

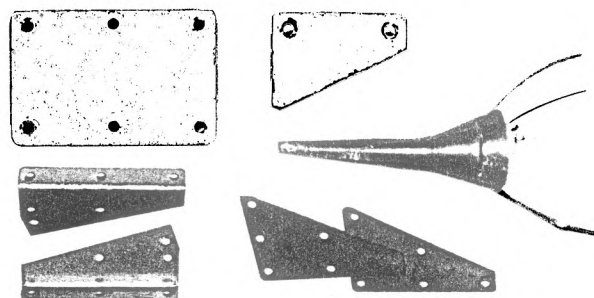
- Tube 4: DD black paint; AJET red paint.
- Tube 5: DD black paint; there does not seem to be an AJET equivalent.
- Fin 6 & 7, Flat Plate 8, Angled Plate 9: DD red paint; AJET Al paint.
- Nose 01: both nickel plated but AJET version has a half-hole at front so the probe can be bolted to the nose.
- Curved Plate 03: both nickel plated.
- Fin 08, 09, 10: DD red paint; AJET Al paint, with red/white/blue tail flashes on some 08 and 09.
- Flat Link: both probably nickel.
- Angled Link: no AJET version seen - may not be needed.
- Nuts and Bolts: seem to be the same for both systems with hex nut $\frac{5}{16}$ " A/F, and roundhead 4BA bolts of various lengths, all of brass plated steel.

The following parts are thought to be unique to AJET:

- Small rectangular plate (opposite): 2*3" with 6 holes; Al paint; cf No.8, 2½*3½", 9 holes.
- Flanged wing root, handed (opposite): 3½" long; Al paint.
- Large triangular plate: 2½*3½" (2 opposite overlapping);

Al paint; some may have roundel marking.

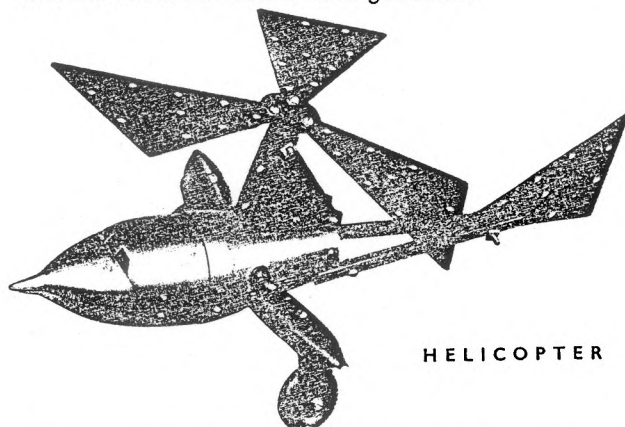
- Small triangular plate: 2*1½" (below); 2 holes; Al paint.
- Hinged undercarriage assembly: may be in large and small sizes - only the hinge of small version has been seen so far, one arm measures $\frac{3}{4}$ * $\frac{5}{8}$ ".
- Nose probe (below): moulded orange plastic; in two parts, the probe proper is tapped and is held by a bolt to the small nose, or to the large nose with a base unit between.
- Wheel: about 1½" diameter; balloon type moulded in black plastic.



And some Notes on SUPERSONIC This is another system with parts comparable to those of DAN DARE. It was originally listed in MCS as a DD outfit but was separated in PART 5 in the light of later information. No set is known but thanks to Geoff Osborn, a photocopy of the manual is to hand, and I've been able to examine some parts, courtesy of Ed Furness.

The manual measures about 200*145mm and has 8 pages plus covers. On the front is the full name of the set, THE SUPERSONIC JET-CRAFT & SPACE ROCKET BUILDER, and it was 'A MOKO Product, Made in England by Konstrukta Mfg. Co.' No address is given but MCS also contains a simple system with MECCANO-style parts called KONSTRUKTA, made by a company with the same name, of 14 Vesey Street, Birmingham.

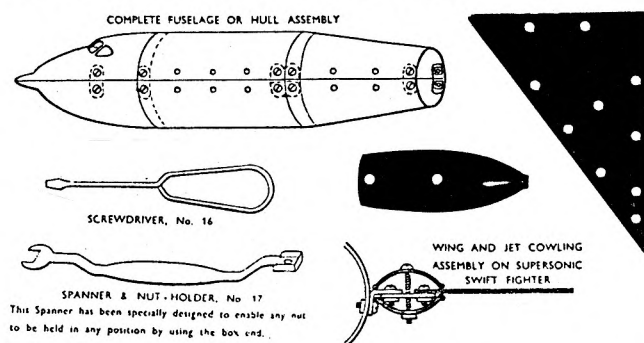
Also on the cover is 'Patent and registered design applied for'. Inside are 8 models, mostly jet planes but also a Jet-Car, a Jet Speed-Boat, and a rather futuristic looking Helicopter (below). The fuselage parts are much the same size as the DD Spaceship ones and the main differences are the shape of the nose, and the tapering sections that are used for the rear fuselage - the sketch opposite, taken from the inside back cover of the Manual, shows these parts. Half-Tubes were used instead of the DD Tubes and this type of part was mentioned in the DD Patent but not included in the sets. A useful part was the Half Jet Cowling, pairs of which can be seen on the sides of the Helicopter supporting the undercarriage. The latter was retractable, as in the AJET, with the Wheels mounted on hinged arms.



HELICOPTER

The parts are shown quite clearly in MCS and so only the colours and other points of interest will be noted.

- The Upper Half Nose has 3 pierced windows, one looking forward and two shorter, angled ones. It, like the Main Fuselage section, is about 4½" long: the Tail End is 3½". All the body parts are painted silver.
- The Large Wing (below) is bright red and some of its holes don't show in MCS. The Small Wing is light green.
- The Jet Cowling (below) is 3.1" long and is painted a darkish blue; the Undercarriage is light green with light blue Wheels, 1½" dia; the Half Tubes are black, about 6" long by .42" wide, with the 3 holes at 2" pitch.
- The Brackets, Axle, Spring Clip and 4-hole Bushed Wheel haven't been seen, but the colours of the parts have been written in on the Manual, with the Bushed Wheel red. The square Nut and roundheaded Bolts shown in MCS haven't been seen either, nor have the Screwdriver and the unusual Spanner (below). The Screwdriver looks very similar to one shown in a photo of an unused DD set from Martin Hills.
- All the main parts are made of .024" steel. Most of the holes are at 1" pitch with a diameter of about 4.2mm, but those in the Nose and Cowling sections are 4.5mm.



No indication of the date of SUPERSONIC is known, but the lines of several of the models in the Manual remind one of aircraft from the late 1950s.

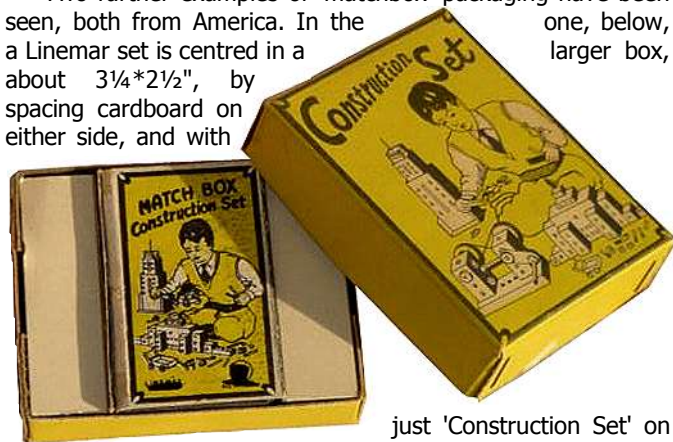
MAAKEETS The date for this South African system is given in MCS as '? to 1970s'; in the Meccanoman's Guide issued in 1969 it says it was withdrawn in 1960 but reappeared in 1965. In 1973 Phil Ashworth visited S. Africa and afterwards wrote in the Midlands Meccano Guild N/L that he had seen it on sale and noted 'the atrocious finish on the parts and their flimsiness'. Although some unusual parts are shown in MCS, the sets that Phil saw were 'very similar to MECCANO, both in respect of number and type of parts in a given size of set, and flat box packaging with expanded polystyrene and transparent cover'.

Its front is like the Linemar outfit shown in Fig.3 in OSN 6 except that the words at the bottom are 'MADE BY LOUIS MARX & CO 200 5th AVE. N.Y.C.'. It is the set shown on the card below, and the back has the MBCS name, followed by 'The Vest Pocket Builder'; 4 'medals' (different



to those on the CLOU set); and the Louis Marx address. The card, 150*123mm, has push through tabs which hold the bottom of the set's sleeve in place, and it can be seen, less the set, in the MCS '100 TOYS IN ONE' entry (which was no doubt made before it was realised that the card was just packaging for the Set).

Two further examples of 'matchbox' packaging have been seen, both from America. In the one, below, a Linemar set is centred in a larger box, about 3¼*2½", by spacing cardboard on either side, and with



just 'Construction Set' on the lid. Notice that the Linemar name on the Set has been blacked out.

The other example is another 'Linemar' box with the blacking out at the bottom. It is packed in a clear plastic bag about 1½ times the size of the box. The bag also contains a model sheet, folded to fit into it. The top is closed with a piece of folded cardboard stapled over it, one side of which is shown above.



Also mentioned in OSN 6, a Spanish set called MACÓN with scaled up 'matchbox' parts, and another called TEXAS with parts that could be used with MACÓN. An example of TEXAS has yet to be found and no further MACÓN sets are known.

MATCHBOX SETS: S1 [37/1102]

9. **Snippet. A SUPERSONIC Outfit** Most of the parts in this 1950s UK Aero system were described in 14/367 and a couple of other points about it are mentioned in the AJET article elsewhere in the Issue. No set was known until one was sold on Ebay recently and the box & manual are shown in the next column. The top half of the lid was included in the original photo and was a blue or purple but badly faded, with a label covering most of it, identical to the corresponding part of the manual cover. The main parts are strung or clipped singly to the backing card. Notice that the red Bush Wheel has 3 face holes, not the 4 mentioned (incorrectly) in OSN 14. The quantities of the smaller parts used in the manual models are: 16 Flat Brackets; 12 A/Bs; 52 Nuts; 44,8,2,4,2,2 of ¼,¾,½,



⅝,¾,1" Bolts; 2 Axles; & 4 Spring Clips. By scaling, the Nut is ⅝" square, the standard A/F size of 4BA commercial nuts at the time. Most of the N&B have a brass look and reflected light could account for the few with a silver appearance.

SUPERSONIC: S1 [37/1102]

10. **Snippet. An ARWILL Lid** Details of a manual and some parts from this small UK system were given in 29/856, and the similar BELMONT was described in 36/1076. Both are a little unusual in having 2h wide Flat Trunnions, 4, 8, & 12h long Strips, and a 4*8h Flanged Plate. Now, below, the lid of a set



sold on Ebay. The 8 models on it are all in the OSN 29 manual, though some are seen from a slightly different viewpoint. The Set's contents weren't shown, nor were the dimensions of the box given.

ARWILL: S2 [37/1102]

11. **Snippet. An EZY-BILT Set with Yellow Parts** The existence of yellow Strips was mentioned in 19/545 but it wasn't clear if they were ever included in sets. Now a No.5 outfit seen on Ebay, seeming complete, has all the Strips, DAS, & Trunnions in yellow; the only other 'strip' parts are green Curved Strips, and the other parts are in the normal red & nickel colour scheme. The Lid is yellow with the 2 boys & a Shovel design, as on the manual cover in 22/638. It has SET NO.5 above the righthand boy and LEAD FREE under him. The words EZY-BILT LTD., ADELAIDE can be seen in a line under the design. There are 2 layers of parts in light blue moulded plastic trays and the manual cover is the Sidney Harbour Bridge type shown in 7/145. A Price List with the set is dated FEBRUARY 1967; the address on it can't be read but it is not the Kilkenny one on the February 1966 example in MCS, and its last line could be Adelaide S.A.

EZY-BILT: S6 [37/1102]

12. **MERKUR in 2007** Based on the English language section of the company's web site (www.merkurtoys.cz) in mid-2007, there have been no changes to the ranges of parts & sets noted for 2005 in 33/991. The Czech section though shows