

## SMALL ADS

• WANTED: the group Constructorama, 23, rue Thenard, 10800 Saint-Julien Les Villas, France, seeks information on the following systems: MILO, MECO, WI-DI, WALU-METALL, DORFAN, PIC, JUNIOR, MARX, K.DO, TAKA, TECNIO, MÉCAFER, TRIC ET TRAC, MONITEUR EL, BATIFIX, MULTIMAKE, USINAUTO, COSMOS, MEX, NEO-STRUCTOR, FALCO, TAK i HAK, STABILO, BOY, TECHNO, OMOCHIYA.

• If anyone can help by providing for sale or loan, any German, French or British TRIX Construction literature of any description, preferably pre-war, it would be a great help in the research that I will soon be embarking upon, the results of which it is hoped will be published. I also require pre-war boxed sets of any size, no individual or loose parts please unless they belong to the Sand Motor Set. Four sets that have eluded me and are urgently required are the Scientrix, the German equivalent Experi-Trix and Chemie-Trix, plus the Motosand (Sand Motor). Not strictly Trix Construction but very interesting and also required is the Trix Funk-Trupp (Morse apparatus). It would be helpful if you contact me first by telephone or in writing so that a discussion about the information or the items on offer can take place -

A. Matthewman, 12 Ballagarey Road, Glen Vine, Isle-of-Man, IM4 4EA. Tel: 0624 851 693 or Fax: 0624 852 329.

• For sale. Parts and model leaflet (no box) from two Chinese CONSTRUCTION MODELS No.2 Sets. S/driver and Cord missing from both. Older Set missing 2 Clips and about 15 N&B, its leaflet shows green plastic plates not the yellow of the actual parts. Leaflet of newer Set selotaped together. Price £5 each plus post, from the Editor. (Each weighs about ½kg.)

• Several CONSTRUCTION (E. German) No.101 linking sets for sale. See MCS for contents. Unused with all packing but boxes may be a little damaged and a few of the nickel parts may show slight rust. Quite nice overall though. There was no manual in this Set. Price £6 each plus post, from the Editor. (Weight about ¾kg.)

• For sale. The #7 and #14 Indian PLANO Sets described in OSN 10 (p258). They are unused and believed complete, including manuals, but the boxes are a little battered and a few parts in the #14 have also been damaged in transit. They weigh about .6 and 4kg respectively. Offers to the Editor please by the end of November.

• For sale. 1931/32 No.7 ERECTOR red wooden box. Somewhat scratched and label faded; complete with all external (rusty) metal fittings but no inner tray/packaging. Beautiful full colour label inside lid showing model Excavator. Box contains over 80 well used parts (no N&B), about a third of the original contents, but some are from a later period. There are 8 Gears and 18" of Chain but no other 'interesting' parts. Weight 3kg, of which the parts are about half. £18 plus post, or offer, from the Editor.

• I am writing a history of STABIL for OSN and seek information on the following:

Manuals for Sets 53-55 of 1920 or earlier; Sets 49-52 of about 1924; the Erfinder-Baukasten (Inventors Sets) 57-58; STABILA (a Set

for girls); RECORD (wooden parts).

Any Parts Lists before 1936, and the names and numbers of the first and last models in any STABIL manual.

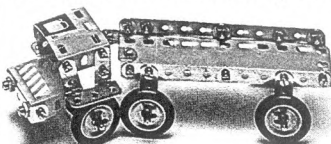
(Note. Manuals usually have their date on the front or back cover, together with the Edition (Auflage) No.)

Also wanted, a STABIL Ball Bearing, #146, or replica, and the Accessory Outfit 53a.

Please contact Werner Sticht, Henneberger Weg 10, D-97762 Hammelburg, Germany. Home phone: 9732 5387.

• INDEX for OSN 1-10. 7 A4 sides. From the Editor, price including post, £1.20 UK, £1.70 overseas.

**Serie "i superkit" from BRAL** René Mikkers kindly lent me a colour leaflet showing the 6 Sets in this new series. There's no date on it but these sets are currently available. There are 3 small model sets called 'miniBRAL': MB 90070 JEEP, 90071 BETONIERA [beton=cement], and 90072 TRUCK. As can be seen they are simple models and don't to me look quite as good as other recent small BRAL models, but no doubt they are cheap and easy to build.

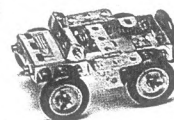


MB 90070

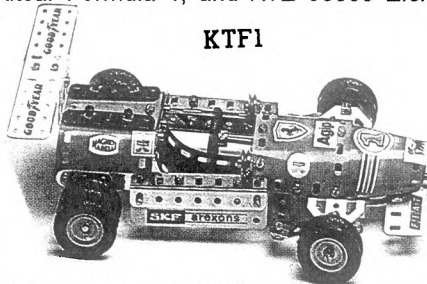


MB 90071

MB 90072



Then there are 2 sets called 'bral MEDIUM': KTF1 90051 Kitcar Formula 1, and KTE 90053 Elekit elicottiero. That's



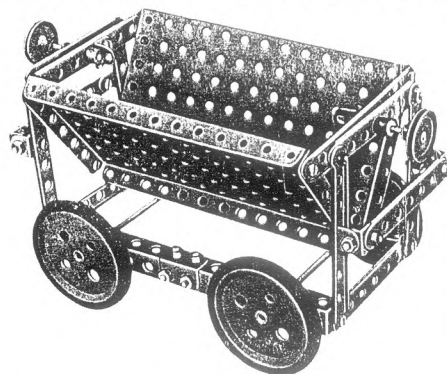
KTF1

the helicopter set that was shown in 7/143; the racing car looks a nice model but somehow doesn't quite capture the lines of current F.1 cars.

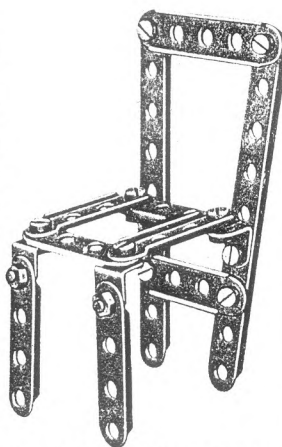
There is no sign of it being powered, but from its appearance, it may have working steering.

The final Set is a 'bral MAXI', KTC 90052 Camionkit, and 3 models are shown for it, all using the same chassis and a special cab which looks as if it's a one piece metal pressing, though it might be plastic I suppose. One of the models has a crane on the back, another a digger, and the third has

**A MONTEX LEAFLET** That's the Spanish MONTEX, with Strips that have lips on their straight edges, and 22-hole A/Gs, not MECCANO X under one of its aliases.

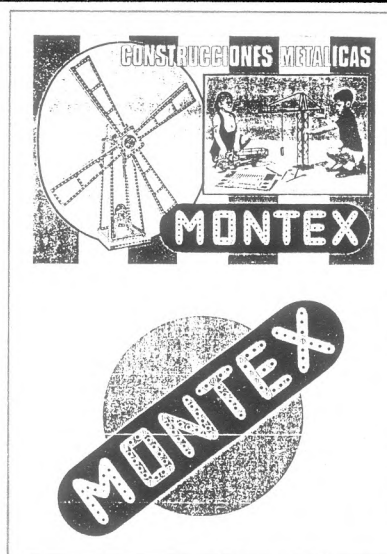


Courtesy of José Moreno I now have a photocopy of a 3-panel Leaflet which is different to the Leaflet or Manual on which the MCS entry is based.



There's nothing in MCS which actually shows the name but on the front cover of this Leaflet, there it is, not once but twice. Also on this cover are a Windmill, and small illustrations of the Set and the Crane in MCS. The large 'R' on the cover in MCS is on the back of the Leaflet and is the logo of Estampaciones Metálicas ROVIRA, and the factory address is given: Pasaje Rosé, 42; Hospitalet de Llobregat; Barcelona. Teléfono 337 25 40.

15 models are shown (including the Windmill) with just a halftone of each - no Model No., title, or list of parts required. The models range from a simple Chair to the Crane and Big Wheel shown in MCS.

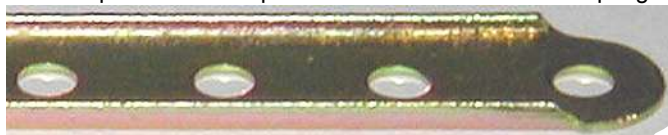


**CONSTRUCCIONES METALICAS 'R'** It was explained in 11/296 that CONSTRUCCIONES METALICAS 'R' was a Spanish system, also sold under the name MONTEX. Now Alan Partridge has passed to me some material that he received from a Spanish enthusiast, J. M. Establés Elduque, some years ago - a colour copy of the 'R' manual used for the MCS entry and some notes on the origin of the system. Also David Hobson has lent me his small selection of parts - Strips, a Collar, & some N&B. Thank you to all concerned.

The **manual** has 20 pages (C1+C2+Lámina 1-17+C4) about 16\*23cm, and the front cover is shown right. C2 is blank; pp1-3 has photos of the parts in the Set, their PNs, & quantities (as 4,a,b in MCS), pp 4-17 have 1 model per page, from No.1 Escalera (Step Ladder) to No.14 Noria vertical (Big Wheel, as in MCS); and C4 has only the PR, GRAFICAS OSSO - SAN FELIU DE LL.

The **models** are identical to those on the MONTEX Leaflet but each has a name, number and Parts List. The Crane on C1 is Model 11. Below another Crane and a Lorry, both the original size. The other largish model is a Roundabout with a car swinging under each end of a rotating beam.

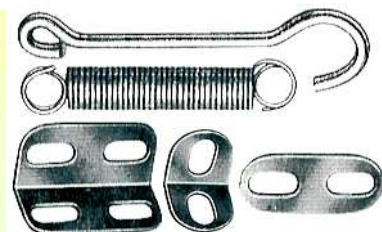
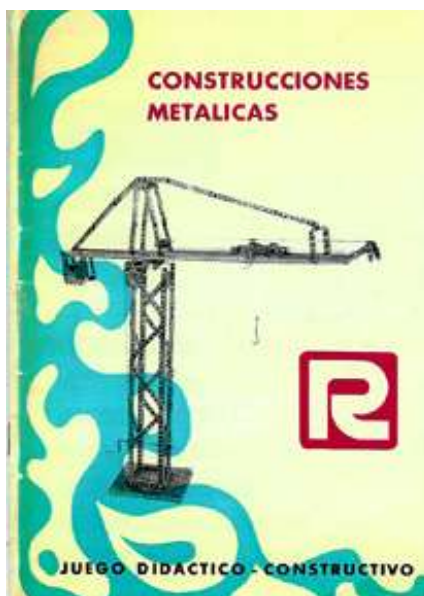
It seems that only one size of set was sold. A list of the 32 **parts** follows, with the quantities, as given in the Manual, in curly brackets, and notes on what is known of the parts. The Manual photos of the parts asterisked are shown top right,



and, above, the end of an actual 10h Strip.

- **13\*7h Flanged Plate** {2}. • 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 11h **Strips** {16,8,11,15,16,6,6,16,6}. These are made of .80mm thick steel with an iridescent finish. All are 13.9mm wide with flanged edges, 2.6mm deep on the outside. Holes are 4.2mm at 12.7mm pitch.

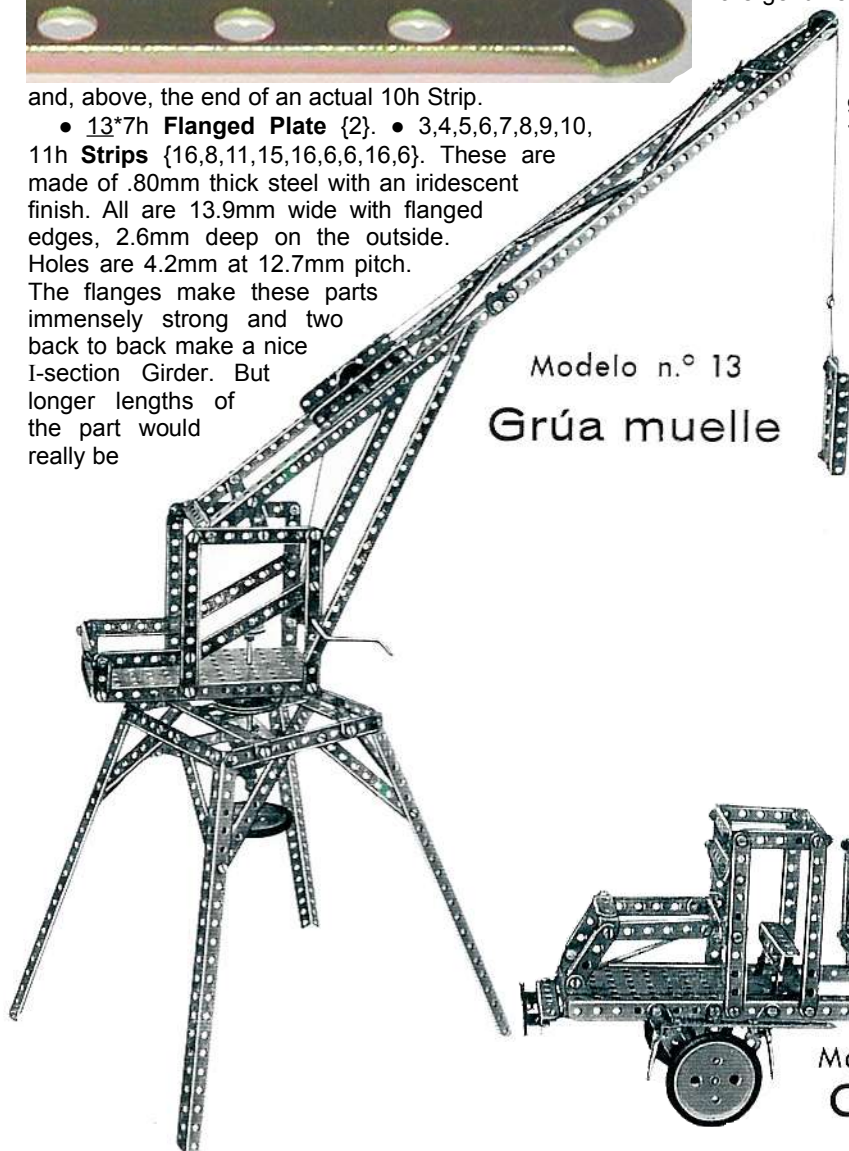
The flanges make these parts immensely strong and two back to back make a nice I-section Girder. But longer lengths of the part would really be



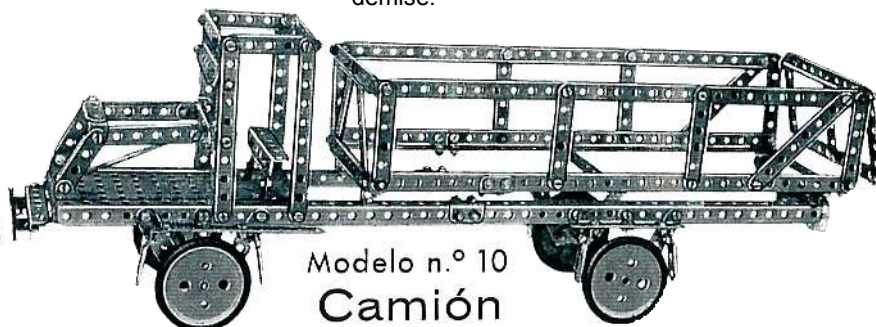
necessary for the larger models in which they would be most useful. The downside of the flanges is that unlike other Strips with strengthened edges, such as MME, ERECTOR, & STOKYS, it would probably not be possible to curve them without distorting the flanges. • **2\*,7,22h A/Gs** {8,5,14}. The holes in the 7 & 22h are all round. • **Angle\* & Flat\* Brackets** {42,6}. 1" & 2" **Pulleys**, and a **Rubber Ring** for the 2". {10,4,4}.

- **BZP steel, M4 N&B**. The **Bolt** has a 7.0mm Ø, 3.0mm thick CH, and is 6mm u/h; the **Nut** is hexagonal, 7.0mm A/F, and also 3.0mm thick. {170,170}. • **A Collar**, brass, 9.0mm o.d, 4.0mm bore, 7.0mm wide, & single-tapped. The **Set Screw** is iridescent steel, 7½mm u/h, with a 5.6mm Ø mushhead, and seems to be ½" BSW but is very tight to screw in. Its finish matches the Strips but given that the N&B are BZP & M4, confirmation that the Collar & Set Screw are genuine 'R' parts is needed. • **A Tension Spring\***, a **Wire Hook\***, & a 2.5m **Hank of Cord** {2,1,1}. • 2 lengths of **Axle** which scale at 5 & 11cm {6 Short, 5 Long}. • 2 sizes of **Crank Handle**, shown with 90° bends {2 Short, 1 Long}. Their shanks scale at 7 & 15cm. • **A Washer** {20} that looks about the same size as the Nut. • **A Spanner** similar to the MECCANO hexagon pattern #34c, & a **Screw-driver** with a fluted handle, probably plastic {1,1}.

Now the **historical notes**. The system was the brainchild of a Mr Rovira and was produced in the small factory he set up at the address given in OSN 11. It all started when he was a boy in Barcelona and a neighbour's son had a pre-Flexible Plate MECCANO set which he wouldn't let anyone else play with. By his teens Mr R had decided that one day he would be another Frank Hornby, even if on a smaller scale. And eventually he invented and launched the 'R' (for Rovira) system. No dates are known for sure but MCS says 'Obsolete 1972'. It seems that even though it was compatible with MECCANO, and the parts provided useful variations for Meccano-boys, it never became well known, and it was hard to make it profitable in the face of the competition from MECCANO - widely advertised and produced locally at the time. Even some of today's Meccanomen who lived in Barcelona then, never got to know of it until long after its demise.



Modelo n.º 13  
Grúa muelle



Modelo n.º 10  
Camión