

but the Motor was apparently made by a company called Robilt in Melbourne. It has been described as 'very substantial with a fully controllable governor with forward and reverse gearing'. There was no official electric motor but a small one, The Mighty Midget Motor (left), made by Medo Distributors, 82 Rose Street, Prospect, Sth. Aust., was advertised as being suitable for E-B or MECCANO models. It cost 12/6, weighed 1¼ oz, and ran on 3-6v batteries.

CPPL closed in the mid-1960s and the first EBPL Price List to hand is for 1966 (Ref.H). The 1967 edition shows the same parts and sets, and so does the 1968 except that the C/W Motor, although still in the Sets, isn't listed separately.

**Colours** The standard colours were red and green, with the parts in 1950s MECCANO colours except that the Bush Wheel and all Pulleys except the ½" were red. In a photo of some parts (from New Zealand) there's a green as well as a red 2" Pulley, and also a Bush wheel that may be green. The Contrate was described as brass in the CPPL literature but the ones seen are nickel on steel with brass bosses (see 18/523).

The N&B found in a CPPL parts tin seem to be plain steel. [They are larger than MECCANO, the square Nuts are 5/16" (7.9mm) A/F, and the cheeseheaded Bolts, 6.0mm Ø, and about 6½mm u/h.]

In an EBL leaflet (Ref.G) the Bush Wheel, Wheel Disc, all Brackets including M44 & M45, and the Road Wheel 'tyres' are shown white, like the Axles and Tools.

Yellow E-B Strips exist but it isn't clear whether any were ever included in sets. It seems that at the end, bags of yellow Strips and Wheels were bought at the factory (the CPPL Southwark one I think, but it's not quite clear, so possibly EBPL at Kilkenny).

**Packaging** In TAHC it is said that small sets were in cardboard boxes with the parts tied to a backing cards with green cord; from about Set 4 wooden boxes with heavy sliding card lids were used, with the parts again tied to cards; Sets 6-8 were in metal boxes with hinged lids; and Set 9 was in a wooden box. Whether this applied to all phases isn't known.

The box lid on the cover of the early manual is shown below, while on the right is a later, but still early, CCPL No.4 lid with



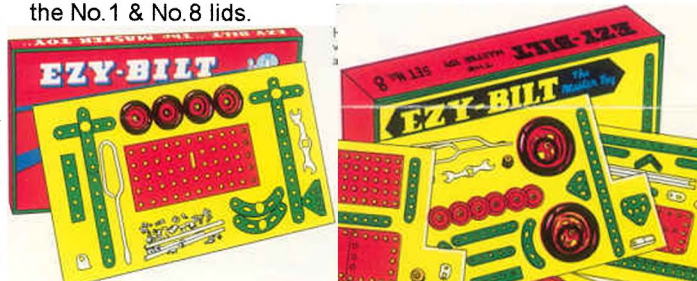
the maker's name & Adelaide on the map of Australia in the bottom right corner. The boy is wearing a tie.

Other designs from CCPL were in red, green, white and black. A No.1 Set has 2 boys and 4 small models, all green except for red Wheels, in the centre, with the map of Australia on the left. Boxes for Sets 6 & 8 are similar but with only one model, the Golden Hind, with all the parts properly coloured.

The small parts in many CCPL sets were in 2½" square tins, with green lids. The latter had the name & a boy with a model, both in red & white, and ASSEMBLY PARTS in black.

The EBL leaflet (Ref.G) shows Sets 1,3,6 & 8. The parts are on yellow cards, one each for the No.1 & No.3 Sets, 3 for the No.6, and 5 for the No.8 with one corner of each cut back to fit around the Motor. Small parts are in blue boxes with E-ZY-BILT on them. Only part of the tops of the box lids can be seen and for Sets 1 & 3 they are red with the ends of blue lines radiating from the top right corner; the Nos.6 & 8

are yellow with a green Strip on the right side. Below are the No.1 & No.8 lids.



**Quality** The reported shortcomings of early parts have already been mentioned, and there was a comment on quality in 7/145. One TAHC reader had 1950s parts that were as good as MECCANO, but another, without specifying a period, wrote of Strips varying in thickness from quite thin to very thick, with some bending like lead, but others very brittle. It was suggested that material shortages after the war gave rise to problems.

## MODEL-IT

That's with a hyphen, not the American MODELIT. MCS contains good illustrations of the parts, and again although the MECCANO influence can be seen, there are some unusual variations. The parts include 7h Trunnions, a 5\*11h Flanged Plate, and another with the centre pressed out, giving a 3\*9h Perforated Plate, a 4-hole Bush Wheel and matching Wheel Disc, and a Super Road Wheel, described below.

Among the 42 parts listed in MCS are just 2 Strips, 2½ & 5½", but 3 A/Gs, 5½", 12½", & 18½" long. Some parts not listed can be seen in the models & sets shown, including a Pinion, a Gear, a Worm, & unusual Braced Girders in 5 & 25h lengths, as above.



The Super Road Wheel is described in TAHC as a 1¼" Pulley, with a Tyre marked Advanx-Spiral Model-It, and a Hub Cap that pushes onto the Pulley. The Wheel has an o.d. of 2½" and 'made a most delightful motor car wheel, like those on 1939 Chevs and Buicks'.

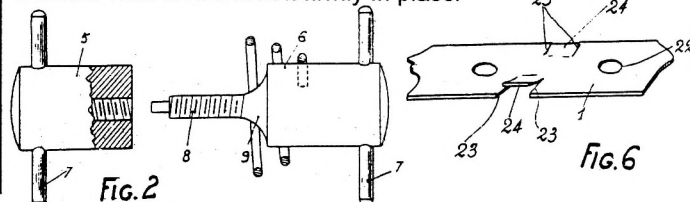
**The MAC et NICK Patent** (No.936145) This was mentioned in 18/523 and David Hobson has kindly obtained a copy of it for me. Although it wasn't granted until 1948 the application was made in Nov. 1946, by Roland Cosneau from Eure, part of Normandie.

The claim was for a constructional toy, using thin, flexible, perforated strips, with the following features:

- Parts to be joined by light alloy eyelet rivets using the tool (Fig.2 below). The rivets could have slits at their ends to make them both easier to deform, & to take out, using a screwdriver or similar to prise up the turned over ends.
- Other, steel, eyelets to be pushed onto axles to act as collars.
- A spring clip (like #149 in 17/472) to be used to hold a pulley fast on a grooved axle, as at 'B' in 17/473.

Also mentioned are 2 methods of locking strips at right angles to each other. The first is the part #120 (see 17/472) which had (I think) been used in earlier systems. In the second, shown in Fig.6 below, the tabs, 24, butt against the edge of a cross strip fastened through the hole 22. Rather a clumsy solution and not used in the actual system.

It was also suggested that a nut & bolt passing through a hollow rivet would lock it firmly in place.



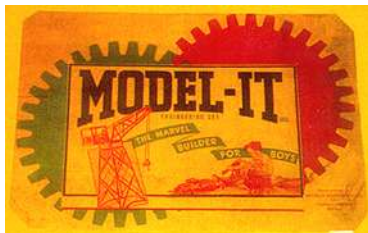


**News from Australia** Jack Little has kindly sent over a number of items of interest. The first came from the personal papers of the late E.G. Page, the Meccano agent in Australia for many years. His company, E.G. Page & Co., made an application to the Australian Tariff Board to have the import duty on Meccano sets reduced, and 3 companies who were making small sets at the time, gave evidence, at a Board enquiry on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1933, in support of the duty being retained on No.000 & 00 Meccano sets. The representatives of the 3 companies at the enquiry were Theo. Levy Pty. Ltd.

OSN 31/911

BIG-JOY: S1; CONSTRUCTO [3]: S1; EZY-BILT: S3

**More on MODEL-IT** The range of sets in this post-WW2 Australian, c50 part system was Prep-Set, Junior, Senior, Master, & Master de Luxe. Also a Giant Super Wheel Set with just 4 of the Super Road Wheels in it, see 19/545. The layout



of the parts in all these sets is shown in MCS and now Jack has sent photos of the Senior & Master de Luxe. Both are very similar to the MCS illustrations. Left, the label from the centre of the yellow Senior set lid, it scales at 10\*7". The words under the name are ENGINEERING SET | THE MARVEL BUILDER FOR BOYS. Bottom right on the lid is another smaller label with MODEL-IT | SENIOR on it. Apart from some Brackets replacing the Screwdriver, the parts layout is symmetrical left to right, and below the righthand side of the box. The Master de Luxe has 2 layers of parts and one of them is shown bottom right. Points of interest are the 5 & 25h Braced Girders; the green 5\*11h Flanged Plates (called Box Girders) with their red, 3\*9h cutout Plates beside them; and 2 parts which are not in the MCS Parts List. They are the U-formed 5\*5h Flexible Plate above the DAS bottom right, and on the opposite side of the box, what looks like a 3\*5h Flanged Plate made from a 5\*5h Flexible Plate. The only different parts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> layer are red



7h Trunnions, bright 1\*3\*1h DAS, and the parts shown left. They are a Double & a Single Arm Crank (with no slotted holes), a Pinion & a Gear with (like the Bush Wheel) 4 face holes, a Worm, & 2 Fork Pieces. Of these only the Fork Pieces are in the MCS List (#42 Big End). Other parts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> layer are 2 more Road Wheels and 2 of #32, the Pulley used as their centre. In passing there are two points of interest in the MCS List: the '2h' Pulley is 1 1/8" Ø, and #22 is Rubber Tubing, to be cut to

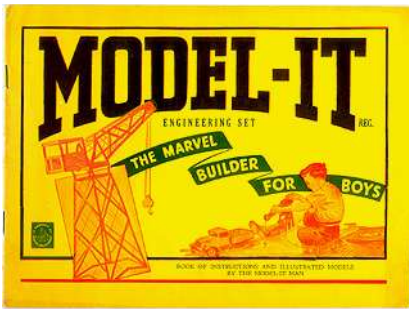


OSN 31/911

for CONSTRUCTO (see 26/753); Mr Cooper of Irving & Cooper, manufacturer's agent for EZY-BILT (see 22/636); and probably Addie M. Keating of A.M.K Mfg. Co., for BIG-JOY (see 24/697). In his evidence Mr Cooper said that 2 more EZY-BILT sets selling at 5/- & 8/6 were in the process of being launched, and this is in line with the Nos.1-3 sets available in 1936 mentioned in OSN 22, with the No.1 at 2/6. This item gives the first sure dates for BIG-JOY & CONSTRUCTO, and an earlier date for EZY-BILT.

make axle stops.

There was no manual with either of the above sets but one to hand could well have been with either. The appropriate pages in it correspond to those in MCS. Right, its cover, and the wording at bottom right are BOOK



OF INSTRUCTIONS AND ILLUSTRATED MODELS BY THE MODEL-IT MAN. The Lawdex logo in the bottom left corner is shown left. The manual contains no indication of date but an example seen on Ebay, with the same cover and number of pages, was said to be from 1957.

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Name: MODEL-IT •Details of maker: MANUFACTURED BY MODEL-IT MANUFACTURING CO., SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – A CARVEL PRODUCT on the bottom of many pages, but Lawdex Manufacturing Company INCORPORATING MODEL-IT MANUFACTURING CO., SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA on C4. •No dates/Ref Nos. •Page size: 244\*180mm. •No. of pages: 16+covers, unnumbered. •Language: English. •Printing: photos of models. •Page Nos. of Illustrated Parts List & highest PN: C3,42. •No Set Contents. •Sets covered: smallest (unnamed), Junior, Senior, Master, Master de Luxe. •No. of models for each set: 24,22 (inc those on p9 – not designated),8,2,4. •Name, Model No. (only for the smallest set models, which are lettered from A on each page), Page No. of first & last model of each set: smallest: FARM CART,A,1; PICNIC TABLE AND SEATS,F,4. Junior: HAMMER HEAD CRANE,5; OVERHEAD TRAMWAY TROLLEY,9. Senior: LOW WING MONOPLANE,10; FLAT TOP TABLE TRUCK,13. Master: ELECTRIC DRILL,14; MINE SHAFT ELEVATOR,14. Master de Luxe: AMERICAN EXTENSION FIRE LADDER TRUCK,15; OIL DRILL DERRICK,16. •Other notes: intro on C2; printer on C4: Elgood & Son Pty. Ltd. – Sydney.

There is one photo, usually quite clear, of each model,



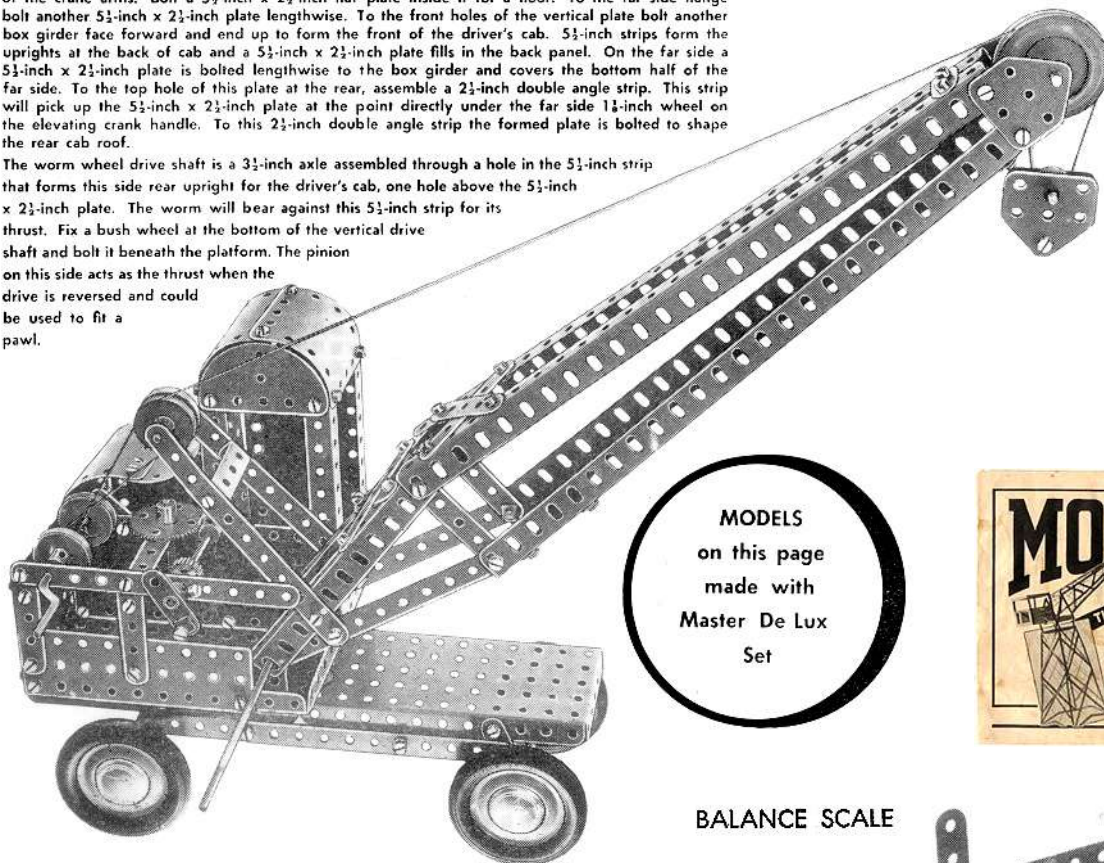
MODEL-IT: S1



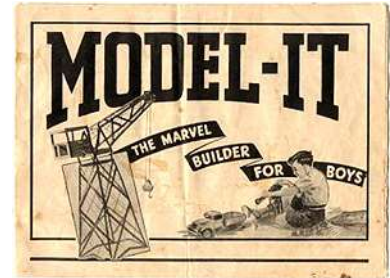
### MOBILE SWIVEL CRANE

Turn a MODEL-IT Box Girder upside down for the floor of the swivelling cab, located at the bottom of the crane arms. Bolt a 5½-inch x 2½-inch flat plate inside it for a floor. To the far side flange bolt another 5½-inch x 2½-inch plate lengthwise. To the front holes of the vertical plate bolt another box girder face forward and end up to form the front of the driver's cab. 5½-inch strips form the uprights at the back of cab and a 5½-inch x 2½-inch plate fills in the back panel. On the far side a 5½-inch x 2½-inch plate is bolted lengthwise to the box girder and covers the bottom half of the far side. To the top hole of this plate at the rear, assemble a 2½-inch double angle strip. This strip will pick up the 5½-inch x 2½-inch plate at the point directly under the far side 1½-inch wheel on the elevating crank handle. To this 2½-inch double angle strip the formed plate is bolted to shape the rear cab roof.

The worm wheel drive shaft is a 3½-inch axle assembled through a hole in the 5½-inch strip that forms this side rear upright for the driver's cab, one hole above the 5½-inch x 2½-inch plate. The worm will bear against this 5½-inch strip for its thrust. Fix a bush wheel at the bottom of the vertical drive shaft and bolt it beneath the platform. The pinion on this side acts as the thrust when the drive is reversed and could be used to fit a pawl.

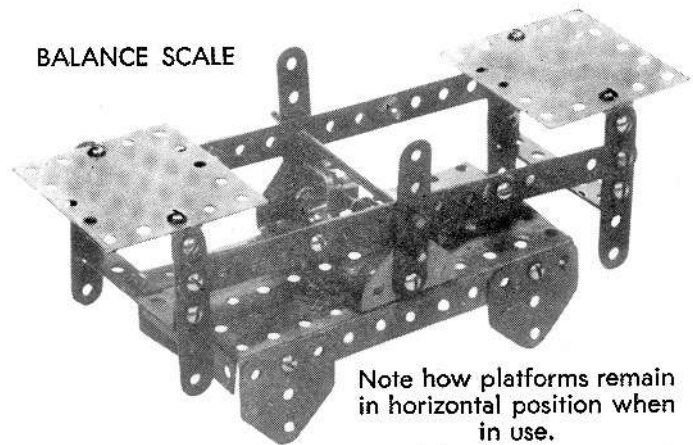


MODELS  
on this page  
made with  
Master De Lux  
Set



10 pages & 34 models, has a cover (below) similar to the yellow one but is B&W (the coloured stains on it indicate that it is B&W, not just the photo). It does not though have REG. after the MODEL-IT name, or ENGINEERING SET below it, nor the small print at the bottom, nor the logo in the bottom left corner. It was said to have 'Manufact-

### BALANCE SCALE



Note how platforms remain in horizontal position when in use.

with some building instructions for the larger ones. Most are fairly run-of-the mill but the 4 for the largest set are good looking, though their 'mechanics' are quite simple, & a touch suspect in places. The Super Wheels look well on a Fire Engine & Semi-Trailer Lorry but the Crane above is my favourite, even if it hasn't a hook. Hoisting is clearly from the rear Crank Handle, but the function of the Axle next along with the Double Arm Crank on its end isn't immediately obvious. A Worm on it engages the Gear (the Pinion is just to locate the Axle) so it looks as if it may be the slewing drive, but what then of the luffing, & what does the forward Crank Handle do?

In many of the models for the sets through Senior, several variations of the parts can be seen. In most cases the top of the Flanged Plate is pierced with only the edge and centre rows of holes; the Trunnions are often shown as '5 hole'; and most of the Flexible Plates have squarish corners. These earlier (?) parts can be seen in the Scales above right.

Another manual on Ebay, described as 240\*180mm, with

ured by G.E.Rose, Australian representatives Lawrence Distributing Co., 326 Edgecliff Rd., Woollahra, Sydney' on its back cover. So it may well be that this manual was before the Lawdex one, and in that case could the 'simpler' parts have been from the same era?

MODEL-IT: S2

OSN 31/912

**A BILD-A-KIT Manual** A BILD-A-KIT Model Sheet was described in 26/753, but now Jack has sent a copy of a manual, and he also wrote that he has been told that the system's name was registered by William Kerr, Henry Lawson, & Violet Amy White. Also that the company was Radio Electrical Hardware, 25 Queen St., Melbourne 1946, but no trace of it has yet to be found in directories, etc.

The manual is for Sets 1-5, has 16 pages, 6¾\*4½", plus covers (the back cover is thought to be missing). The front one is shown right; the number on the set lid can't be seen clearly but may be a 5. The words left of the name on the lid are '10001 TOYS'. C2 is blank; p1 has an intro and an ad for the 5 sets which includes 'BILD-A-KIT is strongly made in Australia of pressed and cast metal parts, in complete sets in 5 sizes.'

36 models are shown on pp 2-15 with a single photo, often rather small, of each. They are generally much too dark too



BILD-A-KIT: S1

OSN 31/912



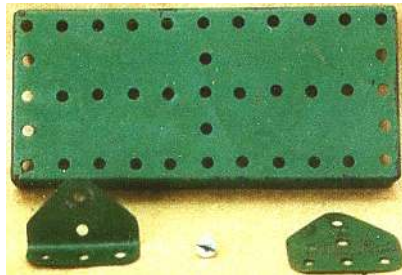
**MODEL-IT** Some notes on this system were given in 31/911 and now Jack has discovered more of its history. It was made in Sydney between 1945 & 1958, and the first sets were produced by G.E.Rose. He applied for a trade mark registration in November, 1945 but the application was never finalised.

The Rose sets were distributed by the Laurence Distributing Co. of 326 Edgecliff Rd., Woolahra, the home address of Laurence C. Jones, and he took over their production. He had formed the Model-It Manufacturing Co. with a factory at 4 Rothschild Avenue, Rosebery.

The next player was the Carvel Manufacturing Co. (Engineers), Little Buckingham St., Surrey Hills, but nothing is known of it. Then, finally, another Jones company, the Lawdex Manufacturing Co. Their trade mark was applied for in January 1955 by Laurence Congrave Jones & Nyna Anne Jones, trading at the time as the Model-It Manufacturing Co. at the address above. It will be recalled that the manual described in OSN 31 has 'Lawdex Manufacturing Company INCORPORATING MODEL-IT MANUFACTURING CO. SYDNEY AUSTRALIA' on the back cover, but 'MANUFACTURED BY MODEL-IT MANUFACTURING CO., SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - A CARVEL PRODUCT' at the bottom of some of the pages.

#### The ROSE PERIOD

The parts differed from those in MCS in that, as can be seen in the photo left, the top of the Flanged Plate had fewer holes in it, and the Trunnions had 5 holes instead of the

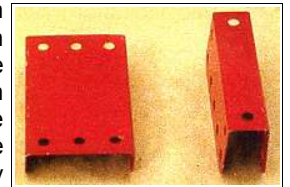


later 7. These parts can be seen in the Scales shown in OSN 31. Also in the photo, the Bolt between the Trunnions had a large diameter flat head. No Rubber Tyres were included in the sets.

The early versions of the parts can be seen in the 34 models in the book of instructions of the time. It had no Parts List but spares were available and the company had plans to improve the sets with new parts. This manual is most likely the Ebay one mentioned on p912 of OSN 31.

**LATER** After the Model-It Mfg. Co. took over production from G.E.Rose five sets were progressively made available with new parts & manuals, and named as in OSN 31. They were unusual in that some commonly used parts were omitted (only 2½ & 5½" Strips were included in any of the sets) while the quantities of others were increased. The first new manual was for the Junior, Senior, & Master sets. It had an Illustrated Parts List and 66 models, some from the Rose manual. The second new manual had 68 models including 6 that could only be made using parts in the de Luxe outfit. The Illustrated Parts List was not revised to include these new parts. At some point after this all the sets are labelled as 'A Carvel Product'

The Model-It Mfg. Co. **parts** are those in the OSN 31 photos, but now a few more points about them. The Screwdriver wire is ⅛" Ø. The Wheel Disc has a short brass bush. The 18½" A/G was the longest in any Australian set, EZY-BILT made a 24½" but as an extra part. The Gear has 54 teeth and the Pinion 19. Right the Formed Plates made from the 5\*5h Flexible Plate. These Plates, the Braced Girders, the Cranks, & the Gears were never included in any Parts Lists.



### MODEL-IT: S3

### OSN 34/1032

**Snippet – New System: MAKSIMKO** As can be seen from the Ebay photos below and right, this system combines metal parts with Lego style pieces. 76 M4 N&B are included, no doubt to join the metal parts, and the 70mm M3 Screwed Rods would be used as axles. The method of joining the metal & 'Lego' parts isn't entirely clear but #1203 and perhaps #723 look to have threaded spigots sticking out of them.

The set is said to have 484 parts and may have originated in Russia. The abbreviations for quantities in the PL have

Cyrillic letters and the manual was said to be in Russian. It includes a Racing Car, an Airplane, 2 Jeeps, & Helicopters.



1020	1021	1022	4	M4x7	76	M3	49
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
2207	7	M3x70	4	401	8	102	32
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
2307	9	103	1	1203	4	1203	4
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
2107	12	703	1	1203	4	1204	8
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
2205	7	1303-56	3	1203	4	1204	8
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
2215	9	1303	1	1203	4	1204	8
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
2127	9	801	4	102+	2	1301	8
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
722	1	721	1	601	4	1001	7
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
723	1	702	2	602	4	2201	4
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
604	1	1002	1	2103	8	2103	8
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
104	1	105k	2	2102	6	2202	6
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
M3x22	9	M4	78	2211	6	2211	16
WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
				2111	16	701	4
				WT	WT	WT	WT
				1304	12	1306	12
				1305	10	1209	1
				WT	WT	WT	WT

### MAKSIMKO: S1

### OSN 34/1032