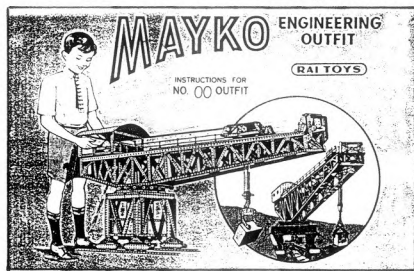


on the Tractor give the impression of having a different shape of tyre to the ones in the Set.

MEPAR is highlighted on the cover and may be the name of the maker; under it is an address, UI Sobieskiego 54, 42-201 Czesochowa.

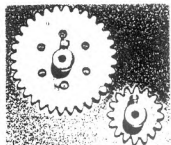
**MAYKO** This was an Indian system made by Rai Toys and the manual cover for the 00 set (below) is very similar to the one used by Meccano in 1934-36 & 1945-47. The only real difference is that the boy standing at the back of the Giant Block-Setting Crane has no jumper and a different



face & hair style. Probably MAYKO was one of the systems that appeared in the mid-1950s when MECCANO was no longer available in India. A set label shows the Floating Crane which was a No.2 MECCANO manual model from 1937 to 1961.

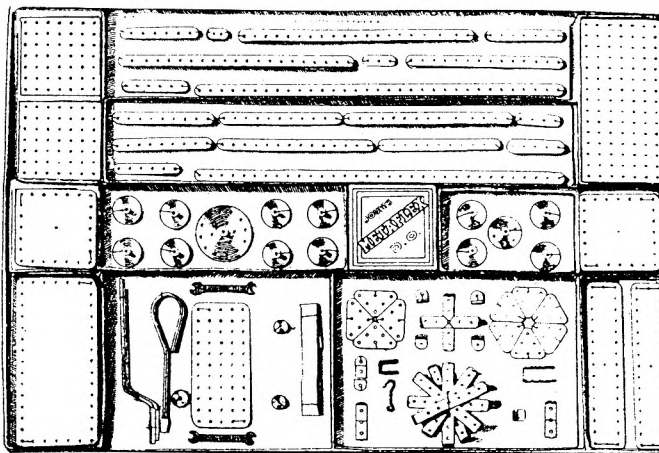
**MECCANICO** Sets sold under this name were made by Roberto Braglia and the front cover of a No.3 manual shows a model containing characteristic BRAL parts, with alongside other BRAL parts including the Gears opposite, (BRAL parts 93 & 93a).

## Meccanico



As shown in MCS, BRAL sets and manuals were also called IL CONSTRUTTORE MECCANICO, and another name used was IL CONSTRUTTORE BRAL. The Gears shown were introduced at some time after WW2 and before 1970, probably well before, and a boy is shown on the manual wearing a baseball hat.

**MÉTAFLEX** A French system from the 1950s with unpainted aluminium parts, made by a company called "D.O.". There were 4 sets plus conversion outfits, and the No.1 is shown below.



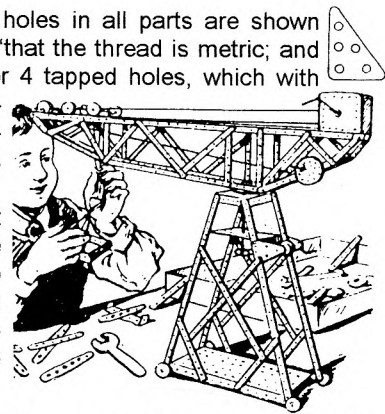
The hole spacing is 10mm and the hole diameter looks to be about 3mm. Most of the 46 parts can be identified in the Set with the notes below as a guide.

- At the top are Strips with 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,11,14,21, & 33h. Also listed is a 15h. At the sides are 7\*7 & 7\*15h Flanged Plates, each with 2 flanges, on the 7 & 15h sides respectively.
- In the centre bay: 7\*7h Flexible Plates; Pulley & Flanged Wheels which scale at about 22mm Ø; a 6h Bush Wheel, and one of about 50mm Ø with rings of 6 & 12 holes.
- At the bottom: 7\*15, 5\*11 & 3\*15h Flex Plates; Screw-driver, Spanners, & Crank Handles with the handles sleeved; small Pulleys with & without boss; DAS 3,5,7h wide with 1h lugs; Angle Brackets, and Double Brackets 1,2, & 3h deep; a Double Bent Strip and a Wire Hook; 3\*3h Corner Brackets and Triangular Plates.

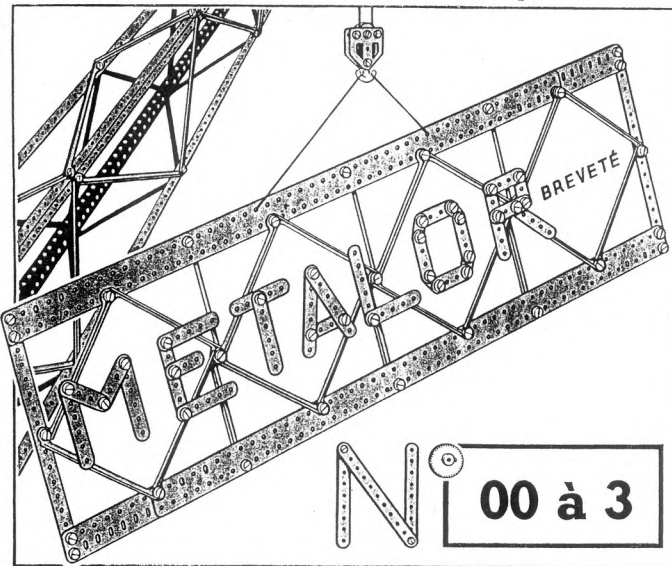
An Illustrated Parts List also shows 4 Axles, 30,40,50 & 95mm long; a hex Nut, a Bolt with a thin cheesehead, a Grub Screw; a Collar and the different pattern Corner

Bracket (opposite). All holes in all parts are shown round. An ad mentions 'that the thread is metric; and that the Collar has 2 or 4 tapped holes, which with the Threaded Rods included in the Sets, allow articulated joints and linkages.'

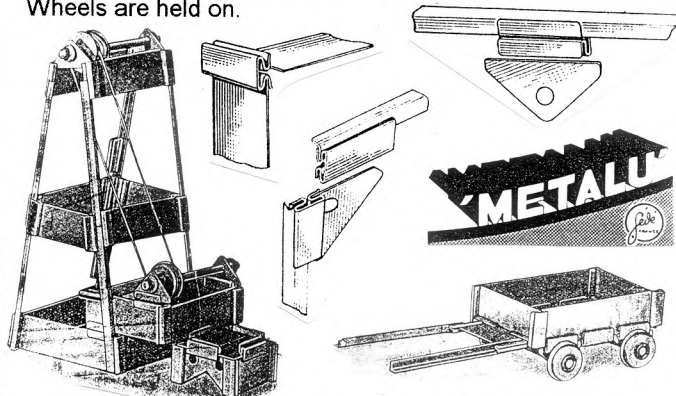
No indication of set contents is available but the No.1 looks to have a good selection of parts. The Crane opposite is shown in the ad.



**MÉTALOR** There are photocopies of a few parts from this 1950s Belgian system in MCS, and the hole pitch and diameter are given as 12.0 & 3.5mm. The odd thing is the flanges with slotted holes in the 3 A/Gs shown - a 5h A/G has every other hole slotted, an 11h one has all slotted holes, and a 15h has only holes 1,3 & 5 slotted. The other parts shown are 5 & 11h Strips, and a hex Nut and cheese-headed Bolt. Part of a manual cover for Sets 00-3 is shown below & a few parts can be seen on it: a Gear, Flat Trunnion, and Double Hook; Strips with 2,3,4,5,6,9,11 & 17 (or 15) holes; Flat Girders with all the holes in one row slotted, and 50h long ones with only holes 1,3 & 5 so shown; and the bracing Stays which look as if they are a very narrow angle with eyes formed at the ends of one flange.



**MÉTALU** There is only a small ad in MCS and the name is spelt wrongly, see 15/427. Now more details are available from several pages of a manual. Models are made from unperforated Plates and narrow A/Gs, which are joined by pushing them into 'K' section Clips. The diagrams and model below explain all. Axles run in Flat Trunnions pushed into the Clips, but it isn't clear how the Flanged Wheels are held on.



No indication of the size of the parts is given. The maker was Gédé, the firm that made one version of EFEL; MCS gives the date as



**Fig.17** a Pulley Unit with shafting standards, a Saw Bench, a Grinding/Polishing Machine, & a Fan. Set 6 was probably the No.5 without the Motor. In 1954 the 'TEKNO'



**Fig.18**

former a 1938 catalogue lists Sets 5 & 6. The No.5 contains a No.50 Motor, a Base,

items listed were 2 wall-mounted Pulley Units, the 3 machines as before, plus a later Motor, and 5 machine tools: a Hammer, Drill, Lathe, Shaper, & Milling Machine. Above, many of the items including the Pulley Units, all driven by a Power Station.

**FOOTNOTE** The TEKNO Illustrated Parts have been added to the 'Extra Other Systems Material' link on the OSN website.

## TEKNO [1]: S4

OSN 52/1604

**Some METAFLEX Parts** These notes give more details of the parts mentioned in 16/447. They are based on a good selection of parts which came in a plain wooden box, almost certainly non-original. They were identified as METAFLEX by their resemblance to those in OSN 16 & by 3 small part boxes, all with lids of the same, or similar, design to the one in the OSN 16 illustration.

The box is 29½\*50\*9½cm (including a hinged lid 3¼cm deep), far deeper than would be needed for the parts.

Of the part box lids one has a label (Fig.1) as in OSN 16 except that it is a sideways mirror image, and doesn't have 'D. O.', the supposed maker, on it. The other two are identical to the OSN lid, & have the Fig.1 colouring. The lids themselves, & their matching bases, are dark blue-green, 7½cm square, for the 'non-D O', dark & light blue speckled, 6½cm square, for one 'D O', & plain cardboard, 7½cm square, for the other.

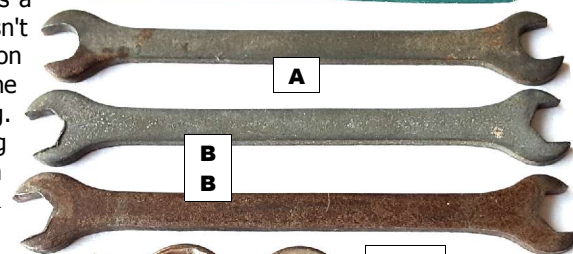
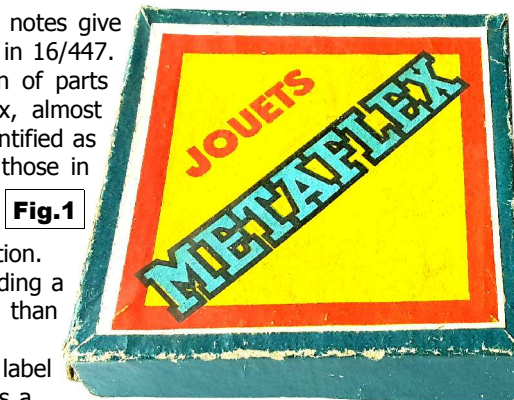
There are also 3 larger bases or trays: 15½\*7½cm, dark blue-green; 14\*7½ plain cardboard; and 13½\*7 plain cardboard.

All the parts mentioned in OSN 16 are present except the Screwdriver, Hook, 5cm Axle, & 4h Collar. In addition there is a 21cm Axle, a Set Screw, & an Axle Stop, though the latter looks out of keeping with the other parts. All are aluminium save the steel Axles, Crank Handle, Bolt, Grub Screw, & Spanner, and the nickelled brass Axle Stop.

Holes are all round, 3.2mm Ø at 10.0mm pitch. The thread is the old French standard, 3x.6mm. Axles etc are 3.0mm Ø. All the Wheels are turned from the solid with integral bosses, the latter 8.7-9.2mm Ø, double-tapped, with bores variously 3.1 to near 3.2mm. All 'strip' ends, & corners are near fully radiused.

A list of the parts found with their quantities in curly brackets follow, with notes on them including differences in appearance from those in the figure in OSN 16.

**Strips** 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,11,14,15,21,33h {11,13,13,19,22,19,26,18,17,11,8,4}, are 9.8-10.0m wide & vary from .5mm thick for



**Fig.2**

the 2h to 1.5mm for the 33h. **DAS**, 1\*7,5 ,3\*1h {12,6,4}. **D/B**, 1,2,3h high {2,3,3}. **A/B** {34}. **Double Bent Strip** {3}. **Flanged Plates**, 7\*7,15h, about .9mm thick {4,2}. **Plates**, 7\*7,15h, 5\*11h, 3\*15h, typically .6mm thick but some thinner, with a few down to .3mm. {10,4,5,10}. The 3\*15h has no centre hole; the 5\*11h has only the perimeter holes. **Triangular Plates**, typically about .5mm thick, 3\*3h equilateral & 3\*3h right-angled, as in the OSN 16 box, not the 2\*3h of the Illustrated Parts in MCS {12,10}. **Pulleys**, 50,30,25,14,11,11 (no boss) {2,3,17,1,1,3}. The 30 & 50mm with 6 & 12 face holes, are the 'Bush Wheels' of OSN 16. Said holes are at 10 & 20mm radius. The width of the vee is about 3½mm, though up to 4¼ for the 30 & 50mm. **Flanged Wheel**, 25mm Ø with the 20mm Ø tread, 2½mm wide {10}. **Collar**, double-tapped, 7.6-7.8 Ø, 6.5-6.7mm long {13}. **Axles**, 30,37,96,209mm {2,3,8,1}. Dark grey with sheared ends, one or two slightly rounded. **Crank Handle** {5}. Matches the Axles, 130mm long o/a with typically a 93mm shaft & 25mm handle offset 18mm. The handle not sleeved. **Bolt**, greyish finish, 2 types: cheesehead, 5.0mm Ø, 8mm u/h; tapered cheesehead, 5.3mm Ø, 8½mm u/h {5,9}. **Nut**, hexagonal, 5.0 A/F, 3.0mm thick {10}. **Grub Screw**, pointed end, 5½mm long o/a {8}. **Set Screw**, cheesehead, 4.0mm Ø, 5mm u/h (Fig.2) {20}. **Spanner**, 68mm long o/a, both ends angled, one slightly, one very slightly. Two types of jaw bottom: one shaped to fit a hexagon (Fig.2B), one concave (Fig.2A). {2,1}. **Axle Stop** with internal sprung wires, 12.2mm Ø, see Fig.2 {8}. Holds well, its centre turning with Axle, but difficult to push over the non-rounded Axle ends. **Cord**, some very fine white cord was wrapped around a Crank Handle.

Given the different styles of small part boxes, the quantities of the parts (the 5 Crank Handles for instance), and their variations, particularly the Spanners, it's very likely that the parts found were either from one set plus a good many extra parts or, perhaps more likely, at least two sets.

## MÉTAFLEX: S1

OSN 52/1604