

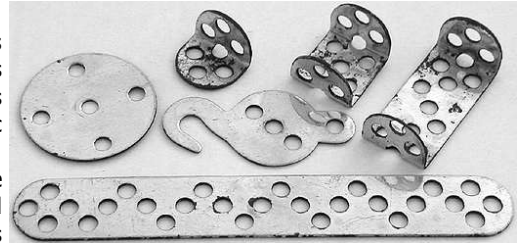
Another INVICTA Set This example of the pre-WW2 Spanish, TRIX-style system is bigger than the set described in 9/222; it seems to be complete except that there are no threaded parts, small Discs, or Tools. When found the parts were still attached to their backing card with clips that had never been opened, and as the box isn't deep enough for a second layer of parts, those missing were probably in a packet. The set's number isn't certain: the Model Leaflet with the outfit has INVICTA 1 on it but there is no number on the box, and there are not quite enough parts to make the largest model shown, the Crane in 20/569. So although the set is most likely a No.1 (the largest in the range) it's just possible it is a No.0A.

The box is 25½*19½*2cm and above the lid label, 211*150mm. It is the same basic design, but more elaborate and brighter than the OSN 9 example. The backing board is same grey as the box and has the following parts on it: 1 Hook, and 4 each of 5,9,13,17h Strips, DAS, A/B, D/B, & Wheel Disc.

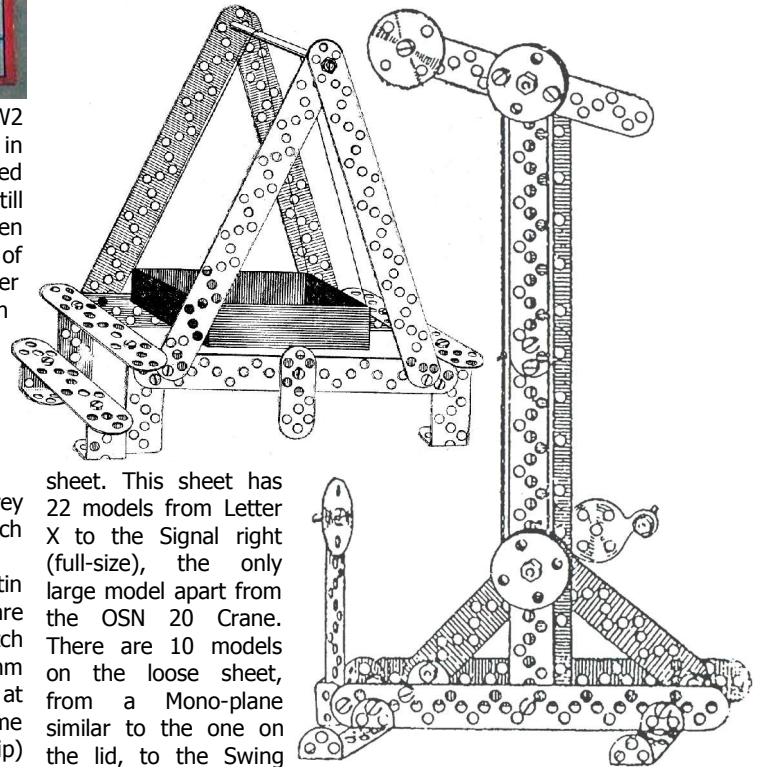
The parts differ from those in OSN 9 in several ways. All are tin plated, bright & shining except for some patches of grey. They are dimensionally different too with 3.7mm Ø holes at 7.8mm pitch (so quite similar to TRIX - the OSN 9 parts were typically 3.9mm Ø at 8.1mm pitch). The Wheel Disc is 29mm Ø with holes at 10.5mm pitch (26½ & 9mm before). The strip parts are the same thickness (.75mm) but 15.0mm wide (15.5 for the 17h Strip) against 14.0mm.

Also none of the parts have the 'diamond' hole pattern of the previous 13h Strip, all the Strips have the 'V' pattern, with an extra hole at each end, as in the Strips in the Letter 'L' in 20/569,

& the 13h Strip below. Of the other parts the A/B & D/B are made from fully perforated 3 & 5h 'strips'; there are 2 extra holes in the 7h strip for the DAS; & the Hook has only 3 holes in its ball. These parts and a Wheel Disc are shown right.



The models are on a sheet folded to make 4 sides 219*156mm deep, and on both sides of a single loose sheet of the same size. None are named and the only words anywhere are the INVICTA 1 already mentioned, on the front page of the doubled



sheet. This sheet has 22 models from Letter X to the Signal right (full-size), the only large model apart from the OSN 20 Crane. There are 10 models on the loose sheet, from a Mono-plane similar to the one on the lid, to the Swing above (80% f-s). Only a few of all the models show the extra hole at the end of the Strips.

Apart from a couple of Letters, all the No.0 models in MCS, and all the No.00 in the OSN 20 Leaflet, are included.

INVICTA: S1

OSN 36/1078

Snippet. New Argentinian System: MEKNEX Several

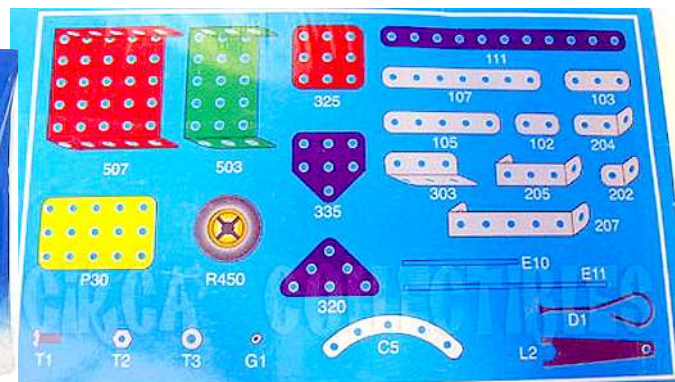
examples of the MEKNEX outfit right have been offered on Ebay from time to time since mid-2005. It has sometimes been called MEKANEX but the name on its lid is MEKNEX, and that is the name used on Argentine toy shop web sites.

According to the lid the Set has 127 parts, and 3 models are mentioned at bottom right. The Moto on the lid, a Buggy called Auto, mentary Lorry (Camión), are



and a very rudimentary Lorry (Camión), are shown on the back of the box. Each has a reasonable picture and a list of the parts needed, so perhaps there is no model leaflet in the Set. Also on the back, the panel top right showing the range of 26 parts. E10 & E11, above the wire Screwdriver, are Axles, & G1, to the left of the Curved Strip, is probably a plastic Axle Stop.

The toy shops mentioned above do not show this Set but instead have small blurry pictures of 7 models. They include the Moto



but not the Auto or Camión. The other 6 models are a Crane (Grúa), a Helicopter (Helicóptero), a small twin-boom Monoplane (Avioneta), a Racing Car (Formula 1), a Mechanical Shovel (Pala), & a Crane Lorry (Camión Grúa). The last 2 are perhaps the most interesting looking & are shown right. It isn't clear if the 7 are made from individual sets or from one large one.



MEKNEX: S1

OSN 36/1078

5. **Snippet. 'New' System: TIBI** This Hungarian system, was said to be from the 1970s, and it looks as if it may have been inspired by MERKUR. FÉMÉPÍTŐ on the cover of the manual probably means Metal Builder and mintafüzet, model book.



The main similarities to MERKUR are: • The 10h Strips, 5*5h Flanged Plate, and the Flat Trunnion look identical. • All the parts in a 1960s MERKUR No.1 set would fit into the tray. The empty recesses would take a DAS & Crank Handle on the right, and an Axle, Flat Trunnion, & Spanner on the left. There is nothing obvious to go in the deep, long oval recess on the lefthand side though. Perhaps only the N&B were in the circular recess and the other small parts & the Cord were in the oval.

The differences are: • The colours - at the time MERKUR Flanged Plates were blue, 10h Strips orange or brown, 3 & 5h Strips nickel, Trunnions & Pulleys green. • Although the red A/B in the circular recess has a slotted hole and could be MERKUR pattern, the blue parts look to be 2h Strips and not the Flat Brackets that might be expected. • The Screwdriver in the MERKUR No.1 was the flat type - sets above No.3 had wire ones. • The white circular part in the circular recess - it might be a Loose Pulley but the MERKUR part was metal and was only included in Set 3 and upwards.

TIBI: S1

[38/1133]

6. **Snippet. A Small MEKNEX Set** MEKNEX sets (see 36/1078) have been less common on the Argentinian Ebay recently but the set right was seen late last year. With 71 parts to make the Avioneta on the lid it is smaller than the other known outfits. The box was said to be 16*9cm and on the back is 'Articulo: K10', so perhaps there was a series of these smaller kits. If the model on the lid is to be believed the parts in the Set are all the same colour, and at least one of them, the 5h A/G used for the undercarriage skid, was not in the OSN 36 set.



MEKNEX: S2

[38/1133]

7. **Snippet. Another LIL'N-GINEER Maker** A model sheet giving the Chris Mfg. Co. as maker, and the Novelty Mfg. Co as representative, was shown in 27/782, and since then a box lid with these names in the bottom right corner has been seen. Otherwise it is identical to the Eagle lid in OSN 27. Another set, said to be from the 1950s has the same lid with Novelty again as the representative, but the maker's name is Seveness Co. A line under the name, the address no doubt, is illegible.

LIL'N-GINEER S3

[38/1133]

8. **Snippet. A JR ENGINEER Midget Set** Notes on the commonest (No.4½) JR set, and a Special set, smaller but with a C/W Motor and a different range of parts, were given in 33/975 & 976. Since then a jumble of parts plus manual, said to be from a Midget set, was offered on Ebay. The parts included several of those peculiar to the Special outfit and none of those peculiar to the '4½'. The main parts of the Special set that couldn't be seen are the Motor, the Disc, the DAS, & one or two of the 3 larger types of Brackets. However it's not certain that all the parts that could be seen were from the Midget because among them were 6 of the black Road Wheels, and one would not expect so many in what was presumably a small outfit. Probably the lot contained parts from more than one outfit.

The manual is printed on the same fawn paper as the Special, but only one corner of it could be seen and the simple model there was too blurry to be recognisable, except that it isn't one of the Special models. The models in the manual were given as: Table; Wheelbarrow; Picnic Bench; See Saw; Tank; Airplane; Railroad Engine; Ship; Lumber Wagon; Anti-Aircraft Gun; Railroad Crossing Gate; Cart, Crane, Truck. 7 of those names are used for models in the Special manual and if they were to be the same, all the different main parts in the Special would be needed except the Motor, the 16h Strip, the Disc, & the Road Wheel.

JR ENGINEER S3

[38/1133]

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Ring, smaller than the smallest TRIX Tyre, which might fit the Loose Pulley or possibly the 8h Pulley



FIG.1



FIG.2

near their pitch. • The (home made from the 14h Strip?) parts at 'e': a 12h base DAS, with an SAS under it.

As can be seen the pages of the manual appear to be bound

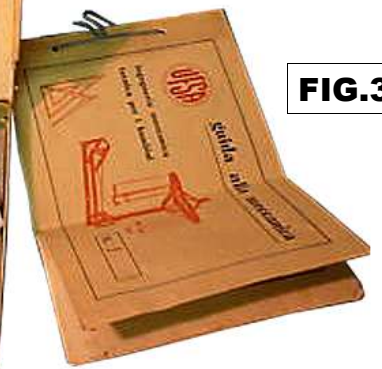


FIG.3

Disc (as at 'b'). • Spanner or Span'driver 'c'. • The part at 'd' which might be a conventional A/G – its finish doesn't really match the other parts but its holes are at or very

together with string. I don't recognise the model on the cover (and the lid) from TRIX or any other similar system.

UFSA: S2

OSN 41/1250

Snippet. A 'New' Turkish System: TEKNIKO Below photos of a set offered on German Ebay but the language on the lid and manual cover is Turkish. TEKNIKO doesn't sound a very Turkish name and conceivably this set was an export version of a German set, but I've no record of another TEKNIKO. And as will be seen the Set seems to have been inspired by MECCANO, and that would have been unusual for a German system. So, for the time being at least, TEKNIKO is Turkish.

from the 1962 MECCANO 2/3 manual and the parts & recesses in the box match those that would be needed for a 1962 MECCANO No.1 outfit. The Nuts in the small parts box are small hexagons & the Spanner has no centre piercing.

The wording on the lid includes 'wonder and joy for all', and promises 24 fabulous models (the number in the Meccano's 1962 No.1 manual). The words on the manual cover translate as 'Technical assembly' & 'Each time a new game'. Curiously the upright Strips in the model the boy is holding have TRIX pattern holes.

The models on the lid are

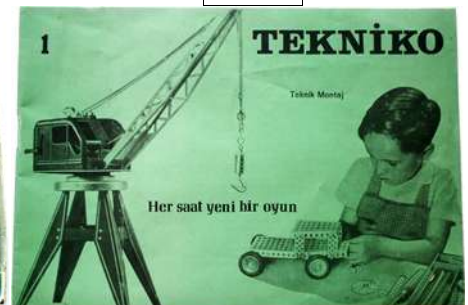


FIG.1

FIG.2



FIG.3



TEKNIKO: S1

OSN 41/1250

Snippets. MEKNEX Update A check on the Argentinian Ebay recently showed a few more sets than those that have been mentioned in OSN already.

First, 3 more single-model sets in the same style as the one in 38/1133. The models are a Helicopter, a Crane, & a Space Vehicle, and as before the parts in them, as shown on the lids, are all more or less one colour, silvery-grey in this case.

3 multi-model sets are now offered: K50, K75, & K100. They have respectively 127, 201, & 261 parts for 3, 7, & 13 models. The K50 is the set shown in 36/1078 and the other two were originally in the same type of packaging. But now all three have boxes similar to the K75 right. The featured model on the K100 box is a sort of Tractor with centre-pivot steering operated by turning a Bracket above the centre of the axle beam. The only new parts visible are the Pulley & Hook at the front of the K75 Mobile Crane.



MEKNEX: S3

OSN 41/1250