

**NEW SYSTEM - MECOTECH** As mentioned in 10/267 Don Redmond came across this name in Toronto - there were two Sets on sale, a No.1 at \$20 and a #MM2001 at \$30. This account is based on the details of the No.1 which Don supplied, plus a couple of parts and an Instruction Leaflet that he very kindly sent me. The MM reference number gives an immediate clue to the origins of MECOTECH, it's the same as that used for WISDOM etc, described in 10/238. And this is confirmed by the logo below which Don says is identical to that used on WISDOM/SAGESSE packaging. There was a packing slip in the Set which has a 'STCO' logo on it (below) and Don suggested that this might stand for Shanghai Toy Company. The owner of the shop where the Set was bought is Chinese and though vague about where the sets came from, did mention Shanghai. The packing slip also has 1992 stamped on it.



The MECOTECH No.1 box is in full colour and measures 14x10½x2"; the parts are packed in formed plastic over a corrugated card sub-form. The Model Leaflet, again in colour, carries illustrations of the different parts, 30 in all, each with a PN and the number in the set. No names are shown so I'll use MECCANO-style ones, and that's rather appropriate because a number of the parts remind one of those in the HYPERSPACE Set. In particular the large and small Missiles, the Nose Cone, and the Rocket Motor look very similar. Other plastic parts include 3x5h and 3x11h Plates, 3x5 and 5x7h Triangular Plates, a Seat Unit and Pilot, a couple of special Brackets, and push-on Wheels.

The Plates are all fairly thick, ranging from .101" for the larger Triangular, down to .060 for the 3x5 Rectangular. The latter comes in two forms, flat and permanently curved. Around each of the holes in the Triangular Plates, on both sides, are shallow recesses (counterbores), 7mm dia and some 10 or 15 thou deep. The Brackets are used to mount the Rocket Motors and the Missiles. Tongues on these parts are a push fit into slots in the Brackets. The parts are variously coloured red, blue, white, grey and yellow and their colours are in several cases different to those shown in the Leaflet.

The steel parts are confined to Brackets (1x1h, 1x2 and 1x1x1 Reversed), and 6 Strips, 2 each of 5-hole and 1x5x1 DAS, and two 5⅜" long, each of which has only the centre, and 2 end holes (at each end) of the possible 11 holes. There's also an Axle (.101" dia), N&B, Spanner, and Screwdriver with plastic handle. All are shown with a bright finish but in reality the Strips are painted blue. Dimensionally they are the same as WISDOM parts, except that the lugs of the DAS are bent at a different point and the width between them is 63mm against 61mm for WISDOM.

The Leaflet shows 6 models: they are all variations on a theme and one is shown opposite, together with some of the parts that can't be seen in that particular example. There are one or two coloured photos of each model and a list of the parts required; model names are in English, French and Chinese but the only other wording: 'CONSTRUCTION SET FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS', is only in English. A sheet of self-adhesive labels provides the decor that can be seen on the various parts. All the models are powered by a Geared Motor which has an Axle as its

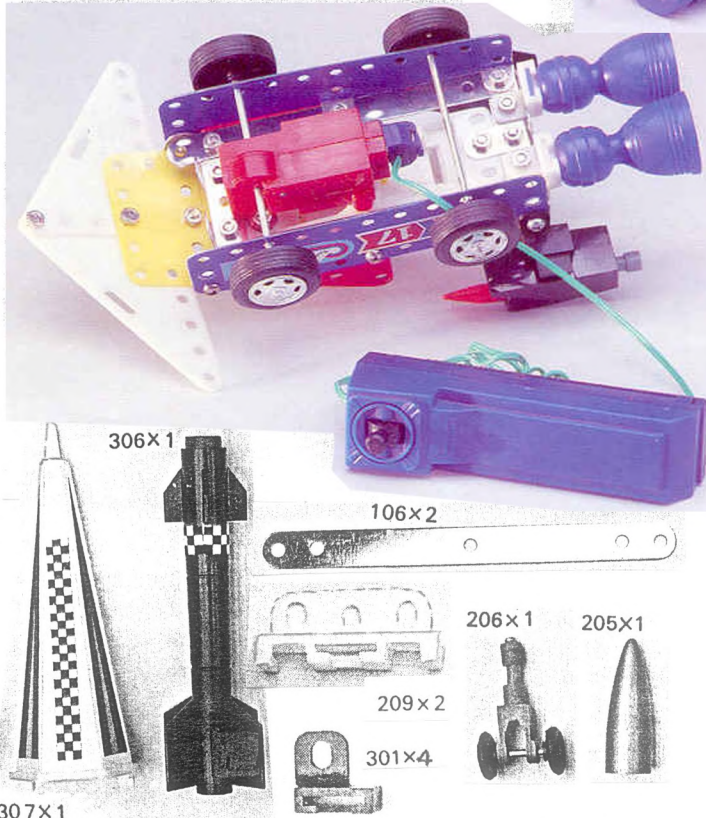
output shaft: power is from a plastic Battery Box with a switch built into it.

As with WISDOM Sets, the number of N&B isn't given in the Leaflet but unlike said Sets, there are two lengths of Bolt, one looks the standard WISDOM length of ¼" and the other is shown about twice as long. The round heads and the small hex Nuts look typically WISDOM, and the thread is M4, though the o.d. of the Bolts at about 3.8mm, is below normal.

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL.** #Name: MECOTECH #Details of maker: none. #Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. #Page size: Sheet 509x244mm deep folded into 3 (6 panels). #Language: English, plus French & Chinese for model titles. #Printing: colour halftone throughout. Title block is purple with large white, and small mauve, lettering. #Highest PN in Illustrated Parts /Set Contents: 307. #Sets covered: not stated but #1 on box lid. #No of models: 6. #Name of first & last model: MISSILE LAUNCHING VEHICLE, ROCKET FLYING BOAT. [no Model Nos.] #Other notes: a triangular WISDOM logo is at the top of 2 panels.



**CONSTRUCTION MODEL SET MM097** In the same shop Don saw this Set which is intended for 'Peram[bulator]s and Chairs'. It has larger size metal parts and PVC seat fabric, sun cover, etc. Quite a nice made up push-chair was on display and would have been adequate for a reasonably sized doll. It was good value at \$26.50. If anyone has more details, please send them.





**Snippet – New System: JUNIOR** 5 sets with this name were offered on German Ebay in July last year, the only time they have been seen. A picture of both the front & back of the packaging was provided for each and the name is top left on the front of all of them, with an Item No. above it – 4904- followed by 3 figures, some of which are unclear. Bottom right on all the fronts is 'TOYMAN' in small white letters.

2 sets with 68 & 108 parts (#005 & 006), for 20 models each, are blister packs, 36\*26\*2½cm, and the larger one is shown below. The models are illustrated on the back. The



other outfits are boxed, and have 156, 164, 333 parts for 20, 16, & 14 models. Their Item Nos. may be ???, 002, & 001 (the ??? might end in '4'). All the box fronts are similar in style to the largest one at the top of the next column, and again the models are on the back. The '156' box is in portrait format and measures 36\*27\*4½cm; the others are landscape, both 41\*28\*6½cm. From the models for them, the different sets seem to be progressive.

The following parts can be seen in the '108' & the various models for the different sets. 5 & 11h Strips. M90a Curved Strip. 5h DAS. Red Trunnion and/or Flat Trunnion (probably). 2h Ø Pulleys with Tyre – red, & bright with boss. Bush Wheel.



Flanged Plates: 5\*11h, 3&5h, 5\*5h probably; and a Flanged Sector Plate, probably 7h long. Blue Flexible Plates: 3\*5h, 3\*11h, 5\*5h, &, probably, 5\*9h. Axles about 4 & 7h long. A long Crank Handle. A Spanner like M34c but with no centre piercing. A green-handled Screwdriver.

The models for all the sets are fairly 'traditional', rather than the 'Buggy' type found in many new systems. 9 of the 15 on the back of the '333' box (only 14 are claimed) are shown right, and 3 more of them are those on the front of the box above.

**Origin** Despite the sets being sold from Germany all the text that can be read on them is in English. From the parts above it may be that they are 'Chinese', and a few of the models look like WISDOM, especially those for the smaller sets. If 'Chinese', it is not clear if the parts are to the 'WISDOM' standard with holes at 12.5mm pitch, or the 12.2mm of STIHL & STEEL BUILDER (described elsewhere in this Issue). In either case most of the models look to me better than most of the earlier 'Chinese'.



OSN 32/953

JUNIOR [2]: S1

**More MECOTECH** Two of these Chinese sets were noted in 11/284. The No.1 had a few metal WISDOM-type parts, an electric Motor, & some plastic 'space' pieces, to make Jet/Rocket type Vehicles. The other was a more expensive MM 2001 but with no details.

Now I've Ebay photos of 4 other outfits. 3 are very similar to standard WISDOM sets: the No.2 below, 13" long, another No.2, & a No.3 in similar packaging. The 4th had no box and was part of a lot which also con-



left, all that could be seen of the manual. The red, triangle WISDOM logo is on it, & top right, an MM number which might be 2001.

Parts not seen before are the Road Wheel with boss & what may be imitation spokes; and the lighter blue (built-up?) chassis with the 'Architraves' bolted on. The manual cover Motorcycle also looks to have other 'new' parts in it. Among the loose parts in the lot (not shown here) are a red cylindrical Motor with yellow plastic mounting plate, & a blue Controller like the OSN 11 one but with a different switch. Also a crosshead Screwdriver with a flat green plastic handle, & 'MADE IN CHINA' moulded into it.

All the sets except

were found in Canada one No.2 from Australia - it was marked 'Made

tained some MECCANO.

Right, the main parts, & in China for George Tauber Imports'.



OSN 32/953

MECOTECH: S1