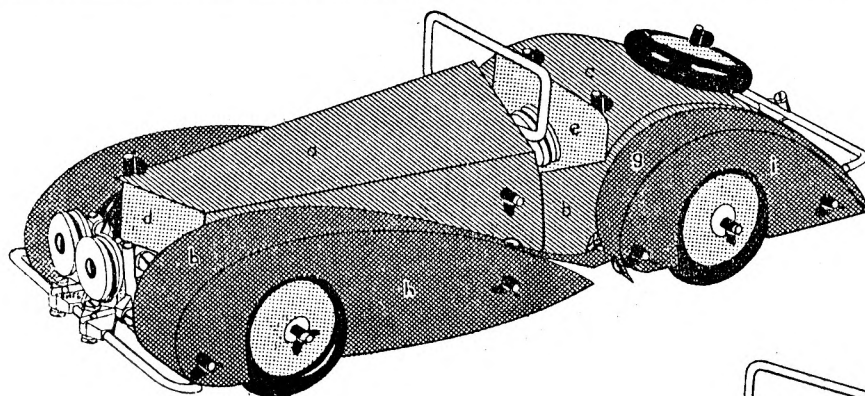


EDITORIAL Nearly everyone approved of the smaller type used last time even though my printer was not giving of its best and hence the poor definition of many of the characters. It should be better in this issue. The general complaint was Page 33 being the wrong way round, and that was a simple blunder.

I have been thinking about the Index of Literature and MCS Supplementary Information features which I started in OSN 1 - these have not attracted much interest from readers and I have only received one contribution. So since they take time to compile I shall give a low priority to providing these data in a systematic way. I have revised the format for describing the manuals to make it easier to use and, as in this issue, it can provide a fairly definitive reference to the subject under discussion. For the MCS Supplementary material I hope in the (very) long run to put it, together with the basic MCS data, into a spreadsheet format so that changes and searches can be made easily. For the moment I want to record for my own purposes the type of screwthread and axle diameter of the systems I have myself and as I have had several requests for this specific information, I will include it in OSN when it's ready, and hope that others will add to it. Let no one though be deterred from sending me fuller details of manuals or systems, for me a high priority for OSN is to provide detailed information, and I will be pleased to receive anything of that sort.

Several overseas subscribers have commented on the excessive cost of sending small sums abroad by cheque, to pay for OSN for example. The cheapest way is to send bank notes, in Pounds Sterling if possible, and about half of all overseas subscriptions arrive in this way. The sender does of course take the risk of the money going astray in the post but in practice this seems to be small provided that it is not obvious that a letter contains money. Non UK subscribers please see also the note about Payment on the back page.

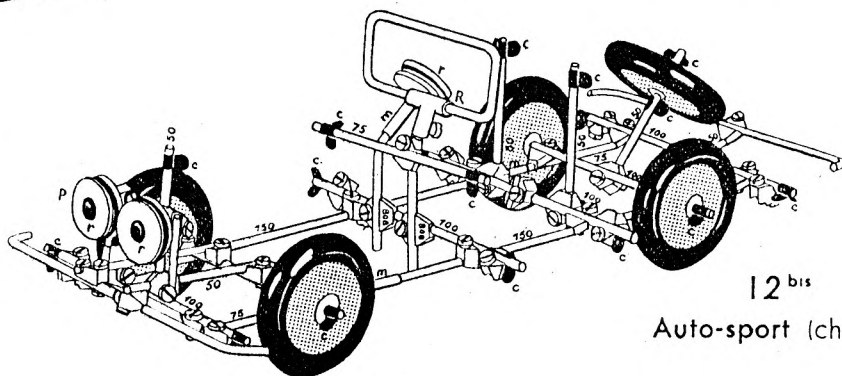


12
Auto sport

Carrosserie
14 pièces

capot a
carrosserie 3 pièces b c
radiateur d
siège e

ailes avant f
» arrières g
flasques avant h
» arrières i



12 bis
Auto-sport (chassis)

BOB

Model from an Instruction Sheet in a BOB Auto-Sport set. See also p27.

37 joints	3 poulies de..... 20 %	2 tringles 150 %
18 cavaliers	5 roues à pneus	6 » 100 %
7 rivets	2 pare-chocs	3 » 75 %
3 manchons	1 pare-brise	6 » 50 %
1 raccord	2 tringles coudées de 100 %	3 » 25 %

greater than would have been obtained using the metric versions of the instruments in question and in such cases it is preferable to round down to the next decimal place, that is 5.18 and 5.2.

There are many problems in making accurate measurements and in expressing the results fairly, and taking into account the variations often found between nominally identical OS parts, it may be thought that some of the finer points discussed above are a little academic. I would defend them on two grounds, first if one strays far from them, for example a slightly careless measurement with a ruler, converted into different units and the result quoted to several places of decimals, the information can easily be misleading; secondly a certain minimum accuracy is sometimes a real help in identifying parts. Two examples come to mind - to know the diameter of an axle accurately is very reassuring when in some OS the axle is a very loose fit in the holes, and at the other extreme in terms of the need for care rather than expensive measuring equipment, are the errors which occur in data on hole spacing, STABIL for instance has sometimes been shown as 12.7mm (that is the same as MECCANO) instead of 12.5mm.

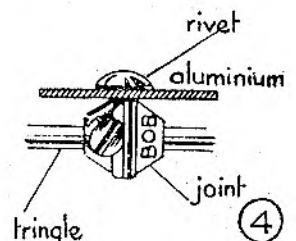
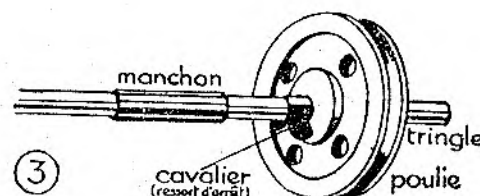
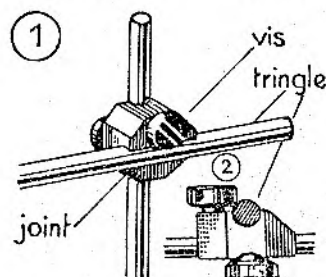
THE RUSSIAN ALPHABET

Capital	Lower-case	Approx. Pronunciation of Name	English transliteration in this dictionary	Capital	Lower-case	Approx. Pronunciation of Name	English transliteration in this dictionary
А	а	(ah)	a	Р	р	(ĕr)	r
Б	б	(bĕ)	b	С	с	(ĕs)	s
В	в	(vĕ)	v	Т	т	(tĕ)	t
Г	г	(gĕ)	g	У	у	(oo)	u
Д	д	(dĕ)	d	Ф	ф	(ĕf)	f
Е	е	(yĕ)	e	Х	х	(ĥah)	kh
Ё	ё	(yō)	ë	Ц	ц	(tsĕ)	ts
Ж	ж	(zhĕ)	zh	Ч	ч	(chĕ)	ch
З	з	(zĕ)	z	Ш	ш	(shah)	sh
И	и	(ĕ)	i	Щ	щ	(shchah)	shch
Й	й	(ĕkrá'tkōyĕ)	ĭ	Ъ	ъ	(tyvōr'dīznahk)	" ('hard sign')
К	к	(kah)	k	Ы	ы	(ĭ)	y
Л	л	(ĕl)	l	Ь	ь	(myah'k-kīznahk)	' ('soft sign')
М	м	(ĕm)	m	Э	э	(ĕōberō'tnōyĕ)	é
Н	н	(ĕn)	n	Ю	ю	(ū)	yu
О	о	(ō)	o	Я	я	(yah)	ya
П	п	(pĕ)	p				

ÉLÉMENTS ET MONTAGE DU BOB

BOB utilise comme éléments essentiels:

1. — Des **joints brevetés**, comportant deux gorges perpendiculaires dans lesquelles une tringle métallique est maintenue par la pression d'une tête de vis (fig. 1 et 2).

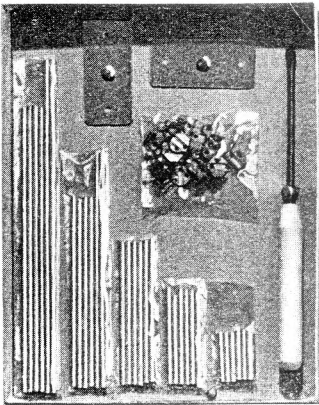


2. — Des **poulies, roues, manchons, cavaliers**, etc..... (fig. 3).

3. — Des **plaques d'aluminium** dont la fixation est assurée, soit par une tringle qui les traverse, soit par un rivet maintenu par un joint (fig. 4).

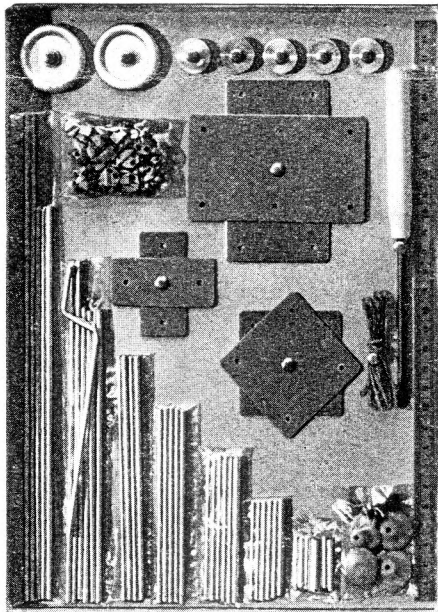
Translation:

1. The patented joints with two [semi-circular section] grooves at right angles to one another, in [each of] which a metal rod can be locked by the head of a screw (fig 1 and 2).
2. Pulleys, wheels, sleeves (rod connectors), spring clips, etc (fig 3).
3. Aluminium plates which are fixed either by a rod passing through them, or by a rivet held in a joint (fig 4).



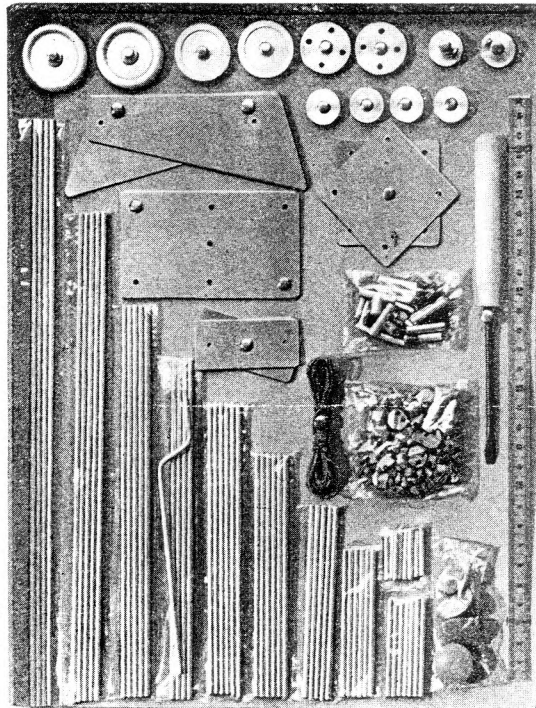
Nr. 1 Inhalt 75 Einzelteile

DIE 5 BOB-BAUKASTEN



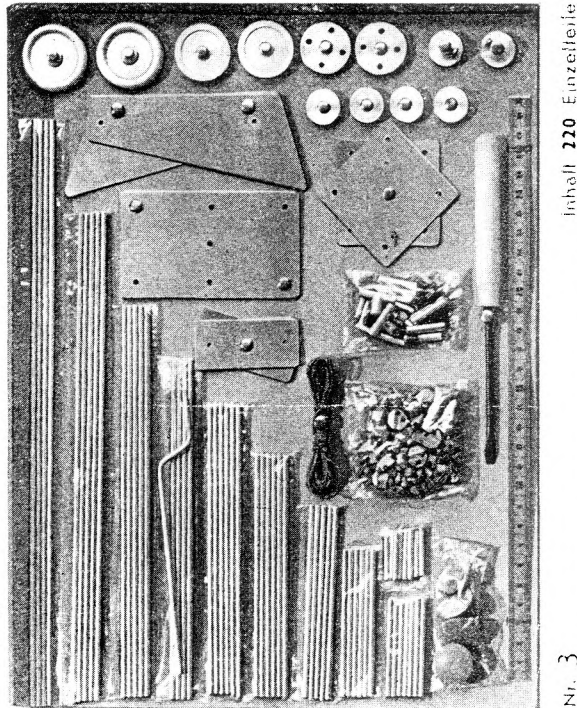
Nr. 2

Inhalt 136 Einzelteile



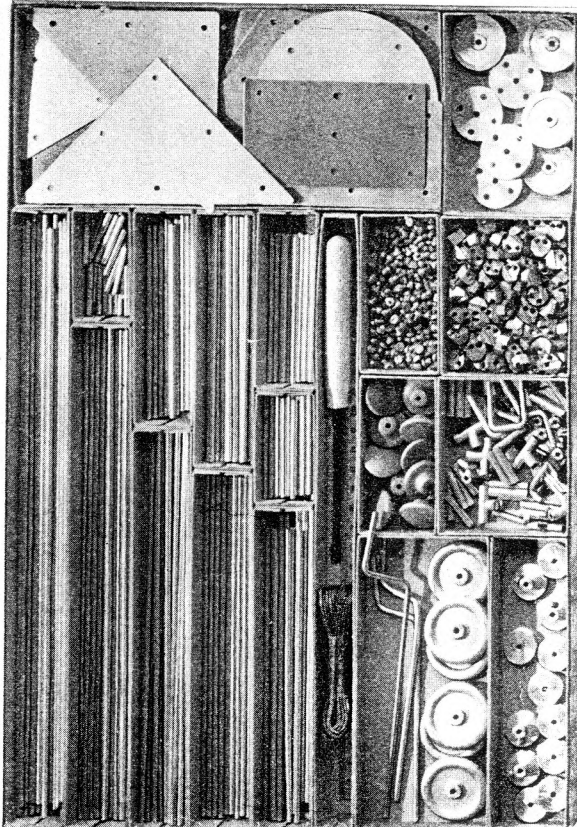
Nr. 3

Inhalt 220 Einzelteile



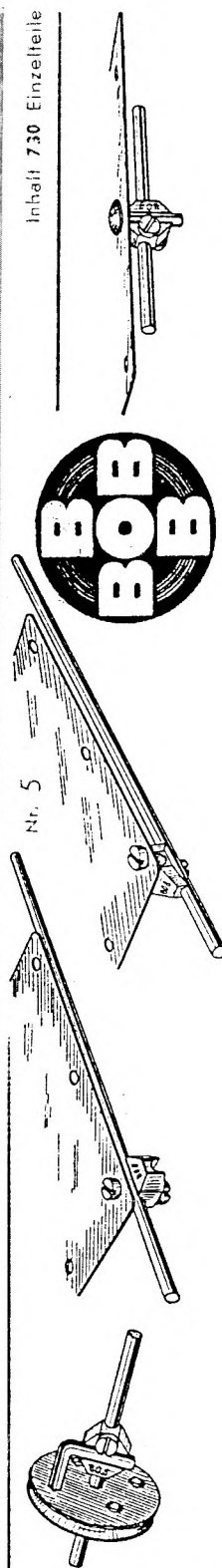
Nr. 4

Inhalt 460 Einzelteile



Nr. 5

Inhalt 730 Einzelteile



BAUKASTEN 2

JEU DE CONSTRUCTION

Ce jeu de construction contient :

no	article	nombre
1	Plaques	2
2	Plaques	2
3	Plaques	2
21	Tiges, 2,5 cm	8
22	Tiges, 5 "	6
23	Tiges, 7,5 "	6
24	Tiges, 10 "	5
25	Tiges, 12,5 "	4
26	Tiges, 15 "	4
27	Tiges, 17,5 "	2
28	Tiges, 20 "	3
29	Tiges, 25 "	2
31	Joints "Bob"	22
32	Vis	44
34	Cavaliers	10
40	Manivelle, petite	1
43	Boutons	4
50	Poulies, petites	4
51	Poulie, fixe	1
54	Roues	2
55	Tournevis	1
57	Ficelle "Bob", 2 m.	1

BOB (BEST OF BEST) First a couple of items that throw some light on the history of BOB. Jean-Louis Figureau sent a copy of a letter dated 10 Dec 1988 that Dr Georges Perinel, son of the proprietor of French BOB, had sent him in reply to a request for information. My translation is as follows:

"The patent for BOB was bought in 1939 by my father Jean Perinel (who was a qualified civil engineer, educated at the Mining College of St Etienne), from Monsieur Baumgartner, an industrialist living in Geneva.

The principle of this constructional toy was inspired by the metal tube scaffolding which at that time was starting to replace the old wooden type.

The name BOB was given to the toy by M.Baumgartner - one day while waiting in a queue at a transport depot he noticed a stack of crates which had come from the Near East. They contained dried figs and dates, and on each there was stencilled in English: Best of Best. He used the initial letters of these three words and thus christened his toy BOB, an easy name to remember commercially and one bringing to mind the English diminutive form of Robert.

BOB was not marketed in France until 1942/43 because of difficulties in obtaining supplies of metal during the war (all metal requisitioned by the Germans) and the need for vouchers...[bons de monnaie-matiere].

The parts came from different sources, the rods were supplied cut to length by the wire-mill at Bourg (Ain), the pulleys, generally of boxwood, came from the Nantua region (Ain), etc. All the parts were brought together at Annemasse (Haute Savoie), and were packed into the cartons, with the manual, by outworkers.

BOB enjoyed instant success but it didn't last for very long. The return of genuine MECCANO and the appearance on the market of other toys of different sorts brought strong competition, and production ceased around 1951/52.

My father and M.Baumgartner died more than 25 years ago."

The second translation (rather free but I hope the sense is right) is from the introductory page of a French BOB manual:

"BOB the metal, patented constructional toy, directly derived from tubular scaffolding, with easily varied adjustment, was marketed in Switzerland by its inventor M.H C Baumgartner at the beginning of the last war.

It was in Oflag II D, in Pomerania, that a group of prisoners, engineers and architects, fascinated by the wide scope that BOB offered to both art and science, made the first models of the range, ever growing and in principle unlimited, that the French licence of the BOB patents permitted from the end of 1942."

I had always thought, though I'm not sure why, that BOB originated in France but it is clear from the above that it first saw the light of day in Switzerland, and then in France, and finally, presumably not until after the war, in England. There is a photo of M.Baumgartner on the back of the French BOB manual.

SWISS BOB There is a list of parts in MCS but not much on the sets. Erwin Wyss has sent some details of a No 3 Set that he owns. The Parts List in the manual is as in MCS but there are also pictures of the sets (reproduced opposite) and two A4 pages showing the parts needed for the 82 models that are listed for Sets 1 to 5. There isn't room to include them but I can supply copies if necessary. One of the largest models, the Big Wheel shown in MCS requires 429 Joints and over 250 Rods. Also shown are ways of using the Joints to attach Plates and Wheels.

The Rods, Wheels and Plates in the set are of aluminium and the Plates are finished (anodised?) in various shades of pale to mid green.

The box lid has a light blue panel on the left with BOB on it (vertically and horizontally with a common O), and two kids with a small model. The centre panel has a black and white photo of a larger model, I'm not sure what it is, and the righthand orange panel has the Set No., the number of parts in the set, the maker's name (FRABA), 'FABRICATION SUISSE' (all the other information is in both French and German), and another name in script with a number after it, neither of which I can read.

Thomas Keel sent a photocopy of a No 2 set box lid, it is of similar design but with a different model (of a Railway Signal) in the centre panel. The script name looks like Papyria and the number that follows it on this lid is 907. Thomas also sent the set contents, see the French version opposite.