

Snippets. 'New' Brazilian System: ARGOS As can be seen from Figs.1-5 this system combines wooden Blocks with Rods joined by J-shaped Clamps. The concept is as in the post-WW2, single set American/Canadian LIL'N-GINEER (see 27/781), the German ROBO, & the Spanish EL INGENIERO MECANICO, but it has a few extra parts, more sets, & more ambitious models. Fig.5, probably taken from the back of the manual, gives details of (presumably) the maker in São Paulo. All the printed material seen, except the manual covers in Figs.1 & 5, has text in English as well as Portuguese

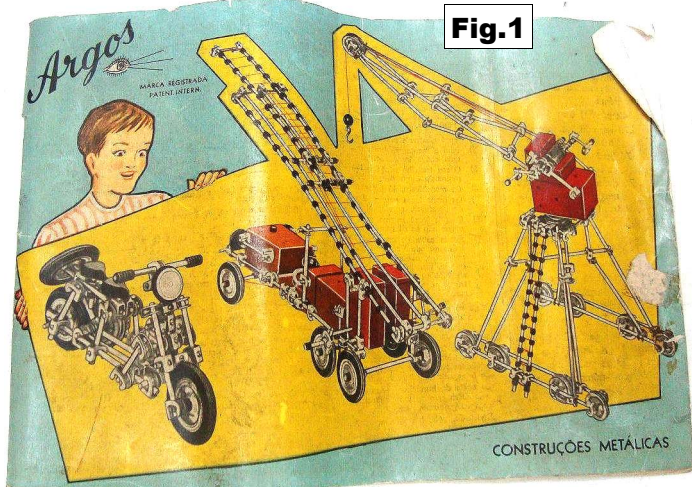


Fig.1



Fig.4

Basic Set No. 41 contains 535 assorted parts and 148 clamps, total 683 pieces, to build at least 76 beautiful models.
Size of box: 54x34 x 8 cm

Fig.2

The No.3 has 2 layers of parts, the smaller sets one. The latter have 146, 244 parts, including 18,34 Clamps, in boxes 50*30*5 & 54*34*6cm, for 30 & 53 models. The LIL set had 101 parts, including 16 Clamps, for 15 models. ROBO had only a few more parts for 18 models. So both were appreciably smaller than the No.1. The No.1's backing card was like ROBO's in having a large figure of a robot printed on it, though they are not quite the same design. So perhaps ARGOS was initially inspired by ROBO and then it was decided that the system had potential worth exploiting.

The Parts 2 of the 3 the wooden parts match LIL/ROBO & from scaling, their main dimensions are similar; but ARGOS also has the thinner rectangular Block. From what can be seen, the other parts probably include all the LIL/ROBO ones. The white Sail etc (never actually included in the LIL/ROBO sets) can be seen in the centre of the large tray in Fig.2 with a Saddle on either side of it. Extra ARGOS parts almost certainly included longer Rods.

The Manual The cover is shown in Fig.1 . Fig.3 shows part of 2 model pages: the Tractor can be made with Set 1, and is a LIL/ROBO model; the Crane & Scooter are for Set 2.

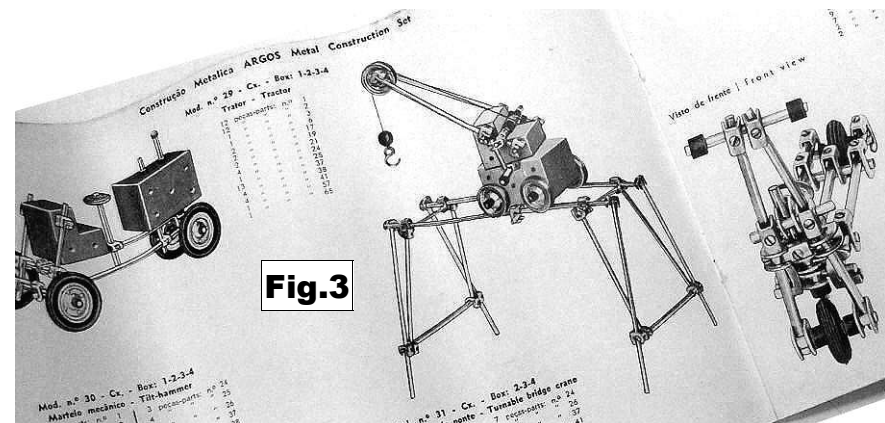


Fig.3



Fig.5