

New System: STEEL TEK That's STEEL TEK not STEEL TEC, and it was introduced last year by a new New York company, Toyplace International. I was alerted to the system by a letter from Madhav Bhalerao in the 4th quarter issue of the Meccano & Erector Club N/L. He had found two of the sets in (an American) Toys-R-U's, and full details of the current & planned sets can be found at www.toy-place.com. In general terms the present range follows in STEEL TEC's footsteps to a degree, and some of the parts (made in China) look similar, but there's nothing to indicate that there is any definite connection between the two systems. The hole pitch is 1/2" but the thread is said not to be 5/32" BSW, M4 perhaps. All the details that follow are taken from the web site.

parts, 2 models with a simple chassis from 'standard' parts, to which a dummy Motor, Seats, etc are added, and then a complete (plastic?) Body is bolted on.

● #82557 **American Chopper**. 111 parts, 3 models including the two below. A real engine sound is claimed, probably made by a something in the engine unit driven by a band from the back wheel.

● #86252 **Master**. Motorized. 499 parts, 10 models are shown on the lid but 40 possible claimed, and the manual (from the web site) has 15. The Plane below is one.

3 of the **manuals** can be downloaded from the web site (#82556,82557,86252) - they are all in B&W but otherwise are in the STEEL TEC style. The boy in them is very like the one



The photo above shows the motorized Master set box and models from some of the outfits.

Current Sets These are listed below. The numbers of parts on the set lids are hard to read and so may be wrong, particularly the middle figure.

- #80251 **Helicopters & Race Cars**. 109 parts, 8 small models.
- #80255 **Road & Air**. 280 parts, 15 models including the Plane above but without a Motor, or the Battery Box bolted to the port side undercarriage legs.
- #80256 **Big Builder**. 280 parts, 15 smallish earth moving style models.
- #81251 **Race Cars, Trucks & Robots**. Motorized. 238 parts, 12 models including the red Robot above.
- #81253 **Constructional Vehicles**. Motorized. 389 parts, 12 models including the Dozer above.
- #83250 **Power Tool**. This is included in some of the sets.
- #82556 **H2 Hummer & Escalade** (the Cadillac below). 404



in STEEL TEK but doesn't have a name on his hard hat.

New Outfits are promised. First 2 **Can Dooz** 'in-a-can' sets: **Robotniks & Trucksters**. 3 (very simple) Robots can be made at the same time with one and 3 Trucks with the other.

Next 3 **Radio Control** sets, one for the R/C **Race Car** below; one for an R/C **SUV**, and one with parts to build either.



The Controller is said to be built up.

Finally **Trump Tower**, a set with over 1100 parts to build this famous New York skyscraper. It's not clear what types of part are used.

The two sets that Madhav saw were the Big Builder and the Road & Air - at \$20 each he thought them rather expensive. Last January Toys-R-U's had reduced their prices to \$15. Some of the other U.S. stores listed a few of the sets and the Hummer, the Chopper, & the Constructional Vehicles were \$40 each. Nearly all were out of stock though. No reports so far of STEEL TEK outside the U.S.A.