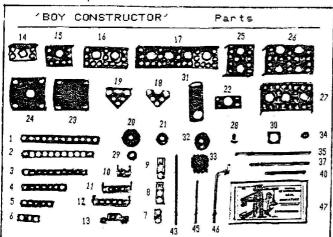
BRIAN Johnson's SETS From the mid-1980s into the 1990s, Brian Johnson in California produced a series of sets, some with miniature parts, others for airplanes & airships, and also an outfit with repro Gilbert MECCANO Ship parts.

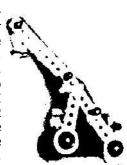
BOY CONSTRUCTOR This system dates from about 1985 and the parts are some $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of MECCANO. They are probably about the smallest from which reasonable models can be made - there are of course the $\frac{1}{12}$ -scale doll's house sets (21/619 has a short account of a 'MECCANO' version and a 'TEMSI' set to the same scale has been seen on Ebay) but as far as I know no means of joining the parts are included in them, and N&B of around .3mm Ø are scarcely practical.

The 50 or so parts in BOY CONSTRUCTOR are shown below



and are listed in the set contents at the bottom of the page. All are aluminium, some painted, and as can be seen they include Strips, Flanged Plates, DAS, Brackets made from the Strips, Wheels, Axles, a Boiler, & a Digger Bucket. Holes are from .05 to .06" Ø at a pitch of 3/32" (2.4mm, about 11 holes/inch). The Strips are about 3mm wide; the Wheel is a 7mm disc with a smaller red disc glued to it; and the large holes in the Plates are 1/8" Ø. The basic parts have a distinctive (and to me attractive) look. Of the 'special' parts I've only seen the the #33 Boiler and at 13mm long it looks too small in relation to the basic parts, more like a MECCANO Cylinder. #34 Plastic Stopper is a short length of plastic tubing to act as an Axle Stop and it was suggested that these might be used with the

Pins #28 to join the parts together - alternative suggestions were to use super glue or tiny 00-80 (.047" \emptyset) N&B. The only models shown are quite simple, witness the Crane for the No.3 set right, but I was tempted into trying to reproduce the STABIL Steam Hammer I had built up at the time. I used some 12 BA N&B that were to hand, and the aluminium cylinders at the top of the model are home-made. The result, below,





'BOY CONSTRUCTOR'					Contents of Sets.		
Part	No. Description.	Set No's	3	7	10	Part No. Description. Set No's 3 7	10
11a 23345678910 11121314a 11561789 201223	Angle Bracket (1 x (2 x Double Angle Strips Angle Girder (1 x (1	1 hole) 2 ') 2 ') 5 (1 x 1 hole) (1 x 3 ') (1 x 4 ') le. 1 x 4 hole Yellow) 2 x 4 ' Alum) 2 x 4 ' Red) 2 x 7 ' ') 2 x 13 ' Black) hole Black)	35-465182-22-1214422-	5-5224442-2211-442-442-1	167 2011 268 204 48 422 4 - 4 - 224 44 91	24 Curved Plate (12.7mm. Square, Red With Hole - 1 25 Flanged Plate (3 x 4 Hole, Blue) 1 - 26	14 44 -8 10 4 -1 11 10 10 10 10 10 20 21 11 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

was quite satisfactory though considerable patience was needed with the tiny parts. The model is mounted on a base made of VOGUE which houses a commercial motor, and a simple home-made mechanism to operate the tup (the black Boiler which can be seen through the opening at the front of the model, raised a little above the Wheel acting as a platten). The tup & piston rod slide in a crosshead at the bottom and a bearing at the top; they are raised & dropped by a cord from the top of the tup which runs over a pulley down into the base. It all works surprisingly well. There is a hoist at the back of the model hand operated by a crank which can just be seen on the right side.

The 3 sets produced were packed in small red boxes, $1*1\frac{1}{2}$ " in cardboard for the No.3, 1*2" in wood for the No.7, & $1\frac{1}{2}*2$ " in metal for the No.10.

In a 1987 catalogue only the No.3 & No.7 sets are listed and they are called **MICRO-BUILDER**. The boxes are different too, both 1*2", in cardboard for the No.3, and wood with a hinged lid for the No.7. Later on after BRIAN BUILDER with entirely new basic parts was introduced (see below), one **BRIAN BUILDER** set with BOY parts continued to be listed. In 1993 it was called Set 10 (it may have been Set 0 earlier) and was in a cardboard box $1*1\frac{1}{2}*.4$ ". In 1998 it was called the M-1 Micro Set, and was in a red cardboard box, 18*28mm.

BRIAN BUILDER Around 1989 a range of new sets of this name, with completely different basic parts, replaced BOY CONSTRUCTOR. Details are shown across the bottom of the page and the basic parts are totally different in character with 4.0mm holes at ½" pitch, and 6-32 N&B used to join them. The models are still quite small but only because they are in

the nature of 'simplicity' models.

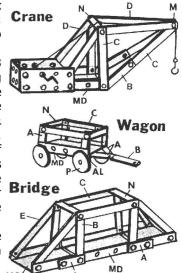
All the parts are steel and are nicely enamelled, but in a mix of colours, yellow, red & blue, something of a contrast with the more restrained BOY colour scheme. I have only seen a few basic parts - the Strips are .28" wide, the Disc Wheel P is 3/4" Ø, and PO is a 6-32 Washer. TH is a Screwed Rod and the Crank Handle is supplied with a Collar.

The first outfits with the new parts were the No.1, the No.7 Steam Shovel Set, & the No.10 Master Builder Set. 1 & 7 were in red cardboard boxes, 1.5*2.5*.9" & 2.2*3.2*1,4" respectively. The No.1 contents are: 1x M,MD,CR,HK; 2x MA,N,

ME,MF,MEO,MFO,MC,PO; 4x A,D,E,AL,P; 8x B,C; 17x SC; 21x NT. No details are to hand for the other sets.

The Set 1 manual has 8 landscape pages including covers, 137*102mm, with the Bridge below right on the front. Details of the sets & parts (as below), & the No.1 inventory take up all but 2 of the other pages. The models are 7 small items of furniture for the No.0, and 2 more for the No.1 plus the three models right.

The only No.7 model I've seen is the Digger shown below left.



Micro CONSTRUCTION SETS

Brian Builder CONSTRUCTION PARTS

