

Snippets – New Systems: MECHANIK, METAL MECHANIC, MECHANIH, & RIG OUT ONESELF

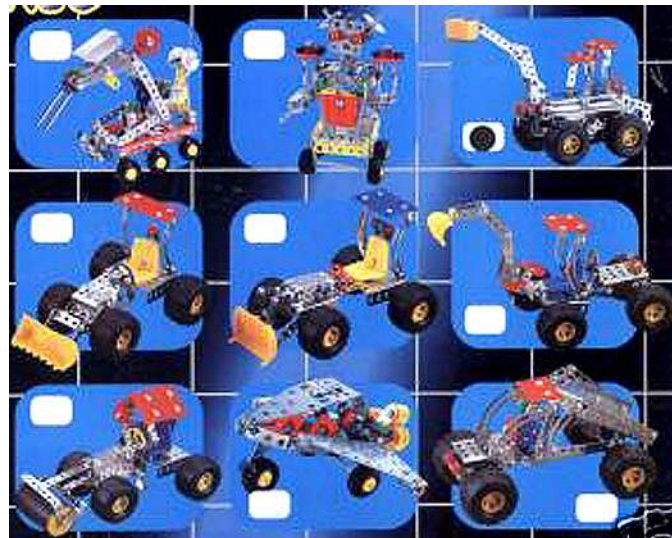
Last autumn produced a fine crop of smallish sets, mostly being sold from the UK & Germany. Their parts look like CONSTRUCTION/ POLYLONG plus a number of new plastic pieces, but the models are different. The sets have one, or in one case two, of names above, and many of the models appear in more than one of them, or in METALLICA (see 31/933). 'Made in China' can be seen on some of the boxes but there's no indication of the maker in the photos available.



First, left, **MECHANIK**, which actually dates back to late 2003. From the only words that can be read on the lid, METALLO E PLASTICA, it seems to be Italian. The small model at the bottom looks like METALLICA.

METAL MECHANIC

Below part of the bottom of one box showing the models from one



range of 9 single-model sets. - I'll number them 1-9 clockwise from top left. Nos.5, & 7-9 are the main & the small models on the MECHANIK lid, and Nos.3 & 8 are the METALLICA pair. The only box tops seen are generally similar to the lid with the Armoured Car (henceforth Lid A) below, but has model 5 as the main picture. Perhaps all the lids were the same & the model that could be



made from a set was indicated on the base by the black circle in one of the small white panels by the models.

The other series of 4 sets is mostly about military models. The contents of the Lid A outfit can be seen in



one photo – a block of white foam with 10 recesses housing 2 lots of parts, 6 Wheels, & 2(?) red-handled Screwdrivers. One of 2 models could be made from this set, though which two isn't clear from the lid. Again this could perhaps be gleaned from the underside of the box. Another Ebay item showed 4 pairs of models, including the example left. They are apparently from the

bottom of one, or perhaps four, sets. The pairs of models are (with my names) the Lorry & the Tank already shown; the Lid A Tank, & a 4-Wheel Vehicle; a tracked Rocket Launcher with 6 plastic Rockets, & the Lid A Armoured Car; another 4-Wheel Vehicle, & a 10-(small) Wheeled Missile Vehicle - a rudimentary lorry with a fat plastic missile, some 10cm long, on the back. The lids for these sets aren't shown but it's possible that Lid A is used for all of them. However some of the lids from the MECHANIH / RIG OUT ONESELF sets described next have single models from this military range on them, and all 8 are on the one illustrated below.

MECHANIH/RIG OUT ONESELF 4 lids named thus have been seen, and the one below, which dates from mid-2003 shows all 8 of the MODEL MECHANIC 'military' series models. The others are in the same style but with some differences: they have



only one model, an Item No. in the bottom right corner, & the number of parts top right. One, No.58586 with 186 parts (also from 2003), shows the Tank from the middle of the right column above. The others have Item Nos. that also start with 585 but the last 2 digits are unclear. Their models are the Rocket Launcher (215 parts) & the Armoured Car (167 parts).

RIG OUT ONESELF Again 4 lids, but with just this name (& 'Intelligent TOYS' in a small panel) on them. One is shown below and is said to have 171 parts; another, No.58186 with 121 parts, is in the same style but with a Forklift Truck model, & 'FORKLIFT' down the left side. The main changes in layout for the other two are an 8 language panel on the left instead of the model name, just 'MOBILE MACHINERY SHOP CATERA / UP TO THE MINUTE Design' along the bottom, and the model name after the system name at the top. For No.58386, 123 parts, the name is WIT MODEL BUCKET SHOVEL TRUCK, & the model is the METALLICA Shovel Loader. And for No.58388, 153 parts, it is WIT MODEL BULLDOZER, and the model looks almost identical except that it has a Blade instead of a Shovel Bucket at the front.

