

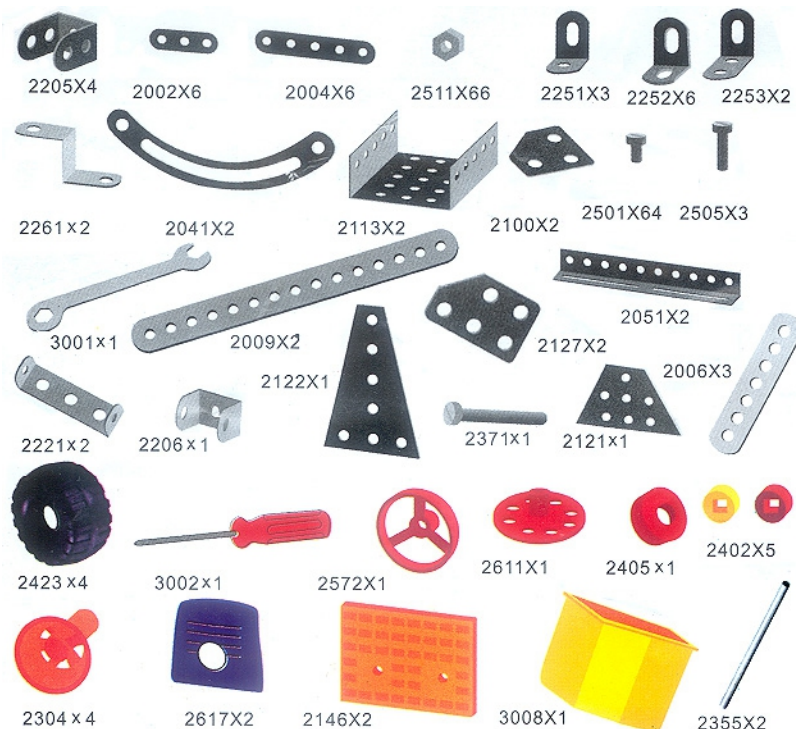
New System: METALLICA Only one small set is known, bought from a London company called Ackerman in January, 2003, but almost certainly made in China (The box is marked 'Foreign Made', and the Model Leaflet 'Made in China'.) One flap of the box carries a PR of '2002-07-09'. Most of the parts look like CONSTRUCTION (CNN from now on), but there are a few new ones, and the crossheaded Bolts predate Eitech's adoption of them.

The **BOX**, 25*14*7cm, has end openings – its top & bottom are similar, and both show the same Item No., but one face has the Repair Truck (right on facing page) which can be made with the parts in the Set, and the other (below) has a Shovel which can't. In the former case the little white rectangle under the model has a tick in it. Subtle stuff, but of questionable legality I should think. The METALLICA name isn't very prominent on the box but appears top left and again, in very small letters, bottom right. The company's name & address is on one of the sides.



Some 40% of the inside of the box is taken up by a block of expanded polystyrene at each end. Between them is a plastic bag with all the parts in it, and also, rather crumpled up, the model leaflet.

The PARTS All the parts in the Set, and their quantities, are shown below (as on the Model Sheet, but slightly rearranged). Most look like CNN but a few have no CNN counterparts known to me (but I may not have full details of all the parts in the numerous CNN sets produced in the last few years.) The 'new' metal parts are the **Corner Brackets** 2100 &



Leading Particulars

Name METALLICA

Country UK

Maker (or agent) Ackerman Group plc, London E4 9JB.

History PR indicates 2002.

Hole dia. 4.2mm.

Hole pitch 10.0mm.

Sets One set, Item No.D66968 (to make a Repair Truck), & probably another for a Shovel.

Material/Finish Metal parts nickel, but BZP Axles & N&B. Plastic parts red, yellow, black, & blue

Boss Road Wheels are a push-fit on the Axles.

Fixing Steel/BZP, M4 N&B. Hex Nuts, 6.9mm A/F, 3.1mm thick. 6, 9, & 30mm u/h crosshead Bolts with flat button head, 7.7mm Ø.

Axles BZP, 4.00 Ø, 75mm long with square ends.

DP No Gears.

Motors None.

Remarks Parts are very similar to CONSTRUCTION.

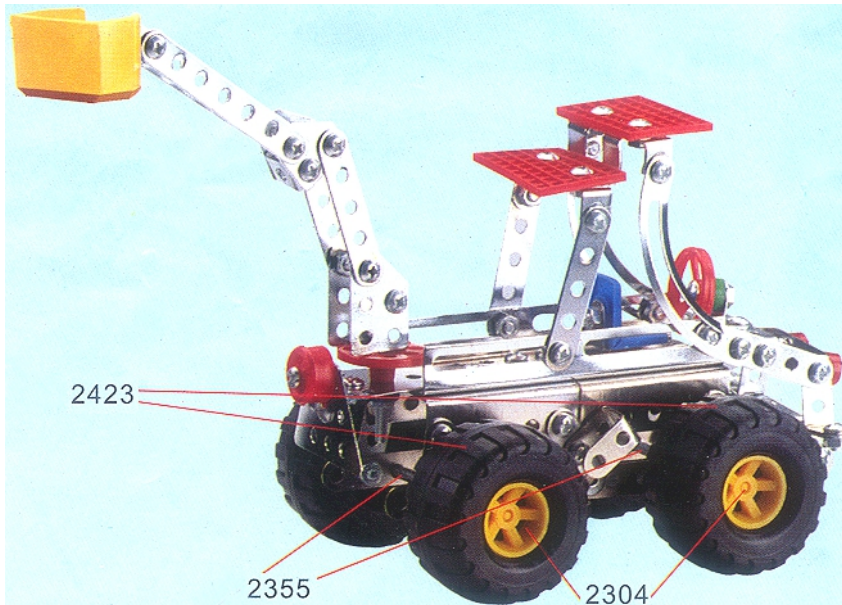
2127; while the plastic ones are:

- The 8h **Bush Wheel**, 2572, 27.7mm Ø, with 4.8mm holes & bore, and a short, untapped, tapering boss.
- The '**Blob**', #2405, 17mm Ø & 9mm deep, a hollow cylinder with one end closed except for the 4.8mm bore of a sleeve inside the cylinder, supported by 4 webs.
- The **Seat** 2617, 19*19mm, a smaller version of the CNN part.
- The **Bucket** 3008, 36*26mm, and 22mm deep – in plan the part is rectangular but for 45° corners on one long side. There is a centre hole in the face between these corners.

Most of the other parts differ a little from the CNN parts I have but usually the difference is very small, and CNN parts have themselves varied a little over the years. For instance the corners of the METALLICA Triangular Plates are slightly rounded and I thought that all the corresponding CNN corners were sharp, but then I found some with the same rounding as METALLICA. But the following differences seem worth noting, with the CNN details in brackets.

- The **2h High D/B**, 2205, is 20(25½)mm high.
- The **A/B** 2251 is 12*14(11*15)mm.
- In the **A/G** 2051 the width of metal outside the round holes is 3¼(3)mm.
- The lugs of the **DAS** 2221 are shorter and so the overall length is 34mm (32½mm).
- The **D/B** 2206 is made from a 3h Strip and is 13¼mm wide (23¼mm).
- The **Wheel** 2423 is made from 2 pieces which push together. The centre hole in the Hub 2304 does not break through the outer face, and the part is very, very difficult to push onto an Axle.
- The crosshead **Screwdriver** 3002 is 102mm long o/a, and the 55mm long handle is grooved lengthwise over 31mm. The **Spanner** 3001 is thinner than the CNN part (1¼mm against 2mm), with less metal around the jaws.
- The rim of the **Steering Wheel** 2572 is 4½(4)mm deep.

The parts are well made apart from a touch of burr here & there, and some bends not quite at right angles - but such faults are not unknown in CNN parts. The nickel finish is duller than the current CNN plating, but many early CNN parts were duller still. The plastic parts are in the colours



shown except that the Wheel Hub & Steering Wheel are yellow, and the Axle Stops, 2402, are blue & red.

The MODEL LEAFLET It is a single sheet folded to give 4 sides 130*186mm deep. The front is purple at the top, shading to dark blue at the bottom, and has a photo of the model, similar to the view left. Above it is 'RIG OUT ONESELF ! WIT MODEL REPAIR TRUCK ! 58387', and below, 'MADE IN CHINA'. The name METALLICA isn't anywhere on the Sheet. The back has the parts as shown earlier. On the inside pages are 4 subassembly steps used in constructing the model (left). With some difficulty it can be made more or less as shown but it wasn't clear if the Bucket arm was meant to be articulated. Not enough Nuts were provided to allow lock-nutting and joints made by screwing Bolts into 'spare' Axle Stops weren't really stiff enough to support the arm. Long Bolts passing through 2 Axles Stops between the sides would have solved the problem.

METALLICA: S2

OSN 31/934

Snippet: New System - KONSTRUKTOR This is about 2 sets which were offered on American Ebay in November 2003. They were said to be European, and nearly all the items in the seller's extensive range of different objects were from Russia.

Below a picture of the manual cover from the 'Mechanical' set, and below it the model on the box lid. Said lid is in landscape format but otherwise is similar to the cover, apart from the Excavator replacing the Lorry. The word before KONSTRUKTOR means child's or perhaps junior, and in the white star is 'more than 53 models'. There is nothing to indicate whether the parts for the two 'plastic' models on the lid & cover are in the Set, but I expect not.

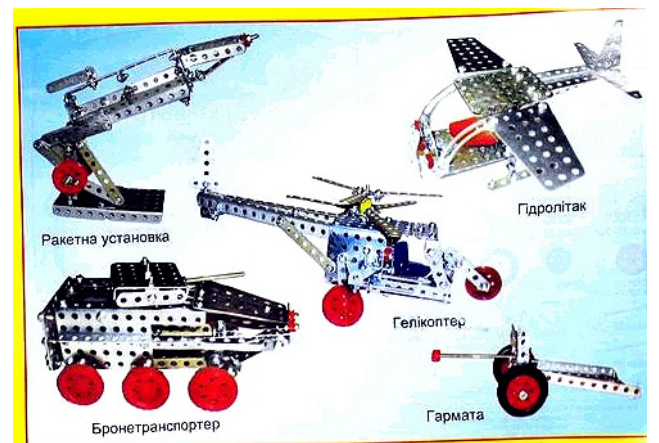


To the right are pictures of the 'Military' set: the lid label, the open box, & some models, perhaps a manual page. The same 'junior' word is under KONSTRUKTOR.

And that is the only obvious evidence that the two sets are from the same manufacturer, except perhaps that both boxes look to be made of blue plastic. But there is one other similarity. The letter 'I' appears in both the word for Military and for Mechanical, and it is not a usual letter in the Russian alphabet. My language notes say it was used in old Russian and in Ukrainian, so, discounting the first possibility, perhaps the sets come from the Ukraine.

The parts in the sets have the air of having a hole pitch of 10mm, and some, like the Curved Slotted Strip, and the orange Axle Stop in the top right corner of the left compartment, look like CONSTRUCTION. Others though do not, the 5*5h Flanged Plate for instance, and the red plastic push-on Road Wheels.

Also the pale green (!) Tyres. They are used on the Field Gun, perhaps fitted over two of the Road Wheels, back-to-back.



Note - The set on the left is KONSTRUKTOR[3] and the one on the right is TECHNOK

KONSTRUKTOR [3]: S1

TECHNOK: S1

OSN 31/934