

It isn't known which if any Bolts are not original but 2 SKY-SCRAPER sets have been seen on Ebay which contain $\frac{5}{16}$ " , 6-32 Bolts, and longer ones with the 5-40 thread, while other sets have only 5-40 Bolts. Probably all were bought-in parts at a time when shortages limited choice.

Parts needed for Cranes etc but noticeably absent are Pulleys & Axles. Possibly the Washers could be used to make pulleys, as in TRIX but mounted on the long Bolts, though it would hardly be practical in many cases.

Remarks. It can be supposed that Buildmaster's aim with the steel parts was to allow more realistic models. The question of course is whether the box contains a mix of SKY-SCRAPER & U-BILD-IT parts, or do all of them belong to the No.650 outfit. The quantities of the former are very similar to those in a known SKY-SCRAPER set, but despite this a case

can be made for all the parts belonging to the Set. Of the steel parts at least one 11h Strip is missing, and a number of others would be needed before even minimal examples of the models mentioned on the lid could be made. So it is certainly possible that the 'SKY-SCRAPER' parts were part of the Set, and it wouldn't be a great surprise if they were genuine SKY-SCRAPER items. It would have been unusual to have included virtually all of another maker's set in a new system, but it would have made sense to do so if money was limited and it allowed Buildmaster to achieve its objective. Ames Mfg. in St Paul, the makers of SKY-SCRAPER, was just across the Mississippi River from Minneapolis, and so would have been an obvious source of suitable parts. It's even conceivable that production of SKY-SCRAPER had ceased and Buildmaster bought the remaining stock, and/or the tooling to produce the parts itself.

U-BILD-IT: S2

OSN 49/1504

MAK-A-TOY 'Hardboard and Metal' does not perhaps have quite the same ring to it as PRIMUS's 'Wood and Metal' but it describes MAK-A-Toy. I've seen 2 identical sets on Ebay in 15 years and I couldn't resist the second one, shown here. MAK-A-TOY was made by the J.L.Hammett Company of Cambridge, Mass. No date for it is known but soon after WW2 seems the most likely – the Set cost \$1.75 and for comparison a Sears ERECTOR 'Girder' set (which built 75 models) cost \$1.98 in 1939 and \$3 in 1948.



Fig.1

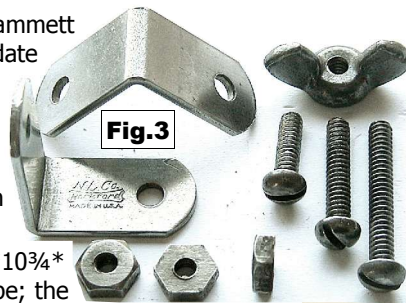


Fig.3

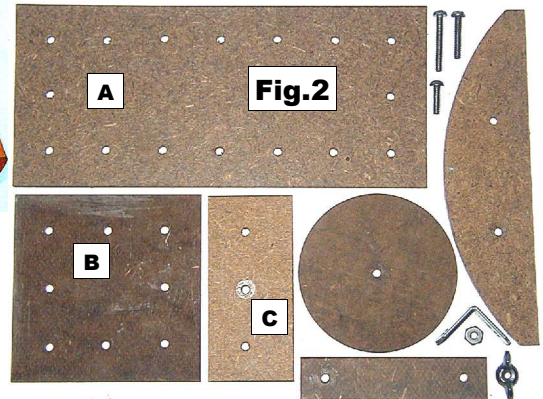


Fig.2

The Box (Fig.1) measures 21*10 $\frac{3}{4}$ *4cm. The N&B are in a small envelope; the other parts loose in the box.

The Parts (Figs.2 & 3) comprise 6 of (good quality) hardboard, 3.7mm thick, a steel A/B, & steel N&B. All are accurately made. The holes are at 1" or 2" pitch, 3.5mm Ø in the hardboard but 3.9mm in the A/B.

Comments on the various parts follow with the quantities found in curly brackets. • **Plates A,B,C** are 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ *7 $\frac{1}{4}$, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$,1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " o/a {4,4,2}. • **Curved Plate,**

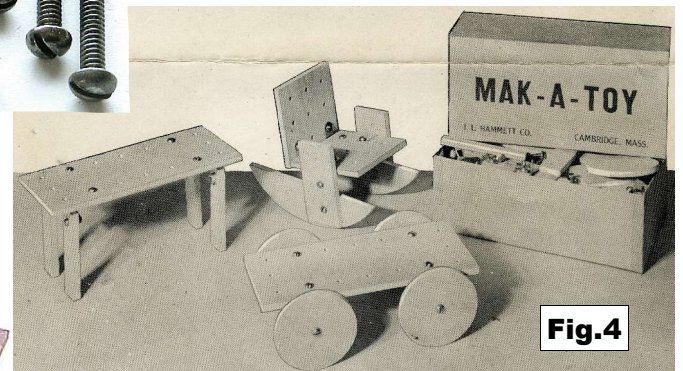


Fig.4

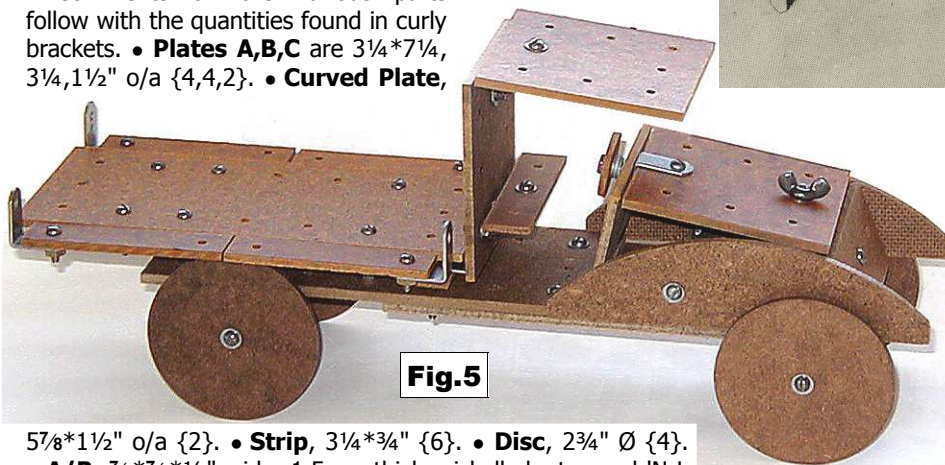


Fig.5

5 $\frac{7}{8}$ *1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " o/a {2}. • **Strip,** 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ * $\frac{3}{4}$ " {6}. • **Disc,** 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Ø {4}. • **A/B,** 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ *7 $\frac{7}{8}$ * $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, 1.5mm thick, nickelled, stamped 'N L Co. Rockford. Made in USA.' {12}. • **N&B,** 6-32, plain steel. • **Bolts,** 6.3mm head, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ " u/h {12,9,12}. • **Nut,** 7.8mm A/F, 2.8mm thick {20}. • **Winged Nut,** 21mm o/a {6}.

Note Apart from Plate A & the Curved Plate, the hardboard is smooth on both sides.

The Models Both sets had the same model sheet, single-sided, 266*200mm. The top quarter has the name, the bottom quarter Hammett's 4 addresses (Kendall Square, Cambridge, Mass., 10 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., 89 Broad Street, Lyons, N.Y., & 380 Jelliff Avenue, Newark, N.J.), and the middle is shown in Fig.4. I thought the Rocking Chair quite nice but wanted to build something a little more demanding. Cranes and the like seemed out of the question but a Lorry appeared just possible. The result is

shown in Fig.5, and it is quite a rugged model. It did though need a few homemade parts: the steering wheel; a Strip with a centre hole (for the driver's seat); 4 A/Bs & 4 Flat Brackets (flattened A/Bs), all used to add Strips to the sides of the load platform); 3 Bolts; & 18 Nuts.

MAK-A-TOY: S1

OSN 49/1504