

it does allow detailed notes on some of the rarer parts, for example the early special chassis parts of the White truck, and the Gilbert MECCANO ship parts.

The book has 160 near A4 size pages and is packed with excellent photos, in colour unless the original was B&W; the colour is accurate as far as I can tell and the text is well written, with no padding. The love that has gone into the book does show a little in the perhaps slightly eulogistic account of ACG and his doings, but that can easily be forgiven. The way the book has been arranged, into history, sets and special models, is good if you want an overview of the whole scene but it can mean digging into each part if you want everything on a particular subject, and there is no index to help. But never mind, for a book which to be attractive to enough Americans has to be primarily concerned with more or less expensive sets, the authors have done a very good job in including detail on parts, manuals, motors, colour schemes, etc. I would have loved to see more but I'm grateful for what is provided, and I've started saving up for Volume 2.

You will shortly be able to buy this book from MW models, or it can be ordered from Kalmbach Publishing Co., Dept. 90136, P.O.Box 986, Waukesha, WI 53187-0986. U.S.A.

DATAFILES 1 • MINIBRIX by Malcolm Hanson. OSN doesn't usually stray into brickfields but I'm reviewing this book because it's the first in a new series, and because it's really comprehensive, and I know many readers will be interested. DATAFILES have come about to meet the need for authoritative works on specialised MECCANO matters and allied subjects, which can never be met by major books from New Cavendish, etc. Other volumes are in preparation and Geoff Wright of M.W.Models will be pleased to consider ideas for future projects. This one has 32 A4 pages; it is well photocopied and includes 8 pages of B&W photos on art paper. It's crammed with just about everything on Minibrix - origins, history, parts, sets and contents over the years, parts that were never marketed, everything. And if you want to know why the bricks were frozen, or what Maxibrix were, the answers are there. £8.30 from M.W.Models, 4 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames. RG9 1RY.

MÄRKLIN SETS FOR 1993. Dennis Higginson sent a copy of details of new MÄRKLIN sets for 1993. There is a new, small starter set m10 (#1003, 208 parts, 10 models), and a linking set E10 (#1015) to convert the m10 into the existing m30. From 6/129 the m30 has 329 parts. #1010 is another new starter set called M-Start, see below: it seems to be independent of the other sets and with 537 parts it is rather larger than the m50 basic set. There is no indication of the number of parts in the #1062 'Mechanics' (below), or which motor is included, the last 16 volt I know is the 1073. The slogan on all the boxes is Technik mit Köpfchen: what does that mean, Engineering for small Heads (=Kids)?

There is also a new nostalgia set, a reproduction of the Tanker Lorry sold in the 1930s, and I think into the late 40s. It is illustrated in MCS and is said to have a C/W motor, steering, working headlights, and doors that open. It is 40cm long and is finished in the original livery, that of the Standard Oil Co., a red and blue body on a black chassis.

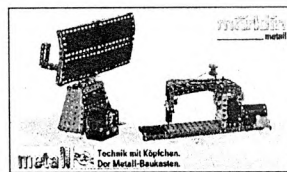
Since the Eiffel Tower 'supermodel' mentioned in 2/16 there has been another of the Dornier Do.X flying boat (I haven't any details or an illustration of it), and in the Winter 1993 issue of The Southern Californian Newsletter there are some details of the newest set, #1082. It is to make a 47" long Mississippi Steamboat and contains 4,700 parts. It's a nice looking model and has two working gangplanks, movable rudders, and 18 doors that open; the stern paddlewheel can be driven by a #1018 motor. Price of the Set which doesn't include the motor, \$1365.



1003 Basic Set m 10.

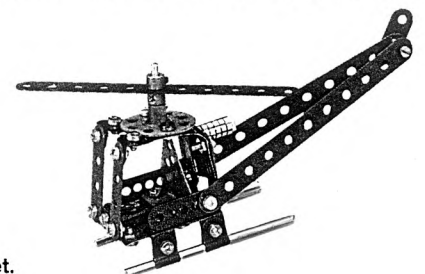


1015 Extension Set E 10.

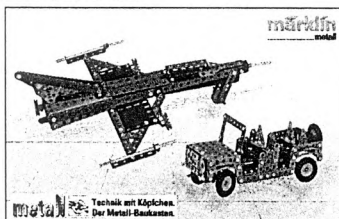


1062 "Mechanics" Extension Set.

This extension set contains a powerful motor as well as a selection of gear wheels, worm gears, and other mechanical parts for building challenging mechanical models. The contents of this set make it ideal for use with the M-Start (1010), m 50 (1005) or m 60 (1006) basic sets. The motor can be operated with 16 volts from any Märklin transformer (example: 6627/6631).



1037 "Helicopter" Gift Set. An old favorite brought back, the "Helicopter". Model with rotating main and tail rotors. 113 parts. Model length 18.5 cm (7-1/4").



1010 Basic Set M-Start. Large basic set with complete instructions for building different models such as airplanes, cars, trucks, etc. 537 pieces.