

MYSTERY PART NO 7 This Plate with POLIVIT stamped on it (OSN 3, p47) turned out to be nothing to do with constructional systems: David Martin wrote, " 'The Polivit Plate is mainly aluminium and is used in the cleaning of large silver items. It must be completely submerged in boiling water containing a fairly strong solution of ordinary washing soda and the combined action of the aluminium and the soda removes stains from the silver. The solution passes through the perforations in the plate and the chemical reaction erodes the plate thus enlarging the holes.' "

MYSTERY PART NO 8 (the 'bucket' in OSN 4). No positive identification has been made but recently some MASTERBUILDER (MB) parts were seen, all painted in known MB colours except for a bucket and a Channel Girder, both of which were in exactly the same shade of yellow. So it seems almost certain that the bucket is a MB part. The only other practical possibility is that the two parts found had been repainted but against this Don Redmond has pointed out that in the NZ Fed magazine, Vol 8, No 2 of March 1983, Don Blakeborough had included said bucket as a Mystery Part and the the colour was given as yellow.

It should be mentioned that apart from the metallic black/nickel finished parts shown in MCS, and a few others of this series which were in larger sets, MB produced, probably at a later stage, additional, more conventional parts with a paint finish. These included flexible and flanged plates and the various parts were painted blue, orange or red. It is intended to summarise what little is known of these in a later issue and if anyone knows anything about MB which is not in MCS please let me know. Most but not all MB parts are stamped KW followed by a 4 figure number.

Don Redmond has sent details of several mysteries, first two different Couplings, MYSTERY PARTS NO 9. Both are 31/64" long (12.3mm), 3/8" dia. One has two tapped cross bores at right angles, and a smooth longitudinal bore 4.1mm. The other has two parallel tapped cross bores and a tapped longitudinal bore. All tappings are 5/32 BSW.

The next three items are illustrated below, MYSTERY PART NO 10 is the motor and Don writes, "It is obviously from a construction set; the angle brackets forming the feet are unworthy of any factory production item for more serious work; the windings are obviously low-voltage coarse ones very similar to the flat-commutator Meccano motors of the early years (ca.1916-20), and the pulley has an over-length setscrew. Despite the various screws being metric (M3.5 and M2) sizes, the shaft seems to be 1/8". But the dimension across the foot mounting holes (45mm) seems to confirm metric measurements of some kind. I see nothing in MCS that looks like it."

The motor was found with a 1928 Meccano No. 1X outfit and of MYSTERY PARTS NO 11 Don says "The two corner brackets were also in the same set. They look like one of the architectural construction sets, but the only fixing holes are in the outer corner lugs."

And on MYSTERY PART NO 12, "The screwdriver was found in a flea market. It is not a sewing machine screwdriver, at least our local sewing machine dealer-historian says not. Hardly intended for getting around corners into complicated models? But what other uses would there be for such a cheaply produced item? The blade certainly resembles the average Meccano screwdriver."

