

EDITORIAL Nothing of any great note this time, so I'll simply mention a couple of points which readers have raised about the colour illustrations on the OSN web site. First, each page of pictures should print out on one A4, or US letter, side, even if it doesn't look as if it will on the screen (with a large space at the end of one or more rows, and a solitary image in the row below).

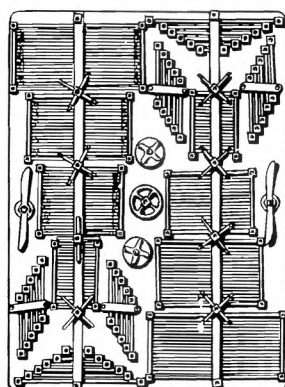
Secondly, it has been pointed out that some of the pictures are sideways or upside down. The orientation depends on which way it was most convenient to put the

original on the scanner, and I've assumed that it doesn't matter, given that the pictures are going to be cut out. Turning them would take a little time, and perhaps have quality or file size disadvantages, so I wouldn't want to do so unless the present arrangement causes real problems.

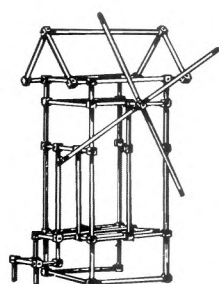
Finally, several readers have asked if I can supply a list of contents for all the issues of OSN (as opposed to the Index offered in 21/600). I have recently put one, albeit rather sketchy, on the web site, and I can make copies for anyone who can't 'log on'.

ARMATURE

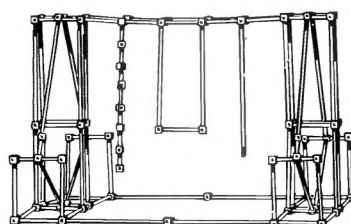
Jouets Scientifiques
sans vis, sans écrous
BREVETÉ S.G.D.G.



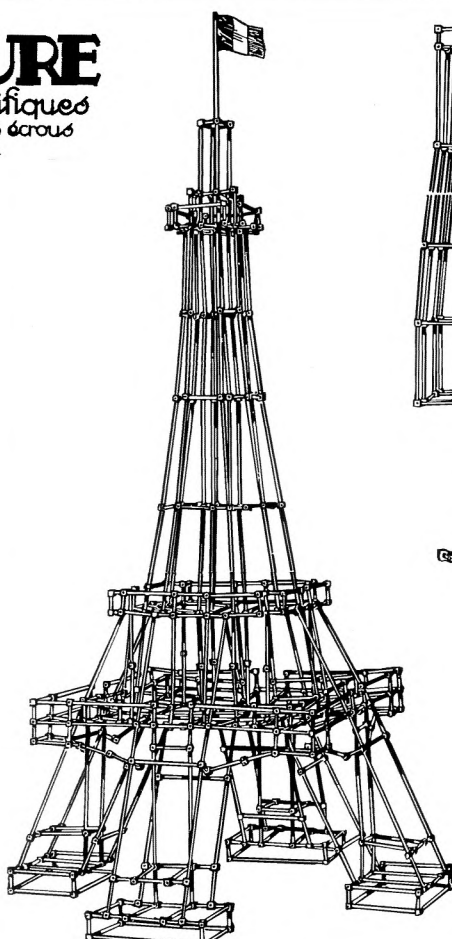
Boîte N° 3 : 135 Fr.



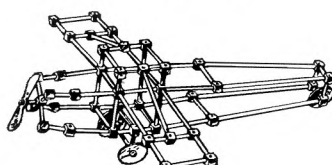
Moulin



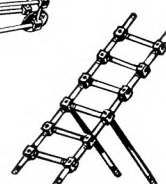
Portique



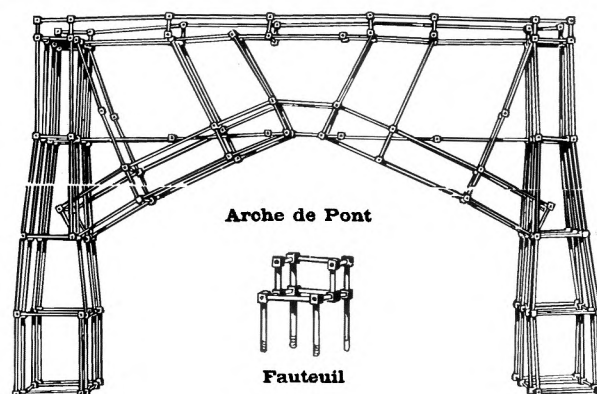
Tour Eiffel



Aéroplane

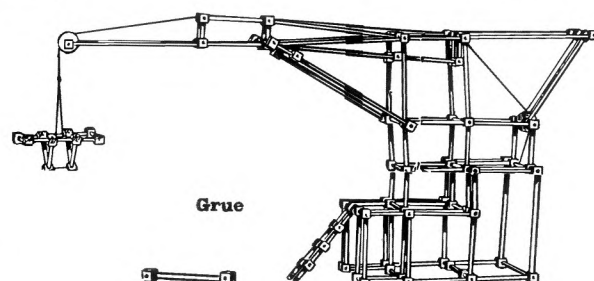


Echelle

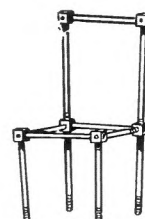


Arche de Pont

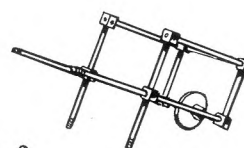
Fauteuil



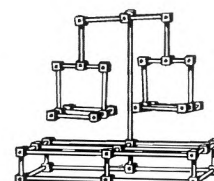
Grue



Chaise



Brouette



Balance



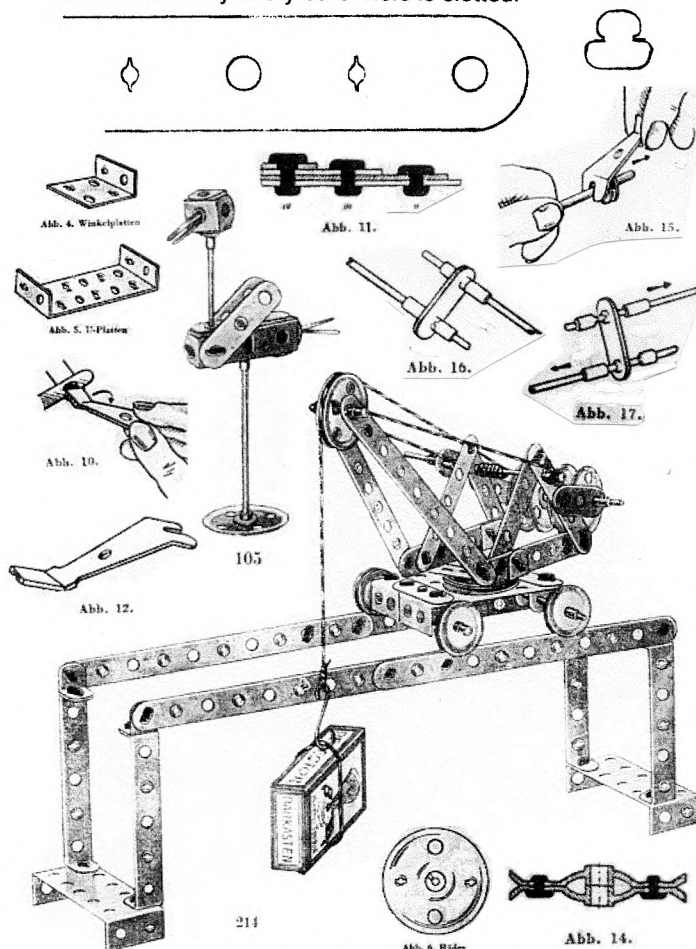
Cubes

See page 655
for more on
ARMATURE

MILLE JOUETS EN UN SEUL !

PERFECTOR This small Austrian system was mentioned in 22/650, and below an account of it, mainly from a copy of the manual. Kendrick Bisset sent it and he obtained it from Charles Smith, who owns a set - my thanks to both.

PERFECTOR consists of 40 different parts with a 'nickel plate type finish', and its unusual feature is that they are joined by special, flat Keys. A tracing around one of these is shown below, together with a tracing of part of a Strip, both full size. To join 2 parts a Key passes through a large round hole in one, through a slot in the other, and is then turned through 90°, using a special Tool (Abb.12 below), to lock it (Abb.10). 3 depths of Key are provided to join 2, 3 or 4 parts (Abb.11). The holes are at 15mm pitch - the large one looks to be about 5mm Ø; the small one with slot about 2 to 3mm. Generally every other hole is slotted.



Axles run in the small holes, and the Pulleys can be locked to them using a Driving Dog on one side and an Axle Stop on the other. These are a push fit on the Axles and the other end of the Tool can be used to move them along the Axle (Abb.15). The Dog engages a recess in the Pulley, and also in the Crank Strips. The latter allow a crank handle to be constructed (Abb.16,17). It might be thought that the Dog would be sized to engage with any of the slotted holes, and this may be the case, but if so it isn't clear why special Crank Strips are needed - as drawn these seem to have small bosses with slots for the Dog.

The **parts** are: • 2,3,5,7,9,11h Strips, with 2 versions of all but the 2h, the second with the round & slotted holes interchanged. • A 2*1h A/B; 2 versions each of: a Double Bracket, and 5 & 7h wide DAS. • The 2 Flanged Plates (Abb.4,5 above). • Pulleys which scale at 25 & 38mm Ø; the larger one (Abb.6) can be seen to be made from 2 Pulley Discs (Abb.14). • 2h long Crank Strips, one with 1, and the other with both holes slotted. • Axles 30,48,60,78,108, 150mm long. • The Axle Stop and Dog already mentioned, and a Coupling which is probably a push fit too. • Washers whose use isn't described but might be useful as packing if a Key were to be rather loose. • The Tool, and another called Radabzieher, which isn't illustrated but from its name

may be to move the Pulleys on the Axles, though the Tool seems able to do that. • The 3 sizes of Clips, and a Bifurcated Paper Clip, used as decoration, and sometimes to join parts.

The **manual** is ©1947 and has models for Sets No.1 & 2. The No.2 has 44 strip parts, 6 Plates, and 65 Clips; the No.1 has all the different parts, generally in half the quantities of the No.2. There was a linking set 1a. The cover (see OSN 22) is grey-blue & blue-black on white; the label of the ebay set is similar but with the centre 'P' & the background to 'PERFECTOR' in red.

SUMMARY OF MANUAL •Name: PERFECTOR BAUKASTEN •Details of maker: Kappl & Trubrig, Wien 1. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: © 1947. •Page size: 210*142mm deep. •No. of pages: 28 unnumbered inc covers. •Language: German. •Printing: Blue/black on white cover (see 22/650); ½-tones of models. •Page Nos. of Parts List/Set Contents (no PNs): 27. •Sets covered: 1,2. •No. of models for each set: 60,31. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 1: Ente,101,5; Teigknetmaschine,160,22. 2: Windmotor,201,23; Koller+gang,231,18. •Other notes: •Details from photocopy with pages ordered as received (which seems correct but results in many models being out of sequence). •Model names are on pp25-26.

The large selection of **models** starts with some attractive birds, including the one left, followed by a wide range of fairly ordinary models, including many machine tools. Some lack the triangulation that would be needed to ensure adequate rigidity. The largest Crane is shown opposite. Cord drives are used in many models and some of the vehicles have cord operated centre pivot steering. None of the 3 larger models on the manual cover (at the top), a Lorry, Loco & Tender, and a Marine Engine, are in the manual.

No mention is made of a patent. On the back cover of the manual is the promise of add-on sets with simple Gears, A/Gs, Junction Plates (Knotenbleche), Large Wheels, and other 'versatile innovations'.

ARMATURE Jeannot Buteux/Constructorama kindly sent a copy of a Leaflet, all that is known of this French system. It is thought to date from around 1930, and may have been made at Lyon. The Leaflet has illustrations of 3 sets, Nos.1,2 & 3, together with a list of extra parts, & 18 models. No indication is given as to which of the models can be made with which sets. All the large, and a selection of the small models, are shown on the front cover, full-size. The main parts are Rods of 6 different lengths, from 25 to 150mm, & cubical Joints. It has been suggested that the parts may be wooden and this seems likely, though it does raise one or two questions.

One is about the ends of the Rods. At a glance they appear to be threaded, but by scaling, the Rod diameter is very roughly 4mm and this doesn't seem big enough to allow a wooden part to be threaded successfully. And in any case I don't see how the Cubes, for example, could be assembled using threaded Rods.

Perhaps the 'threading' is merely fine grooving to allow a more effective push fit in the Joints. A patent is claimed on the Leaflet but with no number given - no doubt it would tell all.

Another question is price. If the Rods just push into the Joints, ARMATURE is a very simple system, but maybe not a cheap one - the 3 Sets ranged from 55 to 135 Fr. and if that was around 1930, by way of comparison, a No.0 MECCANO cost 34 Fr. in 1931, and a No.3, 185 Fr. So was there something special about ARMATURE? Alternatively, I think there was some inflation in France during the 1930s, and perhaps the Leaflet dates from later than 1930.

The Price List of spare parts has the Tiges (Rods) in 6 lengths, and 'Dés : 0 50 pièce'. I don't know the word 'dés' but I suppose it's the Joint, an abbreviation perhaps. No mention is made of the Propeller, and the 2 types (at least) of Wheel &/or Pulley that can be seen in the No.3 Set, and in a few of the models.

LYNNCRAFT Some notes on this small American system were given in 12/309, and now more details are available thanks to Chris Freeman who has sent photos of his two sets. The first, a No.146, is the one that was illustrated in OSN 12 except that it has a Pulley Disc between the centre Trunnions, and another 4, perhaps missing in Richard's set, one in each of the other gaps between the Trunnions. The Pulley Disc has not noted before – it has a normal size centre hole but otherwise two joined by a boss would make the Pulley. The 5 Pulleys between the Trunnions in the earlier 'large' set noted in 19/554 are genuine Pulleys but the other two (at the sides) can now be seen to be Pulley Discs.

The other set, a No.136, is smaller, and is in a box about 13½"×8½". The lid (below) is of similar design, red & yellow to the No.146, but the two main models on it, and 2 of the 4 at the bottom, are different. The model sheet is again a blueprint stuck inside the lid. Several of the models are wheeled vehicles and all their wheels have Tyres, unlike those of the OSN 12 No.146. Oddly, although several of the models have 4 wheels, there are only 2 Tyres for the 4 Pulleys in the Set, and it isn't obvious where more would be housed. The other main parts are 6 Strips, 1 each Small & Large Flanged Plates, 4 each Trunnions, Triangular Plates, & A/Bs, a Span'driver, & 2x 3" Axles.



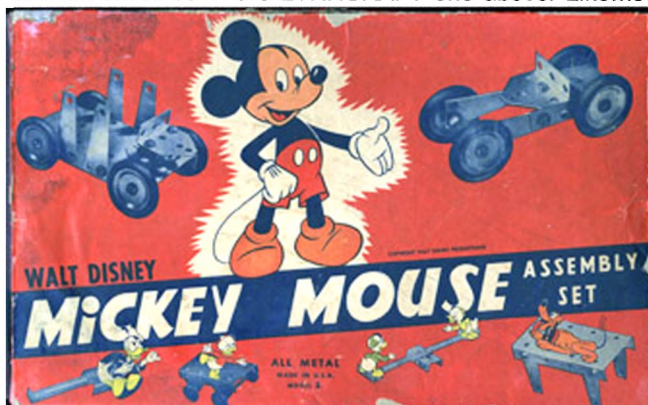
The Nuts in the above sets are square, with about the same A/F dimension as the hexagonal ones of OSN 12. I've also been able to examine some parts which Frank Beadle kindly lent me, and the first thing is that the holes are 4.8mm Ø, and not the (erroneous) 3.8 of OSN 12. Other points: • The Tyres are marked LYNNCRAFT on one side-wall. • The Axles are plain steel, as they are in the No.136 above. • The Bolts have smaller, ¼" Ø, roundheads.

The Pulley Discs mentioned above are a bit of a puzzle because they are not used in any of the models. However, they do make the sets look more attractive in their boxes, and they would have decorative uses in models.

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And two MICKEY MOUSE Sets Recently discovered thanks to Kendrick Bisset & eBay, the two LYNNCRAFT sets repackaged under the name MICKEY MOUSE Assembly Sets S & L (small & large no doubt).

First the **S Outfit** from Kendrick, which is in a box the same size as the No.136 above. The blue on red lid is shown below, and the models on it, and the general layout, are the same as in the LYNNCRAFT one above. Likewise



the blue Model Sheet pasted inside the lid. The company name, 'Hollywood Toycraft Inc.', is printed on the ends of the lid, & 'Copyright Walt Disney Productions' on the top.

The parts are again on a red backing board, but with a slightly different arrangement to accommodate 2 extra A/Bs & 4 Pulley Discs. There appears to be slots for another 4 Pulley Discs, while loose in the Set as found were an A/B, & the extra 2 Pulleys with Tyres that are needed to make the models shown. This Set too has square Nuts, 8.7mm A/F.

The L Set details come from a blurry eBay photo. The colours are those of the smaller Set, and all that can be seen of the lid, the top centre, has Mickey as on the S lid with the models from the No.146 LYNNCRAFT lid on either side. The layout of the parts is similar to the OSN 12 set but with Pulleys or Pulley Discs between the Trunnions, as there should be, and 5 Triangular Plates, instead of 3, at each side. 3 of the 4 Pulley with Tyre positions are empty and the 4th has a Pulley but no Tyre. The models on the Sheet inside the lid are the same as those in the OSN 12 lid except that to make way for the larger top centre logo, the positions of the Draw Bridge, Bar Bell, & Teeter-Totter have been changed. Where appropriate wheels are shown fitted with Tyres (shown as white rings).

One wonders that a large organisation like Disney was content to see its best known star linked to what must be regarded as a less than ideal constructional toy. Another such case was M&S selling BILDICO (see 16/440).

More on STABIL INVENTOR'S Manuals Further to the notes in 23/654, Werner has now found full details of the 5 known Inventor's manuals.

No.1 This was mentioned in 14/370 and was the first manual described in 23/654. The front cover (with the Log Saw & 3 children: cover 'A' for reference) has Juni 1925 on it, and it is believed to date from then. C3 is blank.

No.2 This has the same C1 as No.1, with the Juni 1925 date on it, but is thought to date from the end of 1925. The contents are as No.1 but with additional pages 34-44, and p44 is on C3. These new pages are those described for the 1926 manual in 23/654.

No.3 This is thought to date from 1926 and is the 1926 manual of OSN 23 - it is identical to No.2 above apart from a different front cover, with 2 boys. Crane, Bridge, etc (cover 'B'), and overprinted 'Nr.57 u. 58' in the oval.

No.4 This is the third manual described in OSN 23. It is identical to No.3 above except for the Nr.56 model pages I-XII glued in, and the label on the front cover saying that it is for Sets 56, 57, 58 (cover 'C'). Because of the reference to the Money Box on pl of the Nr.56 section, the example known has been dated as ≥1931. In passing it should be noted that the Contents for Set 57 & 58, in the main pages, had not been updated to include parts 83,a,b, which by 1931 were included in the Sets.

No.5 This is a new find, a single sheet folded to give 4 STABIL manual-sized pages, and was probably included in the first No.56 Set, now known to have appeared in 1927. There is no main title or introduction, just 'Einige Anwendungsbeispiele für [loosely 'Some examples of models for] Walther's Erfinder-Baukasten Nr.56' along the top of each side. 6 models, Nr.801-806, are shown and all are in No.4 above, but with different numbers and one change of name: Pappschere instead of Pappenschneidemaschine. The first model is Nr.801, Observatorium, & the last, Nr.806, Steindruckpresse.

ARMATURE On the question of whether the parts from this system are made from wood or metal (see 23/655), Jeannot Buteux wrote to say that they are definitely not wooden, and are almost certainly aluminium.