

models are not very exciting either. So why was the set produced? Hardly to swell the company's profits or open up a new market, so perhaps, I thought, as a promotional give away. But the intro in the manual is clearly aimed at youngsters, so was it intended for employees' children at Xmas? Not very likely either you might say.

There is no indication of when STIHL was made but I have noticed unused sets on German Ebay between September 2002 & March 2004. I bought mine, in 2002, from a general dealer who seemed to sell mainly T-shirts.

The PARTS A list of the 45 different parts follows with comments as necessary for those which are not typical 'Chinese', and with the **quantities** in the Set in curly brackets. Asterisked parts are illustrated. **Holes** are generally 4.4mm, with a few 4.3, at 12.2mm pitch. Except where stated, slotted holes are 6mm. The general **colour scheme** is blue Strip parts & A/Gs; orange rigid Plates & Trunnions; white Flexible Plastic Plates; nickel Brackets, Wheels, Axles, N&B, etc. **Quality** - all the parts are accurately made with an excellent finish.

- **3,5,7,11h Strips**, the 3h is nickel. {6,6,10,4}. Typically there is 4¾ mm of metal outside the end holes (cf WISDOM at 3¼mm) and this means that 2 Strips end to end must overlap slightly if they are to be bolted to another part. However the width of the Strips has been reduced to about 12.1mm so bolting them down side by side isn't a problem.
- **Curved Strip** {2}.
- **Slotted Strip*** (like M215a but 80mm o/a with 16mm slots, and perhaps a flattened version of the WISDOM part) {4}.
- **DAS** {2}.
- **Arrowhead*** made from a 5h Strip and used only to represent a switch on the far side of the Chain Saw body {1}.
- **3h A/G** {4}.

- **3*3 & 3*5h Perforated Plates** with all the end holes slotted {3,3}.
- **3h Flat Girder** {5}.
- **Trunnion & Flat Trunnion** {2,2}.
- **3*1h Triangular Plate***, the upright part of a Trunnion {1}.



Flexible Plastic Plates:

- **3*5h, 3*7h, 3*7h clear, 3*11h**, all with a centre hole except the 3*5h, and the 3*11h has STIHL printed on both sides {1,2,1,2}.
- **3*5h Triangular** {4}.

Brackets: • **Flat, Angle, Obtuse Angle*** (the A/B with its lugs curved back), **2*1h Angle*** (with the top & the foot hole slotted), & **Reversed Angle Brackets** {4,14,4,6,4}.

- **28mm Pulley** {2}. **Wheel Disc** {2}. **28mm Road Wheel**

- {4}. **18mm Loose Pulley*** {3, red plastic}. Push-on **35mm Hand Wheel***, with a 5½mm Ø spigot, so it can't be used as a crank pin {1 red plastic}.
- **25,50,70mm Axles**, & **60mm Thin Axle** {2,2,2,2}.

- **Threaded Coupling***, as in STEEL BUILDER, 9mm o.d {1}.
- **Collar**, 9mm Ø, 10mm long, s/t {2}.
- **Axle Stop***, red plastic, 11½mm Ø & 4mm wide {7}.
- **Hook** {1}.
- **Spring***, black, 19½mm long, & 3.5mm i.d. (it is called up for 2 models but its use can't be seen; possibly it acts as a spacer on the Thin Axles - a Bolt can just be screwed into it but is then very difficult to unscrew) {4}.
- **Spring Clip**, the black plastic type with small wings {14}.
- **Hank of the usual thin white Cord** {1}.

- **N&B Crosshead Bolts**, 6,9½,20mm u/h {65,7,4}; **Nut** {76}.
- A **MECHANIX pattern Spanner**, & a crosshead **Screwdriver**, 130mm long with an orange plastic, fluted handle.

The SET The box has a flap lid and measures 35½*25¼*4cm. Thumbnails of all the manual models are shown, 5 on the lid and 3 on each side of the bottom. The parts are in plastic bags which sit in 9 small card trays, and these in turn sit in cutouts in the box's false card bottom. The Stihl name & address is on the underside, followed by '0464 881 000'.

The MANUAL It has 16 unnumbered portrait pages 147*210mm, and the cover is like the box lid except that only 3 of the small photos are shown along the bottom. p2 has a short introduction in German, English, French, & Spanish, and pp14-15 has the Illustrated Parts with quantities. The back cover is plain apart from the company details. One model is shown on each of the other pages, so 11 in all, from the Chain Saw on p3 to a Crane on p13. There is one photo of each model with a photo of the parts needed for it underneath.

The models are simple and none use more than a fraction of the parts available. They include 2 Cranes, a 3-Wheel Scooter, a fair Racing Car, apart from its small Wheels, various Aircraft, mostly rather strange, and some Vehicles which to be kind might be described as futuristic. One of the Aircraft is shown below (the



Hand Wheel on the nose is purely ornamental), and alongside the Dentist's Chair I made from the Set, inspired by a WISDOM model & the WW1-time MECCANO version.



STIHL: S2

OSN 32/962

Snippet: New system - METAL KITS

4 sets bearing this name have been sold from time to time on Ebay, from the UK, since November, 2003. Each set makes one model but all four are shown on the lid right, and they are identical to those of the Polylong COMBINED TOYS Outfits Nos. 501, 502, 505, 506, see 30/887. The words in the bottom panel read 'ITEM NO.D55377 FOREIGN MADE'.

The parts from one of the sets were shown in one Ebay offer and are as would be expected, though the colours of some of the plastic items may be different from those on the box lid. The Screwdriver had a green plastic



handle.

One other type of box lid has been seen, similar in style and background but with no 'windows', and only 2 models shown, the Helicopter & F1 Racing Car. Also it has a logo in the top right corner, a yellow 'A' in a blue circle, with ACKERMAN GROUP in a surrounding orange ring. This logo was also on the METALLICA box described in 31/933. Ackerman is a London company who sell a range of products including a variety of cheap toys, some their own and some from other manufacturers.

METAL KITS: S1

OSN 32/962