

5. On **KONSTRUKTOR K.115** (19/530), Michael Denny pointed out that the town of Brest is now part of Belarus, rather than Russia, and that the Éavod in the maker's name should read Zavod (meaning factory or works).

6. From David Hobson. • Another **CONSTRUCTION JEEP** set has been seen, with similar packaging to the one described in 17/469. However it was marked with a KK (see 14/373) in an oval, and in a larger oval, **MARUSAN TOYS \ SAN \ JAPAN**. Also the Flanged Plate was the large, rounded corner type, painted red. The N&B were nickel and the Bolts roundheaded, but the Nuts were hexagonal.

• On **MAKE-AND-KNOW** (see 19/555), there was also a plastic version, a poor quality copy of the original, 1956, **PLASTIC MECCANO**. A leaflet shows models for Sets A, B & C, and has on it, 'Manufactured by Ravindra Plastic Works (India)'; on a Set A box is, 'Sindhvani Toys & Games'.

7. From Don Redmond wrote of a **TECHMASTER** No.50 set corresponding to the one described in 14/391. The N&B appear to be commercial items; the round heads of the Bolts are 5.3mm Ø, and the Nuts 8mm A/F.

8. Kendrick Bisset wrote that he had learnt about some other systems through auction items on the internet. A site called **ebay.com** has a listing site specifically for 'Erector' sets, and OS show up there periodically.

• One such is the **#150 POW'R HOUSE Ferris Wheel** Kit mentioned in 19/552, and it is clearly very similar to the 'mystery' model in *Canadian Meccanotes*. A picture of the set below shows dark coloured Braced Side Supports, spaced apart at the bottom by a red Base with steps pressed into one side. Yellow Radial Arms bolt onto 6-arm Hubs, probably grey plated, and support blue Rim Segments, cranked at each end, 6 to a side. The Rims are channel section; the Arms may be similar or angle girders.



The Base is not shown in the *Meccanotes* model. The 6 Chairs are variously red, blue & yellow, each with a decal of an animal on the back rest - a giraffe, elephant, lion, bear, seal & hippo. No drive can be seen but a **Motor** construction set was available. The illustration gives no indication of size. The box lid has the model, in different colours, against a fairground scene. **POW'R HOUSE** sets were made by Kelmar Corporation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, & a **Sky Ride** set has also been mentioned.

• Another item is a **1943 BILD-A-SET** outfit, with thick paper parts held together with wooden pegs. It is suggested that these materials were used because metal was not available during the war. Some notes on a **BILD-A-SET** manual cover appeared in 15/426. Bild-A-Set also made a large number of rather nice card buildings.

• Kendrick also sent a list of **screw threads** from a 1924 S.W.Card Mfg. Co. Tap & Die Catalog. So far as 60° U.S. threads go, the sizes over and above those in 7/169 & 16/459, are the US Std: 3/32" x 50 tpi, 1/8" x 32, 1/4" x 27, & 1/4" x 28. New 60° metric ones are 2mm Ø x .45mm pitch, & 2.5 x .45, though compared to OSN 7, most French threads are listed as International (IFS), and vice-versa. Kendrick listed the smaller threads as well, down to 1/16" and the US #0 diameter, if anyone would like details.

• Finally he mentioned that Marx Trains have produced a system called **TIN TOWN**, which is very similar to the 1920s **BILT-E-Z** (see 14/378). It is being sold (at train shows) as a collectible, not a toy, because of the sharp edges and toy safety requirements.

9. From Jacques Pitrat. • The Wetzel web site (see 19/552) no longer exists, and other 'unknown' metal sets listed were: #510 **MAGNETICKS** (Magnetic Constr., Ohio, 1949); #5804 **CABLE CAR BUILDER** (Schuco, Germany, 1954); #1 **MICKEY MOUSE** Assembly Set (California, 1947); and #1A **MAGNETIC CONSTR. TOYS** (Goodtoy Prod., England, 1915). A lid from a **KUKO** set, by VEB Ankerwerk Schmalkalden, was also shown.

Another interesting site is <http://www.chem.sunysb.edu/msl/LEGO/>; it's mainly Lego but there are also pages on **AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER, STANLO, & STEEL BUILDER**.

A #2 **KLIPTIKO** set has a 32 page manual in Dutch, but nothing in Dutch on the lid. The 'importeur voor Nederland' was W.L.M.Weimar of Rotterdam, possibly the same as 'Weimar frères' who were the Meccano 'agents généraux' in the French 1910 & 1911 manuals. [From copies Jacques sent, the manual cover is similar to the UK one that has a large (Eiffel) Tower on the left, and the Contents, for Sets 1-6 & 0-5A, are as p6 of MCS.]

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ESCHO: X1.1,2,3,5 [2]

FIX: X2.5a/6,5b [1]

KONSTRUKTOR [11]: X1.1,2,3/4/5/6,3a/4a/6a,5a,5b [3]

KONSTRUKTÖREN: X1.1,2,3/4/6 [2]

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TIN TOWN HIGH RISE That is the full name of the system mentioned in 20/587, and now Kendrick Bisset has very kindly sent a 'Sampler' set, and more details that came from James R. Flynn, president of Marx Trains. The parts follow the original BILT-E-Z patterns but are made with new tooling. The first samples were produced in April 1998, followed by the first production run in July.

The range of parts comprises the 4 Window/Door Panels shown on the left of Fig.4 in 14/380; the Floor; Friction Connector; 2 lengths of the U-section Cornice (now called Sill); and 5 of the 'curly' Cornice. That's all that are needed to make attractive buildings except perhaps the Balcony, which adds a surprising amount to the appearance of BILT-E-Z models. It is intended to produce it, and perhaps other parts, later. The parts are accurately made, very nicely enamelled, and fit together without any problems, except that (as with the originals) the bends in the Cornice parts aren't at quite the right angles to give neat corners. The necessary changes are easily made though, using only one's fingers. The Door (with 2 rectangular openings) & the 3-Window Panels are grey; the other two Window Panels terra cotta, and the trim buff (though called cream). Additional colours may be introduced later. The Friction is made from flat plate, .010" thick, and it and the Floor are plated with a pleasant sheen rather than a gloss finish.

Two sets are produced, #75582 which will make 'a 30-square building in most configurations. (Example: 6 wide x 5 high x 1 deep)'; and the Sampler set already mentioned that has 5 Floors, 16 Panels, & 4 Cornices to make a 4-storey Tower. This Set is packed in a plain white cardboard box. 7*5*4" deep, with a label saying, 'Tin Town Sampler ALL-METAL CONSTRUCTION OUTFIT No.75824. MANUFACTURED FOR MARX TRAINS BY OVERLAND FLYER MFG. COMPATIBLE WITH 027 TINPLATE TRAIN SYSTEMS. ADULT COLLECTIBLE - NOT INTENDED FOR CHILDREN'. The Instructions (3 sheets 178*216mm deep, stapled together, © O.F. MFG., INC. 1998) tell in some detail how to assemble models but do not show any completed. The various parts are illustrated but the Door Panel has radial lines in the arched top above the door openings, as in Fig.3 of OSN 14, which are not in the actual part. In fact such lines, or better still 3 triangular cutouts, would improve the look of this part no end.

The Sampler set costs \$18.95, and the larger one \$89.95. The latter, but not the Sampler, is advertised at www.marxtrains.com, with pictures of 3 models. A price list of additional parts is on the back page of the Instructions, and they can be obtained from Marx Trains, 209 E. Butterfield #228, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Tel: (630) 941-3843. Panels cost 82c each, a Floor 39c, a Friction 15c, and the Trims are about \$1.35, except the 8" Cornice at \$2.50. Carriage extra. The parts in the Sampler would come to about \$20 as additional parts. My own rather complicated, genuine BILT-E-Z model, 8 storeys high, 6 Floors wide, and 2 deep, reducing to 1 above the third storey, would need about 44 Floors & 76 Panels, with a total cost of about \$110.

I'll prepare some MCS Sheets eventually but since they won't add anything new, it will be best to wait and see if the system develops. I can send a copy of the Price List to anyone on request.

A PREMIER No.2 Set David Hobson has recently acquired this outfit and kindly let me examine it. It is unused, complete, and the parts are still strung. In most respects it is of the same ilk as the later of the two No.1 sets described in 18/505. Thanks also to Roger Baker for a copy of a Parts Price List referred to below.

The No.2's red **box** measures 16*12*3/4" and the label is like the No.1 but with an outer border showing parts and 6 models, on a yellow ground. Most of the Set's parts are strung to a yellow card with white cord, but the N&B and some small parts are in a brown envelope pushed under the Flanged Plate.

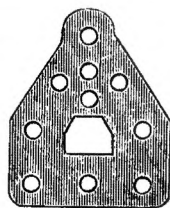
The **parts in the set** are: 2 each of 21,13,9,3h Strips, plus 4 each of 5 & 2h; 2 each of 1*3*1 & 1*5*1h DAS; a Flanged Plate, 5*11h; 2 each of Plates 3*5 & 5*5h, and one each of 5*11h, & 5*5h Curved (M200 shape); Pulleys: a 24mm Fast, 4 Loose 33mm o.d., with Rubber Rings of about 42mm o.d., 2 Loose 24mm o.d., with Rubber Rings 30mm o.d; a Bush Wheel; 2 each of 4" & 1" Axles, and a Crank Handle; 2 each of Trunnions & Flat Trunnions; 4 Angle Brackets, a 2*2h Angle Bracket, & a Double Bracket; 9 Spring Clips, 30 Bolts, & 33 Nuts; a Screwdriver and a Spanner. The parts are attractively displayed but there aren't many of them for the size of the box.

The **notes on the parts** that follow add to those on the later ones in OSN 18. • All **holes** are round. • The **corners** of all parts, and the ends of the Strip parts and Brackets, are fully rounded or very nearly so, except that one end of each of the 21h Strips is semi-radiused. • The 24mm **Loose Pulley** has a brass eyelet boss; the 36mm has a small untapped brass boss, 5/16" Ø and about 4mm high. The bushes of the 24mm **Fast Pulley & Bush Wheel** are brass, 3/8" Ø, 4.04mm bore and over 9mm high. All the Pulleys are tin plated. • The **Axles & Crank Handle** are 3.96 mm Ø, with sheared ends. The latter is the longer type, 6 1/2" o/a as in the Parts List - the ones in the No.1 sets scale at about 5 1/2" o/a. • The **small parts**, including the 3h long DAS & 2*2h A/B, are dull plated. • The 4 BA **N&B** are plain steel: the Bolts are RH, 6.4mm Ø, & 3/8" u/h; the pressed Nuts are square, 8.0mm A/F, 2.2mm thick, and of good quality. The **Spring Clip** is similar to the MECCANO pattern. • The **Spanner** in both the No.1 sets is as in MCS, flat, with a single, angled end, about 2 1/2" long, but there's a different one in the No.2, single-ended still but with a straight, cranked end, and 2 3/4" o/a. Both, like the **Screwdrivers** in the two Sets, are dull plated. • The parts look well made and nicely finished.

The **manual** is identical to the larger one described in OSN 18 except for a slightly different type-face and no ad for the **Magnetic Lifting Unit** on the back cover. In passing, that part is a powerful flat, circular magnet inside a red-painted inverted bowl-shaped cover, 1 5/8" Ø by 3/8" deep, with a hook in the top. When introduced it cost 3/6, and it was included in Sets 4 & 5.

Also in the Set was a **Price List of Spare Parts** which has all parts in the Manual, and MCS, except the 1" Road Wheel, W5a, & the 1" Bossed Road Wheel, W7a. Prices run from 1 1/2d for a 3h Strip to 5d for the Spanner. Roger's List is identical except for the prices, and the parts above are 1d and 4d respectively.

QUERY 26 No explanation for the holes in the MÄRKLIN Trunnions (see 20/581) has been offered but Ivor Ellard & Thomas Morzinck sent several interesting comments. When the parts were introduced around 1930 (they are in a 1931 List but not in one from 1929) they had a shaped hole (opposite) instead of the hole 7 & the slot, and the holes 9 & 11 were round, not elongated. The pattern shown in OSN 20 was introduced in the early 1960s, and apart from the elongation of the bottom holes to give



Nr. 131 a
Lagerplatte, flach

easier adjustment, the reason for the change isn't known. The slot is just deep enough to take a MÄRKLIN 4mm Axle but not a MECCANO one.

On the original cutout, Ivor mentioned that in one model an electrical cable was passed through it. Thomas suggested that if a Strip were suitably pivoted about hole 1 in the Trunnion, its angular movement could be limited by a Pin mounted in another hole in the Strip, 2 holes from the pivot point, moving within the cutout.