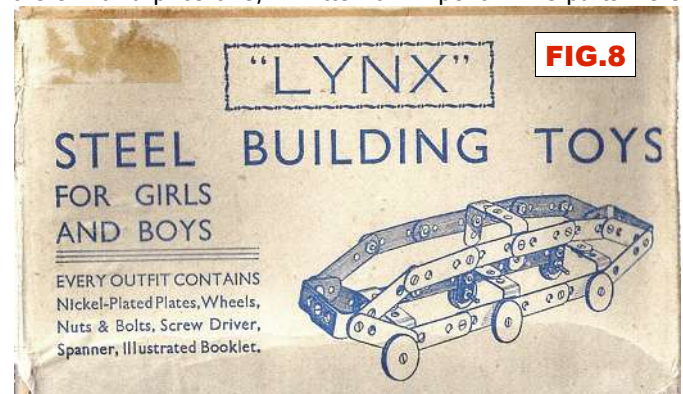
5 sets thought to be from 1946 are an unopened No.2 from Mike Wright, found in Australia; a No.2 belonging to David, identical to Mike's and unopened when found; a No.3, also David's; a possible No.1 seen on the Australian Ebay; and a No.4 from the UK Ebay. In all they may well represent the evolution of the LYNX packaging during 1946.



**The No.2** box, end-opening, is of thin white card 125\*90\*28mm with the label left. Said label is in the style of the LINX Packet shown in 16/436 and extends to seal the ends. As can be seen the end has 'Temporary Pack' printed on it. A label on the bottom of the box shows a Churchill Tank, the model in the first ever Feb. 1946 ad (16/436 & Fig.8), and a Trailer, as in Fig.7, using the same 3 parts. This label also refers to a Special Prize Competition and a leaflet inside the box offered Special Presentation Boxes of LYNX for any model which was chosen to be included 'in our Large New Instruction Book'. Details were to be sent to 'our Prize Dept., The Bay Manufacturing Company, Windsor Terrace, Sefton Road, Morecambe. Inside the box was a loose size, 2 1/2\*4", envelopes with the other parts in them, and some fibre

waste to stop the items moving about. One of the envelopes is an orange LINX packet, with its price '7 1/2d' and name 'DIAMOND LINX' blacked out. The address on it is Victoria Street, Morecambe. Inside it are 5BA N&B with 51 hexagonal Nuts, and RH Bolts: 34x 1/4" & 5x 1/2". The other envelopes are plain manila: one contains 24 Strips with 4 holes at 1/2" pitch; the other 12x 2\*2h A/B, 4x 2h Corner Brackets (5/8" pitch), 4 Diamonds (13/16" pitch), 6x 1" Discs, & a 5BA x 6BA Spanner. All the parts are nickelled except the black Spanner. Also in the box, a 'LYNX MODEL INSTRUCTIONAL FOLDER M.B.2 PRICE 2D', a single sheet, 237\*164mm, folded once to give 4 sides, and then again to fit into the box. It is printed in blue and the front is shown in Fig.7 (in B&W). Inside are 3 small Aircraft, & a Jeep, while on the back is the Tank on the box, but called just CHURCHILL, and a note saying no building instructions are provided because 'the makers want you to use your own imagination'. All the models show the LINX style Strip with the closed-up end holes although this is less noticeable in some of the models, the Trailer for instance. Perhaps a deliberate ambiguity after the 1/2" pitch for the 4h Strip had been introduced.

**The No.3** was in a similar card box but 134\*81\*55mm and it had been opened. Its label below originally extended to seal the ends and 'No.3 LYNX TOY Constructional Outfit' is printed there with a price of 9/2 written on in pencil. The parts were

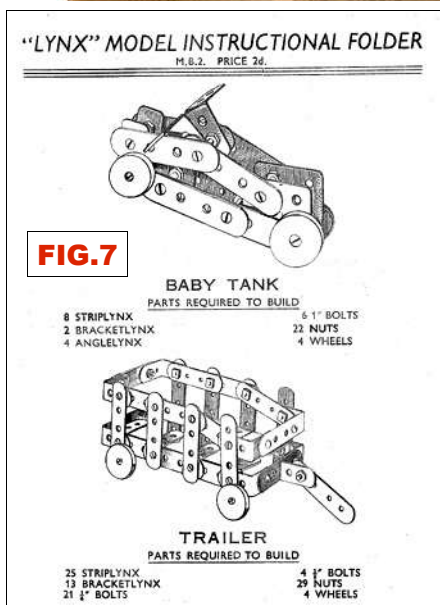


loose inside the box and matched those in the No.2 in dimensions & finish. They comprised 67 Nuts; 54x 1/4" & 10x 1/2" RH Bolts; 30 Strips; 18x 2\*2h A/B, 8x 2h Corner Brackets; 8 Diamonds; 8x 1" Discs; a Screwdriver & a 5BA x 6BA Spanner. Missing were the Model Leaflet or Manual and, no doubt, the parts envelopes.

**The No.4** The centre and top left corner of its 13\*8\*1" lidded red box, below (with the corner of the manual bottom left), has a label of the same design as the No.3, and perhaps



it is the same size too. From the original of the open box over-leaf (Fig.10) and the other Ebay photos, the following quantities of parts seem likely: 38 or 48 Strips (43 are needed for one of the manual models; 24x 2\*2h A/B, 18 (or possibly 14) 2h Corner Brackets; at least 12 Diamonds; 12x 1" Discs; a Screwdriver & a 5BA x 6BA Spanner. Also the orange LINX packet as in the No.2 with the price & name blacked out. It was said to be unopened and to contain 'screws and spring clips', but in the absence of Axles one wonders about the Clips.





One is used in the Set 3 models. • Green Angle Bracket (C – 4). Both holes are oval. • Nickelled Pulley Wheel with boss (R – 4), diameter 1". • Red Bush Wheel (V – 1), diameter 32.5mm, with a 'square' of 8 face holes but with the middle side holes slightly inboard of a line joining the corner holes. None of the holes are at 10mm radius but by design, or chance, the corner holes are at a pitch of 20mm from either of the remote middle holes. All rather strange. • 75mm nickelled Axle (A – 2). Diameter 3.2mm. • 80 mm nickelled Crank Handle (M – 1). • Nickelled Span'driver (C.T – 2). Yellow Trunnion (S – 2) with a 3 hole base & 2 vertical holes. • Nuts & Bolts (B.L – 12) • Rubber Collar (J.C – 4). • Rubber Ring (P – 4) for the Pulley Wheel. • A Card of White Cord, printed METALLO. • A Loaded Sack, printed METALLO in red.

The quality is not very good, and there is some rust on the nickelled parts. However, excepting the Trunnions, the painted and rubber parts are still in good condition.

The **MANUAL** has 8 sheets 21\*27cm, stapled along one side. Everything is printed in both French & Dutch, except the cover (Fig.1), which is only in French. The latter indicates that it is for Set 1 but models for Sets 2 & 3 are also included. 3 pages explain the system's qualities, and one has the Parts List (without mention of the Cord or Sack). Another page announces a model-building competition but unfortunately without a date or the maker's address: models could only be left at stockists.

8 models are shown for Set 1, 6 for Set 2, and 6 for Set 3. All are very simple, but it would be difficult to make better models for such small sets. For each model, the manual gives its name and the necessary parts. No instructions were needed for such simple models. 2 Set 1 models and 2 for Set 3 are shown in Fig.3 at about 70% full-size, with the text rearranged. They are in B&W – the manual's inside pages are actually pale brown.

METALLO [3]: S2

OSN 45/1370

**LINX/LYNX: an early Price List** LINX was the name used for home repair outfits with parts that morphed into the LYNX constructional system, see 43/1321.

A recent Ebay lot consisted of a Size 7 LINX Complete Home Outfit, and with it 2 printed sheets, one a Model Leaflet and the other the Price List below. The List is the main item of

**ALL STEEL PRODUCTS** DECEMBER, 1945.  
THE DAY MANUFACTURING CO., 15 VICTORIA STREET, MORECAMBE, ENGLAND.  
have pleasure in furnishing details of Goods now available for Home or Export.

**OFFICIAL PRICE LIST**  
"LINX" CONSTRUCTIONAL TOYS

No. 1 OUTFIT	- - -	6/1 (5/- plus Tax 1/1)
No. 2 OUTFIT	- - -	12/2 (10/- plus Tax 2/2)
No. 3 OUTFIT	- - -	18/3 (15/- plus Tax 3/3)
No. 4 OUTFIT	- - -	24/4 (20/- plus Tax 4/4)

CARRIAGE PAID ORDERS 6.00Z. LOST

LATEST ADDITIONS:  
RUBEROID AERO WHEELS 50 per  
RED OR BLUE ENAMELLED STRIPLINX 100d per packet of 4

MODEL TANK MODEL TRAILER

"LINX" MODEL INSTRUCTIONAL FOLDER (M.B.2) PRICE 3d.

10 SIMPLE TO USEFUL TWO EXAMPLES

SIMPLIFIES TOYMAKING

CORNERLINX

Fitted Glass Tops Cafe Tables ETC.

The "Linx" Repair & Constructional Plates (Carriage Paid Orders - 10 Grams)

No. 1 REPAIR OUTFIT	7d. each
No. 2 REPAIR OUTFIT	2/9 each
No. 3 REPAIR OUTFIT	3/9 each
No. 4 REPAIR OUTFIT	5/- each
No. 7 REPAIR OUTFIT (Complete)	15/6 each

HOW TO MAKE IT: Series of Instructional Patterns, Price 3d.

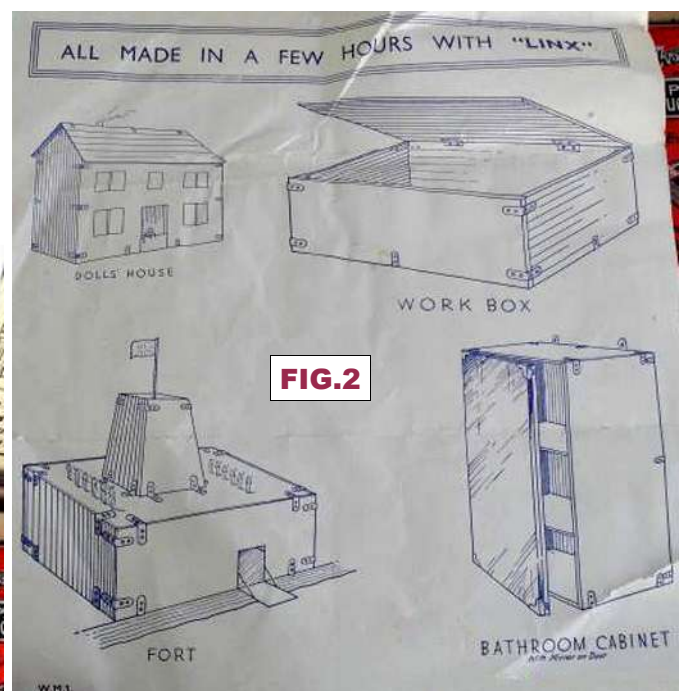
The "Linx" Refill Packets (Carriage Paid Orders - 10 Grams)

Diamondlinx (Nickel-plated)	7d. per pkt. of 4
Angelinx (Nickel-plated)	10d. per pkt. of 4
Striplinx (Nickel-plated)	10d. per pkt. of 4
Bracketlinx (Nickel-plated)	1/- per pkt. of 4
Cornerlinx (Nickel-plated)	1/- per pkt. of 4
Edgelinx (Nickel-plated)	9d. per pkt. of 4
Washers (Nickel-plated)	9d. per pkt. of 4
Wood Screws (Nickel-plated)	6d. per pkt. of 24
1" x 5 B.A. Nuts & Bolts N.P.	1/- per pkt. of 12
1" x 5 B.A. Nuts & Bolts N.P.	1/- per pkt. of 12

TOOLS (Hardened Spring Steel)

Screwdrivers	6d. each
Bradawls	8d. each
Spanners	3d. each

**FIG.1** interest because it is dated (top right) DECEMBER, 1945, and is thus the earliest known reference to LINX/LYNX. The address along the top is 15 Victoria Street, Morecambe. The PR along the bottom is blurry but could be P.L.2. As can be seen LYNX sets are listed as well as LINX and that is a surprise because until now the earliest known reference to these was in Nov. 1946. Two new parts were advertised between the models, a 'Ruberoid [sic] Aero Wheel',



which was no doubt the part later called the Rubber Model Wheel, and Strips enamelled in red or green. Listed under these parts is the 'LYNX Model Instructional Folder M.B.2', see OSN 43, Fig.7.

The LINX sets and parts are in the main as might be expected, except that the Cornerlinx is a part not noted before, or ever seen as far as I know – it is shown being used to hold the glass onto the table top in the Leaflet's bottom left corner. Also I still wonder why the gap between Sets 4 and 7. A Set 6 was noted in OSN 43 but seemed to be from 1946.

The LINX Model Leaflet, W.M.1, is shown above, and Cornerlinx are again used to hold the mirror on the Bathroom Cabinet.

Turning to the Set itself, its lid was identical to the one in Fig.4 of OSN 43 except that the lettering was blue and the background purple on pink. Again the box has Packets in 10 compartments, 17 in all and 3 deep in some of them – and in this set they include a Diamond Linx.

The Set was said to be from 1947 but unfortunately with nothing to justify that date. It would be before the Sept.1947 Price List in OSN 43 because the prices of the Packets are slightly lower (as they were in the OSN 43 outfit), and it could be earlier in as much as the prices match those in the 1945 List.

LYNX: S5

OSN 45/1370