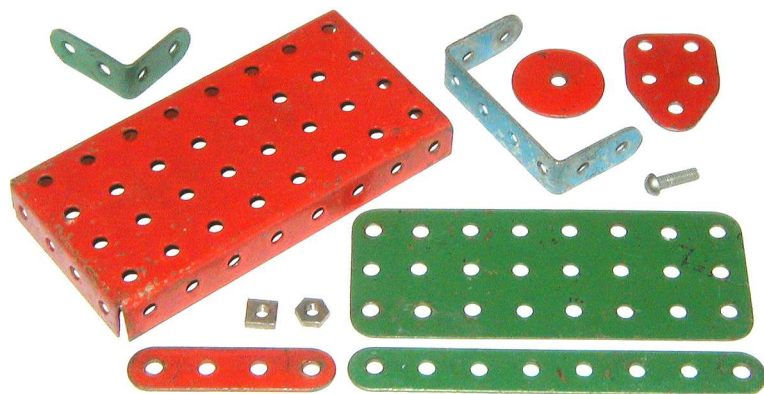


'New' System: ARWILL CON SET That's the name on the front of the manual for this small UK system. Its parts were largely described as Mystery Parts No.34 in 17/475 & 18/507, but it is now possible to put a name to them. And that is thanks to Mike Rhoades, who very kindly donated the manual and the parts that were with it.

Below a photo of the different **parts** in the lot. Compared those in OSN 17 the green is the same lightish colour, but the red is not as dark, a light to medium shade. The manual gives the **contents of Set No.1**, and they are listed below, with some notes where the parts differ from the earlier descriptions. Except in the A/B, all holes are 3.9mm.

- 1 Box-Plate (**4*8h Flanged Plate**).
- 2 Side-Plates (**3*8h Perforated Plate**). At .035" the part is the same thickness as the Flanged Plate, and is appreciably thinner than before.
- 4x Gusset-Plates (**Flat Trunnion**). The holes are the standard 3.9mm, not the 4.1mm of the OSN 18 parts.
- 2x **Strips 12 hole**. None were in this lot.
- 4x **Strips 8 hole**.
- 8x **Strips 4 hole**. All are red, not green as before.
- 4x **Wheels (Discs)**.
- 4x Angles 4 hole (**2*2h A/B**). The part appears to be made from a (green) 4h Strip but the holes are 4.3mm Ø. The centre of the bend about 2mm from the mid point between the centre pair of holes.
- 2x Bends 8h (**2*4*2h DAS**). Made from the 8h Strip with the bend point again offset to give longer lugs. Unlike the OSN 18 example it is a light to medium blue, a colour not seen on any other parts.
- 1x **Screwdriver**. Missing.
- 1x **Spanner**. Green, 43mm long & 19mm wide o/a.
- 24x **Nuts & Bolts**. 4 BA steel, details in Summary Panel.



**ARWILL
CON
SET**

The **manual** has 6 pages including covers, 125*187mm deep – it is one folded sheet with a leaf stapled inside. The cover is plain with just the name left across it, and rows of dots above and below parallel to the lettering. The 8 models start with SEE-SAW on p2 and end with SWING on p6. They include a couple of Barrows and none are 'mechanical'. Right, natural size, the only one with 4 Wheels, and above it the only 'modern' model.

There is a halftone of each model - reasonably large but none too clear. No other instructions are given but there is a note saying 'Additional parts have been used to enable you to see the large variety of models that you can build by keeping in touch with your local agent or toy shop and adding to your set weekly.' (So it really was a 'Con' Set.)

History No details of the maker are given in the manual, or any indication of date. But the price is given as

Leading Particulars

Name ARWILL CON SET

Country U.K. (very probably).

Maker

History Very likely soon after WW2.

Hole dia. 3.9mm, with a few up to 4.3mm.

Hole pitch 12.7mm.

Sets Probably only No.1.

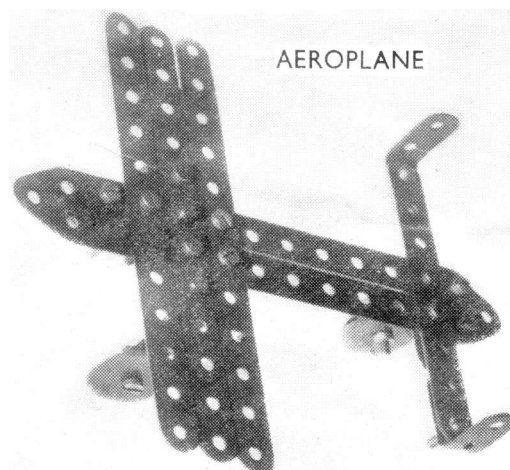
Material/Finish Painted steel. All parts green, except the red Flanged Plate, Disc, & some 4h Strips, and the blue DAS (green also known).

Fixing Plain steel 4 BA N&B. Bolts: 6.1mm Ø RH, ½" u/h. Nuts: pressed, square or hex, both 8.0mm A/F & 2.3mm thick.

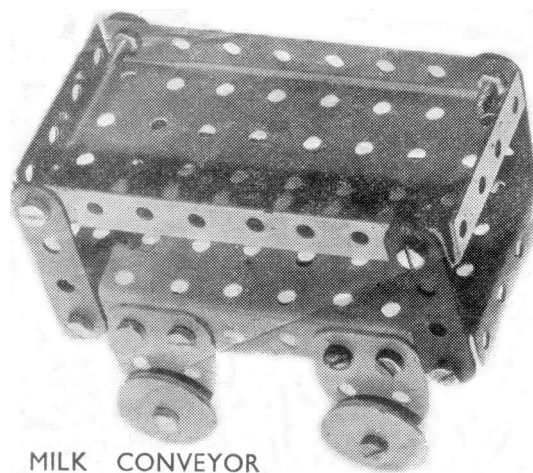
No Axles, Bosses, Motors or Gears.

Remarks Known from parts with a manual.

12s 2d including purchase tax, and the latter dates it to after WW2. It was most likely one of the many short-lived outfits from soon after the war - soon after because the relatively high price of 12/2 would not have been viable once the scarcity of toys in the immediate postwar years abated. In 1947 a No.1 MECCANO cost 10/6 including tax, and it was of course far superior to the present Set. There is nothing in the manual to indicate that there were any sets other than the No.1. ARWILL seems to be more common as a Nordic rather than a British name, or could it be that the maker was Arthur Williams, or some such?



AEROPLANE



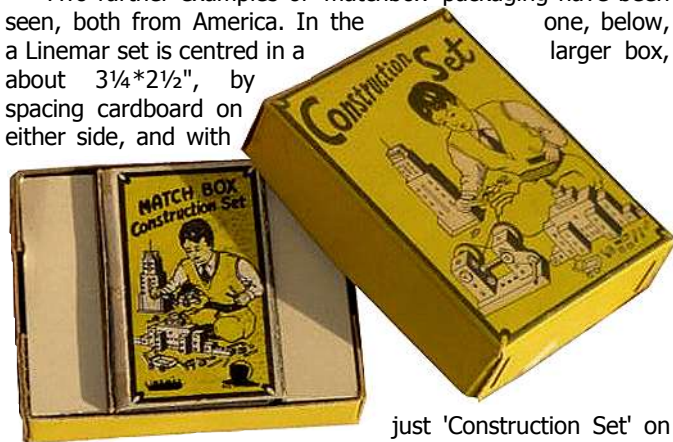
MILK CONVEYOR

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 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

4. **Snippets. TRIANGLE Update** Four sets have been seen on Ebay since the account of this early post-WW2 American system in 23/664. All have the same 2-layer box as the OSN 23 outfit and the lid label below, not seen before, was shown for



two of them. In the top right corner is 'SET No.5' & 'MADE IN USA', while in the small black circle under the model is 'FOR BOYS FROM 7 TO 11'.

As far as can be seen the parts in the sets match those described earlier, and the Motor in three of the sets (it was missing in the fourth) was the red THE CONSTRUCTIONER type, as in the OSN 23 set. So it seems that it was a bought-in item and it remains to be seen if the TRIANGLE POWER HOUSE Motor illustrated in OSN 23 ever actually existed.

TRIANGLE S1 [41/1229]

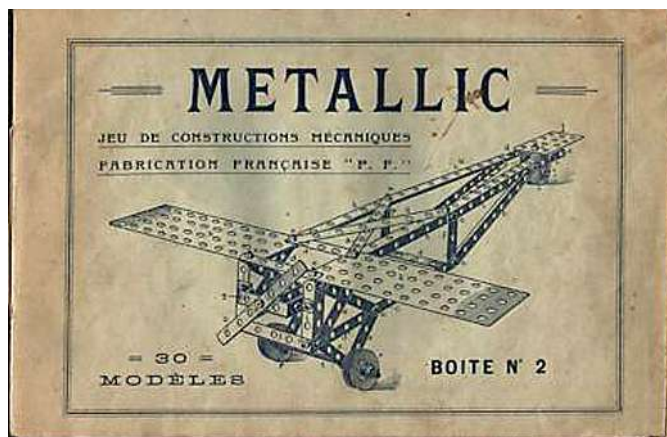
5. **Snippets. METALLIC** A 1913 catalogue illustration of this little known French system was shown in 1/7. Since then two new pieces of information have appeared.

The first is the entry in Encyclopédie des Jeux de Construction métalliques (JCM, see 37/1108) which gives dates of 1910-1918+/-, and shows a No.1 set. It is in a blue box with a blue on white lid label as in OSN 1 but the area under the arch can be seen – it has 2 boys standing behind a table with models on it, and along the bottom 'JEU DE CONSTRUCTIONS MÉTALLIQUES'. It is said in JCM that there are 24 different parts in the No.1 and the holes are 2.65mm Ø at 10mm pitch. The parts are strung onto a yellow card and look a darkish grey. They include Strips, A/Gs, & 4h wide Perforated Plates, all up to 10h long; probably a 1*5*1 DAS; a 2h high D/B and probably several other Brackets; a 2h Ø Pulley; the large Fan of about 7cm Ø, as in OSN 1; and 2 single-ended Spanners, one cranked. The manual covers are dark blue on white and the front shows a Garden Bench Seat with under it 'BOITE No.1' and '15 MODÈLES'. On the back cover is a Wind Turbine similar to the model in OSN 1 but with a smaller pylon. The text beside it repeats that on the front cover & the lid label but plus 'FABRICATION FRANÇAISE P. F.', and so perhaps the 'P. F.' is the manufacturer. There is a PR '5994 Imp. Henri Meyer fils. Paris' at the bottom, printed twice, once in blue and once in red.

In the OSN 1 1913 ad METALLIC was described as 'nouvelle construction en métal' and was for 2 sets, a No.1 for 15

models at Fr.2.90 and a No.2 for 20 models at Fr.5.90. The set shown was quite large and was presumably the No.2. Parts in it not so far mentioned are a wire Screwdriver, a Hook, and, from the Wind Turbine model, probably a wire Handle Crank, and possibly a longer A/G. The Fan in this model reminded me of the similar STABIL part (shown in 13/352) and likewise the Handle Crank, and that led to the thought that probably Screwed Rods were used as axles, as in STABIL. With a little imagination the parts in front of the box in OSN 1 could be Screwed Rods with Nuts on them.

The second new item is the 26 page manual for Set 2 below. It was said to perhaps date from 1919-20 because it



was found with a MECCANO manual of that date. 30 models are claimed against the 20 in the 1913 ad. The front cover has "P. F." on it this time.

If METALLIC appeared in 1910 that was about the time that STABIL was launched, and so it's perhaps unlikely that one was influenced by the other. But WALTHER'S INGENIEUR (see 7/164) would definitely have preceded METALLIC and it too included the unusual, large 12-bladed Fan, Screwed Rods, & a Handle Crank. It also had a hole pitch near to 10mm. So perhaps METALLIC was inspired by W I on the one hand and MECCANO on the other (for, notably, the use of N&B instead of the W I 'Paper Clips'). But in any case METALLIC must have been the first system, or at least one of the first, to contain a range of Plates (though W I had a few small ones), and equally to have included Plates & A/Gs instead of Flanged Plates (though I've not actually seen any models in which those parts were used thus).

MÉTALLIC: S1 [41/1229]

6. **An ARWILL Outfit** Notes on the parts & a manual of this small UK system appeared in 29/856, and a box lid was shown in 37/1102. Now thanks to David Hobson I've been able to examine an unused outfit. The box measures 26*18½*2½cm, the lid looks like the one in OSN 37 except that it is green, and the label is identical.

The instructions are in the form of a Model Leaflet, a sheet 315*175mm folded into three, rather than the Manual in OSN 29. But the front face including the sloping name, the text, the Contents of Set No.1, and its price, 12s 2d, are identical, as are the photos of the models (though they are not in the same order – they run from SEE-SAW to SWING).

The box's base is plain cardboard and as can be seen in the

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was £	after OSN 40
was £	after your remittance of £
is £	after this Issue

Please send at least £ if you wish to receive the next Issue.

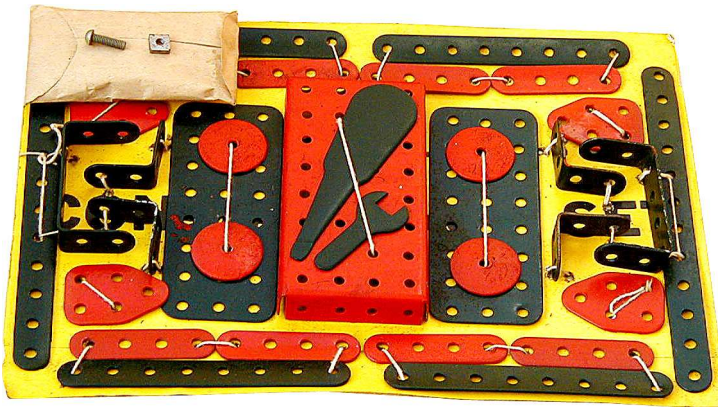


photo above the parts are attached to a yellow card by thin white cord. ARWILL | CONSTRUCTION SET is printed in black on the card but it is mostly hidden by the parts. The N&B are in the light brown envelope, 82*47mm.

Compared with the parts seen earlier the obvious difference is that those that were green or blue are painted black. Notes on other differences between these parts and those in OSN 29 follow.

- The holes in the 4h Strips are about 4.1mm, those in the 8 & 12h are 3.9mm.
- The 8 & 12h strips are about 12.9mm wide as before but the 4h are only 12.1mm.
- The Nuts are square and the Bolts have a dull greenish finish. Their dimensions are unchanged.
- The Screwdriver is 91mm long and 26mm wide. It and the Spanner are 1¼mm thick.
- The Discs are 25.8mm Ø.

ARWILL: S3

[41/1230]

7. **Snippet. A SUNNY TOY Set** Two SUNNY TOY sets, both with BUZ BUILDER parts, but of distinctly different character have been noted previously in OSN. Details of one with coloured parts were given in 36/1069, and a simpler set, probably earlier, with parts shrink wrapped onto a backing card, was mentioned in 19/542. The example below, recently offered on Ebay, seems to be of the second type although the parts probably sit behind a formed cover. It was said that models were shown on the back of the card. Apart from Strips the parts that can be seen are 2 each of the characteristic BUZ Trunnions & Flat Trunnions, 4 Loose Pulleys, a Crank Handle,



and some red parts with the N&B, probably fibre Axle Stops. As can be seen the metal parts look to be nickelled, a finish noted in 40/1208 for those in an early BUZ No.1 outfit.

SUNNY TOY: S2

[41/1230]

8. **Snippet. 'New' German System: MIKLA** The Ebay photo is shown in the next column. The slogan under MIKLA 303 means 'The Building Set for Young and Old' The main parts bottom left on the lid are a wooden Rod, and a U-Clamp.



The latter appears to take 2 Rods at right angles, presumably held by friction alone because, as can be seen from the actual parts in the box, there seems no other means of tightening the Rods against one another. Also on the lid what looks like a Bolt, though its purpose is unclear, and a sleeve which, shown dark against the light Rods in the Bridge on the lid, no doubt acts as a Rod Connector.

In some respects MIKLA reminds one of the American MAKUMAL (see 18/519). However the MAKUMAL Clamp has a Set Screw to hold the Rods positively, and it has slotted sides which also allow Rods to be parallel to each other. Unlike MAKUMAL there are no Pulleys in MIKLA, at least not in this set.

No indication was given as to the size of the MIKLA parts, the Ebay ad said only that the Set was from the 1940s.

MIKLA: S1

[41/1230]

9. **Snippets. FERMO Parts** Two sets have been seen on Ebay since the account of this German system based on Triangular Plates appeared in 27/784. In both the largest Triangular Plate was like those in the Manual with no cutout and 2 holes between the hole in the centre of the hypotenuse and the one in the apex. In one set the parts had the same colour scheme as those in OSN 27, but in the other the Pulley and the black Screwdriver look black and all the other parts a silvery colour.

FERMO: S2

[41/1230]

10. **MULTIMAKE** I have a reference to an item in the 1911 French Printemps department store catalogue for Sets 1 to 6 of a constructional toy called MULTIMAKE. It claimed to allow youngsters to build many different models and to allow them to develop a taste for mechanics. I don't know where the reference came from and I'd be grateful for any more information about it. MULTIMAKE doesn't sound a very French name.

MULTIMAKE: S1

[41/1230]

SMALL AD

[41/1230]

For Sale Mike Rhoades has some MCS volumes available. Contact him for details at 137, Fairfield Avenue, Kirk Ella, Hull, HU10 7UW, or Tel/Fax: 01482 650463/658327.

8. **Another Russian CONSTRUCTOR Set** Urs Flammer wrote that he has a set with the same packaging as the one described in 41/1251 but that its parts & manual show marked differences. He bought it in Yalta in 1999 and it was made by the Kharkov Bearing Factory, Kharkov, Ukraine.

The chief difference in the parts is that the main ones are a mix of steel & aluminium, with for example the 5*5h Flanged Plate in steel but the 3*3h in aluminium. Minor differences include large holes in the A/B.

The manual is poorly printed in B&W on poor quality paper and has 24 pages plus covers. It has the same cover as the one shown in Fig.8 of 41/1253 except that it is in B&W. It is almost certain that the contents are the same too, with 20 models from МОТОЦИКЛ (Motorcycle) to KATEP (the Ship in Fig.9 in OSN 41), and the same Illustrated Parts/Set Contents page.

Anomalies in the Set are that 31 models are still claimed on the box but the contents as given in the Manual are for a smaller set based on the same parts (the same contents as the black plastic box set in 41/1253).

For reference these Contents are as follows (a '?' indicates difficulty in reading the original), and apart from the quantities of N&B they are the same as those given for the smaller set in the KONSTRUKTOR [3] manual described in 22/648 (many of the models are the same too – it will be recalled from OSN 41 that CONSTRUCTOR is thought to have followed KONSTRUKTOR [3]). **Strips:** 8,4,4,6,8,8,5,5?,4 of 18,14,10,9,7,5,4,3,2h. **DAS:** 12,2,2 of 1*5*1, 1*2*1, 2*3*2h. **Brackets:** 10 A/B; 3 of 2h high D/B; 1 Reversed A/B; 2 Double Bent Strip; 2 of 2*2h Corner Bracket. **A/Gs:** 4,4,2 of 18,9,5h. **Trunnion:** 2. **Flanged Plates:** 4,2 of 5*5, 3*3h. **Perf. Plates:** 2,2,4,4 of 2*18, 2*8, 3*9, 3*5h. **Pulleys:** 5? with boss; 1 small, no boss. **Tyre:** 4. **Pulley Disc:** 4. **Disc,** 5h Ø: 2. **Collar:** 4. **Axles:** 2,2 of 75,110mm. **Crank Handle:** 1. **Screwed Rods:** 3,1,2 of 30,60,75mm. **Hook:** 1. **Cord:** 2m. **Paper Clip:** 13?. **Bolt,** M4: 70? **Nut:** 80. **Set Screw,** M3: ? **Tools:** 1 each, Screwdriver & Spanner.

The OSN 41 outfit was bought from the German Ebay and so could have been an export version of Urs' somewhat 'mixed-up' example. Perhaps the steel parts were old stock from an earlier product and likewise the manual. The OSN 41 set is really a rather smart, well produced article, but it cost rather more than the 4 dollars Urs paid for his set in Yalta.

CONSTRUCTOR [5] S4

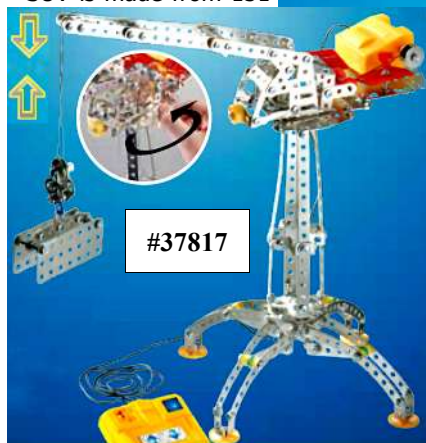
[43/1294]

9. 'POLYLONG' Grows Up a Little The Bremen firm Happy

People continues to list a variety of small sets to make typical small 'Polylong' models (see 37/1123) but now also includes sets for the slightly more ambitious models shown here. The 1/20-scale R/C SUV is made from 151



#37827



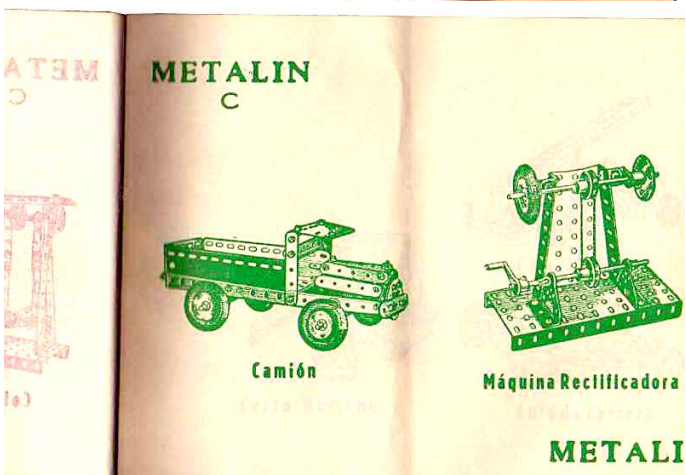
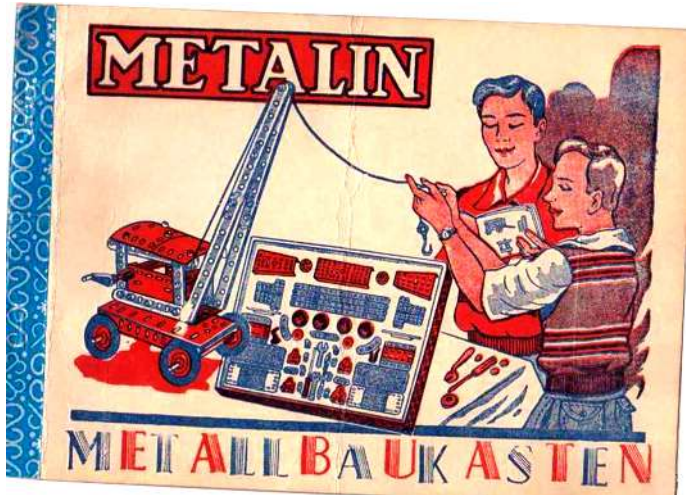
#37817

parts and has the usual steering & forward/reverse functions. The Crane set has 454 parts with hoisting by a 3v (2x AA batteries) Motor. It has manual slewing but no luffing. It's good to see the Curved Strips in the base but no sign of the 'Polylong' range including A/Gs or long Strips.

POLYLONG S16

[43/1294]

10. **Snippet. 'New' System: METALIN** All that is known of this system are the Ebay photos below of the manual. It was said to have 24 pages, 26.5*19cm. The 'C' under METALIN on the model page might be the set size. The METALLBAUKASTEN on the cover suggests that it is German but the model names are in Spanish and the item was being sold from Chile. Despite the Spanish names the models do have a German connection because the illustrations are identical to those in a 1952 MÄRKLIN manual (the Lorry was also in 1949 edition but as a mirror image). Not all the parts in the box look like MÄRKLIN, the 4h wide Flanged Plate for instance, but that could be artistic licence.



4 possibilities to explain the above come to mind. The system was: • an export version of an as yet unknown German system with models copied from MÄRKLIN, and to keep costs down the manual cover was left unchanged. • an entirely local product, again with copied MÄRKLIN models, and parts with (hopefully) enough resemblance to MÄRKLIN to make the models credible. Why METALLBAUKASTEN on the cover? Perhaps to add an aura of German quality to the product. • a local MÄRKLIN copy sold under licence from Märklin – unlikely but import restrictions, if there were any, could be a factor. • a Märklin export product, but most unlikely given the generally poor presentation, including the manual models without the Parts List in the German manual.

METALIN: S1

[43/1294]

11. **Snippet. Another ARWILL Set** This example looks virtually identical to the outfit described in 41/1230 except for the colours of the parts. Those that were black are now blue (including the Spanner) except that the black Screwdriver is red. The Bolts are as 29/856 and the Nuts are hexagonal with a dull finish. The only other differences are that the box lid is red, and the backing card is fawn with no printing on it. The models are in the same Leaflet as in the OSN 41 outfit. So that's the third ARWILL colour scheme – the red/green parts were shown in OSN 29.

ARWILL S4

[43/1294]