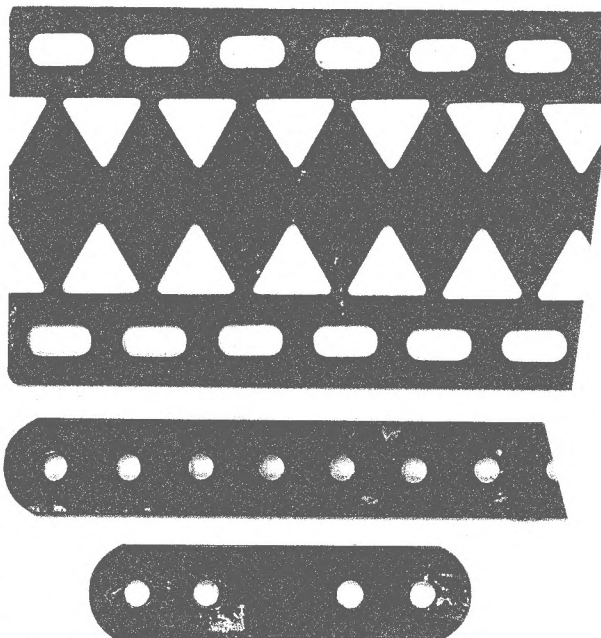


**MYSTERY PART NO 17.** David Martin showed me the Braced Girder opposite, it is 25 holes long and dark red in colour. Over half its length the hole spacing is 12.7mm, the remaining holes have a pitch of about 12.6mm; such irregularities are not unknown in Braced Girders so the nominal spacing may be  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". It looks rather like the BRAL pattern (as shown in MCS) but with the centre diamonds left solid. Its thickness is .026".



**MYSTERY PARTS NO 18.** Mike Edkins once kindly gave me a bag of OS parts; they were mostly LYNX, many of them marked or in their original small packets, but there were also other parts, mostly probably PREMIER. But quite unrecognisable were the two sizes of strips shown opposite, the longer one has 16 equally spaced holes and is 6.1" long overall. The hole spacing is exactly  $\frac{3}{8}$ ". Two of the 2" ones were painted, one red, one blue and the other four were nickel plated; some of the 6" ones were also red, blue or nickel, but some were painted green, some gold and one silver. In general appearance these strips are very similar to LYNX ones:

in width and in thickness they are identical ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " and .050" within a few thou), the LYNX parts are painted green, red or blue, in shades identical to those of the mystery strips, and the general finish of the edges and ends is LYNX-like. Also the distance from the centre of the end hole to the end of the strip is the same, and this means that for the  $\frac{3}{8}$ " pitch parts the end is further from the centre of the end hole than half the hole spacing. The most important difference is that the hole diameter at 3.5mm is noticeably less than the 3.8 of LYNX. One other possible LYNX connection, the LYNX 3-Hole Angle (illustrated in MCS, it's like a 3 hole MECCANO #127) normally has standard diameter holes but the hole spacing is  $\frac{5}{8}$ " instead of the usual LYNX  $\frac{1}{2}$ "; also it's a rather unusual shape with quite small radii at its corners. In with all the other parts was one of them, nickel plated and with the  $\frac{5}{8}$ " spacing, but with 3.5mm countersunk holes. The countersinking was done before the part was plated, and this part could relate to the parallel range of DIY parts that LYNX marketed under the name LINX.

**CONSTRUCTIONAL TOYS - a new booklet from Malcolm Hanson.** Booklet is hardly the word because it consists of some 40 well produced A4 pages, spirally bound, and packed with good, large photocopies of OS material, mostly of manual covers, and easy to read text giving an outline of Wooden, Metal, Plastic, and, briefly, Scientific systems. Where appropriate each of these is sub-divided by method of fixing, and then into chronological order. It was prepared to accompany the recent Exhibition that Malcolm held at the Gloucester Folk Museum (see OSN 5/104), and provides an excellent introduction to Other Systems. Naturally it is not possible to cover everything in 40 pages but all the major Systems are mentioned, except perhaps BRAL which appeared in the early 1920s and is still going strong; and there is mention of a good number of those less well known. I found quite a few facts about these which were new to me, and I am pleased to have this 'booklet' on my OS shelf. It costs only £2 plus post (60p for UK) from Malcolm Hanson, 11 Willow Close, Long Ashton, Bristol BS18 9DT.

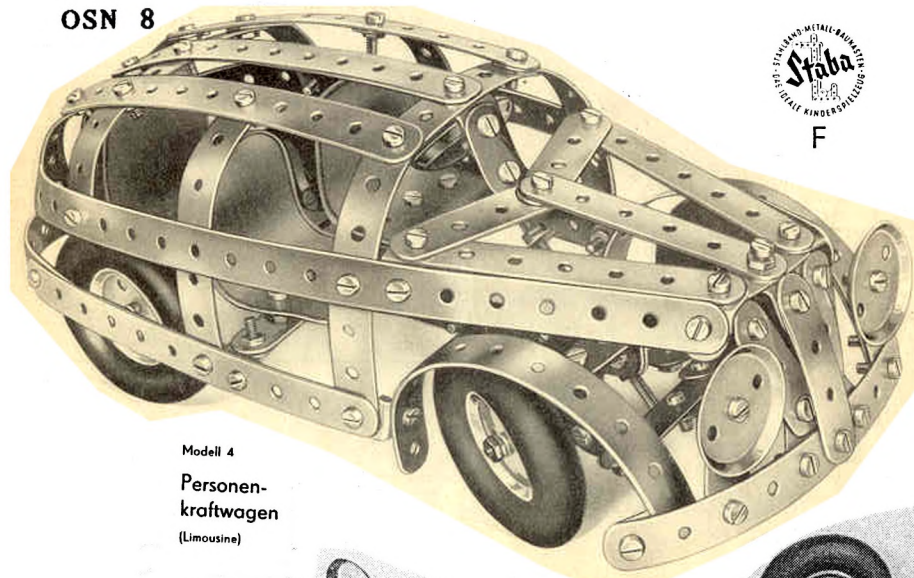
**ORSTA PNEUMATIC SETS.** Following the piece on p132 of the last Issue, Gaston Marette has sent more details of these sets, including the contents of P01 and a leaflet explaining that the last item in the List of Parts on p132 (Kolbenstangenkopf = connecting rod head), which is not shown in the Contents, was a new part not in earlier sets. All the information available on the ORSTA sets is included in Extra MCS Sheets. Gaston also wrote that the holes in the Trunnions in his sets are not as illustrated, and as supplied they can be used with 10mm spacing (CONSTRUCTION say) or 12.7 (MECCANO/MÄRKLIN). The ones in P01 differ from those in P02 and a sketch showing the two patterns is included in the new Sheets.

**EXTRA PAGES FOR MCS:** ORSTA: X1.1,2,3/4/6-3/4/6b,7. [3 Sheets]

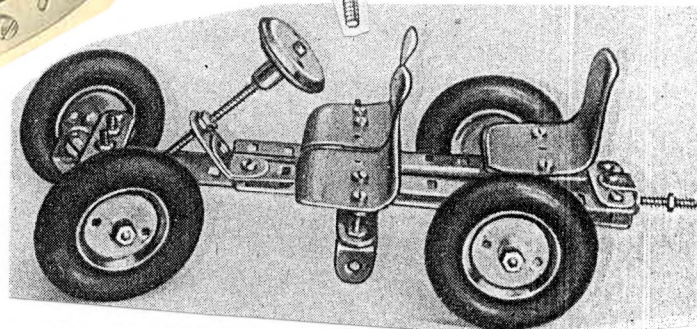
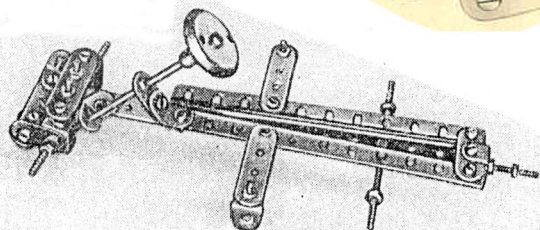
**BILT-E-Z.** Malcolm Hanson has sent more details for MCS, including the range of sets and their contents, from a manual in one of his sets. The smallest set is 0, then comes 00, then A through F. The 0 has 70 parts; the F, 1825 including 425 Windows, and it weighs in at 30lb. Full details as follows:

[cont. >]



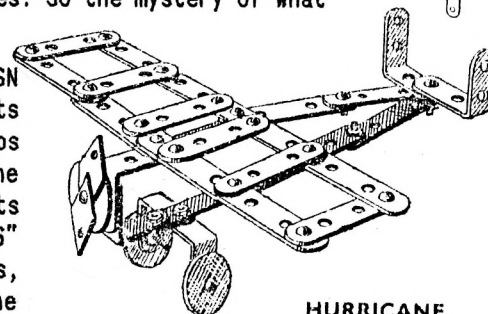
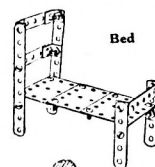


Modell 4

Personen-  
kraftwagen  
(Limousine)

**MYSTERY PART No 1.** Remember that ERECTOR 5x4 hole Plate [OSN 3/47], Brian Johnson kindly sent photocopies of what I take to be a leaflet about it - the cover, with reference Form M973 on it, mentions no specific set, just 'Make Your Own Toys With ERECTOR'; inside are 'A Few Models Made With One Erector Set', and others that need 2 or 3 Sets. I've chosen one [right] that needs 3 of the Plates. So the mystery of what the Set was called remains, if indeed it ever had a name.

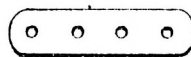
**MYSTERY PARTS NO 18.** Those Strips with 3/8" spaced holes (OSN 7/156) have been identified from a manual and some LYNX parts with it, as being almost certainly LYNX. All the short Strips shown in the manual models (as in the one opposite), are the type with no centre hole, although in the Illustrated Parts List (see below), normal pitch is shown. As can be seen the 6" Strip is also shown with 1/2" spacing but the 12" has 32 holes, that is exactly 3/8" pitch. Both the 6" and 12" Strips with the manual have the 3/8" spacing but the holes in 2" Strips are equispaced, 1/2" apart. Also the 3/8" pitch holes are 3.5mm dia but those at 1/2" are the normal, larger LYNX size. So it looks as if all LYNX Strips may well have originally had the shorter spacing/hole dia, with a gradual change to the later standard. No date is shown in the manual but it's probably soon after WW2, with models of a Sherman Tank and a Dakota (UK name for DC3/C47). Actually whoever put the manual together didn't have much idea about aircraft, the Dakota is shown as a biplane with 4-bladed propellers, it looks more like a Vickers Vimy, and that Hurricane has twin fins and a shoulder wing. There was also a LYNX competition entry form with the manual, closing date Jan 1948.

HURRICANE  
(Model No. 7)

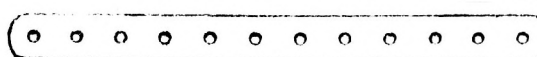
20 2 in. Strips    4 1/2 in. Bolts  
6 Brackets    19 1/2 in. ...  
2 Diamonds    24 Nuts  
3 Washers

Prize-winning model, constructed with  
No. 2 Outfit, by Master T. Fynes,  
Belfast

## "LYNX" PARTS

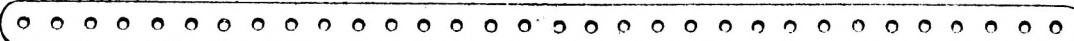


2 in. STRIP No. 21



6 in. STRIP No. 22

12 in. STRIP No. 23



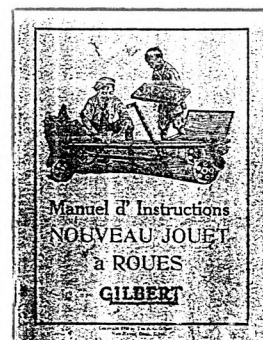
**AN EARLYISH STOKYS No.1 SET.** This Set, more or less complete, included a 0-2 Manual with an earlier cover than one bought about 1972. The Set Contents are the same in the two but the early one does not show such a wide range of parts in the Illustrated Parts section, no large diameter or helical gears for example. The Chimney, #108, (see OSN 3/31) is there though. On the box lid is a label saying 'New, increased contents' so this set was certainly not one of the earliest outfits. Many of the models in the manual are different to those in the later one. The most interesting difference is in the parts, compared to some dating from, again, about 1972. The web of the Strips is .021", much thinner than the .036" of the later parts; many of the Brackets are unfinished aluminium, not anodised; and the (green) Flexible Plates are made of fibre (like the 1934 MECCANO ones), instead of plastic.



by a Grub Screw and engages in one of the 5 large holes in the Wheel's face. The Ski Runner N-16, bolts to the Formed Bearing Bracket N-34, which fits onto the Axle instead of a Wheel. • There are 2 sizes of N&B, the standard ERECTOR 8-32 for most purposes but also 14-20x3/4" Bolts (.242" dia), with square Nuts, to hold some of the metal brackets together. The Grub Screw in N-45 also has this larger thread. • The 2 Gear Wheels appear from the Illustrated Parts to have 13 and 39 teeth, and the larger one has a diameter of some 6". They are used in only one model, the Geared Hand Lever Cart (entitled Expédiateur Engrené but Expédiateur isn't in my dictionary). This model has several points of interest and is included in the new MCS Sheets. • The wooden part shown bottom right of the Ill. Parts has no PN and doesn't seem to be used in any of the models. • The metal parts are probably quite substantial, most of the Strips and Brackets are about 1" wide and look up to 1/8" thick in the illustrations.

FOOTNOTE. Gaston wrote again to say that he has now seen one of these sets in the Toy Museum at Mechlin (Belgium). A model from the set is displayed made up and the remaining parts are in the original wooden box. The basic hole spacing is, as surmised above, 2". In addition he sent a p/c of a page from a book called The Wonderful World of Toys, Games and Dolls, kindly supplied by Mr Marc Wellens of the Museum. This shows the Set on a page from a 1919 Sears Roebuck catalogue under the name GILBERT NEW WHEEL TOY. Since this was no doubt the original name I shall use it as the MCS title. Also Peter McCall has showed me a 1923 GILBERT YEAR BOOK which includes this Set, along with two other smaller Outfits. Full details of these items will be included in the Extra MCS Pages.

SUMMARY OF MANUAL. #Name: NOUVEAU JOUET à ROUES GILBERT. #Details of maker: THE A.C.GILBERT COMPANY, NEW HAVEN, CONN., E.U.d'A. AU CANADA: THE A.C.GILBERT-MENZIES CO., LIMITED, TORONTO, ONT. #Dates &/or Ref Nos: Copyright 1919 on front cover. #Page size: 134x177mm deep. #No of pages: 16 plus covers. #Language: French. #Printing: Line drawings of models. #Page Nos of Parts List & highest PN: 15-16, N 48 (Order No. 2642). #Page Nos of Set Contents & highest PN: None. #Sets covered: One Set only. #No of models: 13. #Name, Model No, Page No of first & last model: Glisseur à Trois Roues, 15, 3. Pelle à Neige, 5, 14. [models are not shown in order of Model Nos; there is no #6, and #15 is also labelled #8]. #Other notes: Details taken from photocopy.



EXTRA PAGES FOR MCS: GILBERT NEW WHEEL TOY: X1.1,2,3,4,5-a,7-a. [4 Sheets]

AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6: NAME: GILBERT NEW WHEEL TOY. TYPE: NM. CY: CA. THREAD: 8-32, 14-20. SPCE: 50.8x. dST: DAXL: . Also on p123 add NOUVEAU JOUET à ROUES GILBERT as Alternative French Name.

#### QUERIES.

14. Malcolm Hanson answered the query about ALCON. He has a Set and the parts are round plastic Strips, thinner than a matchstick, which push into aluminium Couplings of various types, to produce 3-dimensional frameworks.

15. The essence of MOBILO is simplicity, only 3 elements, Rods, Wheels and U Clips; and only 8 different parts altogether, 5 lengths of Rod, the Clip and 2 Wheels. But why 2 Wheels? One is 30mm in diameter and the other is 33mm, not a big difference, and from the material in MCS the diameter appears to be the only difference between them. No question of one with boss and one without; it is possible that only one of them has a pulley groove but then the one without might be thought a luxury in this austere system. So why 2 Wheels?

16. I have a LYNX manual, large format about 15"x8", which has the contents of sets on the inside front cover. Unfortunately half of it is missing and if anyone has it intact please let me know. The smaller LYNX manuals sometimes have a Reference No on the front cover or on the page on which the parts are illustrated. I have ML.1A, MB 4, M.B.6 AND M.B.6A, and I'd be pleased to hear of any others.

#### SMALL ADS.

**WANTED.** MÄRKLIN ELEX parts - Roger Baker, The Walnuts, Ashbury, Nr Swindon. SN6 8LN. (0793) 710358.

**FOR SALE.** TRIX manuals, UK editions including the large format Book of Engineering. Some TRIX cartons with set packets included, and motor carton. Also a few parts in average condition. SAE for details please - Brian Rowe, 23 Courtenay Park, Newton Abbot. Devon. TQ12 2HB. (0626) 52188.

TECNIC WORM. Harry Mariën sent me a photo of a rather smart Chassis he has build using parts from his TECNIC No.9 Set, and the steering mechanism includes a Worm. Seeing it I was reminded that Harry had shown it to me some long time ago and whereas the illustration in MCS shows a conventional worm with a boss at one end, the actual part has tapped bosses at each end.

ITEMS FROM LETTERS.

1. From Roger Baker: "I recently bought a K.W. MASTERBUILDER No.2 Set which was said to be complete, and I was disappointed to find that some parts were missing compared to the Contents List. On then checking I was surprised to find that there were enough parts to make each of the models shown in the manual, and when the parts were packed into the box there seemed no 'spare' holes. It turned out that other, presumably later, No.2 manuals showed contents which corresponded to my set, so there is little doubt that my manual was in error. Does anyone have an illustration showing how this set was originally laid out in its box?"

While writing can I mention the use of rubbers [erasers] for the cleaning and 'light' restoration of parts. I try to do as much of this work as possible dry to avoid using metal polish, which I find smelly, dirty and difficult to remove from inside holes. Ordinary soft pencil rubbers are good for cleaning commutators and similar copper contacts; coarser ink rubbers can be used for polishing harder plated metals. For stubborn stains the carborundum rubbers used for cleaning model railway track are excellent as they will polish nickel for instance, without taking off the plating. A bonus is that as well as removing surface rust they will polish the steel a little giving an acceptable appearance without destroying authenticity. Be careful however the coarser type can scratch the surface somewhat."

And from a later letter: "I recently bought a small clockwork motor - there were no identification marks on it but from its colours (similar to current MÄRKLIN red and green) and the small illustration in MCS, I am sure it is a No.650 MÄRKLIN MARBI. As can be seen in MCS it is slightly larger than a Magic Motor and appears more akin to a scaled down MECCANO No.1. The side plates though are the same distance apart as a No.2, even though it's non-reversing, and it's quite a powerful motor."

Two points on the TRIX article in OSN 7. I have a 2nd Edition TRICY TRIX manual dated July 1955 on the inside front cover, which seems otherwise much the same as the one described. I also own a boxed No.2161 motor with Instruction Leaflet also numbered 2161; it is similar to the 2060 in OSN 7 except that the armature is shrouded. It's in a gold colour with green field coil poles." [This confirms the layout of the 2161 given in OSN 4/52.]

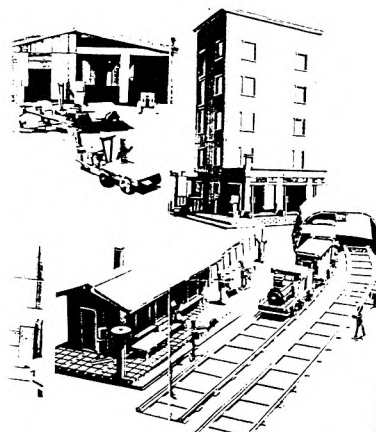
2. Ed Barclay noted that the PRIMUS Gear Wheel he owns has 59 teeth, an unusual (prime) number, but useful to give a  $29\frac{1}{2}:1$  ratio for moon phases of clocks. Also that the teeth are cut like those used in clocks. [W.Butcher & Sons who made PRIMUS were camera makers but didn't make clocks so far as is known. Of 4 Gears to hand, 3 have 56 teeth and one, which came with some CHASSIS parts has 59. Its o/d is the same as the others.]

3. From Peter Kessler: "According to David Grey of Capetown JEP is no longer on the market, a pity, the Army set was just that much better than the Liverpool or French versions."

4. Valerie Young wrote that at one time LYNX Sets were made near her at Woburn Sands and the Instruction Leaflet for a 1A Set she owns bears the legend: 'Sole Manufacturers, The Bay Manufacturing Company, Station Road, Woburn Sands, Nr. Bletchley, Bucks, England. Also of Morecombe, Lancs., and Glasgow.' Valerie also sent some details of a CONSTRUCTO set (called PLEASURE BEACH in MCS), which I hope to include in the next Issue, and mentioned that she once saw an electrical set of the same brand, and it contained a coil among the other parts.

5. From Thomas Keel via Peter Kessler, photocopies of a Swiss TECTO brochure, from the 1940s perhaps, showing Sets A to F, and about 50 wooden parts with tongue and groove joints. Attractive looking models but as space is short just the much reduced illustration right; if you would like more details please ask.

6. Don Redmond sent a correction to his Sector Plate Classification in OSN 8/158. Under B.3(a) Premier is misspelt, and under Aluminium '6x5' needs to be inserted between 'A.2(a)' and 'holes'. And speaking of some STRUCTOMODE parts found in a mixed lot he says: "Pairs of 5.5 and 12.5in. characteristic Braced Girders were what enabled me to recognise it; other recognition features are the large radius strip ends, and for DAS, the end (bent tip) holes are very close to the ends of the strip. Also included were green painted aluminium plates 8.5x 4.375in., with edges raised 1/8in., and two slots 1/2in. long at one end with two little bent tabs at the other. These it is said, are bridge deck panels although no such part is shown in MCS."



7. Derek Moore recalls Matchbox Sets being sold by Woolworths in 1938 when he was 12. His recollection is of the parts being held together by 'wheels' pushed on dowels of about 1/8" dia. The overall size of the box was a probably a little larger all round than a normal, small matchbox. He also remembers



**An incomplete History of LYNX** LYNX was a small system with at most about 50 parts, but after MECCANO, VOGUE and TRIX, it is probably the most commonly found metal system in the UK. It was made by The Bay Manufacturing Co. (henceforth TBMC), and seems to have appeared soon after WW2. It lasted until perhaps the mid 1950s, but in that time the parts and their finish varied considerably, starting with a handful of steel DIY fittings used to make models, and finishing with a range of quite well made anodised aluminium parts, some of them rather unusual. There are many gaps in the details available but following David Hobson's recent hunt through all the issues of *Games & Toys*, I'm going to try to provide a framework in which to fit later information. LYNX names for the parts are unusual and sometimes not very descriptive, so I'll use adapted MECCANO ones and illustrate the parts as necessary. To keep this piece to a reasonable size I've had to omit many of the arguments supporting the assumptions and deductions I've had to make, but I will be happy to debate points arising.

**PHASE 1, 1946, the DIY & 3/8" Pitch Parts, Sets 1-4** It has been suggested that LYNX appeared before WW2 but I've no evidence for this and all known documents certainly date from after the war. The first reference is the ad below which appeared in the Feb. 1946 G&T, but it is possible that sets or packets of parts were available for Xmas 1945. The date of the application for the patent mentioned in the ad has not yet been traced, and the patent most likely related to the use of the parts for DIY repairs.

**Don't NAIL IT AND SPLIT IT** *The Linx* **USE "LINX" AND NEATLY FIT IT.**  
PAT. APPLIED FOR

**REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTIONAL PLATES**

**HOUSEHOLD REPAIR OUTFITS** containing Plates, Screws, Screwdriver, etc.  
2/-, 2/9, 3/9, 5/-, 12/6

REFILL PACKETS, Diamonds, Angles, Strips, Brackets, Washers, Wood Screws, Nuts and Bolts, 6d. to 1/-.

**CONSTRUCTIONAL TOY OUTFITS**

**12/2** Inc. Tax  
—  
MODEL TANK illus.

Goods supplied through Traders only.  
HOME OR EXPORT

**BAY MANUFACTURING CO.**  
MORECAMBE  
TRADE ENQUIRIES INVITED

outside holes 1 1/2" apart. The 2\*2h Angle Bracket (called Bracket) was made from the 2" Strip, and the Angle is a 3h Corner Bracket (like a short Bell Crank) with the holes at 5/8" pitch. The holes in the Diamond are at about 1 3/16" centres and the part can be seen behind the name in the ad. These were the basic LINX parts and the holes in them are about 3.5mm Ø, smaller than the normal LYNX 3.8 to 4.0mm. They were nickel plated and sometimes the holes were countersunk (before plating) to take a wood screw.

It can be supposed that someone, perhaps a Meccano-man, saw that these parts could be used as the elements of a constructional toy. In the MB 4 manual (described later) every model except a large 'Special' Tower Bridge, but including an aircraft of 18" span, is made with only these parts plus 1" Discs used as wheels (perhaps the Washer of the advert).

In April the Size 7 Steel Repair Outfit was advertised, price 15/6, with 'Handy Refill Packets' at 6d. or 1/-. All the small parts were sold in packets and a list of them at a much later but unknown date is shown in MCS/FB. Most found are labelled LYNX but some LINX packets turn up and they are not confined to the DIY parts. For example packets of 2" Axles, and of Crank Handles, are known.

If this seems strange, so perhaps is advertising DIY parts

in G&T, and it's been mooted that the makers might have been suggesting an alternative use for their repair parts because the tax on them was less than that on toys. Another possible factor was that at the time it may have been easier to get steel allocated for repair articles than to make toys, and perhaps that tempted TBMC to try to increase trade by tapping into the toy market in a quiet way.

Two examples of the packets are shown below. They are about 4\*2 1/2" and packets of N&B are often found in sets. There was even a set which as a temporary measure, was made up entirely of packets.

**Don't NAIL IT AND SPLIT IT** *The Linx* **USE "LINX" AND NEATLY FIT IT.**  
PAT. APPLIED FOR

**REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTIONAL PLATES**

*For Every Purpose*

HEAT HOUSEHOLD & GARDEN REPAIRS      SIMPLIFIES TOY MAKING

CONTENTS: **AXLE RODS**

KEEP A PACKET HANDY

**BAY MANUFACTURING CO.,**

**Lyxx**  
STEEL constructional TOYS

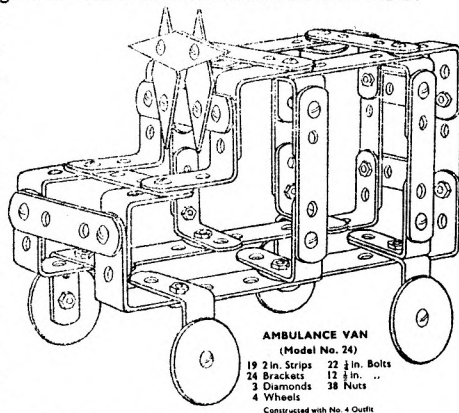
**CONTENTS**  
**2-HOLE BRACKETS**  
NICKEL PLATED

INDIVIDUAL PARTS PACKET

In June the G&T ad said that Messrs. Val Green & Co. of 18 Oak Lane, Bradford were sole agent for LYNX in the British Isles. Spares were also offered, 'in red, green, blue, gold or silver enamel finish': 6 & 12" Strips, Flanged Plates, Axles, Crank Handles. The Strips had the small sized holes at 3/8" spacing, and early ones were nickel plated. The Flanged Plate was the 4\*7h type (but measured 2 3/8\*3 3/4" overall), with round holes in the 4 flanges, and all known examples have normal size holes.

Strips with 1/2" spacing were introduced towards the end of 1946, but 2" Strips with 1/2" pitch and longer ones with 3/8" are found in sets and manuals of the time. The Illustrated Parts in the latter also shows the push-on 1 1/4" Ø Rubber Wheel and 1 1/8" Rubber Pulley. 5BA and 6BA RH Screws, both in the 3 LYNX lengths of 1/4, 1/2 & 1", and both with hex Nuts, were used; some were plain steel, some nickel, and some brass. Perhaps 6 BA was the original size to match the small holes, or perhaps it was a question of what was available at the time. However the 5 & 6BA Nuts do fit the 2 different ends of the LYNX Spanner, which was never changed, even though 6BA N&B are not found in later sets.

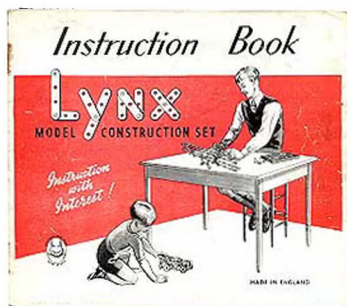
The MB 4 manual covered the Sets 1-4 by then available, and the 2 boys on the cover are playing with models from the manual - the 18" Biplane on the table & the Sports Car on the floor. As mentioned earlier, the models for the sets are made from



the DIY parts with the 3/8" pitch 2" Strips. A No.4 model is shown above. None of the longer Strips are used in any of them but a note on the inside front cover suggested they could make the models larger and more interesting. The 'Special' model of Tower Bridge is made of 2, 6 & 12" Strips, all of 1/2" pitch.

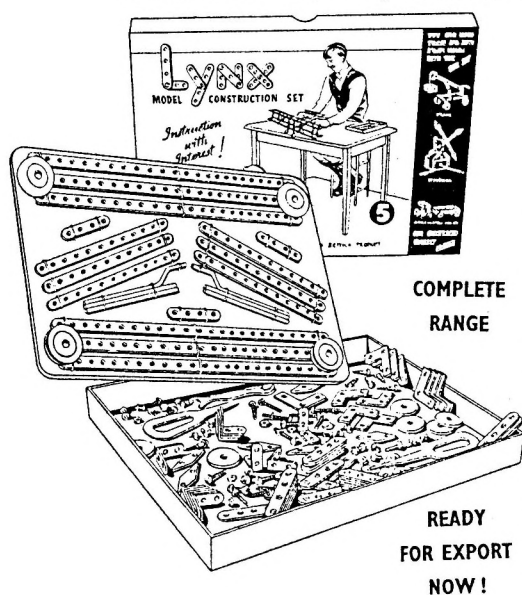


**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Name: LYNX •Details of maker: Bay Manufacturing Company, Morecambe, England, •Dates &/or Ref Nos: (MB 4) on p14. •Page size: 177\*153mm deep. •No. of pages: 16 inc



covers, unnumbered. •Language: English. •Printing: line drgs of models, blue on buff; cover red & black on white, with a Biplane on the table. •Page Nos. of Parts List & highest PN: 14,41. •No Set Contents: •Sets covered: 1,2,3,4. •No. of models for each set: 3,15, 2,3. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 1: GLIDER,1,3; SPITFIRE,8,5. 2: SIGNAL,3,3; HORSE AND CART,19,10. 3: SHERMAN TANK,20,11; TRAILER,22,11. 4: SWING BOAT,21,11; AMBULANCE VAN,24,12. •Other notes: a 7ft model of TOWER BRIDGE (Model 16) is shown on pp8-9, & a DAKOTA (Model 25), for Set 4 + extra parts, on p13.

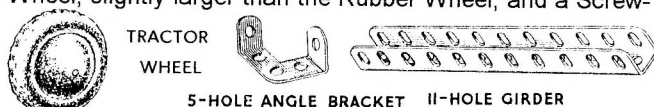
**PHASE 2, 1947-1948+, ½" Pitch Holes, Sets 1A-4A, 5 & 6.** In the November 1946 G&T there was an illustration of a No.5 set (below) with all ½" spaced parts. The box



lid is typical of this period with several models on the blue side panel and the 2 boys with models as on the MB 4 cover. Probably this new set and the No.6 were available for Xmas 1946 and perhaps the 1A to 4A outfits replaced the 1-4 at the same time. The 'A' sets may have marked the end of the ¾" pitch Strips, and they had a wider range of parts, with some of them coloured.

In a Feb. 1947 ad the address of TBMC, which had been just Morecambe previously, was Station Road, Woburn Sands, Near Bletchley, Bucks. Another address was given in a Competition Leaflet - entries had to be sent to TBMC, 171 Great Portland St., London W.1 before Jan. 31, 1948.

At the top of a Sept. 1947 Price List (ref. H.T.L. 105) are the logos of both LINX and LYNX, with the London address given above, and the Northern Office at Sefton Road, Morecambe, Lancs. LYNX constructional sets 1A,2A,3A,4A, 5 & 6 are listed, and Repair Outfits 7 & 8. For each the price and box size is given. All the Spare Parts are listed and these are as MCS pages 3/4 & 3/4a except that 12 & 24h Strips are not included. New parts include 2,3,5,11,21h Strips; 11 & 21h Angle and Channel Girders; 1\*1h Angle & 1\*1\*1h Double Brackets; a 5h Bell Crank, and this part with turned up ends (Angled Bell Crank); a Rubber Tractor Wheel, slightly larger than the Rubber Wheel; and a Screw-



driver with a Bakelite handle. 2 Flanged Plates are listed, enamelled at 1/6 and nickel at 9d, and the latter may have been the commonly found tin plated 4\*7h, and the other the later 5\*7h (2 9/16\*3 3/16" overall) which had slotted holes in its 4 flanges, and was always enamelled. Edgelinx and Cornerlinx are also in the List, and were probably DIY parts of some sort.

No sets larger than the 3A have been seen from this

Phase, and not many of the new parts found there way into the smaller outfits. In particular 6 & 12" Strips were retained despite not being in the 1947 List, and no sets are known which contain the 11 or 21-hole variety. Another part not in the '47 List is a steel 1" Pulleys (with a dull metallic finish) that is found in some sets. Most parts in the sets are still nickel though Flanged Plates are either green, blue or tin plated, some 6" Strips are red, green or blue, some 2\*2 Angle Brackets red or green, and Discs are often red. Sets 2A & 3A are packed in blue boxes 8\*6 1/2\*1", divided into 5 compartments by card trays. Probably the No.1 box was 8\*4 1/4", while those for the larger sets were 13\*8". Lids are similar to the one in the Nov. 1946 ad. A Competition Leaflet with a closing date of 31 Jan. 1949 is sometimes found in 1948 sets: it is the earlier one overprinted with the new date and the new St. John's Road, Woking address.

The model leaflet from a 1947 No.1A set (ref. ML. 1A), is a single sheet folded in two, with the TBMC Woburn Sands address and 'Also at Morecambe, Lancs., and Glasgow'. The front is similar in design to the MB 4 above but the 1A models are completely different. They use 2 & 6" Strips and several have to be screwed to wooden bases (not provided). None can be pushed along on wheels, although Discs are used in several models. The usual details follow but from this Summary on, only changes will be included.

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Name LYNX Outfit No. 1A. •Details of maker: The Bay Manufacturing Company, Station Road, Woburn Sands, Nr. Bletchley, Bucks, England. Also at Morecambe, Lancs., and Glasgow. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: ML. 1A on front. •Page size: 186\*156mm deep. •No. of pages: 4 unnumbered [1 sheet folded in two]. •Printing: dark blue on buff. [No Parts List/Set Contents] •Sets covered: 1A. •No. of models: 8. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model: SWING,100a,2; SIGNAL,107a,3. •Other notes: none.

The Leaflet above is from early in 1947 and no equivalent manual for larger sets of that time has been found. By 1948 many changes had been made, and the M.B. 6A manual of that time is described below. It has the new Woking address, and there are different boys on the cover (and on the label on the sets), and different models too - with the Twin-Engined Airliner on the table and the Gantry Crane on the floor. The cover is white with red as before, but with the black replaced by dark blue. The Illustrated Parts are shown on pages 3/4 and 3/4a in MCS and are those in the 1947 List except that the 12 & 24h Strips were included. Both types of Flanged Plates are illustrated.

Models for the different sets were grouped into separate sections, although for some reason those for Sets 4A & 5 were all in one section, and one 4A model came after the No.5's. Compared to MB 4 all the models are new and the wooden blocks in the ML 1A have been replaced by the new 5\*7h Flanged Plate. Models are still made with 2", 6" & 12" Strips and the original Brackets, but Rubber Wheels or Pulleys are often used instead of Discs. 4\*7h Flanged Plates are used in the 7 quite large Special models, and those for Sets 3A & 6. There are photos of all those models while the others are still line drawings. It is explained in the Introduction that the models which need 12 & 24h Strips can be made with the 11 & 21h variety if they are in your set, 'without affecting the basic design'. In case any whinging lad thought that in some cases that might be stretching a point somewhat, it goes on to say, 'never forget that the skill of the greatest engineers of all time, commenced with early ingenuity to overcome obstacles by improvisation'. All the models are quite fair really, essentially simple but mostly with good lines. The largest No.6 model needs 130 N&B. The Special models require extra parts, often a great many, and the largest is the 8' 3" long Forth Bridge which needs 430 N&B. In fact there was a special set produced with enough parts in it to make this one model. They were all nickel and it may have dated from early 1947. [Cont. >>]

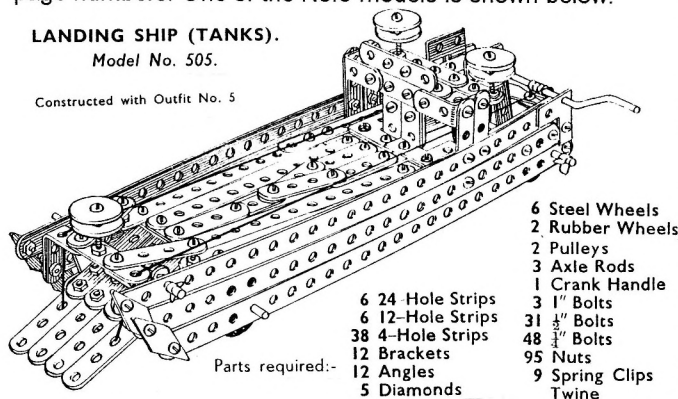


A less common manual from this period is the M.B. 6: it is virtually the same as the 6A except that it doesn't have page numbers. One of the No.5 models is shown below.

#### LANDING SHIP (TANKS).

Model No. 505.

Constructed with Outfit No. 5



Parts required:-

- 6 Steel Wheels
- 2 Rubber Wheels
- 2 Pulleys
- 3 Axle Rods
- 1 Crank Handle
- 3 1" Bolts
- 31 1/2" Bolts
- 48 3/4" Bolts
- 95 Nuts
- 9 Spring Clips
- Twine
- 6 24-Hole Strips
- 6 12-Hole Strips
- 38 4-Hole Strips
- 12 Brackets
- 12 Angles
- 5 Diamonds

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Details of maker: The Bay Manufacturing Company, St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey. Also of Morecambe, Lancs., and Glasgow. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: M.B. 6A on FC. •Page

size: 185\*162mm deep. •No. of pages: 32 plus outer covers. •Printing: line drgs of models, but photos for Sets 3A,6 & Specials, all blue on white; cover blue & red on white, with Airliner on table. •Page Nos. of Illustrated Parts: 29,30 [no PNs] •[No Set Contents] •Sets covered: 1A-4A,5,6. •No. of models for each set: 8,12,5,6,6,6.

•Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 1A: SWING,100a,2; SIGNAL, 107a,3. 2A: AERIAL ROPEWAY,200a,6; AUTOGYRO, 211a,8. 3A: SIDE-TIP TRUCK,301a,9; AUTOMATIC STACKER,305a,10. 4A: ARTICULATED LORRY,400a,11; JIB CRANE, 405a,22. 5: "TYPHOON" FIGHTER PLANE, 500,17; LANDING SHIP (TANKS),505,21. 6: AERIAL ROPEWAY,601,23; SWING BRIDGE,605,27. •Other notes: •Also 7 Special models on pp4,5,14-16,19, 20. •A manual M.B. 6 is identical except that there are no page numbers and the references to pages on p11 of M.B. 6A are not given.

**PHASE 3, Large Boxes & Manuals** There were at least 3 later developments after Phase 2, but the only other known date is a small display ad from Lynx Ltd., Morecambe, that ran in G&T from Feb to Dec 1952, and invited dealers to become the sole retail agents in a district for Lynx Steel Construction Sets. All that is sure is that this must have been after the start of Phase 3, when the maker was still TBMC, and before the aluminium sets of Phase 5.

Phase 3 saw a new range of sets, 1 to 6 (with no 'A' numbers). They were in new, much larger red boxes, measuring about 15 1/2\*8 1/2", with labels on the lid quite similar to the previous ones but without the blue panel and the models in it. Strangely the labels on some sets are the early 1946 type with the original boys and the early models which were no longer in the manual. The sets had some parts that hadn't been included before, and some entirely new ones, all attractively strung on yellow backing cards. There was also a larger manual with pages 14 3/4\*8 1/4" deep, but with only a few new models, and those not for the sets. The maker shown on a later manual of this period, otherwise identical, was Lynx (Morecambe) Ltd., and the differences in the make up of the Sets 2,3,4 & 5 that have been examined, make it possible that this Phase ought to be subdivided.

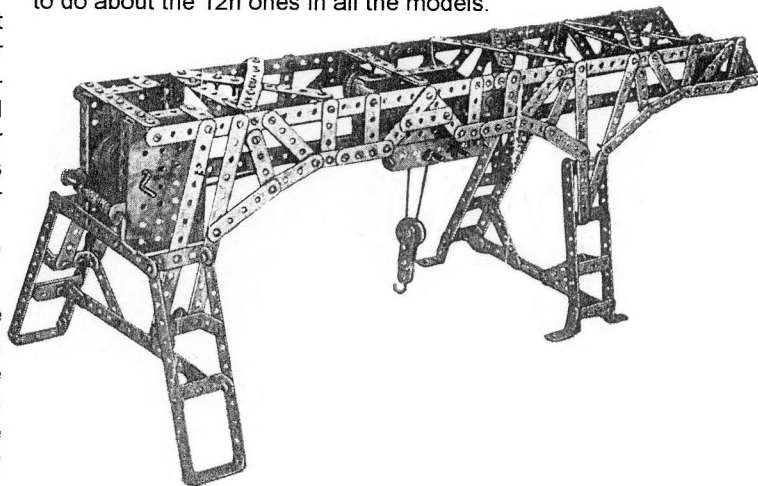
The Illustrated Parts are on pages 4 & 15: p4 is MCS p3/4a (except that the Tractor Wheel is now called Balloon Wheel), and p15 is the /FB pp3/4c & 3/4d. p15 includes many of the parts on p4 again, but there are some new ones. Another Balloon Wheel, 1 1/2" Ø, was made from the usual 2 steel pressings, painted a glossy black. The Girder Plate was the Channel Girder before its sides were formed

and was available in lengths of 3,5,7,9 & 21h. Both the Plate and the Girder were usually red and often made of aluminium. The Slotted Wheel was 2 1/2" Ø and a pair bolted together made a Pulley. It was made of aluminium including the boss, and painted red. The Large Gear had 28 teeth;

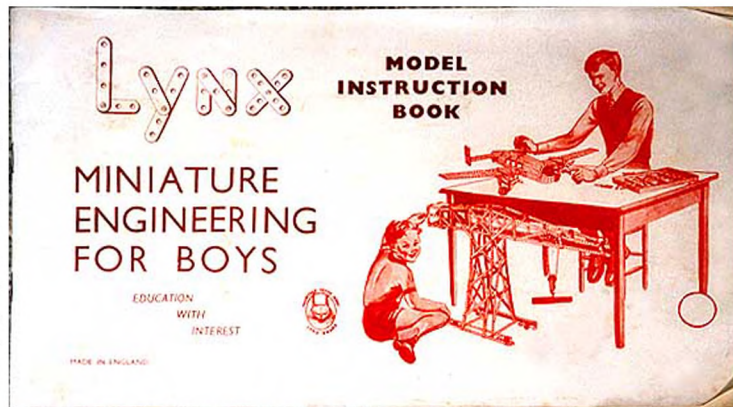


a small one from this period hasn't been seen but several examples are known of a Pulley, .97" o.d., which has 17 teeth at the bottom of the pulley vee, and meshes with the Large Gear at 1" centres. Both are in red painted aluminium. The red used on aluminium parts, and some steel ones, was a flat, slightly pink shade. The normal 1" Pulley was new to the manual but has already been mentioned, though it was now either made of shiny aluminium with LYNX and MADE IN ENGLAND stamped on both sides, or had an aluminium boss and was painted black. The Disc of this time was nickelled and had the outline of 4 spokes and a rim impressed on both sides. One part found in sets but not in any manual is the Flat Base Plate, which is the 5\*7h Flanged Plate before flanging.

The manual is described below and the cover includes the table as before with the 'new' boys and models, and a new slogan, Miniature Engineering for Boys. The 16 un-numbered pages show the Special models and those for the sets unchanged, with the same size illustrations. Which models were for which sets isn't stated clearly but has to be deduced from the Model Nos., and one No.4 model is now only shown on the back cover, and has no title or Parts List. There are a few extra models: the Crane below, again on the back cover; and 5 on p14, numbered N.701, AN.702 to AN.705, which are quite small and not particularly exciting. None of these were newly designed because they used 12 & 24h Strips and 4\*7h Flanged Plates. There's a note at the front of the manual suggesting that 24h Strips could be made up by attaching a 4h to a 21h, but no mention of what to do about the 12h ones in all the models.



**MANUAL SUMMARY** •Details of maker: THE BAY MANUFACTURING





COMPANY, MORECAMBE, ENGLAND. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. •Page size: 373\*208mm deep. •No. of pages: 16 inc covers, unnumbered. •Printing: models as M.B. 6A but brown on white; cover red on white but brown lettering. •Page Nos. of Parts List: 6,15 [no PNs] •Sets covered: 1-6. •No. of models for each set: 8,12,5,5,6,6. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 1: ALPHABET LETTERS,101,7; CRANE,108,7. 2: AERIAL ROPEWAY,201,8; AUTOGYRO,212,8. 3: SIDE-TIP TRUCK,301,9; AUTOMATIC STACKER,305,9. 4: ARTICULATED LORRY 402,10; FIRE-ENGINE,405,10. 5: "TYPHOON" FIGHTER PLANE,501,11; SHIPYARD CRANE,506,11. 6: AUTOMATIC TIPPER,601,12; SWING BRIDGE,606,13. •Other notes: • Also 7 Special models on pp3-6, & 5 other models N.701-AN.705 on p14. • A loading crane and the ex 4A Jib Crane are on the back cover, untitled. • Another manual is identical except the maker is Lynx (Morecambe) Ltd., Morecambe; and another (from Phase 4) is printed in red throughout, has page numbers, the models are for sets 1-3 & 5-7, the Contents of sets 1-7 are given on the IFC (but those for 1-5 are missing, torn off), the extra models are numbered N.801-AN.805, and the maker is Lynx (Toys) Ltd., Morecambe.

The contents of the sets are only progressive in a general way, with considerable variation in the selection of parts provided over and above the core content needed to make the manual models. To give just 2 examples, there are some 2h Strips in a No.2, and some 5h in a No.3, but none of either in Nos.4 & 5; and there is no pattern to the different lengths of the one or two Channel Girders and/or Girder Plates in the different sets. Other 'new' parts included Double Brackets, 1\*3\*1 DAS, metal Balloon Wheels, 5\*7h Flanged Plates, a Flat Base Plate in some sets, and Slotted Wheels in the No.5. A No.6 hasn't been seen.

On the 'core' parts, 11h Strips replace the 12h but most sets have 24h, though some have both 21 & 24h. There are insufficient parts in the sets to make all of the appropriate manual models, and the most glaring omission is the complete absence of the 3h Corner Bracket, a part difficult to replace in many cases.

The colours of some of the parts have already been mentioned. The predominant colours of the sets are red and green, with no blue parts. 11-24h Strips are red or green; shorter ones and the 2\*2 Angle Brackets, red or nickel. Other Brackets and DAS are nickel. The Flanged Plate is always green, except that in the No.5 it is made of aluminium anodised a copper colour.

The No.5 was from late in Phase 3 and the N&B are in a cream card box, about 3\*2½", instead of the usual packets.

**PHASE 4, Sets No.1-7** The second variant noted in the Manual Summary above, with Lynx (Toys) Ltd., Morecambe on the back cover as the maker, is all that is known of this phase. The minor differences to the manual are that it is printed in red on white throughout, the pages are numbered, the groups of models for the different sets are identified by an outfit number, and the back cover contains panels for the owner to record personal details and models built.

The major change is that although the models are identical, the ones that were for Set 1-6 are now shown for Sets 1-3 and 5-7, with no models for Set 4. It can't be certain that a Set 4 existed but the heading on the incomplete (torn) inside front cover, which shows the Set Contents (another change) is '.....OUTFITS, 1 to 7'. Only the Contents for Sets 6 & 7 are left but this does allow a check as to whether the No.6 was different in this Phase, rather than being just a renumbered No.5. In fact there is only a broad similarity, with the new No.6 having fewer Strips, more and different types of Brackets, more but shorter Girder Plates and Channel Girders, etc., etc. Among the Brackets were 12 of the 3h Corner Brackets which are needed for the manual models and which were absent from all the Phase 3 sets.

The No.7 contains all the parts in the No.6, except 4x3h Girder Plates, and in all 192 parts plus 120 N&B, against 141 and 90 for the No.6. A few 'new' parts are included with

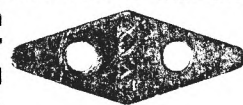
1 each of the Gears, and 2 of the Angled Bell Cranks.

**PHASE 5, Aluminium Parts** Some of the parts in the Phase 3 sets were made of aluminium but in Phase 5 they all are, apart from the Axles, Tools, & N&B. All the aluminium parts are anodised and the most common colour found is a slightly harsh copper, with some a softer golden shade, and a few a lighter shade with a pink tinge. In the set to be described all the parts are golden and the overall effect is very attractive. The parts are still strung and the set appears complete and unused.

The box measures 15¼\*9\*1½" and is cream with a large label on the lid similar to that of the Phase 2 sets. The 3 models in the blue righthand panel are the Articulated Lorry, the Excavator, and the "Reliant" Monoplane, and in the manual with the set, the small M.B. 6A already described, they are shown as 4A models. This is the only indication of the size of the set - the space on the label where the set number might be is covered with a red stick with 'Patent Number 11566 Great Britain' on it. Also on the lid are 2 other stickers, a red one 'The "Rolls Royce" of Building Kits', and one black and gold, 'Super Presentation Kit'.

Inside the parts are in two layers strung with red cord to cream backing cards, with 2 see-through cutouts in the top one. (These were also a feature of the larger Phase 3 outfits) The N&B, Discs, Tools, and Diamonds are in a cream cardboard box with LYNX on the top, and about the same size as the one in the Phase 3 No.5 Set.

Broadly the Set is slightly larger than a No.4 of Phase 3, and has a wider selection of parts. Noteworthy are: no 12 or 24h Strips but some 3h for the first time; 2x21h A/Gs, another first; more Channel Girders and Girders Plates; no Double Brackets; Rubber Pulleys (which weren't in the Phase 3 sets) instead of Balloon Wheels; a Toothed Pulley and 28t Gear; all bosses single tapped and about 9.5mm Ø; 2 Collars which are unpeened brass bosses with the normal double tapping (but no known LYNX part has a brass boss); 1" Discs with the 4-spoke impressed pattern; Diamonds of a modified design with the holes at ½" pitch (above); about 80 N&B; and as with all LYNX sets, no 1\*1 Angle brackets.



Apart from the round parts and some of the Channel Girders, all the aluminium parts are stamped LYNX and all the Strips except the 11h have the number of holes stamped on as well. Most other aluminium parts seen have not been so marked.

There seems little doubt that the anodised aluminium parts came after all the earlier phases, and the small M.B. 6A manual in the sets is therefore a surprise, particularly because it still has the Woking address on the back cover. It is of course possible that production had been moved back there or that the manual found was not the original. However it does match the label on the lid so perhaps old stock was being used up. (If there was a new manual it might explain why there are not enough 4h Strips in the Set to make any of the models shown on the lid, or any of the 4A models in the manual. Even if the 3h Strips were used as substitutes, possible in some cases, there still wouldn't be enough. Also the models need the 3h Corner Bracket, and there are none in the Set, and no practical substitute. This lack of the Corner Brackets was also true for the Phase 3 sets too of course, but they were included in the Phase 4 Contents. All v. odd.)

**Notes on LYNX Parts** These give details that haven't been included so far.

- Holes are typically 3.8 to 4.0 mm but the Axles are only 3.25mm Ø. Perhaps they were sized for the original smaller holes. The bore of the bosses is 3.35mm; they are 9.6 to



9.8mm o.d., double tapped 5BA, and their tops are usually noticeably rounded. Strips, etc are ½" wide and have semi-radiused ends. The only fully radiused corners are on the Flanged Plates. Steel Strips and Brackets are quite sturdy and typically 1.2mm thick. Most parts aren't marked but a few Strips and other parts are stamped MADE IN ENGLAND, and my only 21h Strip is stamped 21.

- The steel parts were generally reasonably accurately made except that the length of metal outside the outer holes in parts like Strips and Girders varied considerably. Also faults in the 6" & 12" Strips from Phase 2 were quite common with holes unpunched, and in one case 7/16" spacing for the centre holes in a 6" Strip. The paint finish is often rather rough. The Phase 5 aluminium parts were well made.
- The Rubber Wheels and Pulleys can be black, dull red, or dark mottled. I've not seen the Tractor Wheel but a photo shows it black with a silver centre.
- Crank Handles are in 2 lengths with shafts about 3" & 4" long, and either can be found in any Phase.
- There are 3 types of the flat brass wire Hooks, S-shaped about 1" long, and 8-shaped, ¾" and 7/8" long, with a small closed eye at the top and a fatter open lower hook. Again they can occur in any Phase. Spring Clips are 6mm wide with 5mm long wings, and those found are nickel plated although in the 1947 list, and in the Phase 3 & 4 manuals, they are said to be blued.
- Spanners are 2.7" long, nickel plated but often black metallic in Phase 2. The hex openings are about 5½mm across at one end and 6½mm at the other. The Bradawl (below, left) is 4" long overall. Screwdrivers in sets are also the sheet steel type with cutout, nickel plated. There are 2 patterns (below) - one 4" long (bottom) and the other 3.2". There may also be another similar to the Bradawl. I haven't seen the type with the Bakelite handle.



- Brackets, DAS, and 2" Strips can be found with a dull grey metallic finish, sometimes with a yellow sheen. They have not been seen in sets - some have been with loose parts and some in Packets.
- 1\*1 Angle Brackets have 2 round holes and are found painted dull red or nickel plated.
- 2" Ø red Balloon Wheels have been found in lots of LYNX parts several times but have never been seen in sets. Also among some LYNX parts were a number of thin, non-embossed Discs, painted a brightish red, and at 1½" Ø, larger than the normal 1".
- The date of the Price List of parts 1-50 in MCS/FB isn't known but because it includes the Gears it must have been after Phase 2. Probably it was much later because it contains the only known reference to the Geared Pulley Wheel, together with the Large Gear Wheel but not the Small one. The part in the List called a 3-Hole Angle Bracket is an unknown and this is the only reference to it. It ought to be a 3-hole version of what I've called the Angled Bell Crank, that is the 3-Hole Corner Bracket with the ends bent up. But that doesn't sound a very likely shape, so eyes open please for any part that fills the bill. Other points of interest are: no 12 or 24h Strips; no 11h A/G but the 21h, and a 7h not known otherwise; 3,5,7,21h Channel Girders and Girder Plates, but not the 9h ones in the Phase 5 set; no Flat Base Plate; the Rubber Pulley but no other rubber wheels; Edge- and Cornerlinx still listed; a Model Booklet at 6d., and a Repair Booklet at 2d.

**And Notes on BILDICO and LONE STAR** Some of the parts in these even smaller 1950s systems look similar to LYNX parts and it is sometimes suggested that they are related.

**BILDICO** The MCS pages include a manual cover that has within it a box with 'Made exclusively for Marks & Spencer' on one side of it, and on p7, a Jan. 1954 G&T ad by E.M.Napier Ltd. & Napro Products Ltd., 530-534 King-land Rd., Dalston, London, E.8, which lists Sets No.1-4, the No.4 'with Dynamo'. I suspect that the ad relates to a separate range of BILDICO sets which, though similar, had parts with larger holes, at least at one time. If that is so there may have been only one M&S outfit. I've never seen a complete set, only some parts thought to be the remains of one, and the cover of a manual that was with them, which was just like the one in MCS.

The parts were in a (lidless) box about 22" square, and not the rectangular shape shown on the manual's cover. Most of them look exactly like LYNX, and have the same dimensions, including the sizes of the holes in the different parts. They comprised green 21 & 11h Strips, a 5\*7h Flanged Plate (definitely with slotted holes in the flanges), nickel 3 & 5h Strips, 1\*1 & 2\*2 Angle Brackets, Bell Cranks, a Spanner, and red 3 & 5h Girder Plates. The quantities are within the Contents given in MCS.

The odd men out were a solitary black Balloon Wheel of about 1¼" diameter, and 2 Pulleys very similar to the black LYNX type but 1.1" Ø instead of 1.0", and with a somewhat larger bore of 3.5mm.

Apart from Discs, the pieces seen include all the major types of part in the MCS M&S set.

E.M.Napier was a toy wholesaler and distributor and so it is quite possible that the BILDICO parts and sets, for M&S or not, were made by Lynx. Another LYNX connection is that the wording of most of the 'Builders Note' in the manual in MCS, presumably from the M&S set, is identical to that in the LYNX Phase 3/4 manuals, even though the models in MCS are not from known LYNX manuals. The dates given in MCS are '1953 to 1960s?', but I think that well before 1960 M&S were trying to project an image which wouldn't have included a rather second rate 'MECCANO' set.

Of the BILDICO outfits that weren't for M&S, I have been able to examine a No.1 set, still strung in its box, and there are many similarities to the large Phase 3 LYNX outfits. The parts look at a glance to be the same, and are in typical LYNX colours with green 11h Strips and 5\*7 Flanged Plate, nickel shorter Strips, Brackets, Discs and Tools, red 3h Girder Plates, and black 1" Pulley. The box is the same size and colour, and the parts are strung onto a similar yellow card with similar red cord. Even more telling is the single sheet Model Leaflet - one side is exactly the same as p5 of the LYNX Phase 4 manual, which shows the No.1 models, except that "BILDICO" A SET OF PRECISION has been added at the top.

But there is one big difference, the holes in the Strip parts are 4.2mm Ø, appreciably larger than the 3.8mm of the equivalent LYNX parts. Those in the 5\*7h Flanged Plate are only slightly bigger. I've also noted that all the holes said Plate are round whereas those in the flanges of the Lynx version are slotted, but perhaps I made a mistake. Other differences are that the 1½" Balloon Wheels are red instead of black, and the Hook is flat, about ¾" overall with a small hole for the cord - you can just see it in the lefthand packet in the set on p7 of MCS Part 5.

The 4½" Axles in the set are the standard LYNX 3.25mm Ø and so would really rattle around in the holes, and the bore of the Pulley boss is larger too at about 4mm.

With that Model Leaflet there must have been some con-



nection between LYNX and BILDICO, but why make the holes bigger? My only thought is that it was finally decided that it was better to have them compatible with MECCANO. I wonder whether the M&S set ever had the larger hole parts, and, more likely, whether the standard BILDICO sets ever had standard LYNX parts. It's probably not significant but there is a difference between the range of sets, 0 to 3, mentioned on the back of the No.1 Model Sheet and the 1-4 in the Napier ad. One firm connection between the No.1 set and the ad are the box lids, which both have a label nearly as big as the lid, and have the same dock scene except that the No.1 has the number of the outfit in a black blob under the crane's boom.

**LONE STAR** The 30 parts in the system are better made and better finished than LYNX or BILDICO. As with both types of BILDICO, LYNX part names are used for similar types of part, but although a few parts are almost identical, there are many that are not. Compared with LYNX, Strips, Plates, and Brackets are made of noticeably thinner steel. The parts are as follows (those asterisked are illustrated):

- Green 21,11,9h Strips (the 9h is .9mm thick), a 1\*3\*1 DAS, 21 & 11h A/Gs, and a 7\*5h Flanged Plate, which is nearly the same size as the LYNX one but with round holes in its 4 flanges.

- Red 4 & 5h Strips, a Bell Crank and an Angled Bell Crank\*, a 3h long Girder Bracket with all round holes\*, 3h wide Perforated Plates, 3,5 & 7h long, and a Slotted Wheel, which is exactly like the LYNX part except that it is steel and the boss, aluminium like the LYNX, is 10.0mm Ø instead of 9.8mm. The Plates are .45mm thick; the Strips and Bell Cranks about .75mm, and slightly wider than 1/2", up to 13.0mm.

- Red, green, or grey metallic 1\*1h Angle Brackets with round holes in both arms.

- Black rubber push-on Wheels, 1 3/4" Ø, with a heavy V tread, and CRESCENT ENGLAND moulded around the sides of the 'tyre'. A 1 1/2" aluminium Pulley with an 8.5mm Ø boss\*, and a black rubber Tyre\* to fit it, which I haven't seen. Also unseen are 4" & 1 1/2" Axles, a Crank Handle\*, a Spring Clip, and a flat Hook\* which looks very like the BILDICO one.

- The thread is 5BA and the N&B are nickel plated steel. The neat 5.5mm Ø RH Bolts are, like LYNX, 1/4, 1/2 & 1" long, and the Nuts are square and 6.2mm A/F, though hex are also shown in the manual. Bosses are double tapped. The Spandriver\* is 70mm long.

- The ends of the red Strips and Brackets, and the corners of the Flanged Plate are fully radiused; the other parts are semi-radiused to varying degrees. The holes in the Flanged Plate and Slotted Wheel are similar in size to LYNX but those in other parts are much larger at 4.2mm. Axles are probably no greater in diameter than LYNX, and would therefore be very sloppy in the Strips. The bore of bosses is similar to LYNX.

There were 4 sets, 00-2, and the contents are given in MCS. The No.4 had about 50 N&B, 16 Strips, and 4 A/Gs, and the main parts are shown in 2 layers attached to cards, with those ear-shaped cutouts in the top one again.

There aren't many models in the manual but they are reasonable for the size of the system, with a rather more mechanical flavour to them than most - one of the No.4 models fires match sticks, and another is an Aircraft on the end of a rotating arm which carries a bomb released by a trigger. It is shown here to give an idea, together with a 00 Crane showing the Wheel and Hook. None of the models

look like any from the Lynx manuals. The label on the set lids and the manual cover are similar with the main feature a large Bridge. All the Strips in its framework are shown green and the Flanged Plates red.

The manufacturer's initials D.C.M.T. in MCS stand for Die Casting Machine Tools Ltd., of 152 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London. In the Oct. 1955 G&T it was announced that a new factory at Hatfield had been opened to allow increased production of Lone Star Products, and among the toys shown was a No.2 LONE STAR Set.

**MANUAL SUMMARY** •Name: The LONE STAR CONSTRUCTION Kit •Details of maker: A D.C.M.T. Product. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: none

•Page size: 201\*131mm deep. •No. of pages: 12 inc covers, not numbered. •Language: English. •Printing: photos of models; coloured cover, red/green on blue/yellow ground. •Page No. of Parts List & highest PN: 16,30. •Page Nos. of Set Contents & highest PN: 3+16,30. •Sets covered: 00,0,1,2. •No. of models for each set: 6,6,4,4. •Name, Page No. of first & last model of each set [no Models Nos.]: 00: WORKING SIGNAL,4; DELIVERY MOTOR SCOOTER,5. 0: GARAGE TURNTABLE HOIST,6; OLD CROCK CAR,7. 1: CRANK OPERATED TRIP HAMMER,8; ELEVATING CAR RAMP,9. 2: TRACTOR EXCAVATOR,10; GIANT MOBILE CRANE,11. •Other notes: none.

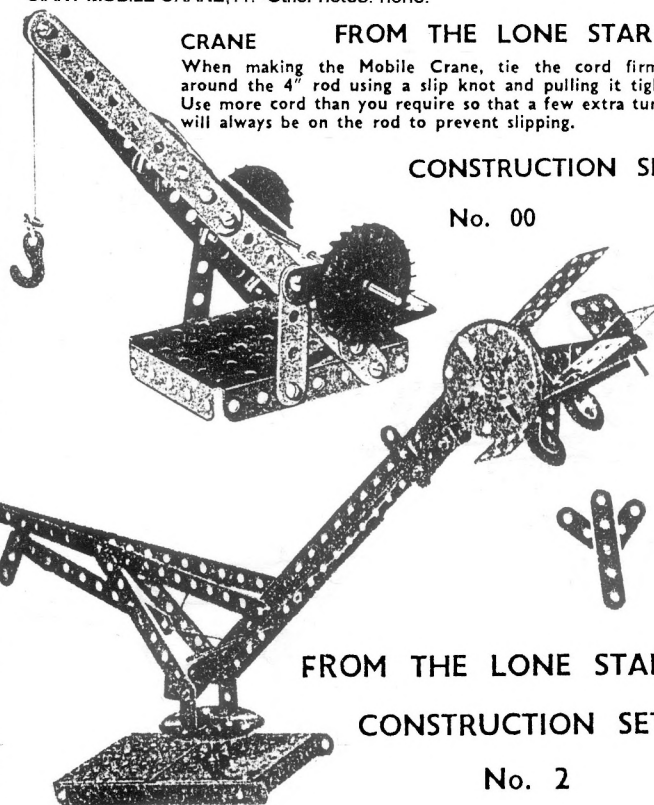


## CRANE FROM THE LONE STAR

When making the Mobile Crane, tie the cord firmly around the 4" rod using a slip knot and pulling it tight. Use more cord than you require so that a few extra turns will always be on the rod to prevent slipping.

## CONSTRUCTION SET

No. 00



## FROM THE LONE STAR

## CONSTRUCTION SET

No. 2

## REMOTE CONTROL DIVE BOMBER

The base of this model is constructed separately and is made by bolting two 11-hole strips across the edges of the base plate. The 1 1/2" rod is held in an upright position by the two V pulleys fixed each side of the plate. The arm and trigger mechanism pivots from a slotted wheel on two 5-hole angle brackets. The releasing mechanism consists of a bolt constructed from a 5-hole angle strip and two 2-hole brackets. The 4" rod passes through this and through the Plane. The cord is attached to the rod with a spring clip. This bolt also passes through the small bomb constructed of two 5-hole strips and a 5-hole angle strip. The plane can take off and land by manipulation of the trigger arm and when the trigger is pressed the bolt releases the bomb.

**THANKS** As well as David Hobson, my thanks to Frank Beadle, Don Blakeborough, Richard Gilbert, Chris Goodwin, Malcolm Hanson, Jim Holmes, Geoff Wright, and Valerie Young for providing the details used in this article.



**LYNX Notes** These follow on from those in 16/436. David Hobson has found an ad in *The Toy Trader & Exporter* which probably heralded **the start of Phase 3** (sets in large boxes & the 'large' manual). It is from TBMC at the Sefton Road, Morecambe address, in the May 1950 issue, and reads, SENSATIONAL NEWS \ "LYNX" 1950 now in GIANT BOXES. The 'full range of 8 Outfits' was mentioned, presumably at that stage, the 1-6 constructional sets and the Nos.7 & 8 Repair Outfits. The box shown had the blue panel on the righthand side of the lid, like those of Phase 2, and a small size manual. So perhaps an old block was being used, or perhaps some Phase 3 boxes had these features. The Phase 5 Set described in 16/439 had both.

A 'large' **manual**, probably **Phase 4**, from Ivor Ellard; it is basically the same as the one from Lynx (Toys) Ltd. described in 'Other Notes' in the Manual Summary in 16/439, but with some differences. The IFC shows the contents of Sets 1-7 as expected. Pp 1-7 are identical. Page 8 has 5 models for Outfit 4 from 401 OVER-HEAD TRAVEL LIFTING GEAR to 405 LIGHT CRANE ON TRACK. Each has 1 smallish, rather blurry photo, and a PL. There were no #4 models in the OSN manual, and none of the 5 are known from elsewhere. Pp 9-12 show the previous 5-7 models, and the models N.801 to AN.805 are omitted. That leaves the next page, the IBC, and the back cover as before.

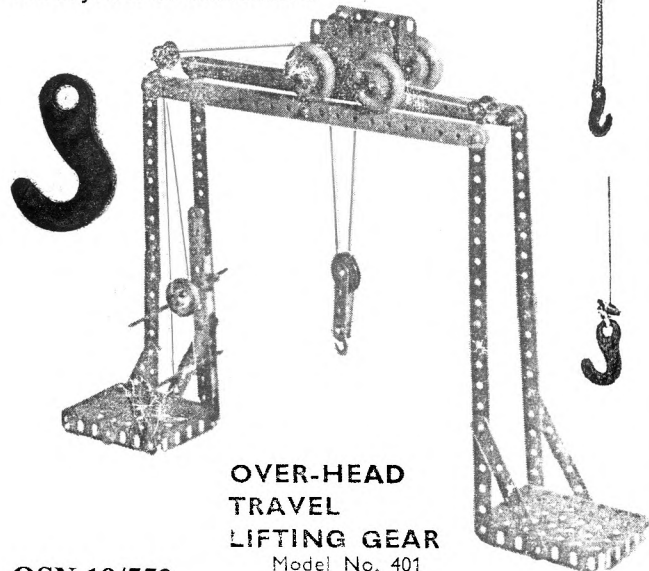
With the Manual were some parts, some typical LYNX, but a few unusual ones: • Red 1½" Balloon Wheels, and 1" Ø red ones as well. • The flat brass Hook below left. • 5h Ø red steel Half Pulleys, with red steel bosses. • LYNX-type Crank Handles but with longer, 4½" shafts. • 3 normal Diamonds & one very slightly larger, with smaller 3.4mm holes spaced ½" less than the normal ⅜" apart. • A silver, 5h long, 3h wide Plate (as well as 3 red ones). • Green 5\*7h Flanged Plates with round holes in the flanges.

Some of those parts remind one of LONE STAR, especially the Hook & Flanged Plate. But then I noticed that the Hook shown in the No.4 models in the Manual is not the normal LYNX Wire Hook, but looks flat and quite similar to the one found. The latter is brass plated, .5mm thick steel, 20½mm long o/a with a 3.3mm Ø hole. Below top right is a Hook shown for one of the No.4 LYNX manual models, and below, one from a LONE STAR manual. Has anyone a genuine for sure LONE STAR Hook for comparison?

Going back to the Manual, was it earlier or later than the one without the No.4 models? It's impossible to tell for sure and unfortunately a Hook isn't used in any of the 800 series of models that the No.4 models replaced, or vice-versa.

Roger Baker sent a photo of a **No.2 Outfit from Phase 3**, still strung in its box. It is as expected, including its manual, except that the Flanged Plate is the first 4\*7h type, painted red rather than the usual green, and the Set contains 6x 1" (unpainted aluminium) Pulleys instead of 2, with 4 Balloon Wheels, in comparable Outfits.

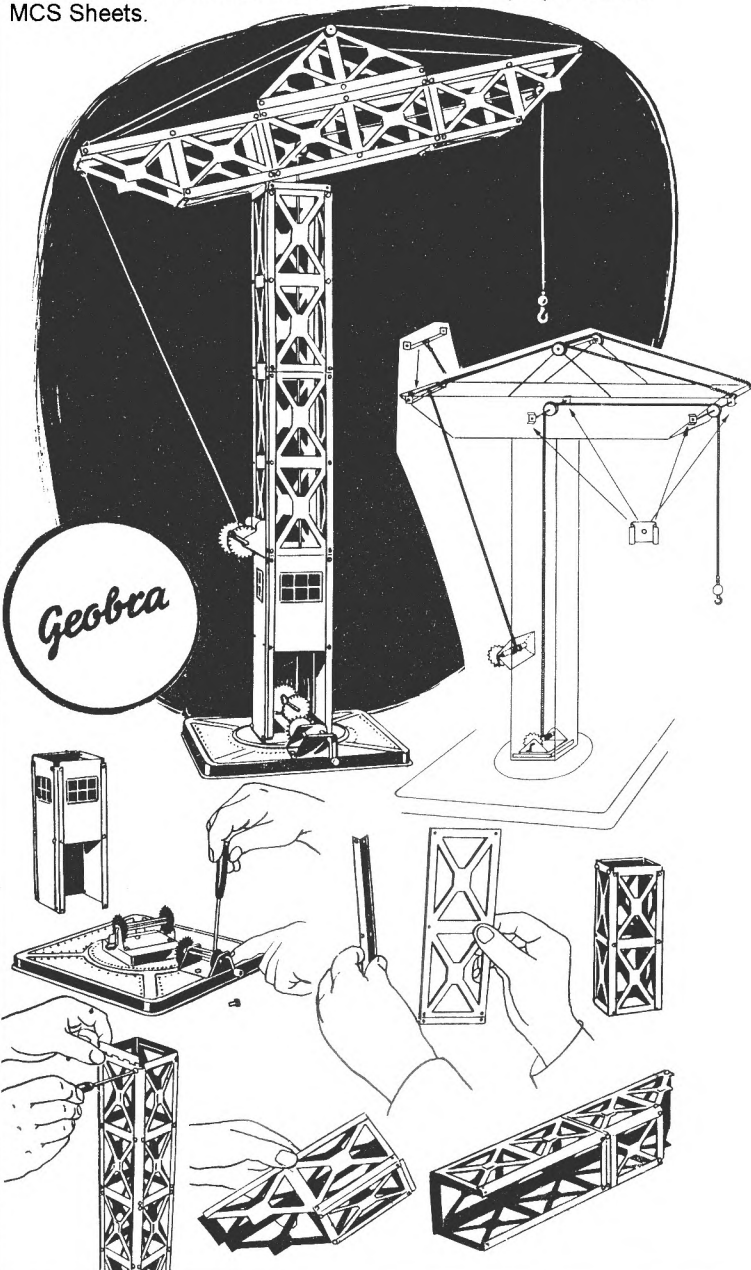
Thank you to all contributors.



**OVER-HEAD  
TRAVEL  
LIFTING GEAR**  
Model No. 401

OSN 19/552

**GEOBRA** Jeannot Buteux mentioned this German constructional toy in a recent letter - its a set known from 1954, to make one or two Cranes. The name rang a bell and I found I had an Instruction Sheet for the model below. 18 building steps are shown with no text at all. The 20 or so different parts look to be joined by Self-tapping Screws. The Base has a revolving centre driven by the crank handle of the outer Gear Unit. The structure is made from the various Window & Braced Panels, many of them 2 bays long, and sections are made from 4 such, joined by A/Gs at the corners. Then the sections push together and are held by Screws, which also hold the Winches & Brackets for the Rods, Pulleys, etc. I've no indication of the size of the parts, or their colour. If there is sufficient demand I'll prepare Extra MCS Sheets.



**Some 'New'? Names** Last year a list of all the sets in George Wetzel's collection appeared on the Internet and Richard Symonds was kind enough to send me a print out of the section with the metal constructional sets in it. I'd heard of most of the names but not the following:

- #300 Kelmar Pow'r House "Sky Ride", Wisc. 1947
- #150 Kelmar Pow'r House "Ferris Wheel", Wisc. 1947
- The Crescent Fortress, England. 1952
- Jack Dandy Const. Set - N.Y. 1949.

The first two sound as if they may be to make a single model, and I did wonder if the #150 could be the mystery Ferris Wheel shown on p9 of *Canadian Meccanotes* #7.

I'd be glad to hear if anyone knows of any of these sets, even if they aren't 'real' MCS.



**ELECTROLYNX** David Hobson kindly lent me a recently acquired, still strung, & hitherto unknown, LYNX outfit with the ELECTROLYNX name on a pasted-on label on the lid (right). The words under the name are 'The New Constructional Toy with the Electric Motor'. There were 8 identical model leaflets, or possibly fliers, with the Set.

The Set is thought to be from Phase 4 (see 16/439 & 19/552). One reason is that the maker's name on the Leaflet is Lynx (Toys) Ltd., Sefton Road, Morecambe, Lancs. Also since OSN 16, a No.5 set from Phase 4 has been seen: its box is similar in size to the present one, 15½\*8½", it has an identical label, and like the Electrolynx set it has the small green label top right which offers the set's owner a free gift on his or her birthday. The packaging is also the same and some of the parts are unusual and common to both sets. A piece of newspaper dated May, 1952 was found in the bottom of the No.5 box.

The main parts in **the Set** are shown right and those in the small yellow box, below. This box was originally strung but the cardboard box on its left, which houses the Motor, was stuck to the backing card. The parts in an inventory given in the Leaflet are listed below, and apart from a few packing errors they correspond to the actual contents. The names for the parts are as used in earlier articles and it will be noted if the parts differ from the LYNX norm. All the parts except the Hook, but including the d/t bosses, are steel.



- 4,10,2,2x 11,4,3,2h **Strips**. The 4h are red in the No.5.
- 2x 1\*3\*1h **DAS**.
- 6x 2\*2h **A/Bs**.
- 2 **Double Brackets**.
- 1x 5\*7h **Flanged Plate**.
- 4x 3\*7h **Girder Plates**.
- 3x **Slotted Wheels**.
- 2x 1" **Pulleys**. They are

brass plated like those in the No.5, a finish not seen before.

- 2 **Balloon Wheels**. 1¼" Ø, but 1½" in the No.5.
- 4 **Discs**. 1½" Ø as in the No.5.
- 1 **Crank Handle**. • 2 **Axles**.
- 24 **N&B**. Plain steel. • 4 **Spring Clips**. Nickel.
- 1 **Hook**. Brass wire, flat, 22mm long o/a. The flat sheet metal type is shown on the models in the Leaflet.
- 1 **Screwdriver**. The No.5 has the small electrical type.
- 1 **Spanner**.
- 1 **Electric Motor**, below, to be used with a 4½v battery. Its



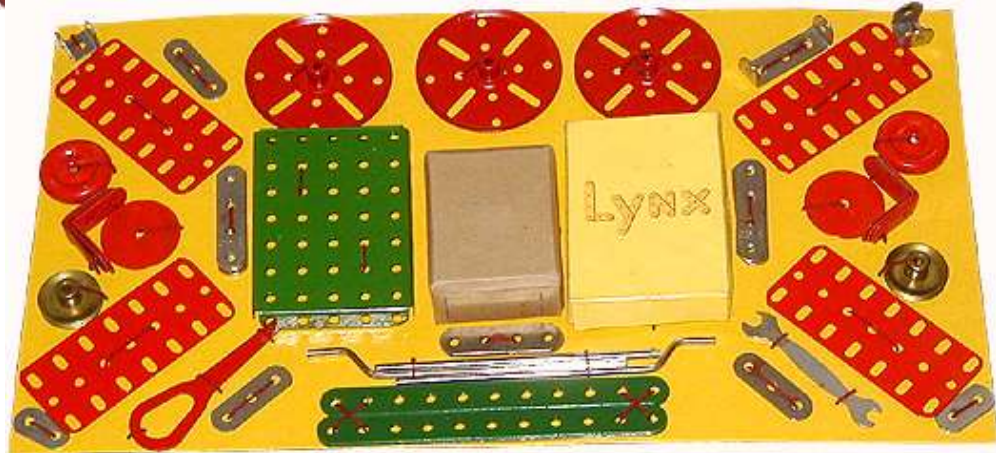
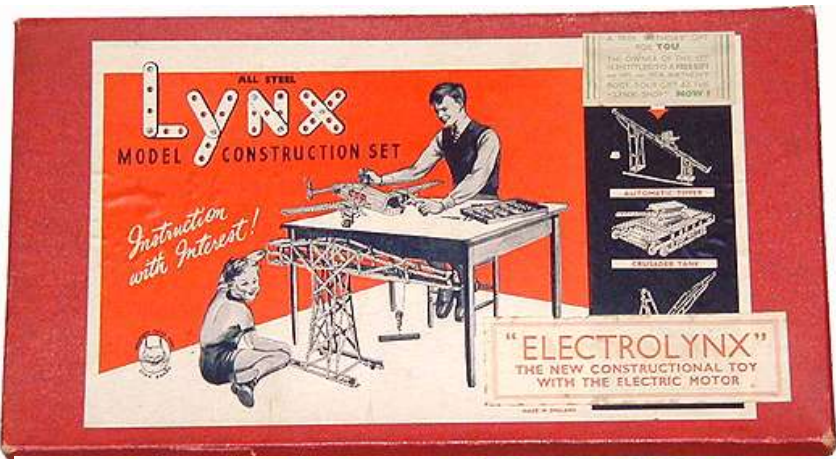
body is 1" Ø & ¾" long, and the mounting holes are at 1 & 1½" centres. The brass pulley, 10mm o.d. with a 2mm Ø throat, is fastened with a tiny grub screw.

• 1 **Manual**. This may be the Leaflet already mentioned, it has details of 11 models in it.

A standard Phase 4 manual is shown with the Set in a photo of it in the Leaflet, but with the limited range of parts in the Electrolynx, only a few of the standard manual models would be possible.

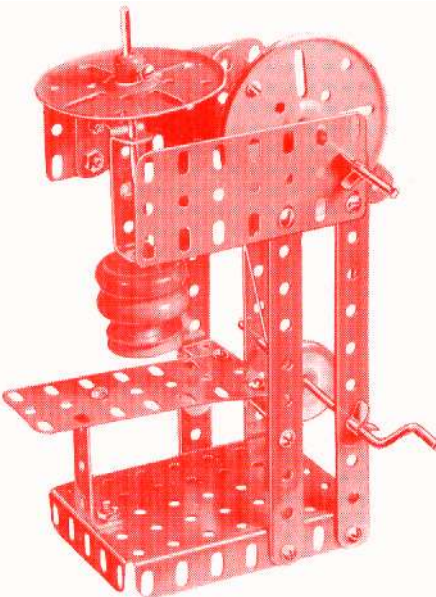
• Also in the Set but not in the inventory, a small knot of red **Cord**, like the stringing cord.

The **Leaflet** is a sheet 213\*270mm, printed in red, and folded in two. The front has a plug for the the Set -The



SENSATION of the Year' and one model, the **POWER PRESS** below, actual size. Inside are 8 models from **WINDMILL** to **LIGHT LIFTING CRANE**. On the back are 2 models, **POWER CIRCULAR SAW** & **FAIRGROUND DIVE BOMBER**, the inventory, and the photo of the Set. There is a photo for each model, mostly rather dark, and a **Parts Required** list. All the models are about the same size and complexity, and none show the Motor or how it could be mounted. Some have a 1" Pulley that could be driven from the Motor, but not all, and in some both of these Pulleys that are in the Set are used for other purposes. I would guess that at a minimum the little Motor would need to drive a pulley made from 2 of the **Slotted Wheels**, but this would only be possible in a few cases.

According to pencilled prices on the boxes the No.5 cost 38/3 & the Electrolynx 27/6. In 1952 a No.3 **MECCANO** cost 27/11 but no small electric motor was available until the **EMEBO** in 1962, when it cost 19/6.



## Power Press

### Parts Required :

- 1 Baseplate
- 4 11-Hole Strips
- 3 7 x 3 Girderplates
- 3 Slotted Wheels
- 2 Pulleys
- 2 Balloon Wheels
- 2 5-Hole Brackets
- 4 4 Hole Brackets
- 2 3-Hole Strips (Fitted to double slotted wheel for lifting ramp).
- 1 Crank Handle
- 2 Axle Rods
- 4 Spring Clips
- 24 Bolts (4 in wheel bosses)
- 20 Nuts
- Twine or Rubber Band for Driving Belt.



**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



Did LINX/LYNX begin here?

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.3

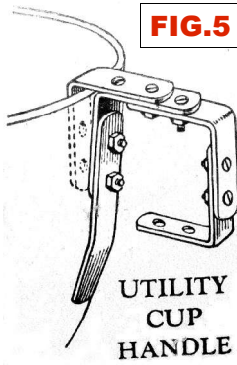


FIG.4

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 in 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;

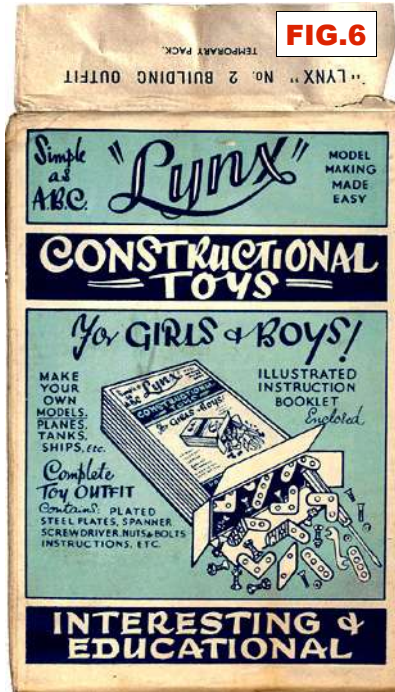


and one, yellow in colour, with an unreadable name. It is not Diamond though, & this part would be expected in a set of this size. So perhaps there were originally more packets, & the trays would be deep enough for 2 layers. As to date, the prices on the Packets match those in the Sept. '47 list. The 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).

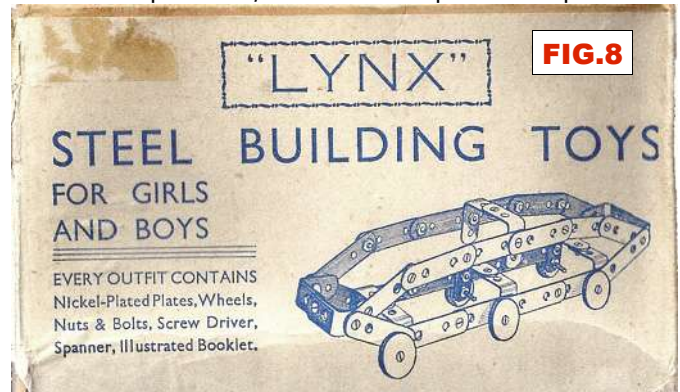
5 sets thought to be from 1946 are an unopened No.2 from Mike Wright, found in Australia; a No.2 belonging to David, identical to Mike's and unopened when found; a No.3, also David's; a possible No.1 seen on the Australian Ebay; and a No.4 from the UK Ebay. In all they may well represent the evolution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

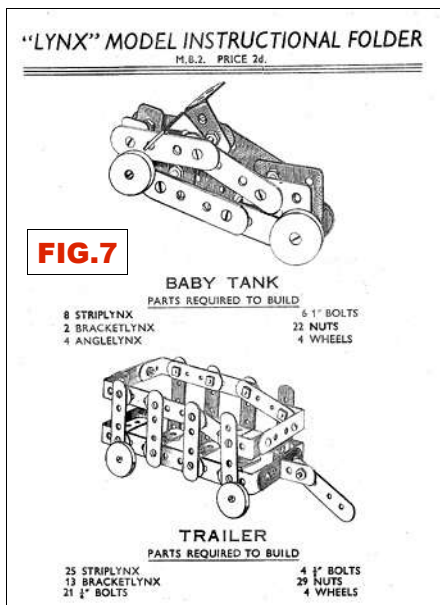


loose inside the box and matched those in the No.2 in dimensions & finish. They comprised 67 Nuts; 54x 1/4" & 10x 1/2" RH Bolts; 30 Strips; 18x 2\*2h A/B, 8x 2h Corner Brackets; 8 Diamonds; 8x 1" Discs; a Screwdriver & a 5BA x 6BA Spanner. Missing were the Model Leaflet or Manual and, no doubt, the parts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

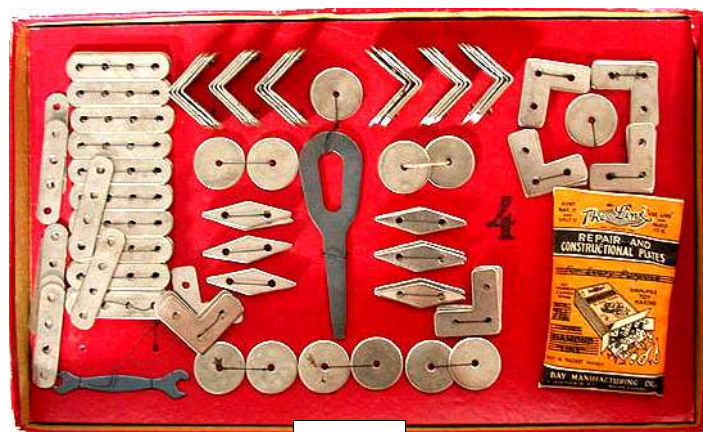
**The No.4** The centre and top left corner of its 13\*8\*1" lidded red box, below (with the corner of the manual bottom left), has a label of the same design as the No.3, and perhaps



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.







**FIG.10**

The parts look to match the earlier ones except for the blackened Screwdriver. The manual cover and 4 of its model pages were shown and these match exactly the MB4 manual described in 16/437.

**The No.1?** This came from the Australian Ebay and the box right is 5\*2". It is thought to be a possible No.1 because it is smaller than the No.2 described earlier. From its red side it probably has a lid and so matches the No.4. The 'Tank' label is as before except for the conflation of the name and the line of text under it.



**FIG.11**

**MISCELLANEOUS** 2 unconnected items. • Jack Little wrote that a company called Lincoln Industries Ltd. of Balm St. & Nuffield St., Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand was listed in a 1950 business directory as a manufacturer of Lynx toys.

• 2 additional differences between the MB 6A & MB 6 manuals (see 16/438) are that in the MB 6 the address of the maker is 171 Great Portland Street, London W.1, and there is no note on p'16' about packing the Spring Clip with paper if it slips.

OSN 43/1323

LYNX: S4

**CONSTRUCTION in 2010** from the Eitech web site. 9 new sets have been added, including a large Crane Set, and 5 dropped.

**The new range**, with the new sets asterisked, is: 03,05,08,09\*,17,19,20,21,23,24,25,30,31,33,34\*,35\*,45\*,46\*,53,54,55,56\*,57\*,61,62,64,67,72,73,74,75\*,80,83,84,87,91,92\*.



**FIG.2**

**Set 35**



**FIG.1**

**Set 09**



**FIG.3**

**The lids** of all the sets now emphasise the 'eitech' name in the style of the sets shown here.

**The New Sets.** • **No.09** is a 440+ part set for 3 models, and the web picture is shown in Fig.1. Sets 135 & 142 are suggested to motorise the models.

• **No.34** is the Eiffel Tower set No.133 but including a 6m long 'light rope' to illuminate it internally.

• **No.35** has 960+ parts in a wooden box to make 3 Cranes 'up to 90cm high', as per Fig.2, though it's hard to see much detail. Features are listed as 3 Geared Motors with independent remote control, and the jib slewing on a Ball Bearing.

• **Nos.45, 46, & 56** are nice 'simplicity' models of a 7cm span Biplane, a Rocking Horse, and a Tractor & Trailer (Fig.3) using 2 & 3cm Discs as wheels.

OSN 43/1323

CONSTRUCTION [1]: S10

(or perhaps it's an SUV model).

• **No.75** is a Solar set with the Cell at the centre of a horizontal rotating arm mounted on top of a 10cm high pylon. The arm, some 25cm long, has a 1v Motor at one end, and is driven by a red plastic Propeller on the Motor's output shaft. At the other end is a small Monoplane – the No.45 model. 2 other models are possible. • **No.92** is a 180+ part set for 3 models, two of which are a Race Car & a ?Quad Bike. Their Road Wheels look like

those in No.09. Accessory Sets 135 & 142 are again suggested to motorise them.

**The Deleted Sets.** • **No.18** was for Cranes, see 35/1062. • **Nos.51 & 52**, small sets for a Helicopter & a Biplane, see 35/1062. • **No.82** for small 'Racers' see 37/1107. • **No.85** to make 3 small models, either a Quad Bike, a Race Car, or

a Sports Car. It was introduced in 2005 but I don't think it has been mentioned before.

**Accessory Packs & Add-on Sets.** These continue unchanged except that • **No.137**, the string of lights for the Eiffel Tower, is added; • **No.115**, the kit to motorise the Loco No.31, is listed again; and • **No.650080**, Tools, is no longer included.



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 STRIP LINX 10 per packet of 4

MODEL TANK MODEL TRAILER

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

10 SIMPLE TO USEFUL TWO EXAMPLES

SIMPLIFIES TOYMAKING

CORNERLINX

Fitted Glass Tops Cafe Tables ETC.

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

No. 1 REPAIR OUTFIT	7/- 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 3/-

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

Diamondlinx (Nickel-plated)	7/- d. per pkt. of 4
Anglinx (Nickel-plated)	10/- d. per pkt. of 4
Striplinx (Nickel-plated)	10/- d. per pkt. of 4
Bracketlinx (Nickel-plated)	1/- per pkt. of 4
Cornerlinx (Nickel-plated)	1/- per pkt. of 4
Edgelinx (Nickel-plated)	9/- d. per pkt. of 4
Washers (Nickel-plated)	9/- d. per pkt. of 4
Wood Screws (Nickel-plated)	6/- d. 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	6/- d. each
Bradawls	8/- d. each
Spanners	3/- d. 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