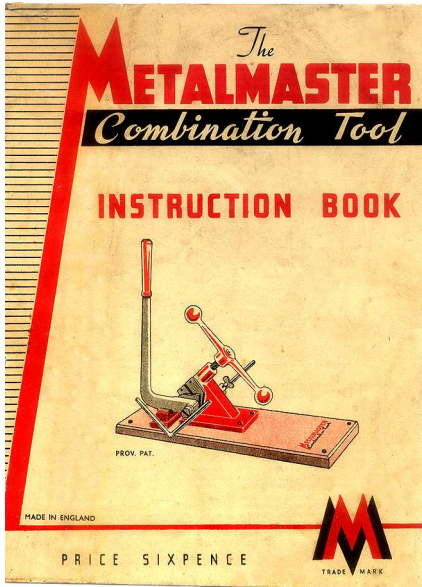
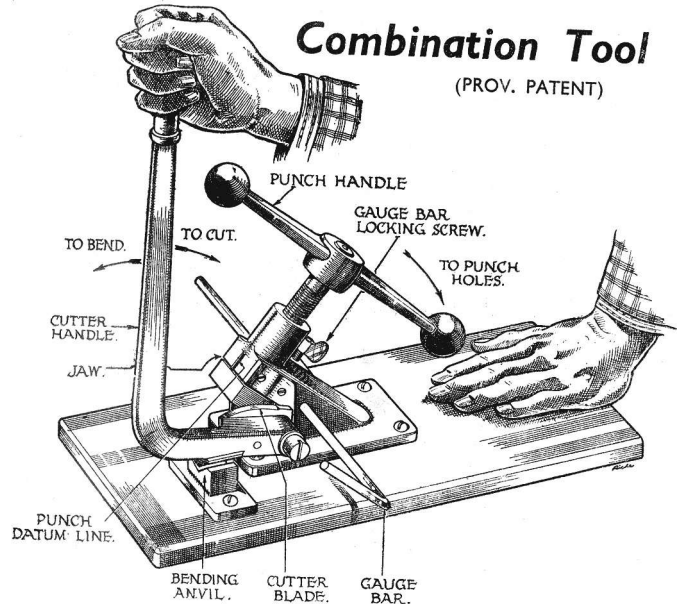


'New' 'DIY' System: METALMASTER David Hobson recently discovered, and kindly lent me, a Manual and the remains of a Dealers' Kit for this system. It was made by Sanders Bros. of Sevenoaks, probably soon after WW2 (the Manual's PR includes '8/46'). David also found a small box ad in *Games & Toys* for 9/47: 'Write for full particulars of the successful construction set METALMASTER. The London Magical Co., Francis Terrace, Junction Road, London N19.' The same product? And if so, was the London Magical Co. an agent, or selling off Sanders' stock?



The **Manual** has 8 unnumbered pages including covers, 230*170mm, and the front is shown above. Inside are 2 pages with the diagram below plus operating & maintenance instructions. The Comb-



ination Tool can shear the steel Strip supplied, make 90° bends in it, & punch holes in it. Then on the next 4 pages, 6 models (RAILWAY SIGNAL to LORRY TRAILER); various small items such as clips & brackets 'For the Home, Household, Garage & Workshop, & Car'; and small side elevations of 5 Bridges & a Titan Crane showing the main structural frameworks. Finally, on the back cover, the contents of Kit No.1 (below), and 'The range of METALMASTER parts, and

KIT No. 1—Contents
 1 METALMASTER COMBINATION TOOL • 1 DOUBLE-ENDED SPANNER
 1 COMBINED SPANNER & SCREWDRIVER • 24, 12" LONG METALMASTER STEEL STRIPS • 24, 1/4" LONG SCREWS • 12, 3/8" LONG SCREWS
 6, 3/4" LONG SCREWS • 48 NUTS • 2, 3" LONG SCREWED RODS • 2, 4 1/2" LONG PLAIN RODS • 4, 1" DIA. FIXED PULLEYS • 1, 1/2" DIA. FREE PULLEY
 equipment, is continually being increased, and new kits are now in course of preparation.' Also details of the company — Sanders Bros: (Sevenoaks) Ltd., Metalmaster Works, High Street, Sevenoaks, England; & the PR — CP/10850/8/46.

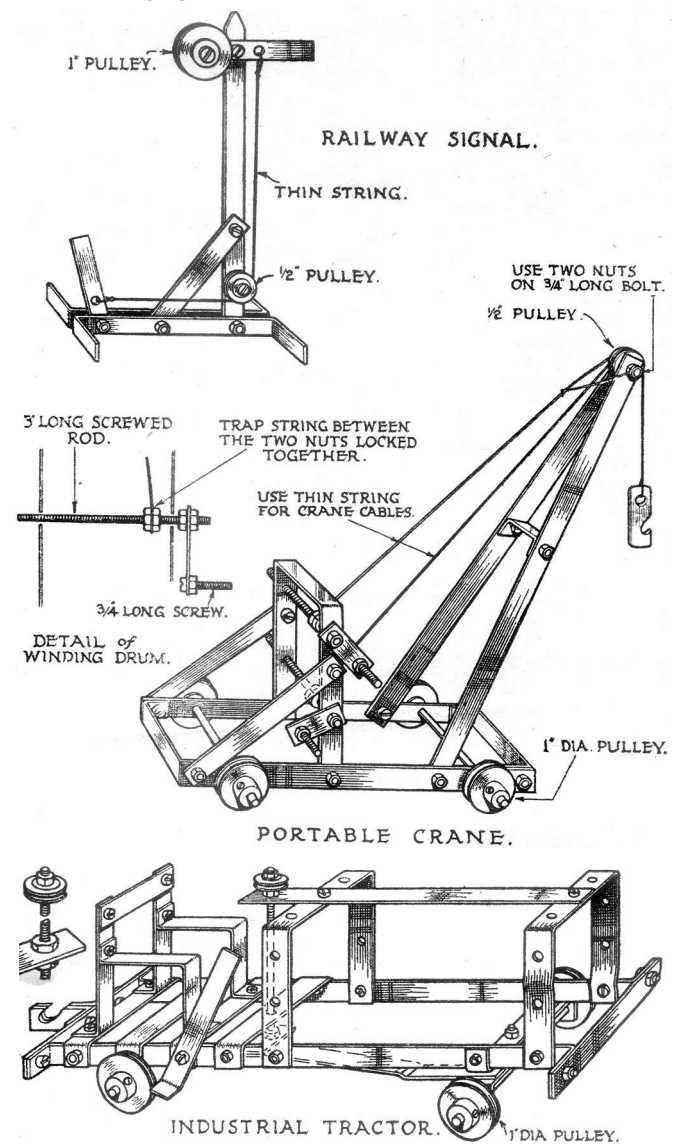
The **Dealer's Kit** is a plain brown cardboard box 10 1/4*8 1/2*3", & the B&W label, 4 1/4*1 1/4", has METALMASTER DEALER'S KIT of CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL printed on it. Inside are 7 card boxes 4 3/4*1 1/4*1 1/4", & 2 similar but 2 1/2" long. There would

be room for another 4 of the longer ones, or 8 of the 2 1/2". Each box has a B&W label headed 'METALMASTER' with the name & quantity of a part underneath. Each short box is for 2 dozen 1/2" Dia. Brass Pulleys; the long ones are: 1 for Combined Spanners and Screwdrivers, 2 for Double-Ended Spanners, 3 for 1" Diameter Brass Pulleys, & 1 for 4 1/2" Axles. Each contains 1 dozen parts except 3 dozen for the Axles. All the boxes were empty except the Tools & the 1/2" Pulleys.

The Tools & 2 Pulleys are shown left at 50% full-size. The Pulley is turned brass, 5 1/2mm wide with a trace of a boss, 8mm Ø & 1/2mm deep, on either side. Its bore is 4.1mm, and thus the Axles are probably about 5/32" Ø, and the thread likewise. The Tools are pressed from 1/8" thick steel & chemically blackened. The large jaw of the Spanner, .45" wide, fits a lock nut on the Combination Tool; the smaller ones are .25".

3 of the best manual **models** are shown below, nearly full-size. The Tractor's centre-pivot steering is linked to the crank on the steering column, and it is suggested that thin cardboard be bolted to the framework to form the bonnet.

As can be seen the Strip looks to be about 3/8" wide. The Intro in the Manual says that the steel strip has a pleasant polished surface, and that right angle Gusset Plates, Circles & Rectangles of the same material are also supplied. These aren't mentioned anywhere else except that a 'METALMASTER 1 1/2" Circle' is specified for one model, and a 1 1/2*1 1/2" gusset in another is either the METALMASTER Gusset Plate or would have to be cut from a Rectangle (users are warned against using non-METALMASTER material for fear of damaging the Tool).



EDITORIAL It dawned on me the other day that subscription rates for OSN should be reduced because postage isn't so high now that the pages are printed double-sided. It's a matter of pennies for UK subscribers so no change there, but the price per issue for 'Europe & surface elsewhere' will be reduced by £0.50 to £6, and by £1 to £6.50 for 'airmail outside Europe'.

These rates should have applied to the 3 issues 31-33 so the accounts of those affected have been credited with £1.50 or £3 as appropriate.

Back Issues prices have also been adjusted and details are given overleaf.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. Werner Sticht wrote that he has updated his **STABIL** site (www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu) with more material including many new illustrations of sets & models. Revised areas are the history of the system & the Walther company, the Inventor sets, the small sets & Kanonenbaukästen, the Motors, and the wooden constructional outfits (Maschinen-baukasten, Record, Zimmermannbaukasten). The STABIL periods 1921-1926 & 1927-1929 are now described in detail and can be considered complete. Other additions include detailed descriptions of the Patented Spur Gears, the Rubber Tyres & the parts made from fabric, and a list of books on MCS. The following chapters are still to be completed: Walther's INGENIEUR Bauspiel, STABIL after 1929, and other STABIL matters (ads, contests, etc.).

STABIL: S3

[34/1004]

2. Jack Little has identified the balloon Road Wheel in Mystery Parts No.44 (see 22/640) as a **YOUNG ENGINEER'S** part. He has received a set of 4 of them from Tony Johns, the son of Fred Johns, one of the partners in Johns & Avons who made YOUNG ENGINEER'S sets from 1938-41. It isn't sure though that the rest of the Mystery 44 parts are YOUNG ENGINEER'S. They generally match the Illustrated Parts in MCS but the Plates, #2 & 3, are 6*5h with perforations along all four edges, and both types of Trunnion, #10 & 11, are the 7h pattern. Also MCS says that YOUNG ENGINEER'S parts were possibly red & green.

Mystery Parts 44; YOUNG ENGINEER'S: S1

[34/1004]

3. News from Constructorama sent by Jeannot Buteux. 6 'new' systems have recently come to light:

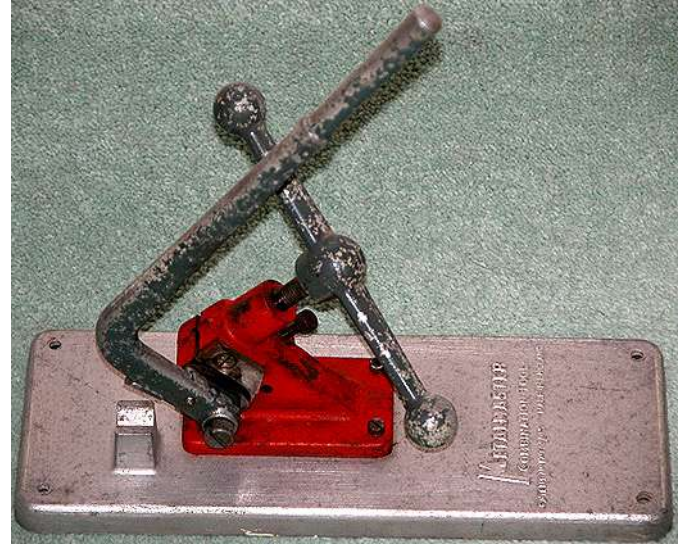
- **CUBAL**, French, around 1947 (from an unused set with manual).
- **LE CHARPENTO**, French, around 1950 (from a manual and a box with a few parts in it).
- **AUTO-MÉCA**, French, around 1930, a system to make various vehicles (from photos).
- **INGÉNORIA**, French, around 1950, a system to make various motors (from photos).
- **CONSTRUCTO**, French, around 1922, a Plate system.
- **LE PETIT ARTISAN DE LA CONSTRUCTION MÉCANIQUE**, Belgian, around 1950, probably the same as LE PETIT ARTISAN DE LA MÉCANIQUE - a system in MCS but with no illustrations (from photos).

Jeannot is sending details of CUBAL & LE CHARPENTO and I plan to include them in the next Issue.

New OS Names: S1

[34/1004]

4. An illustration of the **METALMASTER** DIY Tool taken from a manual was shown in 33/1003 but now Paul Goodman has



tracked down the actual example below. The red body is steel while the base & handles are aluminium. Said base measures 275*105*15mm, a little larger than that of the JUNEERO Tool. Cast into its top face is METALMASTER COMBINATION TOOL PATENT No. 17973/45 MADE IN ENGLAND - that would be the patent application number in 1945. The company's name & address, as in OSN 33, is cast into the underside. A 4mm MÄRKLIN Axle is a running fit in the hole made by the punch but a MECCANO Axle (4.06mm) won't enter it.

METALMASTER: S2

[34/1004]

5. **Snippet: 'New' System: STAHLBAUKASTEN**

All that was said of the set right was a date -1948. The main parts in the Bridge seem to be Strips with just a hole at either end joined by several types of small Junction Plate. Some of both types of part can be seen in the box, including the unusually shaped hexagonal Plate at bottom centre. There may be some grey plate material under the Spanner and wood-handled Screwdriver

STAHLBAUKASTEN: S1

[34/1004]



6. **Snippet: A SPIROU/ROBBEDOES No.6 Outfit** Sets 1-5 are listed in MCS for this Belgian version of TEMSI, but a No.6 was recently offered on Ebay. It is a 2-layer set in a red box, yellow inside, with the parts in card partitioning. Sets 2-5 in similar packaging but with a single layer of parts have also been seen. All have the same lid label design, the one described in 27/783.

Sets 1-5 have also been seen with in each case, the parts in a yellow moulded plastic tray. They are all single layer sets and no doubt later than those above. The boxes are again red