

moulded 'peening'), and a bore of about 4.2mm. They are single-tapped through an extension on one side of the boss (similar to the type in 9/211).

Axles are 3.96mm Ø, 43 & 98mm long, with slightly chamfered ends. The **Crank Handle** is 150mm long o/a with a 15mm handle offset 40mm; the MEK part is 155mm long with the handle offset 28mm, and its bends are near 45°.

Fixings Plain steel 5/32" BSW N&B, probably commercial items. **Bolts** are RH, 7.5mm Ø, and 1/2" & 1" u/h (the 1/2" instead of the 1/4" in the inventory). The **Set Screw** is similar but with a 7.2mm Ø head & 3/8" u/h. The **Nut** is pressed, square, 8.5mm A/F & 3mm thick.

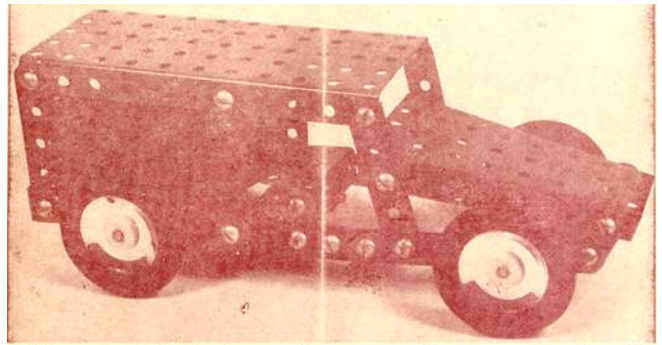
Tools The flat, dull grey plated **Screwdriver** is 89mm long; a wire one is shown in the No.1 set illustrated in the Manual. The **Spanners** are 85mm long, 1 1/4mm thick, & painted black. The one in the photo is slightly cranked at one end, the other is flat. The MEK ones haven't been seen but look similar in MCS except for their hex ends.

MANUAL The cover, below, is 292*164mm. C2-4 are pale green – C2 has a short introduction & the details of the maker; C3 has the Set Contents (Nos.A,1,2); C4 is blank. The 8 inside leaves are printed on one side only with 2 poor quality, dark red-

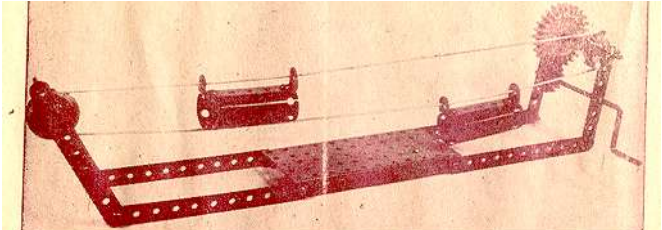


brown tinted photos on each. The 16 photos are entitled Forma del Construcción Nos.1-16. No.1 shows the layout of Set 1 with the parts laid out individually as in the No.2. The remaining 15 photos include 11 small models, usually named, and 2 or 3 of them are similar to MEK models. The other 4, mixed up among the models, are basic constructions, and 2 are again in a MEK manual. The first of the 4, No.2, non-MEK & unnamed, consists of 2 Strips, overlapped 3 holes, with a 2h deep D/B at one end and a Trunnion at the other. The latter is attached by an A/B even though none seem to be included in any of the Sets. The first actual model is No.4, Columpio para 2 (Seesaw), and the last is No.16, Carretilla Manuable (Hand Cart). 3 of the 'original' models are shown in the next column. They are about 3/4 size but show all the detail that can be seen in the originals.

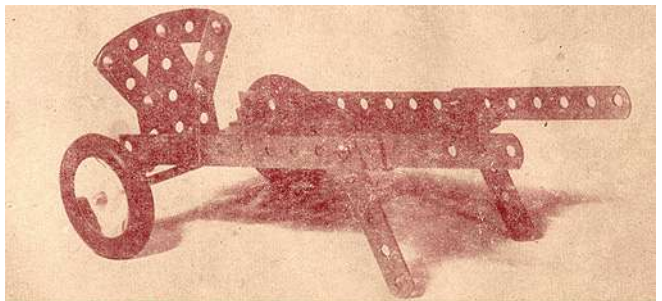
Apart from the Set Contents the only reference to sets in the Manual is in the Intro where it is claimed that more than



Automóvil Cubierto - Forma de Construcción No. 9



Carretilla de ida y vuelta - Forma de Construcción No. 13



Carretilla Manuable - Forma de Construcción No. 16

100 models can be made from MECANO No.1. Probably all the Manual models are for Sets A or 1; certainly none do justice to the contents of Set 2. The 'MEK' ones are from the small outfits 18 & 19, and given the fairly wide range of quite attractive MEK models that could have been copied, one wonders why more weren't.

REMARKS Most of the parts look useable despite their indifferent quality, but the scope of model building would be limited by the inexplicable omission of A/Bs & a Bush Wheel. And the Manual would surely discourage many beginners.

MECANO [2]: S2

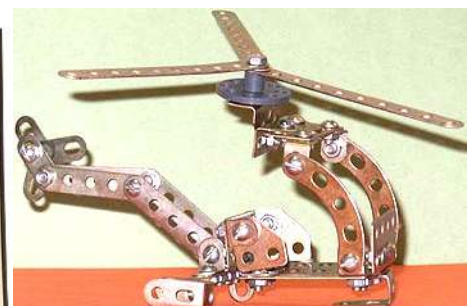
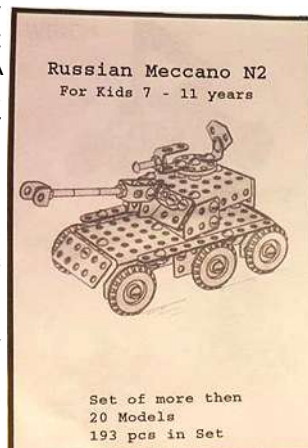
OSN 31/920

Snippet: Russian MECCANO The manual cover right shows the abuse of the Meccano name - this set seems similar to KONSTRUKTOR VOENNAYA TEKHNIKA (KVT, see 25/718), but with fewer parts & a manual in English. The significance of the N2 after Meccano isn't known. Apart from the cover, the Ebay item last Spring had 3 photos of an apparently unused set: the bottom with the parts in it, all the parts spread out, & the model far right. The box is one of the characteristic Russian moulded jobs in orange plastic with 3 compartments - the lid wasn't shown but I'd guess it would have KONSTRUKTOR on it.



All the KVT parts can be seen and they look identical apart from the Trunnion left, and the colour of the plastic parts - the Road Wheels black, also the Bush Wheel (but blue in the model).

The KVT contents are given on the MCS Extra Sheet X1.3/4/6; the parts that can be seen in this Set are: 3,4,1 of 10,5,3h Strips; 2 Curved Strips; 1 DAS; 3 Flanged Plates; 4,4,2 of 2*5,4,2h Plates; 4x 2*4h Plates with one 45° corner; 2 Trunnions;



4x 2*2h Gussets; 4x 3*2h Double Gussets; about 13 A/Bs (some may be Obtuse); 7 Flat Brackets; 4 D/Bs; 3x 2h deep D/Bs; 6 Road Wheels; 1 Bush Wheel; N&B; 1 Rod about 7cm long; 1 Spanner & 1 Span'driver. From the manual cover the Set has 193

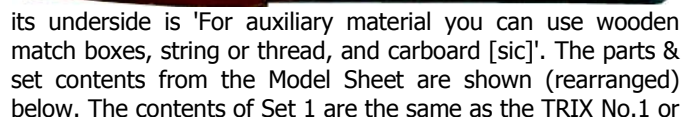
parts, compared with 274 in the KVT outfit.

Neither the Helicopter above, one of the more than 20 models claimed for the Set, nor the Armoured Car on the manual cover are in the KVT manual.

RUSSIAN MECCANO: S1

OSN 31/920

The box, 22*24½*2cm, has the lid below and stamped on



25 VALE STREET

ROXBURY 19, MASSACHUSETTS

[illegible]

When using several REBO construction sets, models of any size can be built.

Box No. 1

4 x F5	1 x B10
4 x F9	2 x B16
2 x F13	3 x G55
2 x D2	8 x S1
4 x L2	20x M1

French

FS 5 middle holes

E9



F 13

E 17



The parts in the Set are symmetrical left-right on a aged card and the righthand side is shown right. The small



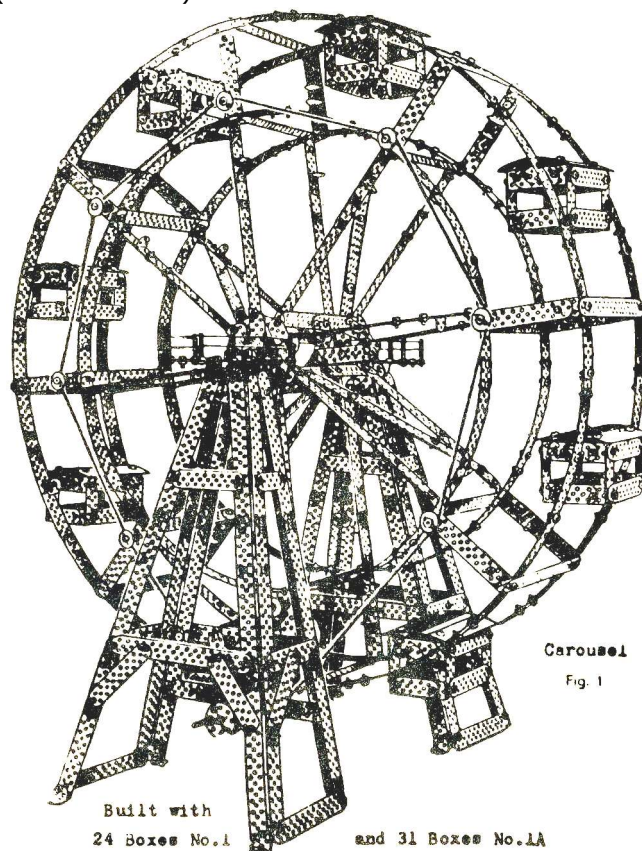
nvelope at the top which was originally stapled to the card. They include the 3 Screwed Rods shown at the bottom, on the righthand side of the space which would have been for the 2x 13h Strips missing from the Set. The other small parts are shown left. Most of the parts are identical to the UK TRIX parts to hand

and small differences are mentioned in the notes below. The **holes** are 3.6mm Ø (3.7mm for TRIX, despite the 3.6 in the Database). The **threaded parts** are steel and the thread 6-32. The **Bolt** is nicked with a pan head 7.3mm Ø, & is 6mm u/h. The **Nut** is 6.3mm A/F & 2.5mm thick. It and the Screwed Rods have a slightly light green look, and are probably cadmium plated. At 9.6, 16.0, & 27.9mm diameter, the **Washers & Wheel Disc** are slightly smaller than TRIX (10.1,

Washers & Wheel Disc are slightly smaller than TRIX (10.1,

16.3, 28.8mm), and also smaller than X-ACTO TRIX.

The Model Sheet is 38*24½cm but folded in half. 'p1' has a short introduction, the Parts/Contents panel, and 20 'Basic Forms'. p2 has 26 Set 1 models from Sail boat to Clown, and p3 another 20 from Two Wheel enclosed barrow, to Circular saw. p4 has 2 models for Sets 1+1A: Electricity generator operated by wind, & Signal Bridge; a Railroad signal bridge which needs 2 each of Sets 1 & 1A; and the Ferris Wheel (called a Carousel) below.



Carousel
Fig. 1

I found all the Basic Forms and all the models save the 'Carousel' in a prewar TRIX Book 1. In all cases the illustrations were identical except that the originals were larger. But many of the names had been changed. In fact the REBO models may have been taken from a German Book 1 because the letter codes for the parts are the German ones, and some of the REBO names are inappropriate, due perhaps to mistranslation.

I couldn't find the Carousel as a manual model, only in TRIX publicity material.

History There is nothing to indicate when REBO was made, but most likely it was produced soon after WW2 when steel was scarce & Trix was not in a position to assert its copyright over the Book 1 models — even if it knew of REBO's existence. Given that the circular parts are smaller than both TRIX and X-ACTO TRIX, it is unlikely that they were supplied from either of those sources.