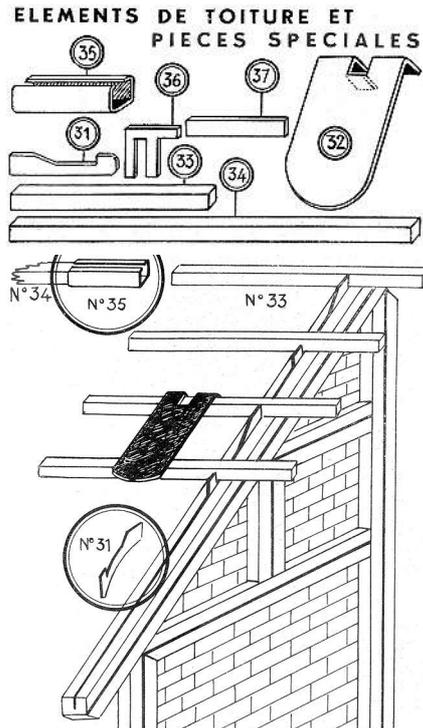
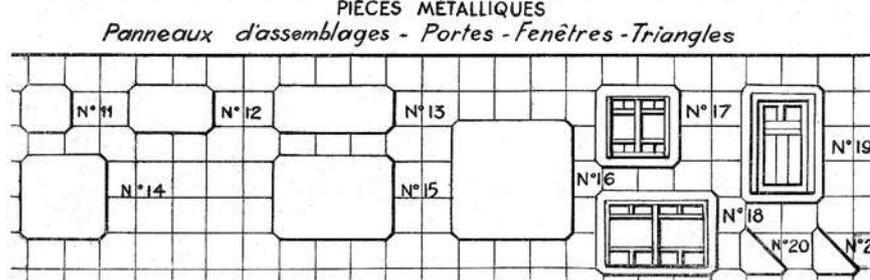
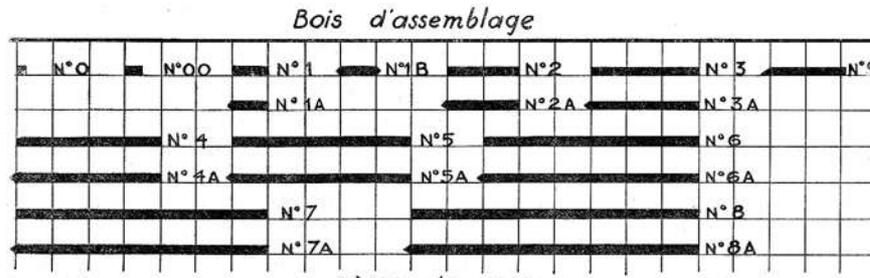


CORUS The name of this 1920s French system was mentioned in 16/444, and now to hand are a manual with some parts, probably nearly all of a No.00 set, and, thanks to David Hobson, a No.1 set, without a manual but otherwise fairly complete. The parts are wood & metal; they are intended to make architectural models with a 'rustic' character. The manual though also includes a few other simple models. The sets covered by the manual are Nos. 00, 0, & 1, and no mention is made of any others. The only possible references to the manufacturer are 'Le Jouet Batimetal, Paris' in the manual, and the MAE logo in the centre part on the box label right.

The PARTS These are shown below, from the manual, with a few actual parts bottom right. The use of the main parts is shown bottom left – the Beams are 12mm square with narrow slits on all four sides; the Panels push into them and hold the Beams together (my names, the manual is all in French). Most of the Panels have tiny pushed-through dimples in their corners, no doubt to help to hold them in place. In the models the centres of the Beams are at multiples of about 4.9cm, and the pattern of squares below shows only the number of bays the parts span, not their exact size. The longest Beam measures 33cm; the largest Panels seen (#15,18,19) are 140*91mm o/a - #16 isn't included in any of the sets but is



dull yellow on the other. There are actually 2 types of #12 & 13, though this isn't mentioned in the Manual - one has the rows of bricks lengthways and the other has them crossways. In the No.1 Set the bricks on the crossways Panels (also on the Small Triangle #21 & around the door on #19) are brown; on the other Panels, and on all the 00 parts they are orange-red. The Window and Door Panels have a similar design on both sides except for the surround (yellow or brickwork) and the colour of the woodwork. The design of the Windows in the Sets differs from that in the Illustrated Parts, and another variant can be seen in the No.1 model on the next page. Likewise the model on the lid has a different Door. The Roof Tiles, 25*36mm, are brown and push onto the roof Battens, 33 & 34, The latter, 6 & 12cm long, are 4mm square, and are joined by #35. #36 & 37 are used to join Beams, mostly in the small models, lengthways or at right angles, or to reinforce joints. The No.1 Set Panels and Tiles are aluminium, the 00 parts are all steel except the Window #17.

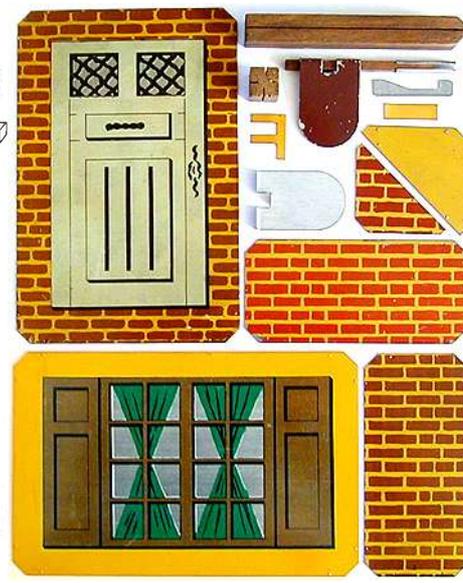


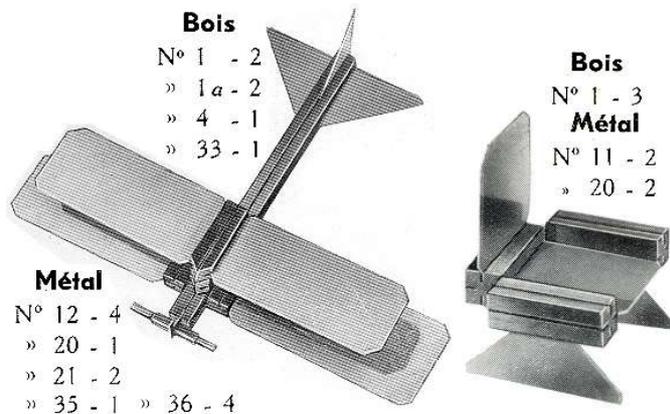
needed for some of the non-outfit models in the Manual. The Panels have the brick pattern on one side and are a

The SETS The No.1 is in a large light yellow box 54*39½*5½cm, with a red label, 45*30cm. As already mentioned its centre, 28*21cm, is shown above. The contents are given on a label inside the lid as follows: 9x #00; 9x 0; 66x 1; 30x 1a; 24x 1b; 10x 2; 20x 2a, 20x 3; 4x 3a; 4x 4; 8x 4a; 8x 5; 7x 5a; 10x 6; 4x 6a; 10x 7; 2x 7a; 4x 8; 2x 8a; 4x 9; 60x 11; 10x 12; 20x 13; 5x 14; 4x 15; 3x 17; 4x 18; 4x19; 40x 20; 20x 21; 40x 31; 400x 32; 30x 33; 90x 34; 120x 35. #36 & 37 aren't mentioned but are needed for some of the models.

The parts found in the '00' lot were: 4x #00; 4x 0; 16x 1; 6x 1a; 2x 1b; 2x 2; 8x 3; 8x 3a; 6x 4; 2x 5; 14x 11; 10x 12; 1x 17; 1x19; 4x 20; 2x 21; 24x 31; 90x 32; 24x 34; 15x 35; 18x 36; 18x 37. They were sufficient to build the 'Cottage' shown on the next page, the only 00 House in the Manual.

The MANUAL as found consisted of 14 loose unnumbered sheets, 245*155mm, pierced for a ring binder on their left edges. Their order given below is as found (it is obvious except for the non-outfit models at the end), and there is no reason to think that it isn't complete. The cover is as in OSN 16 with the large letters yellow, edged in brown. p2 (=C2) has some general assembly instructions and suggests that more parts should be bought if needed. The parts are shown on pp3-4; & then on pp4-9

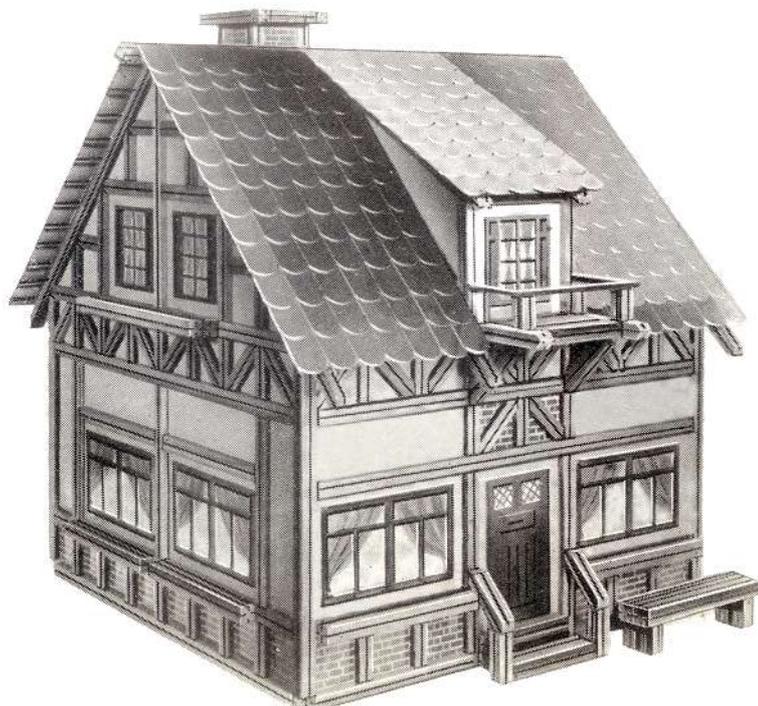




are 9 examples of how to use them. p10 is blank except for 'LE JOUET BATIMÉTAL | PARIS'. pp11-25 have photos of models on good quality paper, with one photo for each plus a list of parts. p26 & C3-4 are blank. Most of the models for the Sets are not named. Set 00 models are 3 small Aeroplanes on p11, 13 other small models, mostly Furniture, on pp12-13, & the Cottage already mentioned on p14. 2 of the small models are shown above, & the Cottage, my model, on the right. The 3 Set 0 models are a House on stilts with a dormer window on p15, an ÉCURIE (Stable) on p16, & a double-fronted House on p17. The three No.1 models are also Houses, first the one right, then one with a veranda, and finally a 2-storey example with a flat roof & large balcony. Next 5 models on pp21-25 with no set specified but they all need parts not in the No.1. In order they are a PASSERELLE (Footbridge); INTÉRIEUR ET AMEUBLEMENT (Furniture in a Room); CHALET SUISSE; MAISON DE MONTAGNE (Mountain House); the one on the lid; and below (¾ f-s, the others are near 100%) the largest model, ÉGLISE NORMANDE (Norman Church), about 60cm long with a bell tower some 75cm high.

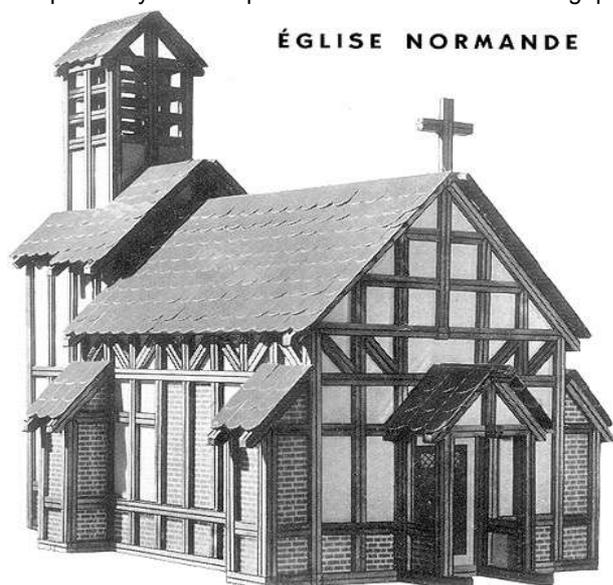
With the Manual was a large pale green Sheet, 61*49cm, printed on one side with a grid of pairs of lines to represent Beams at 4.9cm pitch. The layout of Beams needed for part of a wall is superimposed on part of it, and at the top it is suggested that before starting to build a wall the Beams for it be laid out on the Sheet.

Using the Parts The parts are accurately made and the wood hasn't warped. It was quite easy to build the walls of the simple Cottage and the structure was rigid enough. The roof was another matter, the Battens are not positively fixed in position and the Tiles do not grip



Modèle réalisable avec la boîte N° 1

Bois		Métal	
N° 1 - 66	» 3a - 4	» 7a - 2	N° 11 - 60 3 portes n° 19
» 1a - 30	» 4 - 4	» 8 - 4	» 12 - 10 4 grandes fenêtres n° 18
» 1b - 24	» 4a - 8	» 8a - 2	» 13 - 20 4 petites fenêtres n° 17
» 2 - 10	» 5 - 8	» 9 - 4	» 14 - 5 400 tuiles n° 32
» 2a - 20	» 5a - 7	» 0 - 9	» 15 - 4 40 attaches n° 31
» 3 - 20	» 6 - 10	» 00 - 9	» 20 - 40 120 raccords n° 35
	» 6a - 4	» 33 - 30	» 21 - 20 20 pièces spéciales n° 36
	» 7 - 10	» 34 - 90	



them very well. Real tiles are heavy enough to stay where they are put but these are not and even when, with great care, the roof was finished, a small knock could be (and was!) a disaster. Eventually I put slivers of Bluetack between the Tiles and the Battens to hold everything in position.

I suspect that some of the larger models would require rather more thought than the Cottage.

My Panels were a good fit in the Beams but David's parts look as if they may be more difficult to use – the aluminium Panels are slightly thicker, and some of the slits in his Beams look a little narrower.

I thought the finished model rather attractive and though the Windows are flat, a feeling of depth is created by the surround of Beams around each window.