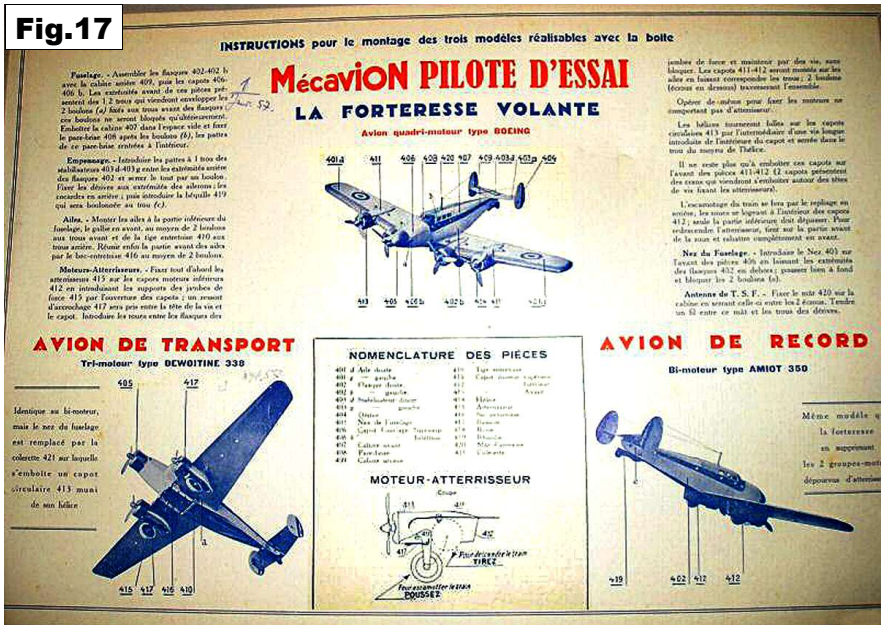
Fig.17



The JET MODELS

The model below, 17" long and 16" span, was seen first but there was no evidence as to its maker. It was clear though from the Instruction Sheet in a later photo (Fig.21) that it was indeed MÉCAVION. The Sheet is headed AVIONS DE REACTION, and describes how to build the fuselage of, probably, 2 models: 55/A & 55/B. It may not be clear here but in the original the silvery Brackets used to attach the Fin to the fuselage can be seen, and also the holes halfway up the Fin used to attach the Tailplanes. The first photos shows how the Wings were bolted on, and the holes in them for, possibly, the main undercarriage, or, perhaps, underwing stores.

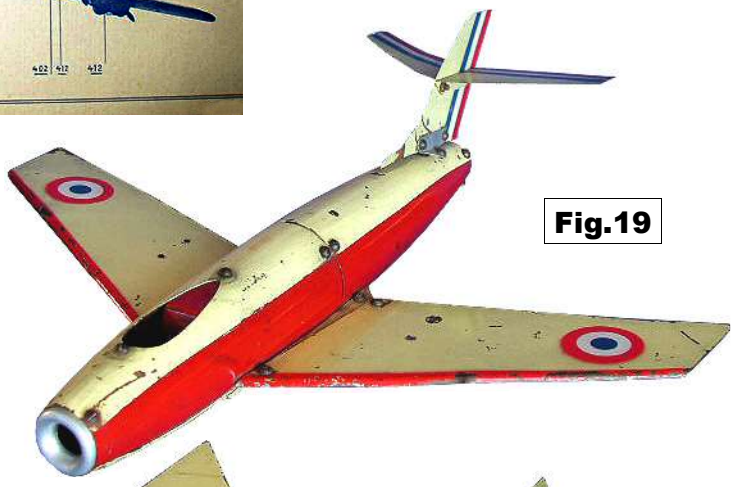


Fig.19

and one has a red flash while on two it is blue. All are red in the other sets seen.) **#410 Threaded Rod**, used to join the Wings to the Fuselage Sides, see Fig.16; **#411 Upper Engine Nacelle**; **#412 Lower Engine Nacelle –** because of the cut out for the undercarriage in the inner ones there are two types but only one PN; **#413 Engine Cowling**: it fits over the front of the nacelle but it's not clear how it is held in place – perhaps it simply pushes on. **#414 Propeller**, held by a Long Bolt from inside the Cowling. **#415 Undercarriage Leg**, not seen and how it pivots is unclear. **#416 Cross Brace**, joins the Wings at their leading edges under the fuselage, see left & Fig.16. **#417 Spring**: flat and tapered, it bolts onto the outside of the inner Lower Nacelle (see Fig.16) to lock the undercarriage up or down; **#418 Undercarriage Wheel**, red in some sets, black in others. **#419, Tail Wheel** assembly, see Fig.18 – it is above the right end of the right Fuselage Side in Fig.14. It looks to be the same as the part used in earlier sets. **#420 Aerial Mast**; **#421 Cowling Mount** – it is the part between the top Cowlings in Fig.14 and it replaces the Nose in the 3-engined model. A Cowling fits over it, probably a push fit as there is no other obvious way to hold it in place.

Fig.18

Fig.20

Bolts have a pan head and **Nuts** are hexagonal. A **Spanner** is above the left end of the left Fuselage Side in Fig.14, and the pink piece sticking out from under the Top Forward Fuselage (top left in Fig.14) could be the end of a **Screwdriver** handle.

Material The engine nacelle & cowling parts, and the Propellers, are aluminium, the rest of the parts steel.

The Instructions These are inside the lid (Fig.17) and in some sets the red lettering is blue. The 3 models shown seem to be identical except for the number of engines, and are about 34cm long with a wingspan of 54cm. The 2-engined model is the Amiot 350, a modern looking bomber which first flew in 1939. The 3-engined machine is the Dewoitine 338, an airliner from the mid 1930s. Strangely it had a single fin and so as far as I recall did all the 4-engined Boeing aircraft except the Clipper flying boat, and that had three. If La Forteresse Volante had had a shoulder wing it would have looked more like the WW2 Liberator bomber, and such a wing position would also have made the other two models more realistic. It would have been fairly straightforward to have included a single fin option in the Set, but a shoulder wing would have been more difficult to brace adequately, and would have made it difficult to have a retractable undercarriage.

Fig.21

Snippet. A MÉCAVION Jet Set No.55A A model made from the parts in the Set below was shown in 40/1202. The box size was given as 50*35cm.

Of the 5 aircraft on the Set's lid only the two with swept wings, top right & bottom left, look as if they can be made with the parts in the Set. And as far as can be seen the only difference between them is the position of the Tailplane on the Fin. No doubt the other models need the 55B outfit mentioned on the model leaflet in OSN 40, and it isn't known if it was a larger or an add-on outfit.

In discussing the parts the photos in OSN 40 help to explain how they are assembled. The main wing & tail parts are obvious in the box, and, on either side of the Tailplanes, the curved Straps that pass under the fuselage to attach the Wings to the fuselage. The basic fuselage is made from 8 parts, 3 yellow & 5 red, with the 4 Nose & 4 Tail Sections butt jointed, and with the Side parts lapped by the Upper & Lower Sections.

The smaller parts include the formed Nose Intake & Tail Jet Fairings at the top of the box, inboard of the yellow Nose Sections, each of which is fastened to the fuselage by 4 N&B. Next to these are the Undercarriage Legs which bolt onto the underside of the Wings and look to be hinged to allow 'retraction'. Next again, the Wheels with red Tyres. There ought to be a matching nose wheel but there is no sign of any parts for it – perhaps they are in the small parts box. The slot in the yellow Lower Fuselage Nose Section might allow it to retract. The transparent Canopy is next to the tip of the starboard Wing with lugs at each end to bolt it to the fuselage, and there is a Pilot in a seated posture to the left of the Fin. A wooden handled Screwdriver can be seen bottom left, and a Spanner with a ring & an open end bottom right.

That leaves 4 'mystery' parts: the 2 narrow, tapered yellow part above the Wings; a dark grey tapered part just above the parts box with the narrow end slightly hooked and a small hole at the other (a tool of some sort?); and a red, narrow part with multiple bends to the right of the yellow Lower Fuselage Nose Section (perhaps it is used inside the fuselage to provide a seat & instrument panel for the pilot).

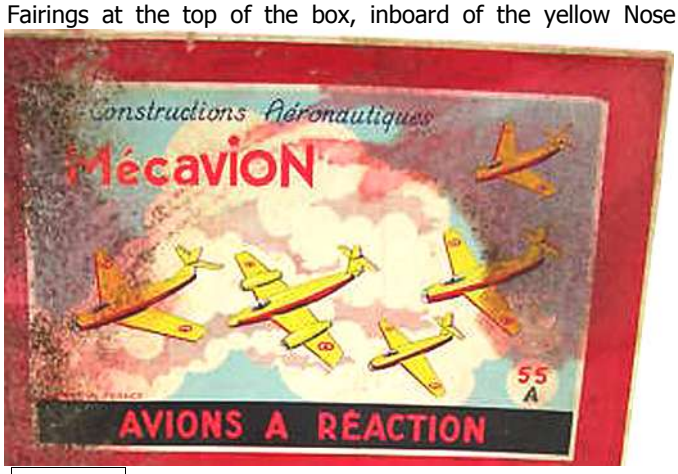


FIG.1

FIG.2

Snippet. 'New' System: TECHNICO The set shown here was offered on the Australian Ebay. The box lid is identical to the manual cover in Fig.3 except for the name of the set across the top (Fig.1), and 'Instruction Book' at the bottom is replaced by text in the top & bottom yellow lines which is too small to read.

The main parts that can be seen in the open box (Fig.2) are a 5*10h Flanged Plate, the Wheels, and 2,3,4,5,6 & 10h Strips. 3*5h, 4*5h, & 5*5h Plates, no doubt flexible, are used in the models in Fig.3, and they are probably under the Flanged Plate in the box. The empty recesses in the box look to have housed a Screwdriver, a Spanner, and (to the left of the 2h Strip) 2*2h Flat Trunnions.

I can't read the name of the model top right (something Fighter maybe), but the others, going clockwise, are a Mini-car, Dragster, Helicopter, Truck, & Cargo Ship.

FIG.1

The 10h size of the Flanged Plate is unusual, likewise the surmised Flat Trunnion, and also the inclusion of 4h size parts in a small set. In combination they don't bring to mind any other system and so perhaps, Australian or not, this brand was not widely sold internationally.

FIG.3

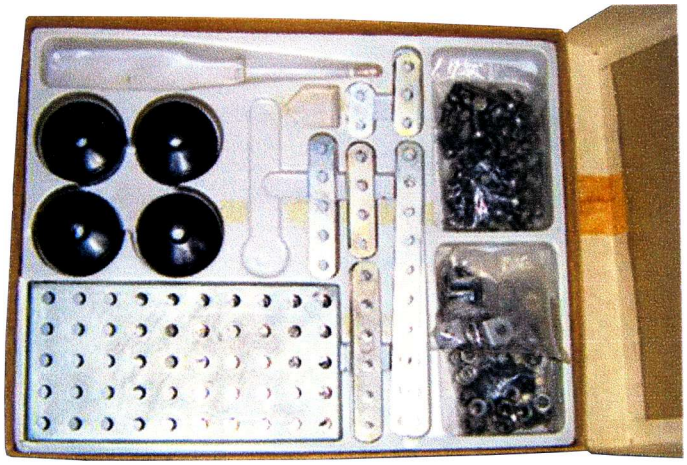


FIG.2