

MERKUR METROPOL



This architectural system is in MCS but without much detail. These notes arise from some parts acquired recently, no box or manual, just the parts, and the blue 5½cm Ø tin with the lid left. It isn't known for sure when METROPOL appeared but it may have been in the 1930s, or even the late 1920s – the boy & model on the tin lid are on a standard set box lid shown on Merkur's web site and labelled

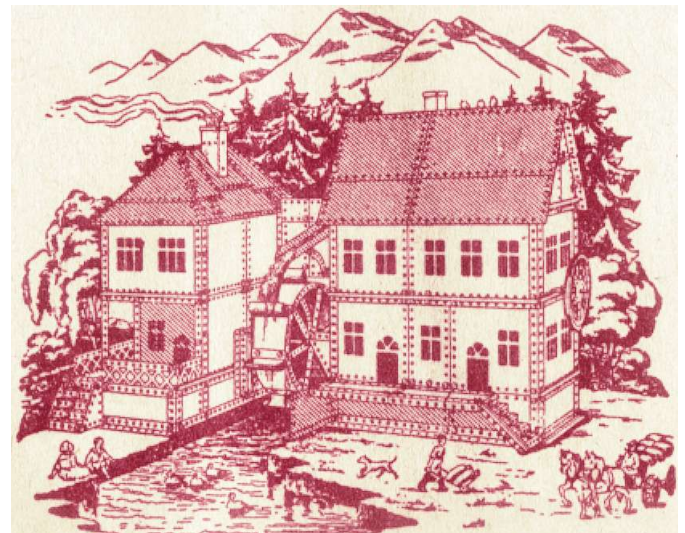
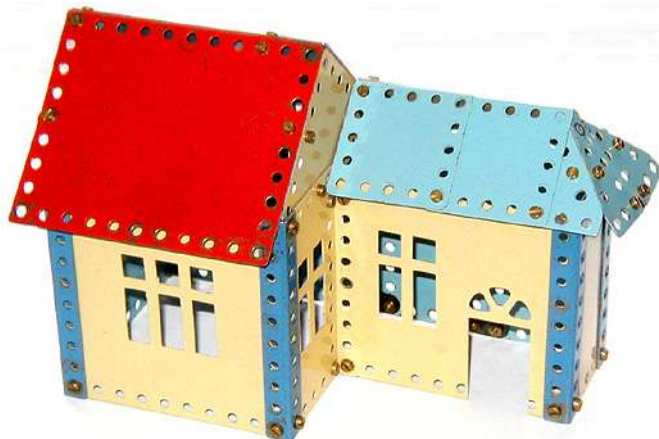
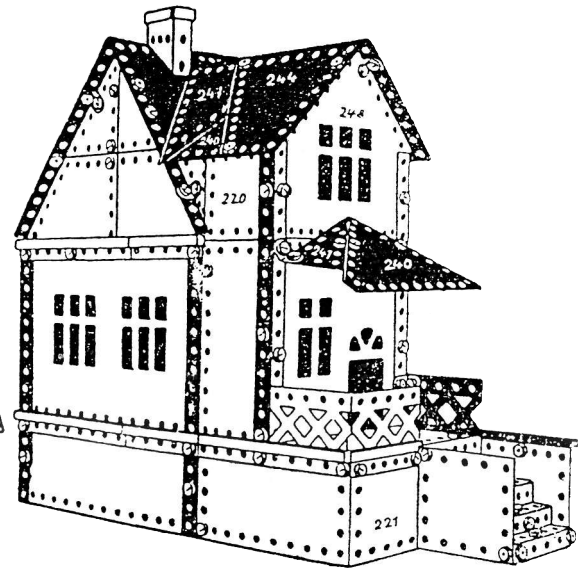
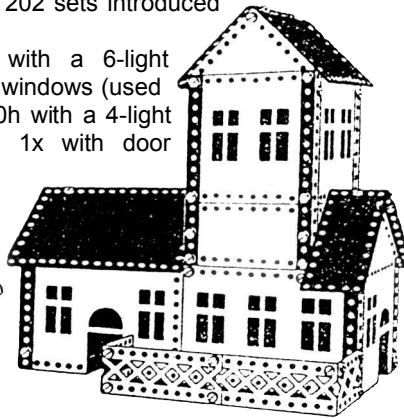
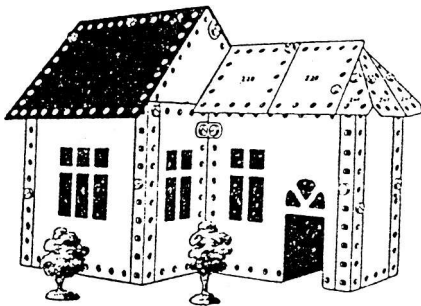
'1928'. As to end date, Maurice Morris listed the system as current in 1964 with 3 outfits and 2 linking sets.

The 3 'b&w' models across the page below are from an MCS page which looks as if it is an ad leaflet for the system. They are, from left to right, for Sets 1, 2, & 3. Below them is the No.1 model made from the actual parts, and a 'super' model from an ad in a postwar manual for the standard sets. The parts in the lot were just about enough, apart from some N&B and perhaps an A/G, to make the No.1 House, so probably they are most of a No.1 outfit.

The PARTS The model is made from painted steel Panels, typically .6-.7mm thick, joined by standard parts - Flat & Angle Brackets with A/Gs at the outer corners. Holes are the standard 10mm in pitch, and in size, 3.9mm Ø. The Panels are all light blue on the reverse side except the light blue ones on the smaller roof which are cream.

The parts in the lot were as follows.

- 4x 10h **A/G**, the standard part apart from the colour (a 5th would be needed for all the outer corners of the Model).
- **Plain Panels**: 1x 10*10h; 3x 5*10h; 4x 5*5h; 2x 9*11h (for the roof); 2x 7*7h Triangular for the gable ends (with 10 holes along the hypotenuse); 4x 3*5h Triangular (2 of each hand because of different colours on the two sides – this part is identical to #78 used in the 201 & 202 sets introduced in the late 1960s).
- **Window Panels**: 1x 10*10h with a 6-light window; 1x 10*10h with two 4-light windows (used at the back of the House); 1x 5*10h with a 4-light window.
- **Door/Window Panel**: 1x with door



opening & 4-light window.

- **Brackets**: 9 Angle & 7 Flat – standard parts with the early chemical black finish (at least 2 more A/Bs would be needed for the House, and 2 more if the 5th A/G wasn't used).
- 29 **N&B**: the older brass type with 5.6mm Ø tapered cheesehead Bolts, 5½mm u/h, and 6.0mm A/F hex Nuts (at least 35 would be needed for the Model, and I used over 50).
- **Tools**: a small flat Screwdriver & a Spanner, both standard parts, #80 & #85 respectively, painted dark blue-grey, and dark green.
- **Other parts**. As can be seen in the models below there were other special parts, and a few other standard ones were used as well. Some of the Panels are numbered and of those that can be read, #220 is the lowest & 248 the highest. 10 of them are used in the No.1 House and at least a further 13 can be seen in the other models. The text with the House makes it clear that the little trees in the front are not parts from the system.

The HOUSE It was easy generally to build and the pieces fitted well. The only exception was the rather untidy looking hip roof at the righthand end, which has excessive overhang and the line of the eaves along the end can't be quite straight. Apart from that I thought the appearance was rather good for a simple system and the cut out windows look much better than the painted on variety. No doubt proud owners would have contrived doors, and perhaps clear panels with curtains painted on for the windows; I'm tempted myself. Minor quibbles: it seemed impossible to get the main roof Panels to extend out beyond the gables at both ends, and the cutout for the door seems rather low in relation to the windows.