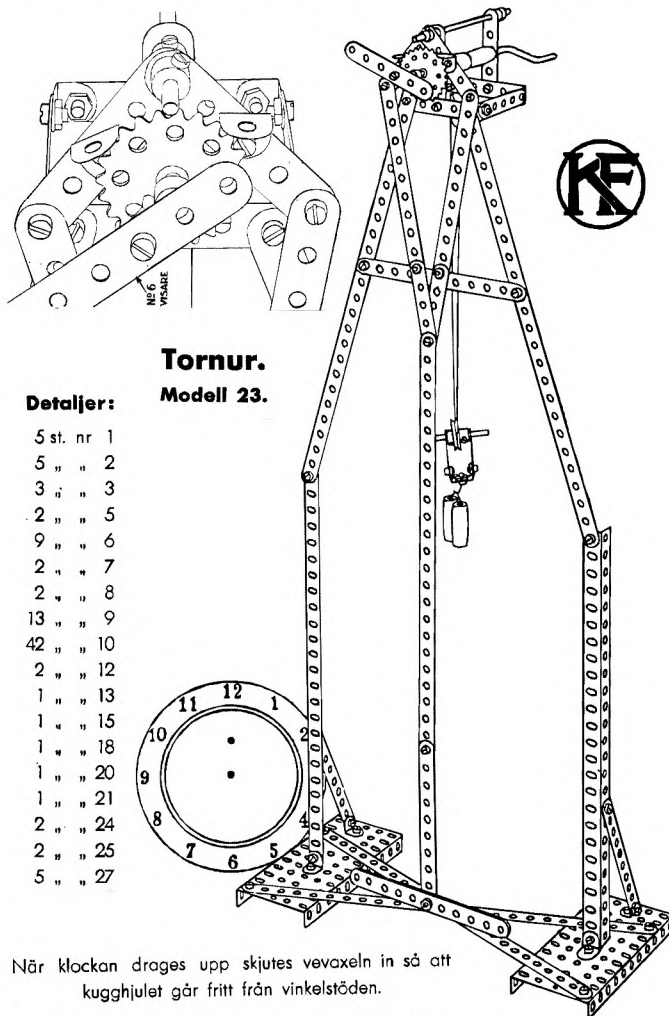


shows a Flanged Plate with no slotted edge holes.

Most of the last 13 models use the Belts and Driving Bands, sometimes in various conveyor belt models, and sometimes the Blocks or Balls are recirculated by being raised between 2 parallel Belts running close to one another. This is the case in the MCS model (full name Transportverk), and it is the only one in which the Guides are used. The Kulslunga (Ball Thrower?), on the back cover of this Issue, is another example and the idea (from the instructions) is that the Ball runs down the top ramp, drops onto the lower one, and, after passing between the Belts, bounces back up onto the top ramp. Presumably it shoots out from between the Belts and bounces off the lower Belt where it is inclined sharply upwards. The Strips '4' are to centre the Ball on the ramp. The remaining models include a Funicular Railway with more or less elaborate brake and docking linkages (I think), the Runner on the back cover, and the Clock below. The latter is the only model in which the teeth of the Sprocket are actually used, and also the only manual model I know of that uses a Sprocket as a scapewheel, with A/Bs as pallets, a very efficient escapement. The pallets are disengaged from the scapewheel when winding up the weight by pulling the Crank Handle backwards. Despite the clock face shown (to be made from card) I calculate that the hand takes about a half minute to make one revolution.

The handful of special parts in 'X' allows some interesting models of a different character to those normally found in small systems. If, as may be the case, I haven't done them justice here, let me quote the MCS comment, 'Sound and ingenious mechanisms'. My only caveat is that some of the frameworks look a little less than perfectly rigid, and important Strips are sometimes held in position by a single N&B. Nothing a few extra parts wouldn't fix though.



Detaljer:

5 st. nr	1
5 " "	2
3 " "	3
2 " "	5
9 " "	6
2 " "	7
2 " "	8
13 " "	9
42 " "	10
2 " "	12
1 " "	13
1 " "	15
1 " "	18
1 " "	20
1 " "	21
2 " "	24
2 " "	25
5 " "	27

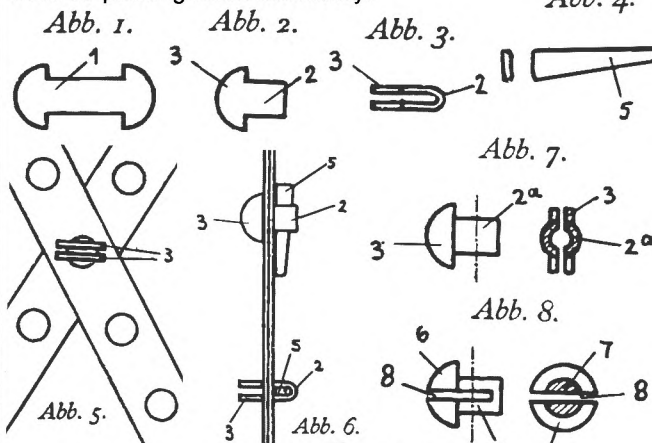
När klockan drages upp skjutes vevaxeln in så att kugghjulet går fritt från vinkelstöden.

Förhållandet mellan visaren och vevarmen justeras. Urtavlan göres av kartong. Som lodlina användes stark sytråd som fastklämmas mellan rullarna.

Vinkelstöden justeras så att de växelvis gripa in i kugarna å kugghjulet. Vevaxeln bör luta något nedåt bakåt.

The PHANTASIE Patent Werner Sticht kindly sent a copy of this German patent, Nr.389220, which was granted to Josef Sponseil of Nürnberg on 21 Dec. 1922. (Joseph Sponseil & Co. of Nürnberg was the original maker of PHANTASIE.) The patent relates to holding parts together with wedged clips, and the actual PHANTASIE parts were illustrated in 15/417. Similar EZY-BILT Clips were shown in 22/637.

Abb.1-9 below are from the Patent. The wedge has a quite sharp taper and this would allow one length of Clip to be used when joining 2 or more Strips together. In practice though a much shallower taper is needed to keep the Wedge in place and Washers, not shown in the Patent, are used as packing when necessary.



Some alternatives to the straight-forward 'T' Clip (of Abb.1-6) are offered. The sides in Abb.7 are formed to fill the holes in the Strips, & in Abb.8 a solid rivet with a slit in it is used. Finally Abb.9 shows a one-piece Clip with a wedge which is rotated by 90° to pass through the Strips to be joined, and then turned back and slid along the pin to secure it. Rather neat.

Werner wrote, 'I wonder why Sponseil got a patent, as Lilienthal used a similar method to fasten his Strips together (see 22/623).'

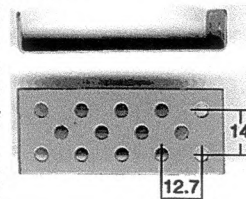
METALLUS Parts A German firm called Rekersdigitaltechnik sell a wide range of parts with 12.7mm hole pitch. Many are similar to MÄRKLIN but there are also 'standard' parts in other sizes, some 'specials', and various Motors. All are shown at www.metallus.de, and the site has an English version option. One of the parts I noticed was the Gear Plate shown in 23/659. None of the large MÄRKLIN circular parts are currently available, nor any Gears. Sprockets are listed though, in steel, brass, aluminium or plastic, and Ladder & Roller Chain for them. Sizes up to 250 teeth can be had, but the minimum order for these parts is DM150.

The 'mystery' part right was sent to David Lawrence with a Motor and when he asked its purpose he was told that it is not compatible with any MÄRKLIN part but was the result of bad programming of a punching machine. Instead of scrapping it, it was hoped that it might be of use in David's future models.

The colours of most of the parts seem to match MÄRKLIN but David was also told that the green colour is to be changed to the [slightly darker] original [prewar] MÄRKLIN shade.

The only METALLUS part I've seen is the one above and it's well made and finished (the left bend isn't as far from 90° as it looks in the illustration).

The Rekersdigitaltechnik address is Hauptstraße 39, 48480 Spelle, Germany; email: rdt@redig.de.



22/625 may be one of the En parts.

Most parts are available in several different finishes; many can be had painted red, yellow, green, or blue, or in nickel or BZP.

Contact. Address: Aries Incorporation, 37 Bombay Talkies Compound, Malad (W), Mumbai 400 064, India. Tel: +91 22 8445227 & 8821195. Enmail: inquiry@toy-kraft.com. Web: www.toy-kraft.com/toy_home.html.

I couldn't find any details about ordering on the site and the 'Order' button didn't work.

ASHOK BANERJEE Ashok has over 700 parts available, mostly MECCANO replicas, but with many variations in terms of size. For instance there are 5 Circular Strips from 2½" to 7½" Ø, and the same range of Narrow Circular Strips. Or how about a 9" long Boiler. Other 'add-ons' include a large selection of narrow parts, amongst which, and very useful, all the MECCANO Curved Strips.

Completely outside the MECCANO system are a range of Large-Toothed Gears, and 5/16" Axles with other parts to match, including Sprockets.

The parts are easy to identify by their names but none are illustrated. No doubt all the replicas are to MECCANO pattern, but it would be interesting to see the details of the non-standard ones.

Again many finishes are available, including some gold plated parts to order.

Contact. Address: Ashok Banerjee, P.O. Box 4149, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380 009, India. Tel: +91 79 6752974, 6921736/4921. Email: ashok.k.b@vsnl.com. Web: http://members.tripod.com/Ashok_Banerjee/Meccanoville/Welcome.htm.

The prices quoted for parts include delivery by airmail, and the minimum order is £50. Payment cannot be by credit card but may be made by cheque in Sterling to a UK address, with comparable arrangements for other countries.

MECAREP MECAREP is Mike Dennis & he kindly sent his 2001 catalogue - 22 pages packed with goodies for the MECCANO builder, though many of them could be used with other systems. Some of the parts are for specific published models, & parts are also made to order. In most cases the parts are made from scratch but sometimes customers' parts are modified. 'Repair & reconditioning' is also available.

The following will give a flavour of what is on offer: • Kits of parts for use with the Swiss mini-motors, including rams with motor & lead screw inside long Sleeve Pieces. • Heavy duty parts based on 6mm or 5/16" Ø Axles, & M6 Lead Screws. • A ½" square Bearing Block, & 3/8" square-section Couplings. • Pulleys modified to make them into Flanged Wheels. • Parts for use with 3/32" Ø Rod, with & without threaded ends. • Spun aluminium Flanged Rings from 3½" to 10" Ø. • ¼" Roller Chain and Delrin Sprockets. • Delrin Gears with any number of teeth. • 16 & 20 DP Gears.

Contact. Address: Mike Dennis, 102 Broadstairs Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 2RU. Tel: 01843 864624. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement.

No minimum order size. Postage: UK £1, but free for orders above £20; overseas at cost.

Mike's 2002 catalogue is now available. 11 printed pages against a 13*9" self-addressed envelope plus £1, or for overseas, £1 coin or 3 US\$.

METALLUS Contact details and a little on the range of parts was given in 24/709. Since then many parts have been added including a variety of Slotted Strips, L- & U-section A/Gs, more Plates & Flexible Plates (steel, not the MÄRKLIN aluminium), extra N&B, a wider range of Gears, and, the last addition in July 2001, Caterpillar Track. Some parts are now available in a chemical black finish as well as in the red, green, & blue enamel. Several powerful LV Motors are listed, together with a Power Supply, and a Control Unit (#9000-20), which among other things, allows 4 Motors to be controlled from a PC.

The firm has also bought the remaining TEMSI parts,

sets & materials, some 35000kg they say, and most of the parts, and some of the sets are available.

3 METALLUS sets are now being sold, packed in mahogany boxes, and a few TEMSI parts are included in them. They are called the Bonn, Bremen, & Berlin and contain 461, 1116, & 2462 parts, including about 300, 750, & 1700 NBW. As manuals, only the small & large TEMSI ones are in the sets.

The postage for a catalogue is given as DM3 so I suppose there is one, but I couldn't find any mention of it on their web site. Any quantity of parts can be bought but the minimum delivery charge is DM22.50. Cash is accepted but not credit cards. Dave Taylor sells a limited range of METALLUS parts.

I'm grateful to Josep Bernal & Karst Quast for the hard copies from the METALLUS web site that they sent me.

M.W. MODELS As well as all available MECCANO factory parts, MW have reproductions of many obsolete items and a good range of useful add-on parts. A few that have caught my eye are 7 & 70t Gears to mesh at 1" centres; 2 Curved Strips, with 8 making circles of 17 & 25h Ø; and Sleeve Pieces up to 4½" long.

Contact. Address: M.W. Models, 4 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1RY. Tel/Fax: 01491 572436/571175. Web: www.mwmodels-meccano.co.uk.

Lists free on request. Payment by credit cards accepted. Postage on parts - UK: orders over/under £10, free/£1; overseas: air mail at cost (but no VAT payable on orders from outside EEC).

SNIPPETS: KONSTRUKTOR [13] Some notes on this small Russian system appeared in 21/597, and the box lid below left is from a set which appears to be the identical except that the parts are black, probably chemically treated. Even the Tools are black but the threaded parts look to be zinc. Other points of similarity: the illustration of the Steps on the lid is the same as the manual model shown in MCS, and the Manual cover is identical to the MCS one.



The lid is red with a sage green 'nut' in the middle, and the name & Steps are white. The logo top left is shown larger below - with a little imagination it could be three kids holding aloft, from left to right, a pair of pliers, a spanner, and a screwdriver. The box is 7¼*9¼*1½", and is divided into 6 sections by card partitions. The Cord is white.

An ENGINEERO No.2 Set The post-WW2 ENGINEERO No.1 Outfit, analogous to the JUNIOR MECHANIC No.101, was described in 25/724, and now an ENGINEERO No.2 has appeared, similar to the J M No.201 (see 12/327). The No.2 lid has the same design & colouring as the No.1 but with 'No.2' under the name, and the parts are held to a greyish backing card in the same way as in J M. All the Pulley Discs are missing from the Set but the rest of the parts correspond to the contents of the J M 201 except that there are 2 extra 8h Strips. The layout of the parts is like the 201 except that the 8h Strips (3 each side) and the two 1" long Flanged Plates, are all turned through 90°. The colours of the parts are as in the No.1 Outfit.

EDITORIAL First, my thanks to everyone who sent comments on the proposed changes to the N/L. I've tried to incorporate as many as possible of your suggestions but the result is inevitably something of a compromise, especially as it is often a question of trying to get a quart into a pint pot. Let me know your reactions.

On 'admin' matters - details of subscription rates, etc, and your credit balance, are now given overleaf. Please note that for simplicity all prices are now per Issue, and that in future the next N/L will not be sent unless the credit balance is sufficient to cover its cost. To make this clear the minimum you need to send to receive the next Issue is given, but as before you can send more to avoid having to make frequent payments.

With the experience gained from printing this Issue I can give an indication of the prices likely due to the use of colour, and printing single-sided. For the usual postal zones the price per Issue will probably be about £6.50/£7/£8. The final figures will be given in OSN 29. As explained in OSN 27 this Issue and the next (OSN 29) will be at the existing rates (given overleaf) for current subscribers, and the new rates will apply to OSN 30 and thereafter.

A note on the page numbering. As well as the normal page numbers each item has an 'S' number for those who want to file OSN material in MCS. For each system the first item about it will be 'S1', the second 'S2', and so on.

FROM READERS

1. **FERMO** (see 27/784) came from the British Zone of Germany rather than from East Germany, as stated in the Extra MCS Sheet. Thank you to Jacques Pitrat for this correction.

FERMO: S1

[28/813]

2. The **MERKUR M8** was mentioned as possibly the largest general purpose set now available, but Alan Blake & other readers have drawn attention to the **METALLUS** Berlin outfit. According to the Metallus web site (now much improved & much faster) it costs €599 and has 2462 parts (the old **MÄRKLIN** No.1015, see below, has 990 + 558 N&B). By my count the M8 has 1384 parts (652 + 366 N&B), plus a Motor.

In passing, Metallus has a range of 12 outfits including 5 Gear sets. The 7 constructional outfits are said to be equivalent to the old **MÄRKLIN** Sets 1009-1015, & each is named after a German town, from Berchtesgaden to Berlin. Details of the **MÄRKLIN** sets are in MCS (the 1015 is the 1014+1034), and they all seem to have slightly fewer parts than the **METALLUS** ones. From the web photos the latter still include a few **TEMSEI** parts. A **TEMSEI** manual is included but it is suggested that the old **MÄRKLIN** manuals be used.

At the time of writing, October 2002, Dave Taylor has the Berlin listed at £329.95. The Dutch site mentioned in 27/790 has the M8 at €140.50.

METALLUS: S1

[28/813]

3. Thomas Morzinck wrote that Karl Debik has opened his

building toy museum in Germany. The address is Baukasten-Museum, Hartmannstraße 4, Löbau/Saxonia.

[28/813]

4. From Alan Blake. The Maplin catalogue includes 17 **CONSTRUCTION** sets, from a set with 116 parts at £3.99 to a 1482 part outfit at £49.99. No Set Nos. are given. Maplin shops have very few, if any, of them, but one shop had two sets that weren't in the catalogue.

CONSTRUCTION: S1

[28/813]

5. From Jacques Pitrat. 'On **BUILD** (27/798) I have an unused #400 set and the lid is the one with 'Standard' under Buildo. The contents are almost the same than those of the #45 set, but there only 6x 5h Strips, 6 DAS, no 5*9h Plate, & 3x 98mm Shafts. The Flat Plates are not fully perforated. There is a plate Screwdriver with a centre cutout in the handle. The Eccentric Strap is anodised red, and the upper two Pulley Discs are anodised orange. The disposition of the parts is slightly different from the photo in the manual. On page 1 of the manual there is the address of the maker and the description and the price of the four sets: 400, 600, 900, 1500.' [Jacques also sent a photo of his open box, showing all the parts and their layout.]

BUILD (1): S1

[28/813]

6. Some notes from Don Redmond on **BUILD** following the article in 27/796. His No.45 includes Flat Brackets with one hole slotted, and A/Bs made from them. The Bolts in the set are steel, mostly mushroom head but with a few, 6 & 9mm, RH. The 6mm hex Nuts are chamfered on one side. The wire Screwdriver is distinctive with a narrow, 5mm, tip. The Strips are rather inaccurately stamped. The finish appears to be cadmium plate or similar, soft and susceptible to fingermarks, and easily polished with 0000 steel wool.

The glassine tube of N&B in a No.400 set contains chiefly truss head Bolts (very flat round heads tapering to a sharp edge), but with some fillister heads, chiefly on the longer ones. The Nuts are 7.5mm hex brass. The Screwdriver is the flat style, and likewise in a No.600 outfit.

The Gear Quadrants in the 600 are the 13-tooth type, and they mesh well with a 30cm bronze plated, steel Chain - pitch 4.65mm and 4mm wide.

BUILD (1): S2

[28/814]

7. From Jacques Pitrat. On **SPIROU** (27/783), the word is the name of a well known hero of a Belgian comic, who has the uniform of a page boy in a hotel. There is still a 'Journal de Spirou' published in Belgium and in France. Temsi chose this name for a metal construction system because many Belgian boys liked his adventures, the same reason that there is a Mickey Mouse set.

SPIROU: S1

[28/813]

8. Clive Weston has found a **VOGUE** catalogue dated January 1957. As would be expected, Sets 1, 2, 3, 5 are listed, with B&W photos, and named Junior, Standard, Major, & Super. This is the first positive date for the No.5

EDITORIAL All I have to say this time is to point out that on some of the OSN 32 pages the Issue No. before the Page No. was incorrect, with '31' and even '30' instead of '32'. The pages in question were 950, 959, 960, 964, 965, & 970. Sorry about that.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. David Hobson showed me his Type 1 **MERCATOR** (see 29/848) No.3 set. The red box is 307*405*25mm with a portrait label like the one in OSN 29, pasted lengthways onto the lid, and a No.3 sticker on the lid apron. The parts were obviously the remains of more than a No.3 (they weighed nearly twice as much as the weight given for the set in the Manual) and the green parts were in both the dark & medium shades mentioned in OSN 29. Nearly all the parts described in OSN 29 were present with only minor differences. Points of interest follow. • Some of the 10.5mm Ø **bosses** were 11.0mm, and vice-versa. The peening had the 4 indents in most cases but in a few instances it was very shallow with no indents. • The **18mm Pulley** (see also 30/876A) was double-tapped but with a different thread on each side. Neither could be recognised but the bores were 2.55 & 2.75mm – if 'DIY' it was neatly done. • The **N&B** were all the brass sort. • The slots in the **A/B** were 7.7 & 7.9mm long o/a. • The **Loose Pulley #109** was as in OSN 29 (it was not mentioned there that it is nickel plated) but its **Rubber Ring** was smaller, 4½mm wide & 36½mm o.d. • The 6 **Collars** were 10.0-10.7mm wide and one was double-tapped. • The **Spring Clip #210** was bright steel, 3mm wide with 4½mm long wings. • The **Spanner** was 98mm long o/a, cranked as in OSN 29 but with both ends angled (as illustrated in OSN 29 – the 'straight end' mentioned there was probably an error). • The **Crank Handles** were 102, 109, & 145mm long o/a. • A **small parts box** in the Set was red steel, 58*37*21mm, with a 38*20mm clear celluloid panel in the lid.

The **Manual** was identical to the one in OSN 29 except that the address of the Bureaux was 73 rue Pierre Decoster, Forest-Bruxelles, and the address of the Usines (works) is also given – 97B rue de Fierlant, Forest-Bruxelles.

A **TRIX**-type dc **Motor** (as Fig.1 in 4/52) with a black painted base was in David's set but the only reference to a motor in the known **MERCATOR** literature is that 2 of the 'Supermodels' on C4 of the Manual are said to be powered by a 'moteur puissant (powerful)'.

MERCATOR: S7

[33/972]

2. Don Redmond wrote that while 3 of his **STRUCTO** Spider (Bush) Wheels are flush on the face side (as were the parts noted in 15/424) the fourth has a boss projecting out about 3mm. All of course are cast parts.

STRUCTO: S13

[33/972]

3. Don also mentioned the **1914 handed ERECTOR 12" Girders**, see 32/940, and wondered if those in the set on p51 in *Greenberg* had been packed upside down, thus making them appear to be the opposite hand to the norm.

ERECTOR [2]: S2

[33/972]

4. Orion DreamDancer has just bought the new, enlarged versions of the **METALLUS** Berlin, the largest standard set, and the Archimedes gear set. He finds them very impressive and he is also impressed with the factory who rapidly replaced some missing/unsatisfactory parts. The only manuals supplied are the old **TEMSI** ones which were of

course for much smaller outfits, but the set contents allow models from the old **MÄRKLIN** manuals to be made. In doing so Orion has had to resort to **MÄRKLIN** & **MECCANO** parts on some occasions though, and he mentioned 3 cases: short Grub Screws, Thin Washers, and the Reversed A/B which has a 5/8" long centre portion in the **METALLUS** version.

METALLUS: S2

[33/972]

5. **Snippet – A KUKO Lid** The name **KUKO** was mentioned in 20/587, and the lid below, from Ebay, is all I have on it. As can be seen the maker is the East German **VEB Ankerwerk** of Schmalkalen, a town 45km southwest of Erfurt. Presumably the parts are metal, & certainly, from the Screwdriver &

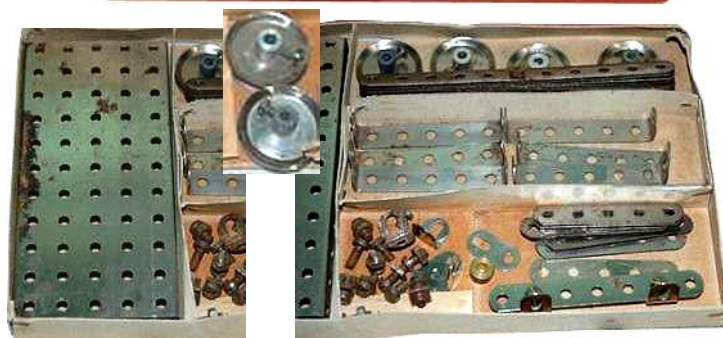


Spanner in the picture, they are joined with **N&B**. The date given in the Ebay announcement was late 1950s.

KUKO: S1

[33/972]

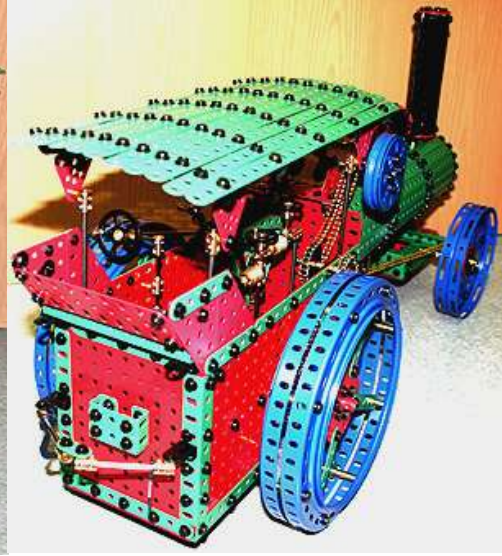
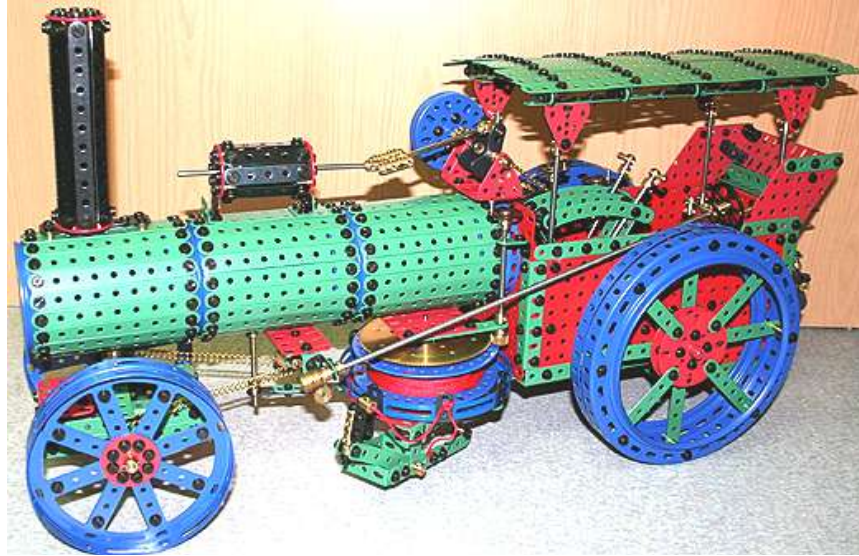
6. **Snippet – 'New' System: MILO** Two identical boxes of this simple system, German presumably, were offered as one lot and the lid is shown below. The contents varied a little



between them and above the left & right ends of the one that looked the most representative, with inset between a slightly

The METALLUS Ottomeyer Dampflokomobile This is a new set from Metallus to make the Ploughing Engine below. Ottomeyer made such machines and the one right could have inspired the model. It was built in 1958 and was one of the last, and the most powerful example ever built. The English name given in the German/English instructions for the Dampflokomobile is Steam Locomobile, though Traction Engine would perhaps be a more normal translation. The set consists 3070 pieces in 2 cases 49*49*6½cm, each with the parts fitted into a white block, and the official factory price is €485.

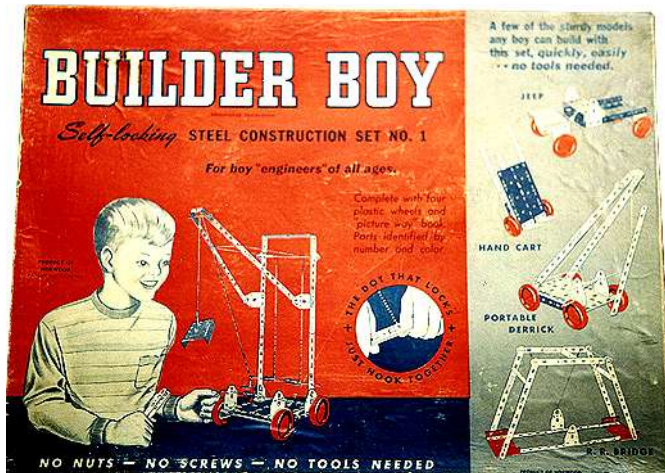
The model is 470mm long & weighs 15kg. It isn't powered and looks simple mechanically with two chain drives linking the crankshaft to the rear axle, a simple linkage to the piston rod, the usual steering, and a hand-operated, geared drive to the drum - the Handwheel is just below the crankshaft brackets. It's not clear if the two levers in the cab do anything.



OSN 35/1049

METALLUS: S3

Snippet: NORWOOD aka BUILDER BOY The lid of the BUILDER BOY No.1 set described in 12/307 is shown



above. The manual with it made no mention of BUILDER BOY and had 'NORWOOD Self-locking STEEL CONSTRUCTION SET No.1' on its cover. Now a similar Ebay set has been seen with

the same manual, but the lid has the name panel below (as on the manual), instead of BUILDER BOY & the two lines under it. The words at top right are 'For boy engineers of all ages', the slogan third line down on the BUILDER BOY lid. All the other areas of the two lids are identical.



The NORWOOD set has some parts missing but the main ones are there and probably the two had the same content. The NORWOOD lid isn't as eye catching as the BUILDER BOY and at a guess it was the earlier, with the BUILDING manual. Then when the change was made it wasn't thought necessary to change the manual.

Since OSN 12 some parts, nearly all of a No.1, have come my way and the bright pieces are nickel plated. The parts are fairly easy to clip together and the joints are quite rigid with little slop. I made a Crane with a 16" Jib and by using the 'X' Strip in the base it was possible to add slewing to the luffing & hoisting movements. Though it was reasonably successful I wasn't tempted to try to make any other models.

OSN 35/1049

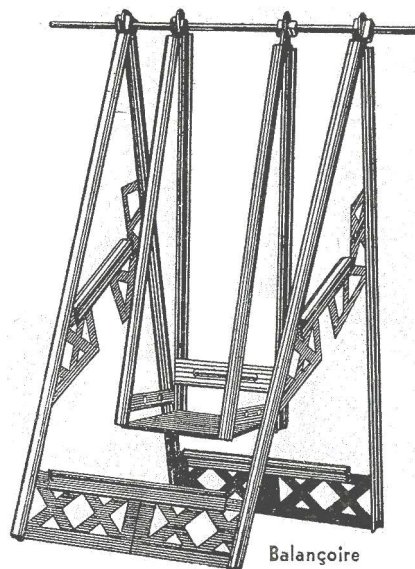
BUILDER BOY: S1

SMALL AD

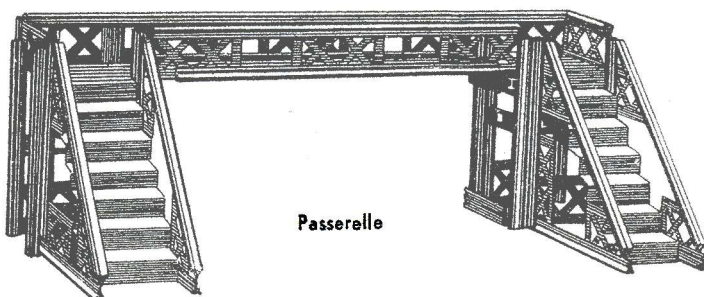
[34/1005]

For Sale at modest prices after sorting collection: **Lot 1**, PRIMUS No.3 sets (2 available), sound but poor boxes, some parts have rust, manuals with photocopied covers; **Lot 2**, PRIMUS Nos.1, 2, 1s, 2s, boxes/incomplete sets; **Lot 3**, 1930s TRIX boxes only (some with parts envelopes), No.3

and No.2 (3 with different styles of label) sets, Units 1, 1A, 2A & Gears Set; **Lot 4**, post-war TRIX boxes only, Units A to G (about 30, some with parts envelopes), also Elementrix, Moto Trix 347, and TricyTRIX 163 boxes. Contact David Hobson for further details, Woodington, Edford Green, Holcombe, Radstock, BA3 5DB; email: dvdhbsn8@aol.com.



not always clear which parts are 'real' and which are cardboard. A few Nuts and Screwed Rods appear to be used in some of the models - in the bar between the legs of the Barrow for instance, and at the top of the Swing. Strips which can just be seen in the Set (they are yellow to the left of the packet in the centre) are used in the Barrow as the legs and to provide a journal for



the axle. 2 Wheels are used in one model. None of the models include the Curved Beams shown in the Instructions.

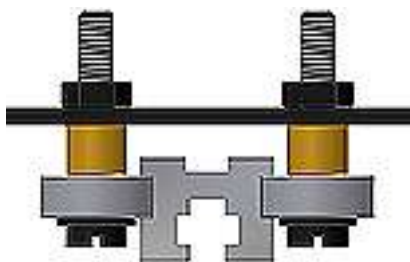
The CIJ logo on the OSN 15 set's lid (& also on the instructions with that set) do not appear on any of the 'new' material, so perhaps the latter was produced before the Patent in 1924 and before CIJ became involved.

CHARPENTO [a]: S2

OSN 37/1112

New from METALLUS The Parts Metallus have a range of around 1000 parts and continue to add to them from time to time. They can be seen on the company's web site, www.metallus.de, in German, English or in Dutch. Better still download their 112 page catalogue from the site as a pdf file because it contains more information, especially on the parts. A printed version is also available price about €15 including shipping but I've not seen it - Euros are accepted in payment but not credit cards or PayPal.

Many of the parts are variations on commonly used items but one new type caught my eye. It is called a Linear Profile and is an aluminium extrusion, 12*15.4mm in section, as left. 3 faces have 5mm wide grooves for rollers to run in (at 1" centres in the illustration set up). The fourth has a 7.2mm wide recess to take a trapped Nut so that the part can be

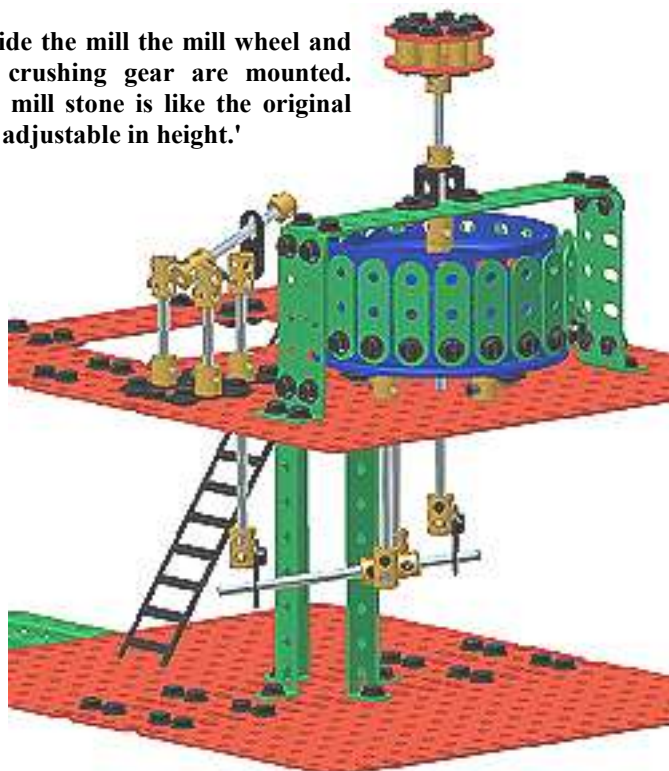


bolted down, or other parts attached to it. It is available in a number of lengths up to 3m and obvious uses are for carriages in Machine Tools, Plotters, etc. Presumably the Rollers are 'specials' running on Shouldered Bolts but I couldn't find either in the catalogue.

The Sets Among them I noticed two with a mix of TEMSI & METALLUS parts. One has 95 parts for a **Chopper Motorcycle** and the other 139 for a **Racing Car**. Both are simple models running on 1" Pulleys/Tyres and are perhaps a little overpriced at €25.65 & €35.91 respectively. The range of basic sets is unchanged except that the largest, the **Berlin**, now has 2713 parts - it costs €614.49. The **Excavator** set (see 32/967) is no longer listed, but the **Ploughing Engine** (see 35/1049) is, and a new one-model set has been introduced, for the **Post Mill** below left, 82cm high to the top of the sails. It has 3153 parts, including an M100 Motor, & costs €497.54 (the same as the Ploughing Engine). Another view shows a filled-in back with a door at the top of the steps, and a tailpole with its outer end supported by 2 cords. One scrap view shows a 1" Pulley driven by the Motor via a Worm & 3/4" Pinion; another, below, has the explanatory note from the web site alongside.



'Inside the mill the mill wheel and the crushing gear are mounted. The mill stone is like the original one adjustable in height.'



CONSTRUC name was registered in 1947 but despite this it seems likely that CONSTRUC was on the market before WW2. Jacques has pointed out that the price of the outfits in the Album, Fr.5 & 10, and that of the Lux set, Fr.115, point strongly to prewar. Likewise the cost of the Album at the time, Fr.3. These prices are comparable with MECCANO in 1937: a Set 0 at Fr.32, an X1 at Fr.9 and a D at Fr.135. The earliest postwar MECCANO prices to hand are for 1953 when a No.0 cost Fr.695 and a No.0 manual Fr.50. Official figures show that prices rose by 200% between 1947 & 1953 and so the 1947 prices would be about Fr.350 and Fr.25. QED, but it might be thought odd that both of the only two Albums known have the 'prewar' prices in them. If they were issued postwar, then they must either have been prewar stock, or printed postwar unamended. In both cases the postwar prices could have been on a separate leaflet.

The First Parts? There is one indication in the OSN 21 Album of a possible first stage in the CONSTRUC story. The 16 Strips listed are labelled as would be expected but 4 of them, AS, R.1, R.2, & T.2, also have in brackets by them those PNS preceded by 'L.' So could it be that there were only these 4 Strips in the system originally? The 'L' probably stood for 'Lame', the word often used for the Strips in the manuals.

The Era of Sets I to III Whatever the date the range of sets given in the OSN 21 albums was: Sets I, II, III; add-on Sets I, II; extra parts Sets I, II, III. Then, as stated in OSN 21, the extra parts sets were replaced by Sets I & II (whether the addition of the serifs is significant I don't know). This replacement is known from Jeannot's Album in which a sticker with Sets I & II on it covers the original three sets.

The Era of Sets 1 to 8 The sets advertised on the back

page of the present Notice are from No.1 to No.8 and these no doubt replaced the previous 7, earlier 8, sets. They are thought later because the Strips D8 & D9 in the Notice were not mentioned in the Albums, and were presumably new parts. Perhaps the change happened after WW2. No prices are given and that might be expected in the postwar inflationary period.

Now to compare the new 1-8 range with the contents of the earlier sets as given in the MCS Extra Sheet (the contents of Sets 1-8 are only given in general terms in the Notice). In what follows the number of models quoted are those for Sets 1-8 in the Notice. • **No.1** has the Jig and more than 150 parts for 8 models. The earlier No.I had 134 parts. • **No.2** has 190+ railway & motor vehicle parts for 23 models, against 180 parts in the No.II. Set II contained all the parts in the No.I except the Jig and so couldn't be used without having a No.I. • **No.3**, 130+ mechanical parts for 30 models including Cranes etc, against 140 parts in the No.III. Nos.III & 3 are clearly add-on sets and would be used with Sets I & II. • **No.4 & No.5** are add-on sets with railway & motor vehicle parts respectively, which in each case allows 13 more models when used with Set 1. These sets are probably similar to the earlier add-on Sets I & II. • **No.6** contains 'plaques de rotation' and other parts to allow, with Sets 1 & 2, 'belles réalisations' such as Models 18 & 35 in the Album. There was probably not an earlier equivalent to this set. The models in the OSN 21 Album were not numbered so this might indicate that there was a later version of the Album. • **No.7 & No.8** with 200+ & 70+ parts, are probably similar to the earlier extra parts Sets I & II though the latter contained the 450mm Axle and this isn't mentioned for the No.8.

CONSTRUC: S4

OSN 41/1242

METALLUS Bits & Bobs Browsing the Metallus web site I came across a few things that I didn't remember from 2007 (see 37/1112).

The changes included 2 new sets, one a version of the largest Berlin outfit described as 'MEC-read-green', which I guess means the parts are in Meccano's red & green, but there's no photo. The other is a set to make the rather unusual 'Red Baron' below (Fig.1), with wings from a Strip front & rear, and Cord lacing in between, and the prop driven from the twin tail wheels. It is said to have 248 parts and to cost €78.50, both of which I find hard to believe. The Berlin, with its 2713 parts, still costs a much more reasonable €614.49.

New to me among the parts are: • The Roller in Fig.2, supplied with 2 sizes of Bracket. • 8mm Axles, 8/4.1mm Hollow

Axles (normal METALLUS Axles are 4.0mm) up to 300mm long, and the 8mm Bearing in Fig.3, probably a ball race between the brackets. The only part I could find mention of with an 8mm bore was a 16mm o.d. Collar. • Narrow Strips and A/Gs up to 49h long, and a few Narrow Brackets. • 5, 11, & 17h Flat Curved Girders (Fig.4). • Several sizes of Flexible Triangular Plates in the form of isosceles triangles. • Cord in various colours and 1, 1.5, or 2mm diameter. • Various Battery Holders, some with switches. • A 6½" Ball Bearing with 16x 10mm balls (Fig.5). • 5 to 25h Girder Strips (Fig.7), of 1mm thick steel. • A Flexible Double Strip (Fig.6) which I thought might be a plastic hinge, but seems to be steel and can be set to any angle by bending across the narrow joining links.



FIG.1



FIG.2



FIG.3



FIG.4

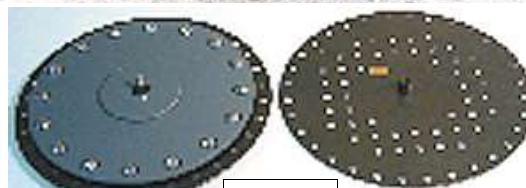


FIG.5



FIG.6



FIG.7

METALLUS: S5

OSN 41/1242

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EDITORIAL I'm pleased that OSN has survived 25 years to reach No.50 and that it is still in good heart. Much ground has been covered and much remains to be explored, but for me at least it has been a fascinating journey, and I look forward to producing more Issues. None of this would have been possible without the support of both contributors & subscribers, and I would like to thank them all, not least for their patience now that it takes so much longer to produce each Issue.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **Snippet. TRONICO Dinosaurier Sets.** There are 3 of these outfits, all in the same vein. They are Tyrannosaurus



FIG.1

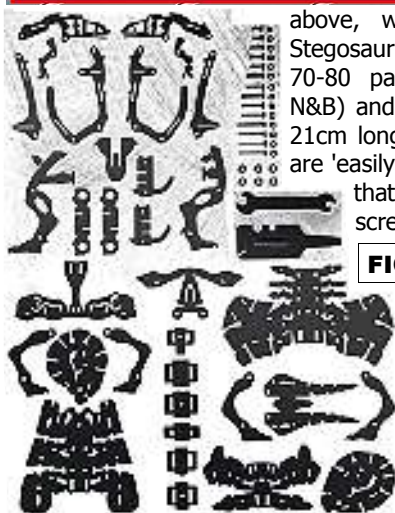


FIG.2

above, with its parts below it; Stegosaurus; & Triceratops. All have 70-80 parts (including 30 or so N&B) and all the models are about 21cm long. It is said that the parts are 'easily bendable' aluminium' and that 'the kits are only bent not screwed together'. So presumably the parts interlock after having been suitably bent, with the N&B at critical points. I wondered if the parts were ready formed but in an Ebay set they look flat, and the diagonal slot in the corner of the Screwdriver's handle

is probably an aid to bending.

These sets are sold (at €9 each) only by the shop attached to the TRONICO website, but sets to make identical models called METAL DINO, as below, have been seen on American Ebay. As can be seen the lids have OWIKIT in small letters in the bottom left corner. A Parts List sheet with one set is headed ROBOTIKITS & below it is 'This aluminum kit includes soft and hard aluminum plates. To give this kit your own



FIG.3

shape, bend the soft plates to a different position and/or angle according to your own ideas.' And the undersides of all the boxes, OWIKIT and TRONICO show the animal in several different postures.

TRONICO: S4

[50/1516]

2. **AUTOMAT.** Paul Goodman wrote (some time ago I'm sorry to say) that AUTOMAT had changed hands, and since June 2012 its new owner has been Knotech GmbH, Selitstraße 10, D-55234 Erbes-Büdesheim, a town about 50km away from the previous address.

The website [//www.compact-technik.de](http://www.compact-technik.de) gives details of the current range of sets & parts and I hope one day to update the review of AUTOMAT in 21/604 (that was in 1999) to include an outline of all the changes since then.

AUTOMAT: S2

[50/1516]

3. **METALLUS.** Paul Goodman also mentioned that this German system might be 'running down', and when I checked its website the only sets I could find were 3 of the earlier 7 basic sets, and one theme set, the Ploughing Engine. It was only practical to check on a few parts: all of the 3 categories of common parts I looked at were as before, but in more specialized areas no parts were listed in 2 of 3 of them.

METALLUS: S6

[50/1516]

4. **The TECO Manual.** Jürgen Kahlfeldt wrote that the 8 model pages in the TECO manual described in 34/1027 are identical to 8 of the 13 model pages in the 31st Edition of the STABIL manual for Set 48, although said pages are not in the same order.

TECO: S4

[50/1516]

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