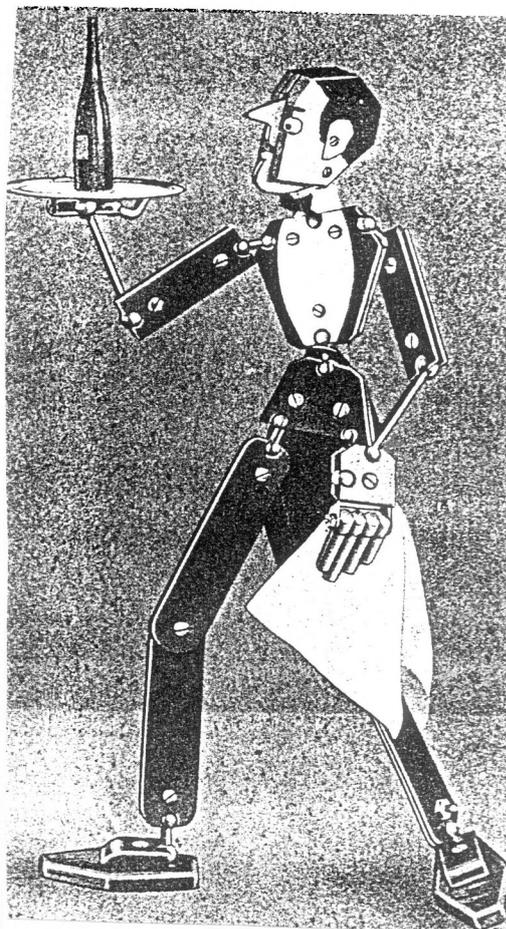


the finished models other than the small 1.5mm ones along the Tubes and around the edges of the Plates. Comments from anyone who has made models from this system would be most welcome.

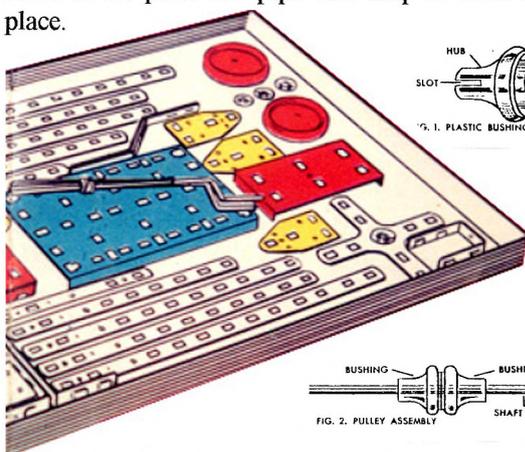
Finally **TUPO**, made in Belgium in the 1950s, and the like of which I've certainly never seen. The set, only one is known, has parts to allow human and animal figures to be made, and as can be seen from the Waiter opposite, the use of ball joints allows them to be set to any required pose,



or at least any which keeps the centre of gravity between those (large size) shoes.

There are 30 different parts (plus N&B), 22 metal and 8 plastic. The latter, for the head and fingers, are pink; body parts are either black or beige. They are similar regardless of colour but the two heads provided have different shaped noses, chins and eyes. The ball ended rods, and the N&B, are brass plated steel. All the parts are of good quality.

BUILDER BOY The name of this minor American system was mentioned in OSN 6/136 and recently Richard Symonds sent photos of a No.1 Set that he owns, and a photocopy of its Manual. The name BUILDER BOY is on the box lid but not on the Manual, just 'Norwood Self-locking Steel Construction Set No.1'. The box is about 12x16" and the lid shows a boy and a model against a red ground, with a large white panel on the right containing 4 more models. The parts are mounted on a grey card, many clipped under wings die cut out of the card. No N&B are used in the models, pressed out prongs on some of the parts engage in rectangular holes ($\frac{3}{16} \times \frac{5}{16}$ ") in others. There are also $\frac{1}{8}$ " dia holes at intervals for the Axles, and the plastic Wheels are a pushfit on them. The smaller dots that may be able to be seen on some of the parts are 'pips' that help to 'lock' the parts in place.

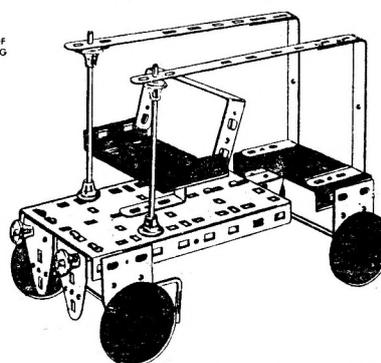


There are 20 different parts including handed versions of the Trunnions, necessary so that they line up when used in pairs, one either side of a Flanged Plate, say. Details are given below with approximate dimensions scaled from the photos, including, in curly brackets, the quantities of parts that can be seen in the photo of the Set. Most of the parts can be seen in the illustrations above - part of the set shown on the front of the manual, one of the manual models, and the 'Bushing' part.

- Strips are $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and there are 4 lengths. The shortest is $4\frac{1}{2}$ " {2} and has 2 prongs at each end. The others have 2 prongs at just one end and are $6\frac{3}{4}$ " {2}, $8\frac{1}{2}$ " {4}, and 10" {2} long; they are stamped 6, 8, and 10 in the space between the prongs and the slots. The pitch of the latter is $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

there are 3 round holes in the centre long row of slots, not shown in the illustrations. They are between the outer pair of slots at each end, and the centre pair. Likewise the small Flanged Plate {2} has round holes between each of the 3 pairs of slots in its face.

- Axles are $\frac{1}{8}$ " dia (3.17mm) and are 2" {2} and 5" {2} long. The straight part of the Crank Handle {2} measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". Plastic 'Bushings' {6} are used to locate Axles and, as shown, two together form a small pulley. The 2" dia Wheel {4} is plastic too, with a tyre shaped rim, and a split hub like the Bushing, to grip the Axle.



DELIVERY TRUCK

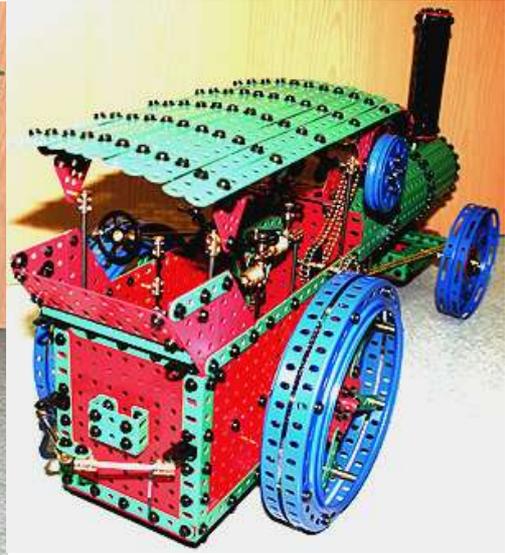
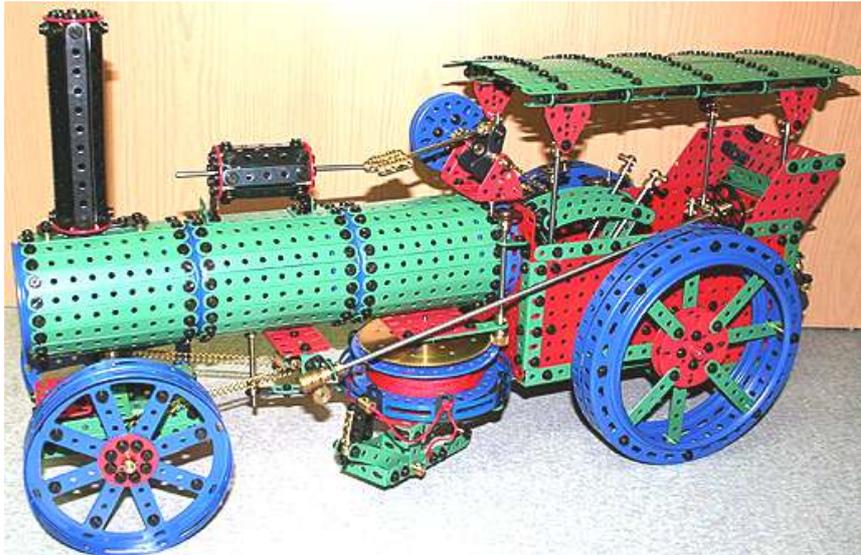
- The Flat Trunnion {4} can be seen opposite and has 2 prongs at the bottom. They are on the flange of the plain Trunnion {2}.
- Not shown in the illustration are a hank of thin, brown Cord, and a flat wire Hook which is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long with a small eye.
- All the strip parts are bright plated, perhaps nickel; the large Plate is dark blue and the small ones, and the Wheels, are red; the Trunnions are yellow.

The 12 page manual (140x215mm) contains a fair selection of simple models, and they aren't too bad considering the limitations inherent in the system. The biggest problem is that bracing, or even a simple triangle, isn't easy to achieve with prongs at only one end of most of the Strips.

BUILDER BOY was made by Norwood Co. of Chicago and the date given in OSN 6 is 1949. Patent No. 2226763 is printed on the box lid. It isn't known if there were sets other than this No.1.

The METALLUS Ottomeyer Dampflokombi This is a new set from Metallus to make the Ploughing Engine below. Ottomeyer made such machines and the one right could have inspired the model. It was built in 1958 and was one of the last, and the most powerful example ever built. The English name given in the German/English instructions for the Dampflokombi is Steam Locomobile, though Traction Engine would perhaps be a more normal translation. The set consists 3070 pieces in 2 cases 49*49*6½cm, each with the parts fitted into a white block, and the official factory price is €485.

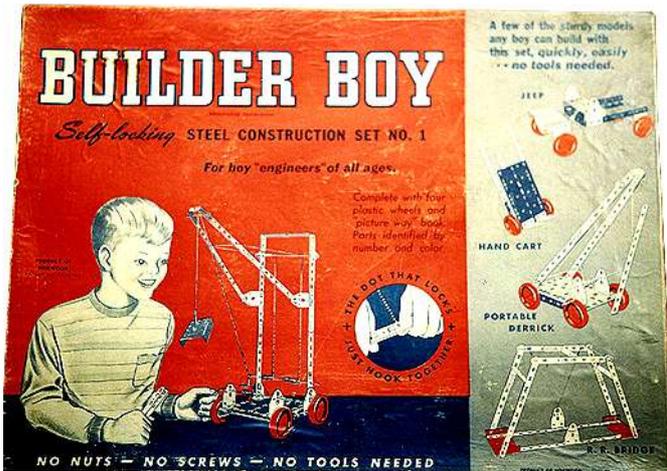
The model is 470mm long & weighs 15kg. It isn't powered and looks simple mechanically with two chain drives linking the crankshaft to the rear axle, a simple linkage to the piston rod, the usual steering, and a hand-operated, geared drive to the drum - the Handwheel is just below the crankshaft brackets. It's not clear if the two levers in the cab do anything.



OSN 35/1049

METALLUS: S3

Snippet: NORWOOD aka BUILDER BOY The lid of the BUILDER BOY No.1 set described in 12/307 is shown



the same manual, but the lid has the name panel below (as on the manual), instead of BUILDER BOY & the two lines under it. The words at top right are 'For boy engineers of all ages', the slogan third line down on the BUILDER BOY lid. All the other areas of the two lids are identical.

The NORWOOD set has some parts missing but the main ones are there and probably the two had the same content. The NORWOOD lid isn't as eye catching as the BUILDER BOY and at a guess it was the earlier, with the matching manual. Then when the change was made it wasn't thought necessary to change the manual.

Since OSN 12 some parts, nearly all of a No.1, have come my way and the bright pieces are nickel plated. The parts are fairly easy to clip together and the joints are quite rigid with little slop. I made a Crane with a 16" Jib and by using the 'X' Strip in the base it was possible to add slewing to the luffing & hoisting movements. Though it was reasonably successful I wasn't tempted to try to make any other models.

above. The manual with it made no mention of BUILDER BOY and had 'NORWOOD Self-locking STEEL CONSTRUCTION SET No.1' on its cover. Now a similar Ebay set has been seen with

OSN 35/1049

BUILDER BOY: S1

SMALL AD

[34/1005]

For Sale at modest prices after sorting collection: **Lot 1**, PRIMUS No.3 sets (2 available), sound but poor boxes, some parts have rust, manuals with photocopied covers; **Lot 2**, PRIMUS Nos.1, 2, 1s, 2s, boxes/incomplete sets; **Lot 3**, 1930s TRIX boxes only (some with parts envelopes), No.3

and No.2 (3 with different styles of label) sets, Units 1, 1A, 2A & Gears Set; **Lot 4**, post-war TRIX boxes only, Units A to G (about 30, some with parts envelopes), also Elementrix, Moto Trix 347, and TricyTRIX 163 boxes. Contact David Hobson for further details, Woodington, Edford Green, Holcombe, Radstock, BA3 5DB; email: dvdhbsn8@aol.com.