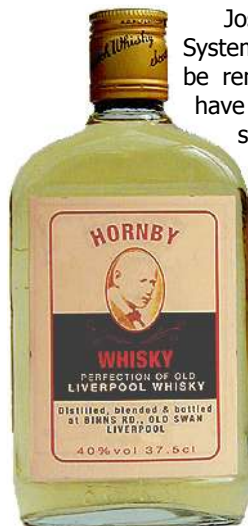


EDITORIAL This time I would like to remember two 'Other Systems' men who died recently, Karl Debik in July, aged 82, and Josep Bernal Moreno in February, aged 87.

Karl was a well known German collector of constructional sets, and while always a STABIL-boy at heart, in his working life he became a university professor of child psychology. He will be best known to most readers for his contributions to Baukästen, which drew on his in-depth knowledge of the history and development of all types of constructional toys. After his retirement he achieved a dream by founding the Bauspielhaus museum, (www.bauspielhaus.de) in his home town of Löbau. It has a display which includes many rare items but children can also play with 'old-fashioned' toys. Karl regarded toys as a bridge to connect people of different ages and of different countries.



Josep was a great MECCANO and Other Systems enthusiast and his models will long be remembered by those lucky enough to have seen them. Many were of conventional subjects but my favourite was a very large model of an ornate, wrought iron, street lamp bracket standard, beautifully detailed and finely modelled, a joy to behold. In lighter vein I'll also remember the bottle of his 'Hornby' whisky (left) that he once gave me - I said I'd keep it and we'd drink to Meccano in its centenary year. For one reason or another that didn't happen but as a happy result I still have it as a souvenir of a great guy. Here's to your memory Josep.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. The two **DAN DARE** Noses below are identical except for their 'windows'. The one on the left is probably the original type & the 15 pane pattern is painted on (or perhaps it is 3 transfers). This is the type shown in: the 1953 advert announcing DAN DARE; in all the models in the manual; & in the Illustrated Parts



(the drawing in the latter is identical to the one shown for AJET elsewhere in this issue). The second type with 9 impressed panes is the one much more commonly found, and is the pattern shown in the Patent (see 14/366). The parts that contained the first type of Nose were the remains of a Spaceship set and apart from the Nose, were entirely as would be expected.

DAN DARE: S1

[37/1100]

2. David Hobson showed me an unused, still strung, No.2 **KWIK BUILDER** set. It corresponded almost exactly with the one described in 28/827, including the manual, but the N&B were different with an M4 thread instead of $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW. The details of the N&B were as before except that the CH Bolts had 6.9mm Ø heads and the Nuts were only 2.0mm thick.

KWIK BUILDER: S3

[37/1100]

3. Another item from David, a 1920 **PYFYL** Price List. The sets are listed on the front, and are as on the 28/840 Leaflet prior to the 1921 overprinting. On the back is a list of extra parts packs Nos.1-12 and A-Y. #1-6 contain various mixes of straight Strips, plus Sleeves, and #7-12 likewise but with curved instead of straight Strips. The lettered packs have selections of the metal and all the other parts. Even a summary would take too much space but I can send details to anyone who needs them. #W-Y deserve mention though: they are the fabric covered parts for Chairs, Armchairs, & a Table, and each is said to be 'recouverte en soie impression exclusive' which I take to mean 'covered in rayon (or possibly silk) with an exclusive pattern'. Though hand stitched they were not particularly expensive, Fr.2.50 maximum compared with the other Packs at Fr.2 or Fr.2.50 for most, and up to Fr.5.50 for a few. Sets 1-3 cost Fr.19.95, Fr.49, & Fr.99 at the time.

PYFYL: S6

[37/1100]

4. **Snippet: MECANEX** This Swiss system was said to have aluminium parts and it no doubt dates from WW2 or soon after. The makers name on the lid below is E. Musitelli & Cie.,



of Fleurier, a town some 40km north of Lausanne. The parts in the box below mostly have a MÄRKLIN look to them though the slotted end holes in the DAS are not echoed in the top



edges of the Flanged Plate. Scaling from the size given for the box, 40*23cm, the hole pitch is, as might be expected, 1/2", or very near it.

Initially I thought MECANEX was a 'new' system but I find that it is in fact listed in my Database. I can't now trace the source of the entry but the additional points of interest there are that the hole pitch is 12.65mm, the Axles are 4mm Ø, but the N&B are only 3mm.

MECANEX: S1 [37/1101]

5. **Snippets: BILDAL** First, a correction to the **Set 1 Contents** given in 33/983. From the manual & set to be described, and Ebay photos of two apparently unused sets, only the stated quantities of Strips & Angles are in the No.1, and none of the other parts.

Next, recall (see 33/983) that BILDAL was made by Bettchers in Cleveland and that there were Sets 1 & 2. A No.1 set on Ebay took my eye - the box had No.1 on the lid and with just Strips & Angles the contents were as above. But the manual cover, below, a design not mentioned in OSN



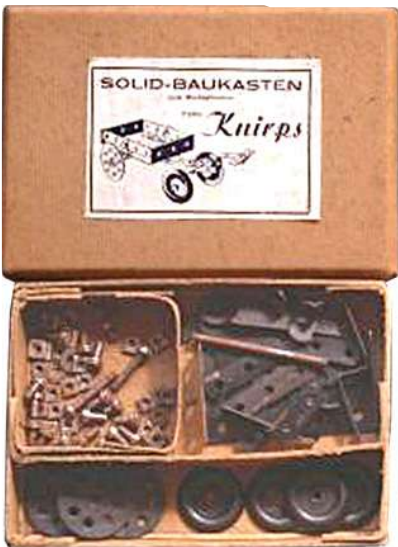
previously, has No.3 in the top left corner. (The same cover without the No.3 is in MCS.) The No.3 looks too neat to have been made by a youngster's printing set, so was there ever a No.3 set? Something to look out for but the Ebay ad said that the Set was 'made in Westmont, Illinois, so that might be a clue. Did another company produce BILDAL after Bettcher? Westmont is near Chicago & some 300 miles from Cleveland.

The manual with one of the other Ebay No.1's had the OSN 13/358 cover but only the Strips & Angle were shown & listed in the Illustrated Parts, just the parts in a No.1 that is. The Ebay ad included 3 pages of models, those on two are identical to models on OSN 13 pages (#1-5, & 15-18). One of the models on the last page, #21, was also identical but the other two, #19 & 20, had had the Wheels in the OSN 13 version removed, though they were still entitled Wagon & Box Car! All the pages had small typographical changes and p3 differed in having no reference to H.W.Graves as Licensor.

BILDAL: S2 [37/1101]

6. **Snippet. SOLID** A brief note on this small German system, based on a Model Sheet, appeared in 22/647. In the next column, the Ebay photo, courtesy Thomas Morzinck, of an actual set, and as can be seen the parts, apart from the N&B, are black. The maker was given as G. Schmidt & Co., of Oberbarmen (a suburb of Wuppertal). By scaling from the box, which was said to measure 17*12cm, the pitch of the holes in the Strips is at least 15mm and possibly a little more. But in the Wheel Disc it much less, 11mm or so.

The small print on the Model Sheet can't be read but it differs from the one in OSN 22 in that 16 parts are listed against 15 before, and the Ebay ad spoke of 11 models, 2



more than previously. Also if all the parts in the box were from one set there are more Wheel Discs and 'Half



Wheels' than the two of each listed on the OSN 22 Sheet.

SOLID: S1 [37/1101]

7. **Snippet. 'New' System: DER KLEINE TECHNIKER** There is a simple electrical outfit of this name but almost certainly not related to the set below. All that can really be



seen of the parts are some brightish Strips, and the blue Plates which, apart from their colour, look like STABIL. There was the cover of an early SCHEFFLERS manual shown in the Ebay lot but as far as is known early SCHEFFLERS parts were similar to later ones and quite unlike the blue Plates.

DER KLEINE TECHNIKER: S1 [37/1101]

8. **Snippets. 'Matchbox' Sets** These are the little outfits with their parts packed into a normal, small 'matchbox', and details of the two types then known were given in 6/131.

A further variant was made in America by Louis Marx and is shown in MCS under MATCH BOX CONSTRUCTION SET (2).

OSN Subscription Rates	The price per Issue, including postage, at Printed Paper Rate where available, is £5.50 for UK; £6 by air to Europe & surface anywhere; £6.50 by air outside Europe. Back Issues For the zones above : OSN 1: £1/£1.30/£1.50; OSN 2,3: £2.30/£2.70/£2.90 each; OSN 4-27: £3.60/£4.10/£4.50 each; OSN 28 on (in colour): £6/£6.50/£7. (All colour & some B&W issues are on loose sheets.)
Payments	Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances must be in Pounds Sterling (GBP) or, as cash, in Euros or US Dollars (at £1=€1.50=\$2). Payments from overseas may also be made using PayPal.
Small Ads	Short ads are free to subscribers; insertion guaranteed in OSN 38 if received by the end of January (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask).

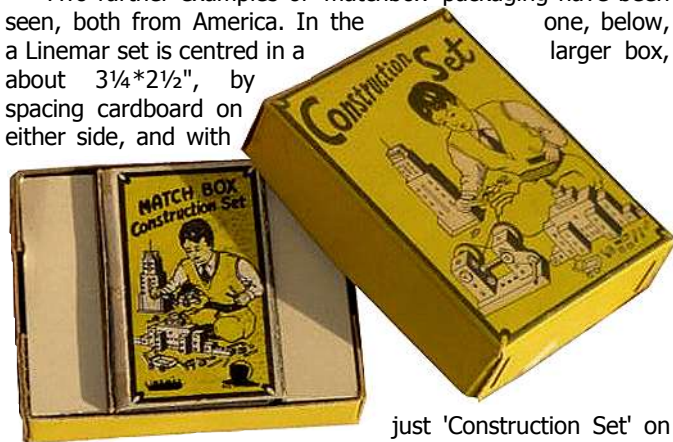
OSN – Your Credit Balance:	
was	after OSN 36
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is	after this Issue
Please send at least £ _____ if you wish to receive the next Issue.	

Its front is like the Linemar outfit shown in Fig.3 in OSN 6 except that the words at the bottom are 'MADE BY LOUIS MARX & CO 200 5th AVE. N.Y.C.'. It is the set shown on the card below, and the back has the MBCS name, followed by 'The Vest Pocket Builder'; 4 'medals' (different



to those on the CLOU set); and the Louis Marx address. The card, 150*123mm, has push through tabs which hold the bottom of the set's sleeve in place, and it can be seen, less the set, in the MCS '100 TOYS IN ONE' entry (which was no doubt made before it was realised that the card was just packaging for the Set).

Two further examples of 'matchbox' packaging have been seen, both from America. In the one, below, a Linemar set is centred in a larger box, about 3¼*2½", by spacing cardboard on either side, and with



just 'Construction Set' on the lid. Notice that the Linemar name on the Set has been blacked out.

The other example is another 'Linemar' box with the blacking out at the bottom. It is packed in a clear plastic bag about 1½ times the size of the box. The bag also contains a model sheet, folded to fit into it. The top is closed with a piece of folded cardboard stapled over it, one side of which is shown above.



Also mentioned in OSN 6, a Spanish set called MACÓN with scaled up 'matchbox' parts, and another called TEXAS with parts that could be used with MACÓN. An example of TEXAS has yet to be found and no further MACÓN sets are known.

MATCHBOX SETS: S1 [37/1102]

9. **Snippet. A SUPERSONIC Outfit** Most of the parts in this 1950s UK Aero system were described in 14/367 and a couple of other points about it are mentioned in the AJET article elsewhere in the Issue. No set was known until one was sold on Ebay recently and the box & manual are shown in the next column. The top half of the lid was included in the original photo and was a blue or purple but badly faded, with a label covering most of it, identical to the corresponding part of the manual cover. The main parts are strung or clipped singly to the backing card. Notice that the red Bush Wheel has 3 face holes, not the 4 mentioned (incorrectly) in OSN 14. The quantities of the smaller parts used in the manual models are: 16 Flat Brackets; 12 A/Bs; 52 Nuts; 44,8,2,4,2,2 of ¼,⅜,½,



⅝,¾,1" Bolts; 2 Axles; & 4 Spring Clips. By scaling, the Nut is ⅝" square, the standard A/F size of 4BA commercial nuts at the time. Most of the N&B have a brass look and reflected light could account for the few with a silver appearance.

SUPERSONIC: S1 [37/1102]

10. **Snippet. An ARWILL Lid** Details of a manual and some parts from this small UK system were given in 29/856, and the similar BELMONT was described in 36/1076. Both are a little unusual in having 2h wide Flat Trunnions, 4, 8, & 12h long Strips, and a 4*8h Flanged Plate. Now, below, the lid of a set



sold on Ebay. The 8 models on it are all in the OSN 29 manual, though some are seen from a slightly different viewpoint. The Set's contents weren't shown, nor were the dimensions of the box given.

ARWILL: S2 [37/1102]

11. **Snippet. An EZY-BILT Set with Yellow Parts** The existence of yellow Strips was mentioned in 19/545 but it wasn't clear if they were ever included in sets. Now a No.5 outfit seen on Ebay, seeming complete, has all the Strips, DAS, & Trunnions in yellow; the only other 'strip' parts are green Curved Strips, and the other parts are in the normal red & nickel colour scheme. The Lid is yellow with the 2 boys & a Shovel design, as on the manual cover in 22/638. It has SET NO.5 above the righthand boy and LEAD FREE under him. The words EZY-BILT LTD., ADELAIDE can be seen in a line under the design. There are 2 layers of parts in light blue moulded plastic trays and the manual cover is the Sidney Harbour Bridge type shown in 7/145. A Price List with the set is dated FEBRUARY 1967; the address on it can't be read but it is not the Kilkenny one on the February 1966 example in MCS, and its last line could be Adelaide S.A.

EZY-BILT: S6 [37/1102]

12. **MERKUR in 2007** Based on the English language section of the company's web site (www.merkurtoys.cz) in mid-2007, there have been no changes to the ranges of parts & sets noted for 2005 in 33/991. The Czech section though shows

one additional set, the Classic CO2. It is said to have the same number of parts, 929, as the original CO1 Classic set described in OSN 33, and the lid shows the same Bus, but it is in B&W and is plainer in style. The box, 380*290*65mm, is a little larger than the CO1, and weighs more, 3.2 against 2.7kg.

The sets available from the U.S. Girders & Gears web site (www.girdersandgears.com) include the AH-64A Apache set which hasn't been mentioned in OSN before, and seems to be for the American market only. Its box is 10¾*14*1¾" and the



lid, above, claims 470 parts & over 40 models. The name M-KUR on the box is used because Ford (I believe) use the name 'Merkur' and had registered it before the Czech firm entered the U.S. market. The larger parts are dark green while the small ones, 4 Worms (used as 'decor') & Brackets have a bright finish, probably BZP. As is usual in MERKUR the model isn't powered. 9 of the other models are shown on the G&G web site with 2 reasonable small Helicopters and the rest, well look for yourself.

MERKUR [1]: S5

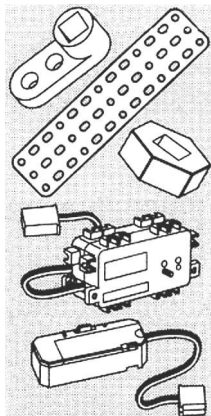
[37/1103]

13. COSTRUZIONI MECCANICHE These are the only words on a No.1 manual cover shown in an entry under this name in Jeux de Construction Métallique (JCM). Also shown, a page with 2 models whose illustrations are identical with those in a 1920s MÄRKLIN manual, and a page with a list of the Set Contents of the No.1. In JCM it is implied that the manual would be from an AMI-LAC outfit, and indeed COSTRUZIONI MECCANICHE is the main name on all AMI-LAC manuals I've seen, though with an AMI-LAC logo as well, or just the AMI logo on earlier ones. I couldn't find either of the models in the AMI(-LAC) manuals to hand and this, together with the absence of a logo, made me wonder if this was actually a manual from a different, and hitherto unknown system. To support this the names of the parts in the Set Contents and their PNs don't correspond to those in the AMI(-LAC) manuals seen. One further thought, it is said that prior to their post-WW2 production, the AMI firm made sets for a short period in the early 1920s, so could this manual have come from that time?

COSTRUZIONI MECCANICHE S1

[37/1103]

14. DELTA-X Since the notes in 36/1096 an MD-153 Stegosaurus set has come to hand and it contains the parts right which were not known before. The 3*13h Perforated Plate is nicked and its slotted holes are 4.3mm long. The other parts are grey plastic: a Geared Motor with a square section output shaft on each side, the 1x AA Battery box shown in the OSN 36 model, a Crank which snaps onto the Motor shafts, and an hexagonal Spacer with a square bore. All the metal parts in the set are nickel plated. A few errors



OSN 37/1103

crept into the OSN 36 notes, the hole pitch is actually 8.0mm and the thread is M3.

The finished model is about 15" long and it waddles along quite well on a smooth surface. Its speed scaled up to match a 30ft long animal would be about 8mph.

The Stego set came from www.hlj.com/top/Sci, an English language Japanese mail-order toy shop called Hobby Link. When I looked in July six DELTA-X outfits were listed (to see all of them I had to type 'delta-x' into the Item Name box on the home page). 5 of the sets were mentioned in 36/1096, the other was the Robot Soldier set below. It was said to be a



31cm high model of a figure in the Japanese cartoon film 'Castle in the Sky: Laputa', made in 1986, with eyes that light up. It was marked as discontinued though and I couldn't find it on the Epoch web site, so perhaps small-scale DELTA-X dates from earlier than was suggested in OSN 36.

P.S. Since the above was written I've been told that the small scale DELTA-X was definitely on sale before 2000.

DELTA-X [b]: S4

[37/1103]

15. ENTECH in 2007 From www.toy-kraft.com, the range of these Indian sets, made by Aries, is unchanged from 2005, see 33/995.

ENTECH: S3

[37/1103]

SMALL ADS

[37/1103]

Wanted Information on the history & products of the **Kelmet Corp.** (who made STEEL ENGINEERING) and the **Nobel Mfg. Co.** (who made Trumodel Construction Equipment in Miniature). Please contact John H. Emmons at jemmons@neo.rr.com or phone (330) 492-3601 (in U.S.A.). I already have the material in Greenberg Vol.1, and the ACGHS & S.Cal. Newsletters.

Tri-ang ARKITEX 75% upwards of the different parts (all plastic) from a Bridge Set (no box), and a manual/catalogue which also covers Sets 1-3 for Buildings. All in good condition but the models are not very exciting. Some of the parts look as if they could be used in Buildings. Free from the Editor but new owner to collect or pay postage - packed weight 2¾lb. (If more than one person wants it I'll draw a name from a hat on 1st November.)

For sale: MCS Don Blakeborough 1983, as 14 clip-bound books with card covers. Weight about 5.4kg. £20 plus postage. Will post to UK only. David Hobson, Woodington, Edford Green, Holcombe, Radstock, BA3 5DB; tel: 0171 232741.

The Basic ULOX Set This little set was mentioned in 10/253, and now thanks to David Hobson I've been able to examine a near complete example of it.

The box is 20*14*1¾cm with a plain brown cardboard base and the lid below. Points of interest on it are the name, 'SET A



T16'; 'Improved Rustless Finish'; the Set Contents; and, along the top, 'Trade Mark No.506189, Patents Pending'.

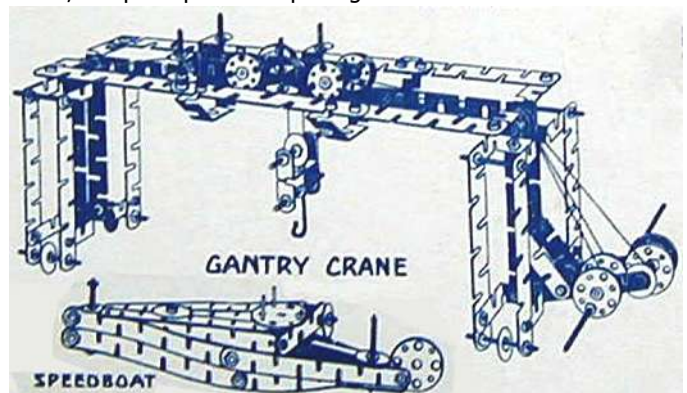
The parts are in a brown-greyish envelope, 134*193mm, printed in blue. All the 34 parts in the Set are shown on the front under the heading 'Contents of ULOX Set 34 parts': they are: 4,2,2x 7,5,3 slot Strips; 2 Wheel Discs; 2,1x 20,12mm Washers; 3x Screwed Rods; 12 Nuts; 4 Bolts, 1 Lever; 1 Spandriver. The illustrations of the parts match the actual ones in the Set except that the scaled diameter of the Wheel Disc is 30mm Ø, the early size, and not the later 34mm. The parts are as described in OSN 10 (the Lever is missing) but the Spandriver, not seen before, is 53mm long o/a. All the parts, including the N&B, are still shiny with few traces of rust.

The printing on the back of the envelope includes ads for

the ULOX Magazine, price 2d from Woolworths; the Accessory Set T17 & the Additional Strips T19, both with contents as in OSN 10; and: 'Additional "ULOX" Parts. Watch the "ULOX" counter at your nearest Woolworth Store!! New parts of every description are in course of production and can be bought separately in any number.'

Also on the back, advice to 'First build the models exactly as illustrated on the box and in the Magazine'. But only the 2 small models on the top of the lid could be made with the parts in the Set, and buying the Magazine increased the cost from 6d to 8d! The Magazine has both the small lid models among its 8 for the '1 Set', and also the Railway Crane, but the number of sets needed for it isn't given.

8 more models are shown on the inside of the lid, each of which need 4 Sets. They include a Pile Driver, Tip-Waggon, Springless Scales, a Motor Van with centre pivot steering, and the 2 models below (110% f-s). It would be difficult to make the Gantry Crane from the illustration. The Wheel Disc on the deck of the Speedboat looks to carry 2 of the Levers, the only time the part is used in the 8 models. The Wheel Disc at the stern seems to be attached by a N&B through one of the small holes, but perhaps that's splitting hairs.



ULOX: S1

OSN 37/1104

Snippet. 'New(?)' System: FAVORIT The two outfits below were in one Ebay lot. The black-lidded box was said to be the basic set from 1947, and the blue one an add-on outfit from 1949. The first has METALL-BAUKASTEN along the bottom of the lid and the second ERGÄNZUNGSKASTEN (I think, but possibly with a letter or figure after it).

No doubt the parts are not as originally shared between the sets, and not much can really be seen of

them. The only ones that stand out are the 12h Strips in the boiler of the Steam Roller, and its rear wheels with 8 holes very near the rim. Some of the parts may not of course be genuine - I wondered if the large blue part could be the front of a loco cab but I can't see any attachment holes in it.

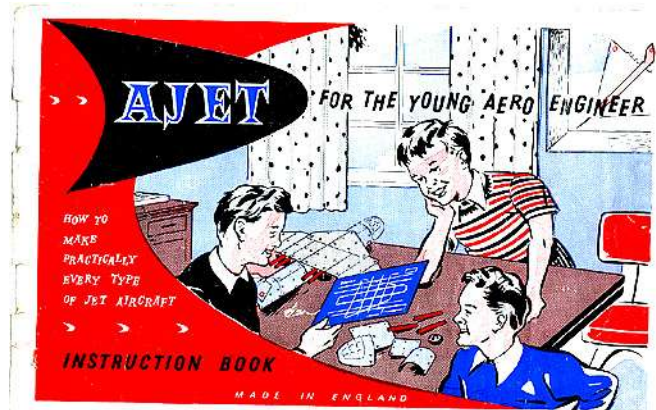
Some details of a GORDON Favorit set were given in 27/802 but it seems to bear no resemblance to the present sets beyond having bright looking Strips. However there could just possibly be a connection because Baukästen lists an East German company, VEB Kinderspiele Schmalkalden, which subsequently became Gordon Apparatebau KG, the firm who made the GORDON set. So conceivably the present FAVORIT outfits were made by the VEB company before the Gordon period.



FAVORIT: S1

OSN 37/1104

More on AJET Something on this post-WW2 UK system appeared in 14/366 and now, thanks to David Hobson, a manual is to hand, plus some parts that were with it. The manual cover below, 220*137mm, had been detached by its

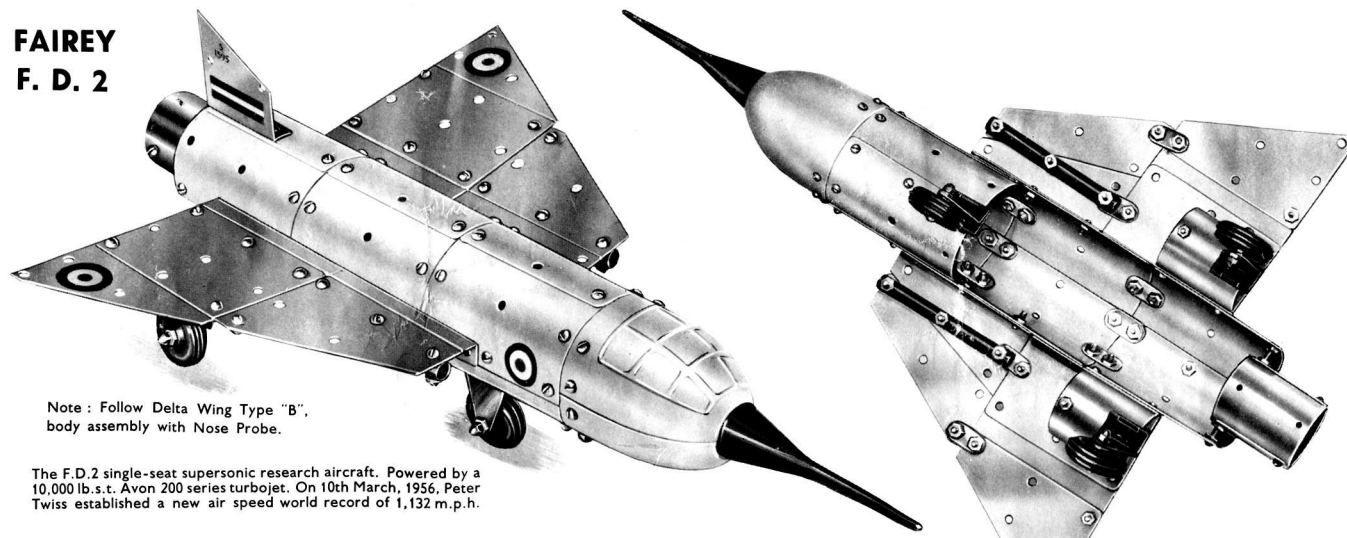


previous owner and stuck onto the lid on the box he kept his parts in. The 20 unnumbered, stapled, inside pages seem intact and there is a loose sheet, probably the back cover. Of the 20 pages, 1-4 show how to make the different shapes of wing used in the models - 3 delta shapes, & a swept wing as on the D.H.110 below. p5 has details of the undercarriage parts. Then there are 6 models of 1950s British jet aircraft from VICKERS VALIANT to Saunders Roe S.R. 53, and among them the 'Vulcan' on the box lid in OSN 14. 2 pages are given to each model, one with a photo of it & brief notes on the full-size machine, while the second, facing page has a photo of the model's underside and a few constructional notes. Even accepting the usually incorrect representation of the cockpit,

and the rather fat fuselage, some of the models are less successful than others and one of each type is shown across the bottom of the page, about 2/3 full-size. Several of the models, like the F.D.2 below, have no bottom half to the rear fuselage. Most of the 'missing' Plates could be added, assuming there were enough parts in the Set, but perhaps the idea was to give the impression of a tapering fuselage. The last model is a CORPORAL missile, with just one photo on p20. None of the models has any real likeness to any of the DAN DARE models, or those of SUPERSONIC (see 14/367); even the Corporal is different with the smaller diameter section at the tail, an AJET feature on most of the models. One side of the 'back' page explains how to make the nose & first body section, the other has the Illustrated Parts shown right, with the parts at their original size but rearranged.

Now some notes on **the parts** that were with the Manual, plus those in two separate lots - they confirm most but not all of the details given in OSN14. Unless otherwise stated the parts are the same as their DAN DARE (DD) counterparts in either the Rocket or the Spaceship set, as appropriate. Thus most **holes** are at 1/2" pitch or multiples thereof, and vary from 3.7 to 4.2mm in diameter, with most of the larger sizes in parts #1-3. The **Nose** parts **#1 & 2**, and the **Plate #3** are painted light blue instead of silver. The **Tubes #4 & 5** are red instead of black. **Fins #6, 7, 10 & 11**, and **Plates #8 & 9** are silver instead of red. The **Flat & Angle Brackets** are nickel, as in DD. The **N&B** are 4BA brassed steel. The **Bolts** seen have 6.3-6.4mm Ø round heads and are 7, 13, 16 1/2, & 25 1/2mm u/h. The hex **Nut** is pressed, 8.0mm A/F & 2.4mm thick. The **Wheels** are the 1 1/2" Ø blue DD balloon type, but the one Wheel in the third lot is the black moulded OSN 14 type shown on the models in the Manual. It is 35mm Ø and

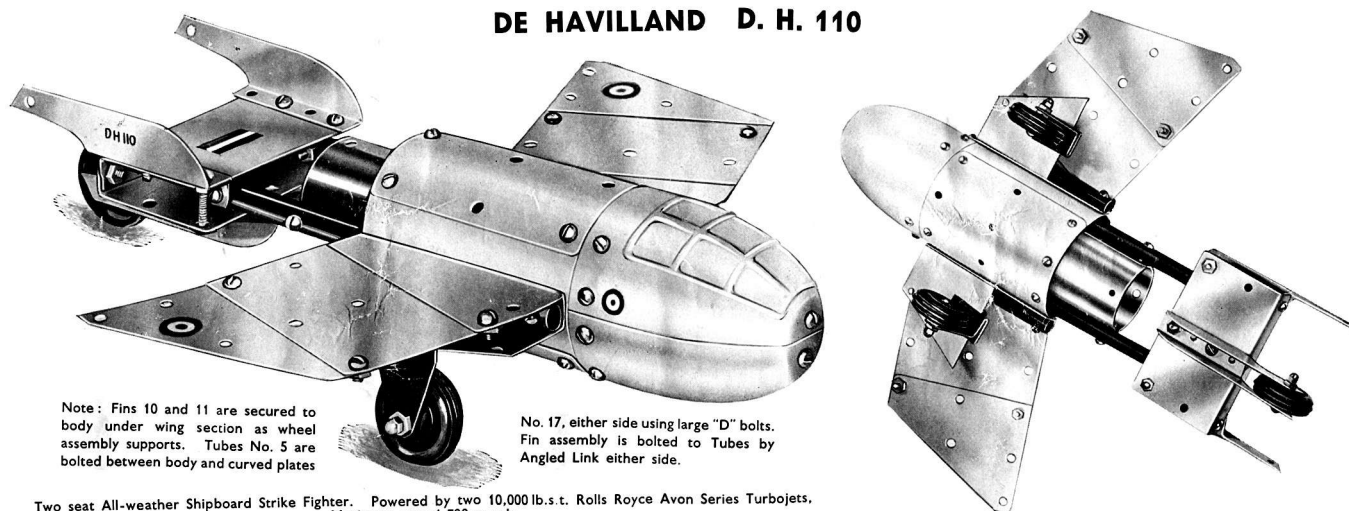
FAIREY F. D. 2



Note : Follow Delta Wing Type "B", body assembly with Nose Probe.

The F.D.2 single-seat supersonic research aircraft. Powered by a 10,000 lb.s.t. Avon 200 series turbojet. On 10th March, 1956, Peter Twiss established a new air speed world record of 1,132 m.p.h.

DE HAVILLAND D. H. 110



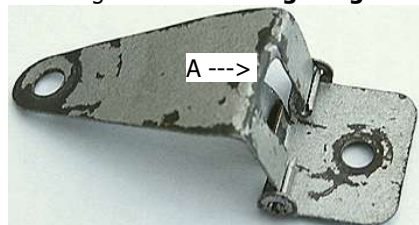
Note : Fins 10 and 11 are secured to body under wing section as wheel assembly supports. Tubes No. 5 are bolted between body and curved plates

No. 17, either side using large "D" bolts. Fin assembly is bolted to Tubes by Angled Link either side.

Two seat All-weather Shipboard Strike Fighter. Powered by two 10,000 lb.s.t. Rolls Royce Avon Series Turbojets. Maximum speed 720 m.p.h.

from its smell is rubber rather than plastic.

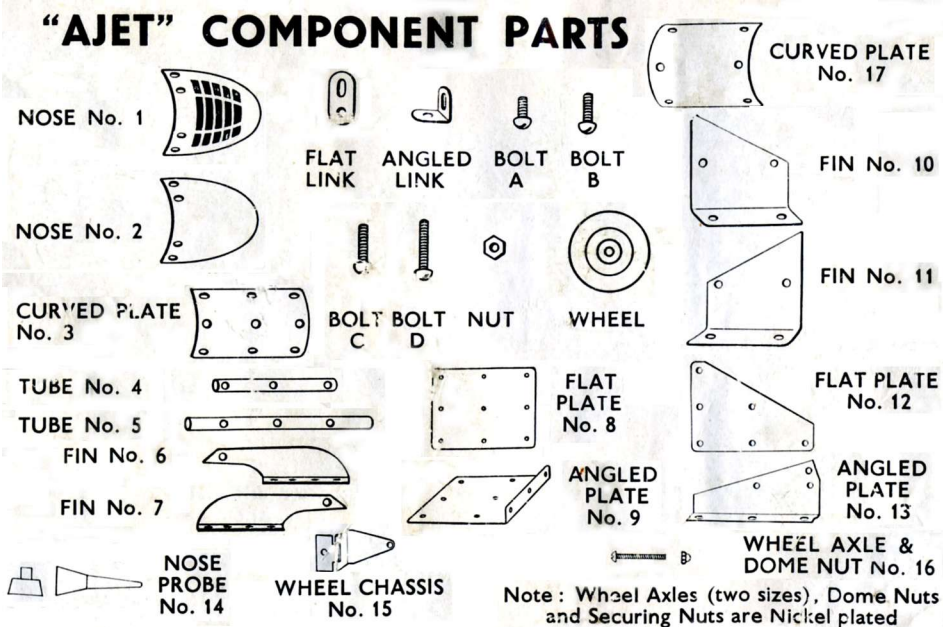
The **new parts** are #12-16. **Plates #12 & 13** are silver. The **Nose Probe #14** is red plastic and the 'spike' pushes onto the spigot on the base. The method of attaching the base to the nose isn't shown in the Manual - in the parts to hand the shanks of two bolts embedded in the base pass into the front holes of the Nose parts and are held there by Nuts. Overall the Probe is about 6cm long. The hinged **Undercarriage Leg #15**



above has a tongue pressed through from 'A' and it engages with the right-angled tab on the inner edge of the mounting plate to hold the leg in the up & down positions. The mounting plate is $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{5}{8}$ ", and the leg is about 35mm long o/a. (The larger U/C Leg mentioned in OSN 14 may have been the SUPERSONIC version, an example of which is now to hand. It is generally similar but has no method of positive locking, it relies on the hinge being very stiff. It is painted green, the mounting plate is $1 \times \frac{1}{2}$ ", and the leg is 38mm long.) The **#16 Axle & Dome Nut** have not been seen but the thread is 4BA. The **Curved Plate #17** is not new, it is the nickel DD Rocket part #03. The **Screwdriver** may be similar to the wire type shown for SUPERSONIC in 14/367.

Some of the parts mentioned in OSN 14 are not in the

"AJET" COMPONENT PARTS



present lots, and are not needed for the Manual models. They are the DD Rocket Nose #01, the DD Rocket Fins #10 & 11, and the Small Rectangular and Triangular Plates. If these were indeed AJET parts they would presumably be in another set - it will be recalled that the OSN 14 box lid had 'Junior' on it. There is no mention of a set name in the present manual. A pointer to the possible existence of an AJET Rocket Nose is the mention is OSN 14 of the half hole in the front of the part, so that there would be a full hole in the pair forming the nose and this would allow a suitable Probe to be attached. In one model seen the Probe is a slightly modified version of the #14 Spike. It has a small bore beyond the bottom of the spigot recess into which a Bolt is screwed from the inside of the nose.

AJET: S2

OSN 37/1106

Snippet: MECCANICO(?) ITALIANO In recent years the Italian firm Bral, later Bres, has sold sets under the name BRAL, but earlier MECCANICO was often used, usually preceded by IL COSTRUTTORE, often in quite small letters. Manuals generally had the name that was on the lid but sometimes IL COSTRUTTORE BRAL was used on manuals with 'MECCANICO' outfits.

No lid is shown for the set opposite but the name of the manual (shown slightly enlarged in the top right corner) looks like MECCANICO ITALIANO although the 'IC' has to be taken on trust. So is this another BRAL alias or a different system?

As far as can be seen most of the parts could be BRAL including the light blue Conical Discs & what may be a brass look Chimney Adapter in the bottom left corner of the top tray - the BRAL part is about half the depth of its MECCANO counterpart. The silver Plate in the bottom tray is most likely a BRAL Aero Centre Wing, and the 2 silver Wheels near it could again be Aero parts. The black Tyre on the red Pulley could be BRAL but I'm not sure about the white Rubber Ring near it - Bral listed such a Ring but I've never seen it, nor any white rubber BRAL part. The most un-BRAL-like parts are in the bottom tray: the green Trunnion in the bottom left corner doesn't have the



characteristic BRAL flat top, and the red 5*7h Flexible Plate doesn't have the slotted holes of the BRAL Plate. But these parts could of course easily be 'foreigners'.

Can any reader throw more light on MECCANICO ITALIANO?

MECCANICO ITALIANO: S1

OSN 37/1106

CONSTRUCTION in 2007 Compared with 2006 (see 35/1062) the Eitech web site (www.eitech.de/english/index.html) in July showed 6 new sets and 12 that had been dropped. The **new range**, with the additions asterisked, is: 03*,06,07,10,12,14,16,17*,18,22,23*,30,31,51,52,53,54,60,61,62,64,67*,72,73*,74,75,82*,84,85,87,155. The boxes for the new sets have the same darkish style as the No.16 in OSN 35.

The sets deleted are as follows, with the date they were described in OSN in brackets. Except where stated they are outfits to make one of 2 or 3 small models. • **No.02**, a small general purpose set (11/293). • **No.04**, an add-on set with a Motor (3x R14), etc (13/342). • **No.08**, a 772 part set for earth moving models (27/795). • **No.09**, a 446 part set for Jeep-type models (31/910). • **No.32**, the large outfit for a 6-Wheel Lorry (27/795). • **No.66**, (22/622). • **No.76**, a Solar set for a variety of models (22/622). • **No.81**, (31/910). • **No.86**, (31/910). • **No.89**, (31/910). • **No.90**, for a little Loco & Tender (31/910). • **No.115**, an add-on set for the large Loco made from



Set 31 (35/1062).

The new sets.

• **No.03**, a 390+ parts set to make a Tractor & Trailer, the former with steering & 'air tires'. • **No.17**, 1200+ parts to make the 60cm high Big Wheel top right. A 4.5v (3x R14), 84:1 Geared Motor drives the centre axle though at least one stage of gearing. I wonder if there's an overrun freewheel. If the side rings of the wheel are made of large-radii Curved Strips they would be a welcome addition to the system. A Set from a Continental web site was priced at €85 plus shipping. • **No.23**, 350+ parts for 'various sports & racing cars' with 27/40mHz radio control. Above, the example from the web site. • **No.67** is a small set for either a Monoplane with a parasol wing made from 2x 3*7h Perforated Plates, or a Helicopter, both very simple models. • **No.73** is a Solar set with 300+ parts



including a 1v Cell & Motor. The Helicopter bottom left is the main model but 4 other quite attractive smaller ones are shown on the box lid: a Wind Turbine, a Cyclist, a Racing car, & a twin beam 'Nodding Donkey' Pump. • **No.82** is a starter set with 3 simple Racers fitted with 'air tires' on the box lid.

Accessory packs A number of these have been dropped & some new ones added. Those unchanged are: • **No.101**, 11-25h Strips & A/Gs. • **No.102**, 2-9h parts. • **No.103**, DAS & Brackets. • **No.104**, Circular Discs & Axles. • **No.106**, Wheels & Tyres. • **No.107**, Flanged Plates. • **No.108**, N&B. • **No.112**, Battery Box, Lamp & Holder. • **No.113**, 1cm to 1/2" Adaptor Parts. The new packs are: • **No.130**, 43 parts including a small Motor, blue Gears, & a 3x R6 Battery Holder. • **No.131**, 41 parts including a Geared Motor, blue Gears, & a 3x R14 Battery Box with rheostat. • **No.132**, Gear Set with 10,14,20,26,30,40,60t blue Gears, a blue Worm, & 1m of Ladder Chain. • **No.133**, Solar Set with a 1v rectangular Cell & Motor, blue Gears, some N&B, and a few small parts. • **No.134**, below, with an 84:1 Geared Motor that needs 3x R14 batteries (or 4x R6 according to the English version of the Site). I'm not sure what the 3 knobs on the Battery box do.



Snippets: OPSET METALMEC

An account of a No.5 set bought in 1973 was given in 9/226. Recently 8 sets have been offered on Ebay & 4 of them show some changes to the boxes, the manual covers, & the colour of the parts.

The 'blue/yellow' Sets The painted parts in the OSN 9 No.5 outfit and 4 of the Ebay sets (2 No.2's & 2 No.3's) are mainly light blue or yellow. Each set has a manual with the OSN 9 cover, & each has a red lid with a label identical to said cover. Each has its parts in a red moulded tray.

The 'red/green' Sets The other 4 Ebay sets have their painted parts in red or green, and are thus probably earlier than the OSN 9 type. None of the sets are large enough to include the 25h Strip, 11h A/G, 5*7h Plate, or 3" Pulley, but of the other parts described in OSN 9, the Strips & Brackets are nickel as before, all the Plates & the 1" Pulley are red, the Curved Strip, Trunnions, Flat Girder, Bush Wheel, & 1" Loose Pulley are green, and the Rubber Ring is black. The largest box is shown in Fig.1.

All the sets include a manual with the Fig.2 cover. (Notice the green Strips and blue Plates.) All the sets have the parts in a moulded yellow tray, but there are 3 types of lid. Details will be given in the notes on the different sets below. For ease of reference I'll call the OSN 9 type sets 'b/y', and those with red & green parts, 'r/g'. As will appear, in the two cases where a direct comparison can be made, the layout of the parts in the sets is identical between the 2 'periods'.

The Sets in what might possibly be their chronological order:

A r/g set, 30*24½cm, said to be a No.1, has the Fig.3 lid, and the parts tray layout is the same as the b/y No.2. (The name apart, this lid is the same as the OPSET LETRIXMEC one in 26/759.)

A r/g set No.?, 40*31cm. The lid is again brown but the label is identical to the Fig.2 manual cover. The box, Fig.3,

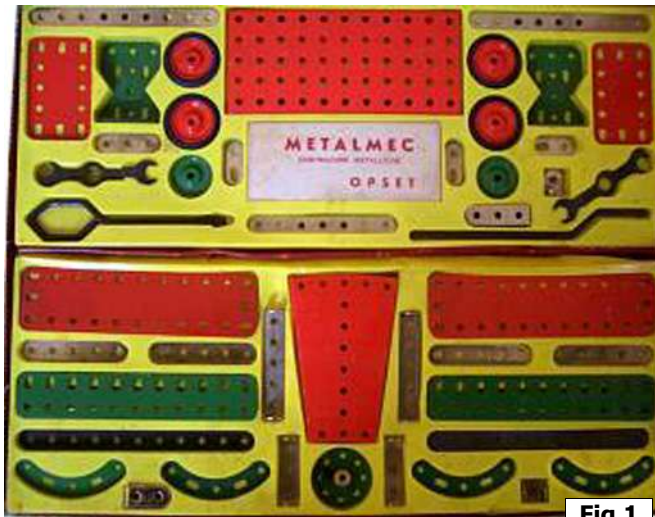


Fig.1



Fig.2

with Rubber Rings.

b/y No.4? & r/g No.? The additional parts are: a Flanged Sector Plate; 2x 11h Flat Girders, 2x Curved Strips, & a 1" Loose Pulley.

b/y No.5 The extra parts compared with the 'No.4' are 4x 25h Strips; 4 Curved Strips; 2x 2*5*2h & 6x 1*5*1h DAS, 2x 11h A/Gs; 2x 3" Pulleys; 2 Wheel Discs; a Flanged Sector Plate; 2 Trunnions & 6 Flat Trunnions (if there were 2 of each in the 'No.4'); 2 each of 3*5h, 3*11h (if there were 2 of each in the 'No.4'); & 2x 5*7h Plates.

The numbering of the r/g sets is unclear. The MCS MF model is in the No.5 manual and if No.MB equates to the No.3, what of Sets MC-ME? And one r/g set was described as a No.1.



Fig.3

OPSET METALMEC: S1

OSN 37/1108

Encyclopédie des Jeux de Construction métalliques (EJC) by Jean-Pierre Guibert

reviewed by David Hobson

This new work is essentially an illustrated survey, with basic technical details, of over 400 metal systems, arranged in alphabetical order. It is in 4 parts (tomes), A-D, E-L, M-N, O-Z; each with about 60 A4, plastic ring-bound pages. A further 23 systems are included on supplementary sheets (compléments) sent with the different parts. French systems are naturally well represented and a few are included which are not in MCS or OSNL, the French diecast SOLIDO vehicle constructional outfits for example.

EJC is well produced using modern technology, with attractive use of colour illustrations on most pages. The text is in French of course but the few passages of any length are not difficult to interpret by anyone

with even an elementary knowledge of the language.

The coverage for each system varies considerably, from one line simply giving the name, to 3 pages or so in some cases. EJC is not as comprehensive as MCS, and nor does it provide the same wealth of detail, but I found it interesting to peruse and it could be a welcome addition to the library of a constructional toy aficionado.

The parts costs €32 each individually, plus carriage, but the complete collection was recently offered at a reduced price, and a CD version is also available for even less. These items are offered on Ebay from time to time but otherwise contact Jean-Pierre Guilbert, 787 rue de la Pilette, 27300 Bernay, France, tel: 02 32 43 34 03. [jeanpierre1g@aol.com may find him - Ed.]

OSN 37/1108

RIAG The name of this 50 part German system was mentioned in 17/477 and now Jacques Pitrat has kindly sent details of his unused No.2 outfit. Also to hand, an Ebay 'snippet' of a No.1 set, and as will be seen the two sets have different lid designs and packaging.

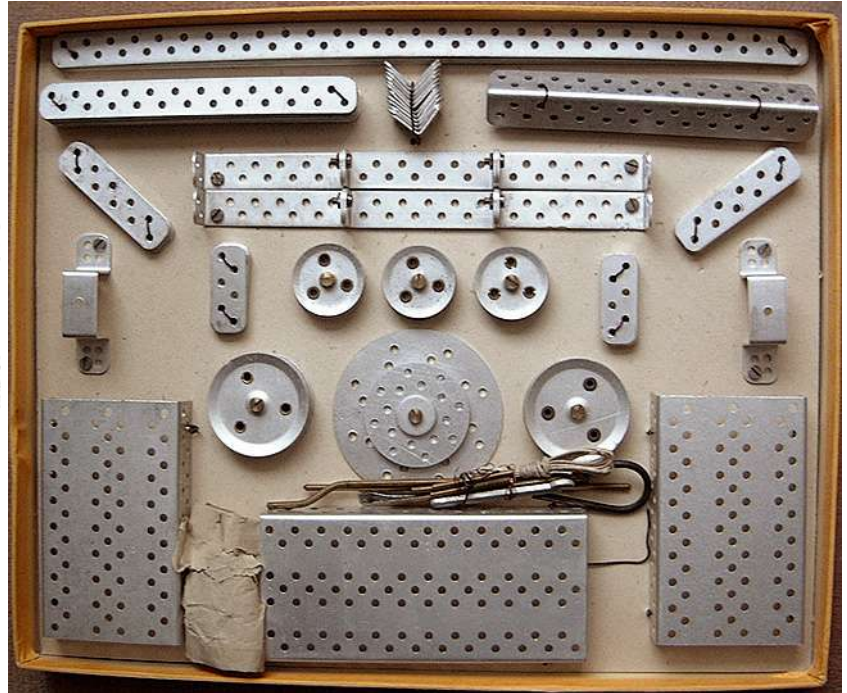
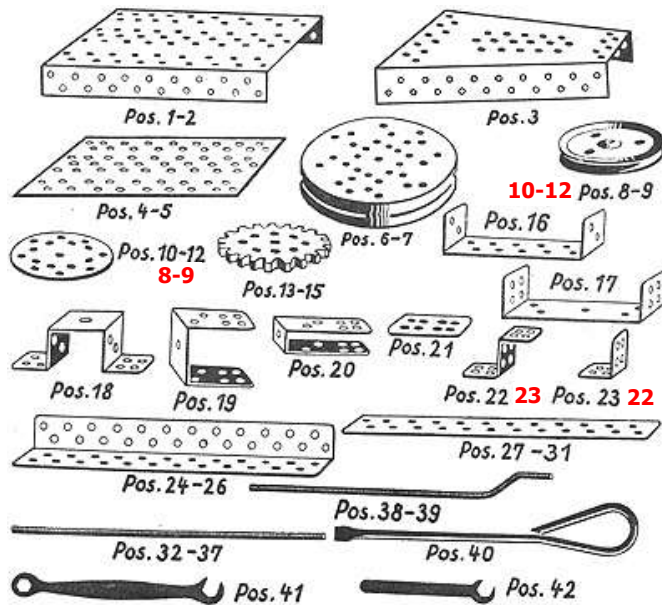
The No.1's maker was given as 'Riedel Apparatebau GMBH Berlin Steglitz' and its manual was said to be dated '9/43'. So RIAG could have existed pre-WW2. No maker or date is given in the No.2 material except that the manual's PR is '10000 11.49 Hellmich, Berlin'. So quite likely it dates from 1949. Both Steglitz & Hellmich are in what was West Berlin.

As can be seen from the illustrations below the parts have an unusual pattern of holes, and no doubt it was thought a good idea to have Strips about the same width as MÄRKLIN (or MECCANO) but with two staggered rows of smaller holes; thus with some of the advantages of the TRIX pattern but without its wider Strips, which often looks rather clumsy in models, particularly the smaller ones. The Strips are actually 14mm wide and the longest Strip & A/G are about the same length as a 25h long part with 1/2" pitch. The Flanged Disc Pulleys are 65

& 100mm Ø, but are only included in the larger outfits.

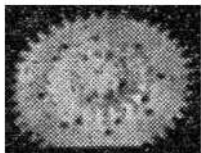
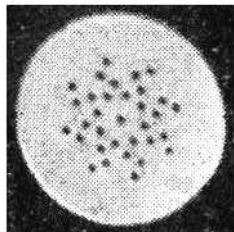
The No.2 SET The box is cardboard, 315*255*35mm, and the parts are wired to a backing card or attached with brass N&B (see the open box below). The NBW are in the paper packet. The lid is about the same shade as the manual cover on the next page and has a label, 210*148mmmm, of the same design and size as said cover, but white. A '2' label is in the bottom right corner of the lid. The contents of the 5 main & 4 linking sets at the bottom of the page are taken from the No.2's manual.

The PARTS are of good quality and all are aluminium except the plain steel NBW, the steel Screwdriver, and the brass Screwed Rods & Crank Handle. Many of them can be seen in the open box below, and/or in the Illustrated Parts below left, while their names are in the Set Contents together with for most, either the diameter or the number of holes in



Pos.	Benennung		Baukästen									Pos.	Benennung		Baukästen									
			1	1a	2	2a	3	3a	4	4a	5				1	1a	2	2a	3	3a	4	4a	5	
1	gr. Rechteckplatte	130 Loch	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	28	Flachschienen	10 Loch	9	1	10	2	12	8	20	10	30	
2	kl. Rechteckplatte	97 Loch	1	1	2	1	3	—	3	1	4	29	Flachschienen	18 Loch	—	—	—	4	4	4	8	2	10	
3	Sektorplatte	68 Loch	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	2	30	Flachschienen	24 Loch	4	8	12	4	16	—	16	8	24	
4	gr. Grundplatte	82 Loch	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	4	31	Flachschienen	58 Loch	—	4	4	—	4	4	8	2	10	
5	kl. Grundplatte	61 Loch	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	2	4	32	Gewindewelle	150 mm	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	
6	gr. Seilscheibe	100 ø	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	33	Gewindewelle	125 mm	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	
7	kl. Seilscheibe	65 ø	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	4	34	Gewindewelle	100 mm	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	
8	gr. Lochscheibe	65 ø	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	2	4	35	Gewindewelle	75 mm	2	—	2	—	2	—	2	2	4	
9	kl. Lochscheibe	40 ø	1	3	4	—	4	—	4	—	4	36	Gewindewelle	50 mm	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	4	
10	gr. Laufrad	40 ø	—	4	4	—	4	—	4	4	8	37	Gewindewelle	30 mm	2	—	2	—	2	2	4	2	6	
11	ml. Laufrad	27 ø	5	1	6	—	6	2	8	—	8	38	Kurbelwelle	125 mm	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	
12	kl. Laufrad	15 ø	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	2	39	Kurbelwelle	100 mm	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	
13	gr. Zahnrad	80 ø	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	40	Schraubenzieher		1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	
14	ml. Zahnrad	40 ø	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	41	Mutterschlüssel, doppelt		—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	
15	kl. Zahnrad	20 ø	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	4	42	Mutterschlüssel, einseitig		1	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	
16	Verbindungsbügel	10 Loch	1	5	6	2	8	—	8	2	10	43	Lasthaken		1	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	3	
17	Lagerbügel	13 Loch	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	2	44	Handkurbel		—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	
18	Lagerbock	13 Loch	1	1	2	—	2	2	4	2	6	45	Doppelöse		—	—	—	2	2	2	4	4	8	
19	Lagergabel, breit	13 Loch	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	4	46	Abstandsrollen	10 mm	—	—	—	2	2	2	4	2	6	
20	Lagergabel, schmal	13 Loch	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	4	47	Abstandsrollen	5 mm	—	—	—	2	2	4	6	—	6	
21	Verbindungslasche	8 Loch	—	—	—	4	4	4	8	—	8	48	Langmuttern M 3		—	—	—	2	2	2	4	2	6	
22	Winkel	8 Loch	8	4	12	2	14	8	22	10	32	49	Muttern M 3		40	50	90	45	135	65	200	100	300	
23	Z-Winkel	12 Loch	—	—	—	2	2	6	8	2	10	50	Schrauben M 3 × 12		6	9	12	3	15	7	22	13	35	
24	Winkelschienen	36 Loch	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4	8	51	Schrauben M 3 × 6		34	26	60	40	100	60	160	60	220	
25	Winkelschienen	48 Loch	—	4	4	—	4	—	4	4	8	52	U-Scheiben		10	—	10	5	15	10	25	5	30	
26	Winkelschienen	116 Loch	—	—	—	2	2	2	4	4	8	53	Kordel		1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	
27	Flachschienen	6 Loch	4	6	10	4	14	6	20	—	20													

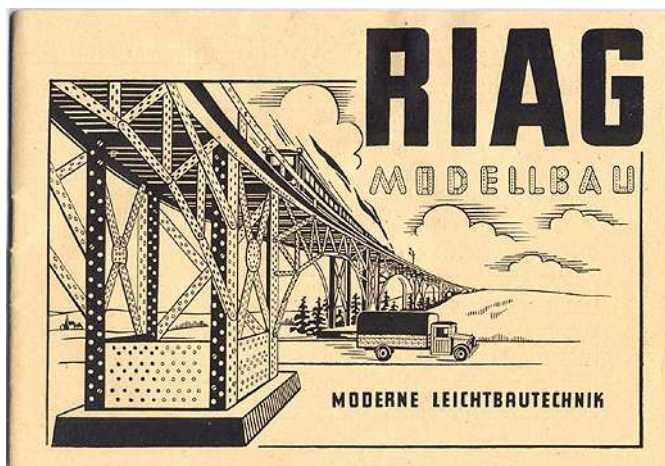
the part (though that count is not quite accurate in some cases). Some of the PNs in the Illustrated Parts are wrong and the correct ones have been added in red. Holes are 3.0mm Ø at 10.0mm pitch, and the diagonal pitch is 7.1mm. The Thread is M3, and the Axles & the shank of the Crank Handle are threaded.



The pattern of holes in a 100mm Ø part (it could be the Disc or the Flanged Disc Pulley) can be seen left, taken from a photo of the No.5 set in the Manual. The 3 Gears are also shown in it (below left) and they are Mod.2 with 10, 20, & 40 teeth.

The parts from #43 onwards are not illustrated. The Hook #43 is wire and can be seen on the Loading Crane below. The Handle Crank #44 might be wire too, like the STABIL part. The Stay #45 is also wire with an eye at each end, as in PRIMUS - it can just be seen half way along the lifting span of the Bridge below with Cord attached to the upper eye. #46 & 47 are probably thick Spacing Washers, 5 & 10mm wide. #48 would be a Threaded Coupling, probably hexagonal, to join the Screwed Rods. The Nut #49 is hexagonal, 5mm A/F, and the Bolts #50, 51 are cheeseheaded. #52 is a Washer, and #53 is brown Cord.

The **MANUAL** is in German and has 20 pages including



covers, 210*148mm. The front is shown above. p2 (C2) has a short Introduction and then there are 35 models on pp3-15, with one illustration

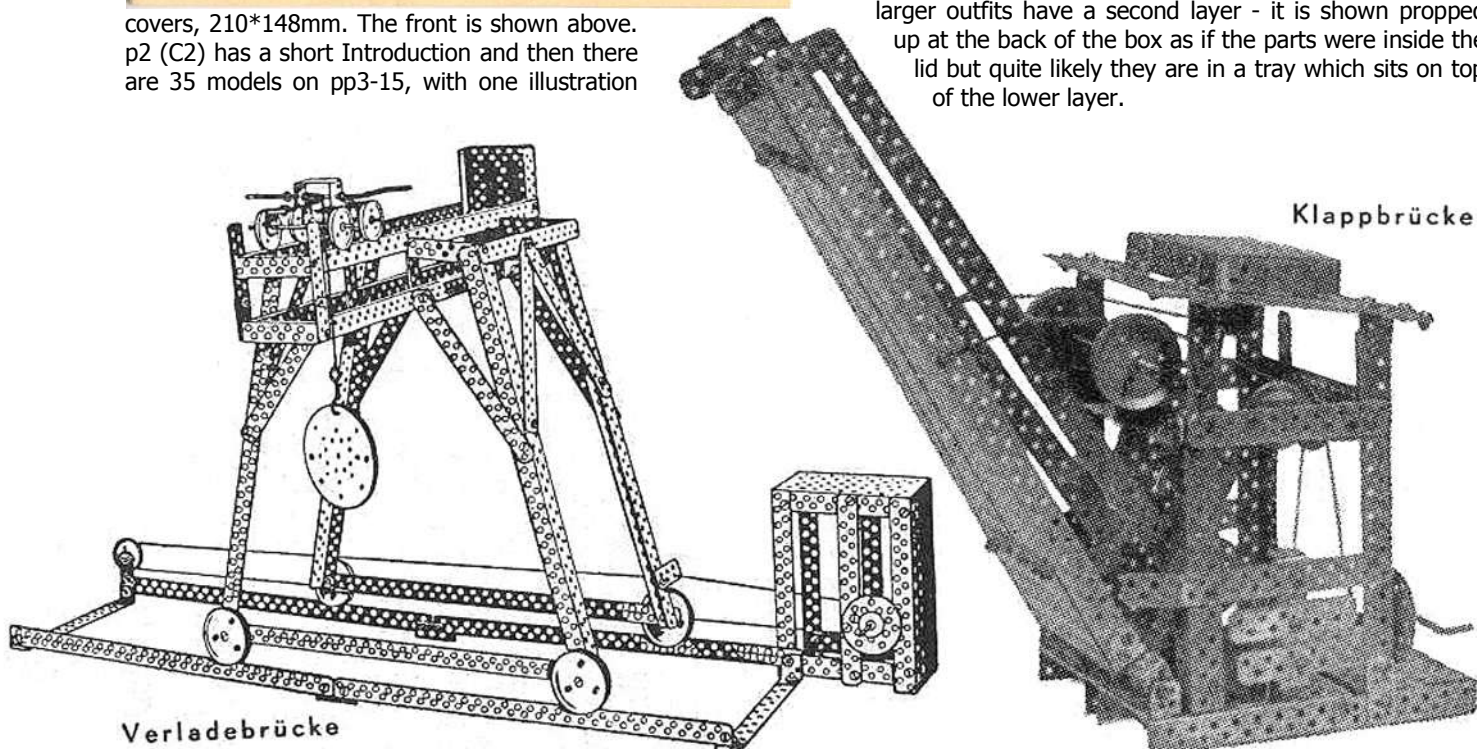
for each: 15 are line drawings & 20 photos. One of each type is shown below. Each model is named but there are no instructions and the Set needed isn't given. The line drawings are used for the smaller models would be adequate to build them, but it would not be easy to make many of the larger ones from the single photo provided. Photos of the open boxes of all 9 sets are shown on pp16-17, the Illustrated Parts are on pp18-19, and p20 (C4) has the Set Contents & the PR. (The illustrations from the Manual reproduced here were on fawn paper but have been changed to B&W for better clarity.)

The No.1 SET Below the Ebay set and as far as can be seen the parts are the same as those in the No.2. Equally the numbers of the main parts match the Set Contents in the Manual. As can be seen the packaging is different to Jacques' set and with its partitioning it is no doubt earlier. It matches the illustration of the No.1 in the Manual which it can be assumed hadn't been updated to show the new standard.

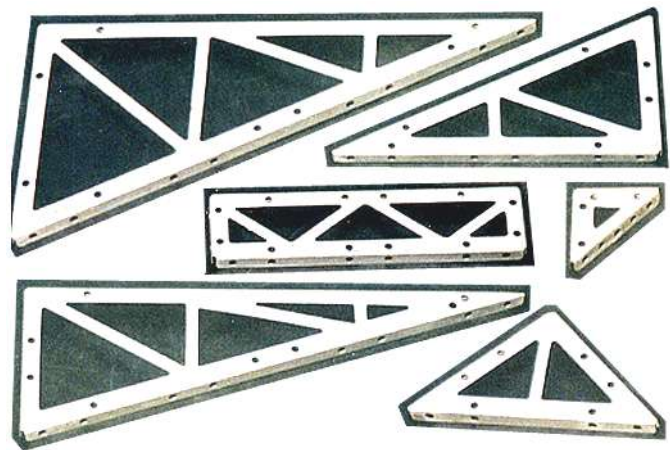


The 2 models on the righthand page above are examples of those for Set 2. Of all the models above and 11 more on 2 more pages not shown here, all are line drawings and all but 3 are in Jacques' manual. That accounts for all but one of the 'line drawing' models in the latter, a Lifting Bridge.

The OTHER EARLIER SETS The photos of the sets in the Manual are poor quality and though much of the detail cannot be seen, partitioning is used in the boxes for all the sets. Outfits 1-3, and 1a-3a have a single layer of parts, while the larger outfits have a second layer - it is shown propped up at the back of the box as if the parts were inside the lid but quite likely they are in a tray which sits on top of the lower layer.



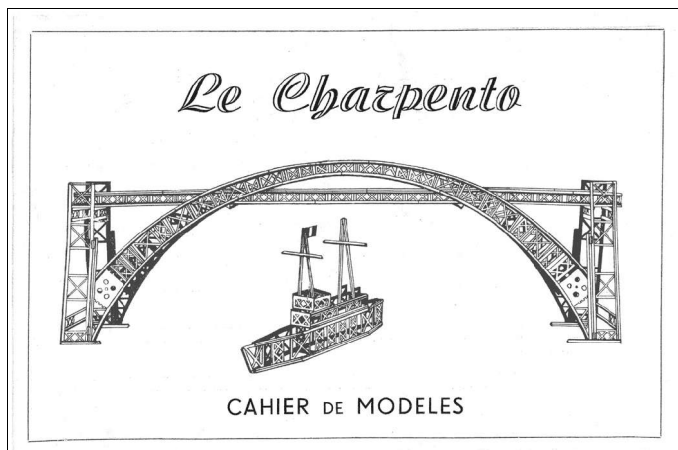
A Different CHARPENTO Notes on a near complete outfit from this 1920s French system were given in 21/617, but now an Ebay item shows a set, apparently unused, with what seem to be completely different parts - and instead of being bolted together, they are for the most part simply pushed into one another. For reference the lid label of the OSN 21 set and examples of the main parts are shown below. The other pieces



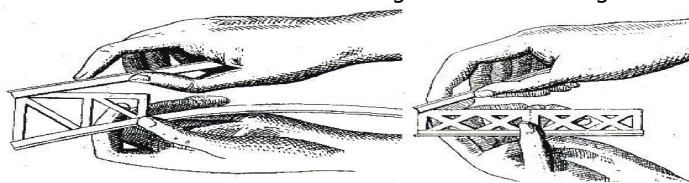
are 4 additional lengths of the Rectangular Braced Frame, 2 lengths of A/G, and Wall & Roof Panels for Buildings.

The Ebay set is shown below, and although some of the parts can't be seen clearly it is evident that the great majority, if not all of the pieces are different from those above.

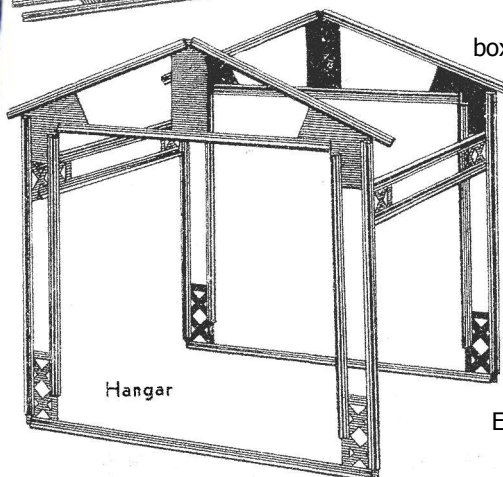
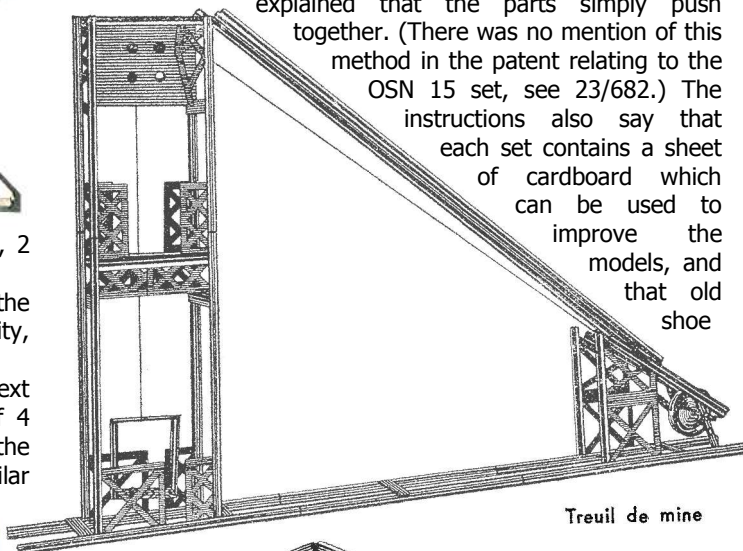
There was no manual with the Set but at the top of the next column is the front of a model sheet or manual, one of 4 photocopied pages, 243*158mm, that could be the instructions, or part of them, for the set above, or a similar



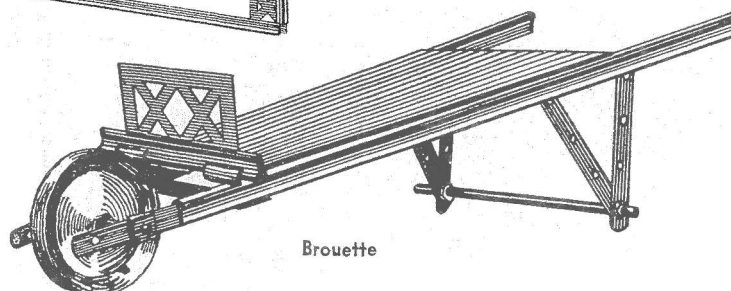
one. Unfortunately I've lost my note of who sent these pages to me, Jeannot Buteux/Constructorama perhaps, but my best thanks to whoever it was. Building instructions are given on

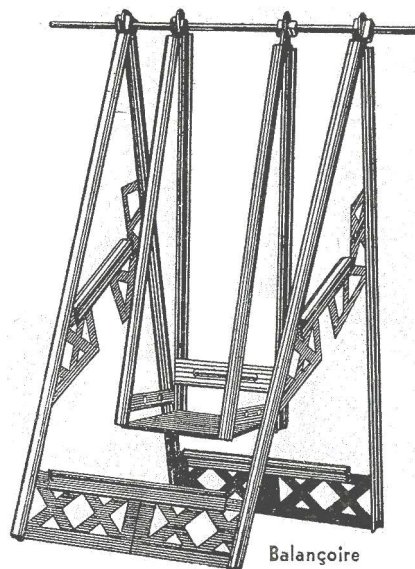


the second page together with the sketches above - it is explained that the parts simply push together. (There was no mention of this method in the patent relating to the OSN 15 set, see 23/682.) The

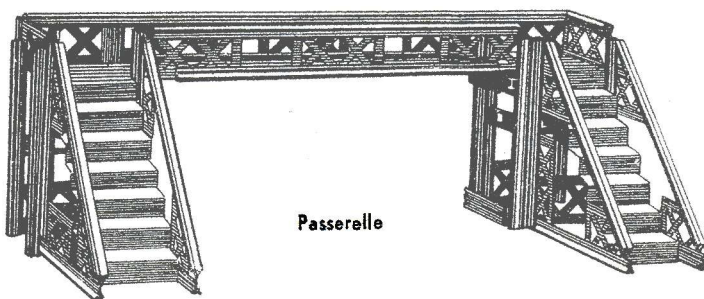


boxes and calendars could also be pressed into used for this purpose. The other 2 pages have 9 models, with just one drawing of each. 5 of them are shown here at the original size. Many of the plate parts in them can be seen in the Ebay set, though it is





not always clear which parts are 'real' and which are cardboard. A few Nuts and Screwed Rods appear to be used in some of the models - in the bar between the legs of the Barrow for instance, and at the top of the Swing. Strips which can just be seen in the Set (they are yellow to the left of the packet in the centre) are used in the Barrow as the legs and to provide a journal for



the axle. 2 Wheels are used in one model. None of the models include the Curved Beams shown in the Instructions.

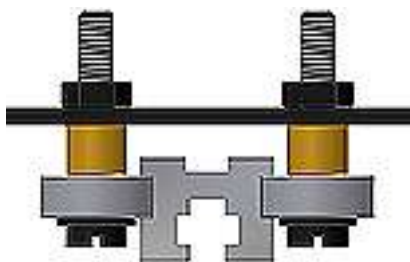
The CIJ logo on the OSN 15 set's lid (& also on the instructions with that set) do not appear on any of the 'new' material, so perhaps the latter was produced before the Patent in 1924 and before CIJ became involved.

CHARPENTO [a]: S2

OSN 37/1112

New from METALLUS The Parts Metallus have a range of around 1000 parts and continue to add to them from time to time. They can be seen on the company's web site, www.metallus.de, in German, English or in Dutch. Better still download their 112 page catalogue from the site as a pdf file because it contains more information, especially on the parts. A printed version is also available price about €15 including shipping but I've not seen it - Euros are accepted in payment but not credit cards or PayPal.

Many of the parts are variations on commonly used items but one new type caught my eye. It is called a Linear Profile and is an aluminium extrusion, 12*15.4mm in section, as left. 3 faces have 5mm wide grooves for rollers to run in (at 1" centres in the illustration set up). The fourth has a 7.2mm wide recess to take a trapped Nut so that the part can be

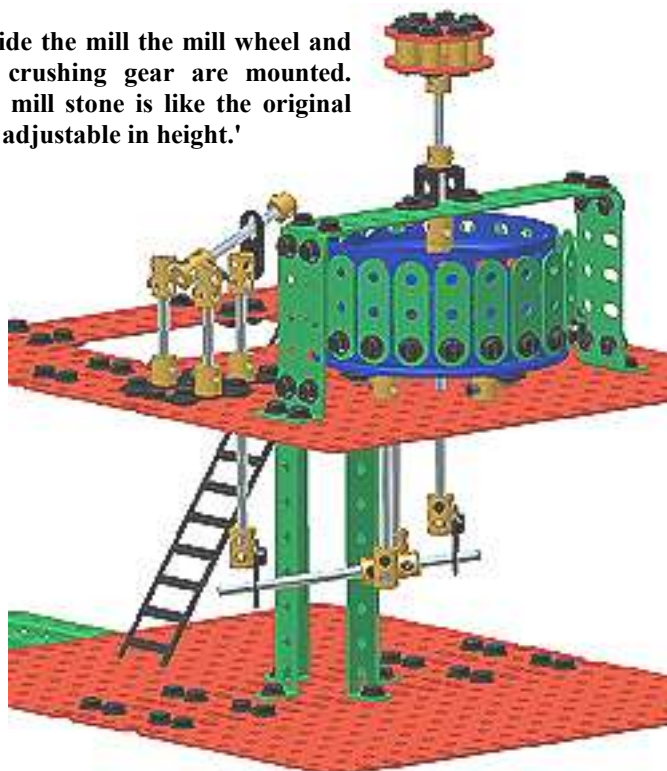


bolted down, or other parts attached to it. It is available in a number of lengths up to 3m and obvious uses are for carriages in Machine Tools, Plotters, etc. Presumably the Rollers are 'specials' running on Shouldered Bolts but I couldn't find either in the catalogue.

The Sets Among them I noticed two with a mix of TEMSI & METALLUS parts. One has 95 parts for a **Chopper Motorcycle** and the other 139 for a **Racing Car**. Both are simple models running on 1" Pulleys/Tyres and are perhaps a little overpriced at €25.65 & €35.91 respectively. The range of basic sets is unchanged except that the largest, the **Berlin**, now has 2713 parts - it costs €614.49. The **Excavator** set (see 32/967) is no longer listed, but the **Ploughing Engine** (see 35/1049) is, and a new one-model set has been introduced, for the **Post Mill** below left, 82cm high to the top of the sails. It has 3153 parts, including an M100 Motor, & costs €497.54 (the same as the Ploughing Engine). Another view shows a filled-in back with a door at the top of the steps, and a tailpole with its outer end supported by 2 cords. One scrap view shows a 1" Pulley driven by the Motor via a Worm & 3/4" Pinion; another, below, has the explanatory note from the web site alongside.



'Inside the mill the mill wheel and the crushing gear are mounted. The mill stone is like the original one adjustable in height.'





A KONSTRUKTOR Set in 2007 Edmundo Veiga kindly sent details of a No.2 set that he bought in a large Moscow toy store in June. As will be seen the parts in it are similar to those in many of the 10mm pitch Russian sets but in particular to K 115 & VOENNAYA TEKHNIKA (see 25/718). There are other links to those sets too including a number of the models in the new set's manual. It is said on the side of the box sleeve that the Set is made by ЧЭАЭ for a company called Russtyle of 14 Krasno-polyanskaya Street, Moscow. From its web site (www.russtyle.net) Russtyle sells a wide range of toys and was founded in 1992. ЧЭАЭ was the firm mentioned in connection with VOENNAYA TEKHNIKA, and the name was also in the top left corner of the K 115 manual cover, though that was not noted at the time. Its address is 5 I. Yakovleva Ave., Cheboksary (the capital of the part of Russia called Chuvashia, 650km east of Moscow). The inspection stamp on the back cover of the manual includes '0607', so probably a date.

The SETS The parts are packed in a black, sectioned plastic box, 24*17*2½cm, with a clear lid. The card sleeve already mentioned slides over it and its top is shown above. The main name on it transliterates as METALLICHESKII KONSTRUKTOR and the meaning according to Babel Fish is Metallic Designer. The 223 is the number of parts in the Set. There are 2 logos in the top right corner with ЧЭАЭ under them. The words in the top logo mean 'Super-Master' and those in the lower one, 'Russian Style'. The underside of the sleeve has details of the parts; photos of 3 of the models that can be made with the Set; and small pictures of the top of the sleeves on Sets 1 & 3 (as on the manual cover shown later). No.1 has 173 parts and No.3, 293. The contents of the No.2 and the K 115 outfit are broadly similar overall.

The PARTS Below the parts as shown on the box sleeve (but in B&W), with the quantities in the Set in the RH column. (A bar code label had been stuck over the lower right corner so the names there have been copied from the manual and the probable quantities added.) The circular parts are black plastic,

	Отвертка	1
	Ключ гаечный	1
	Пластина 20 x 20	3
	Пластина 40 x 20	4
	Пластина 50 x 20	7
	Косынка I	5
	Косынка II	4
	Косынка III	1
	Планка сегментная	2
	Планка с 2 отверстиями	4
	Планка с 3 отверстиями	4
	Планка с 5 отверстиями	6
	Планка с 10 отверстиями	6

the others, despite the purple & yellow shown on the sleeve, have a bright finish with iridescence showing on some of them. The range of parts and their design seem very similar to those of K 115, & VOENNAYA TEKHNIKA (as in the photo in 25/719) although the Road Wheel looks a little different. As would be expected the thread is M4. The circular parts run on, or are nipped to, the long Bolts or the (about 70mm long) Screwed Rods. The Ступица, a wide wheel with a shallow flange on one side is the part shown for K 115 in 25/719 - it replaced the Pulley in K'115 (with a dot, 19/530). It is used as a small wheel in some models, and (quite unsuitably) as a pulley in others.

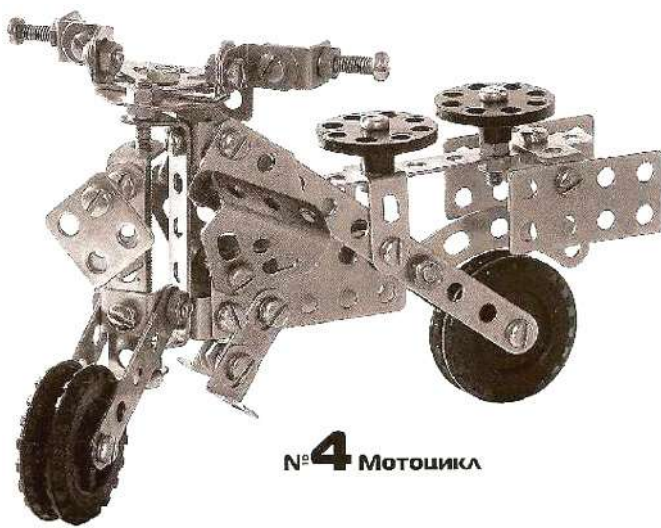
The MANUAL It fits flat inside the lid and has 14 pages plus covers. The front, shown below, has the name around one of the logos from the sleeve at the top, while the yellow words at the bottom speak of assembly instructions and 3 levels of skill. ЧЭАЭ is not mentioned anywhere in the manual and the brief Introduction on p1 has the Russtyle details under it. On the back cover are the illustrated parts and the number of each needed for each of the 24 models in the manual.



The models, with my names, are: Set 1: 1. Chair on p1, to 12. Twin-engined Monoplane on p6; Set 2: 13. Racing Car on p7, to 18. Lorry Mounted Crane on p10; Set 3: 19. 3-Wheel Delivery Cart on p11, to 24. Mechanical Navvy on p14. There is a good variety of small, simple but generally attractive models with just one photo for each (but plus the list of parts on the back cover of course). 9 of the models are identical or very similar to those in the K 115 or VOENNAYA TEKHNIKA manuals. The models on the Set 1 & 3 sleeves are shown on the next page, at rather less than half scale.

QUALITY Edmundo wrote that on the whole he was impressed by the quality of the parts and packaging, especially because the Set cost only 179 roubles, less than £3.50.

	Уголок	13
	Уголок 2	4
	Скоба малая	4
	Скоба большая	3
	Скоба I	2
	Скоба II	3
	Панель	4
	Крюк	1
	Колесо	6
	Диск (планшайба)	2
	Ступица	4
	Ось	4
	Винт М 4 x 35	1
	Винт М 4 x 20	2
	Винт М 4 x 16	9
	Винт М 4 x 8	8
	Винт М 4 x 6	37
	Тяжка М 4	70



№4 МОТОЦИКЛ



№23 ВЕРТОЛЕТ

KONSTRUKTOR [20]: S2

OSN 37/1114

Snippet: GECO The name was mentioned in 17/477 and it was also said that it was later called CONRAD. Baukästen just gives the maker, Geco-Bauspiele-Fabrik G. Conrad GmbH of Berlin, a date of 1923, and that there were at least 4 sets. This piece is based on two items seen on Ebay, both incomplete; one a No.4 set, and the other a No.3 & a No.4 with the contents mixed together. GECO structures are made from wooden Beams which appear to push into a variety of metal Connectors, a method comparable perhaps to KLIPIT, another system being sold in the early 1920s, though their Clips look less robust than the GECO Connectors.

First the No.4, said to be from 1922. There is a picture of a No.4 set on the front of the leaflet in the box below and it has

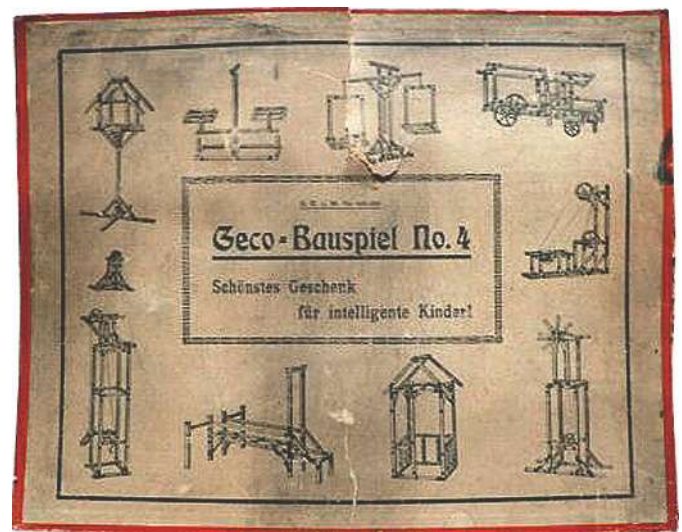


a card of parts which is missing from the Ebay set. It can be seen to contain Wheels and the Ebay ad also mentioned Gears. The 4-Way Connectors top left in the box look to have a centre bush. The Set's lid is identical to that of the other No.4, shown top right, except for the centre panel, left (in B&W for clarity). The logo is also on the Leaflet but what it represents is not clear. Some words in Danish had been written along the top of the lid but it wasn't said if the Set came from Denmark.



Now, the No.3/4 lot. The No.3 lid is in the same style as the #4 but has 12 rather simpler models around the central panel. The slogan below the name in the panel means 'The Finest Present for Intelligent Children'. The #3 box right has the 2 sizes of Spoked (Pulley?) Wheel, and the small bossed Pulley, all of which were shown in the Leaflet in the No.4 above.

The second No.4 box has the same partitions as the first



and the parts in it are mainly the Connectors from the two Sets. They look black in the photos. The other main parts, which may or may not be original, are a small Hammer, and a black Plate with a hole in each corner. Its width is about the diameter of the large Spoked Wheel and it's twice as long. It has a slight curvature across its width and could be used as a cab roof, but it can't be seen in any of the models.

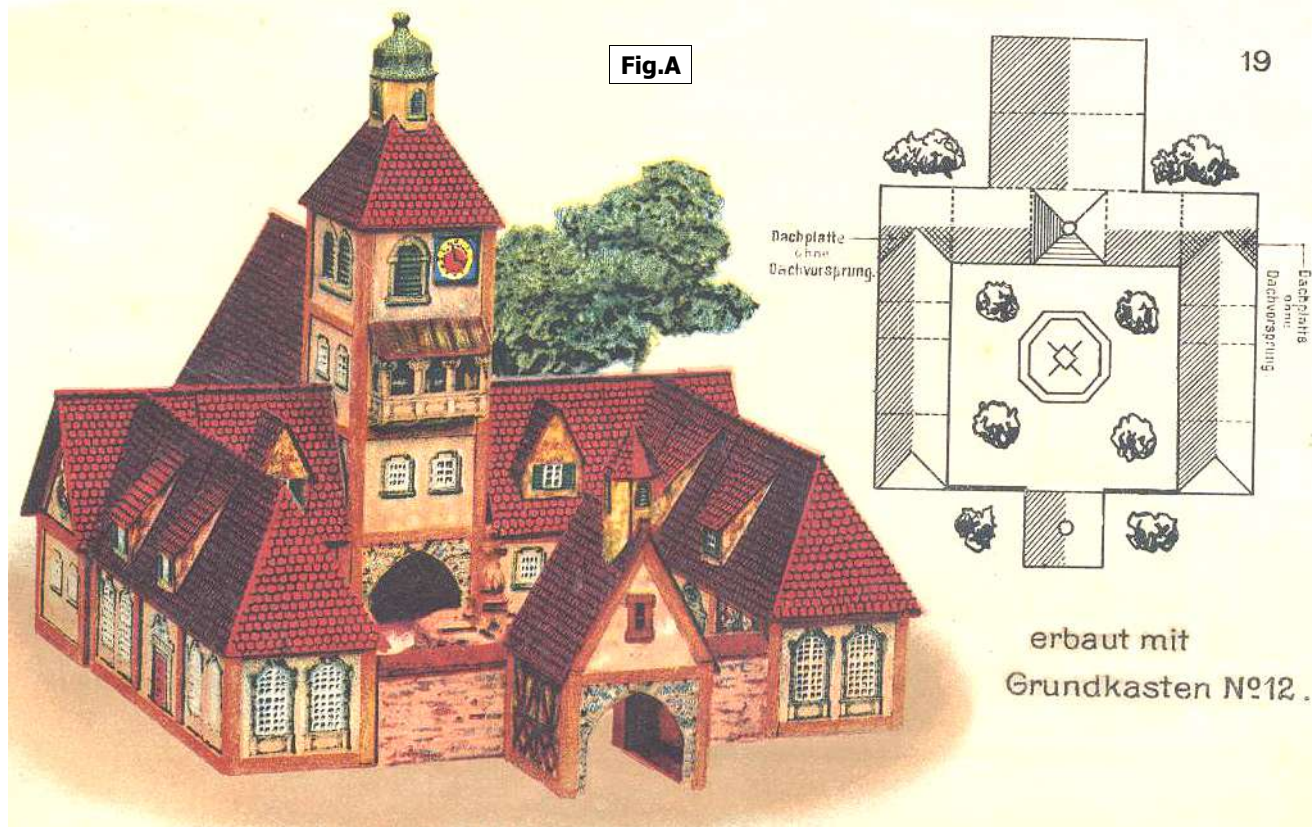
The top of a model sheet can be seen under the leaflet in the first No.4 and there were 10 of these in the No.3/4 lot: 2 had No.1 models, and 1, 3, & 4 had models for Sets 2, 3, & 4 respectively. One sheet had the Geco logo on it. Each of the 10 Sheets shows from 6 large to 18 small models, with one



drawing for each, similar in style to the models on the lids. None are named or have any instructions with them. Most of the larger models are on the No.4 lid. No Gears can be seen in any of the models.

GECO: S1

OSN 37/1114



Hausser's Künstler Baukasten

by Jacques Pitrat

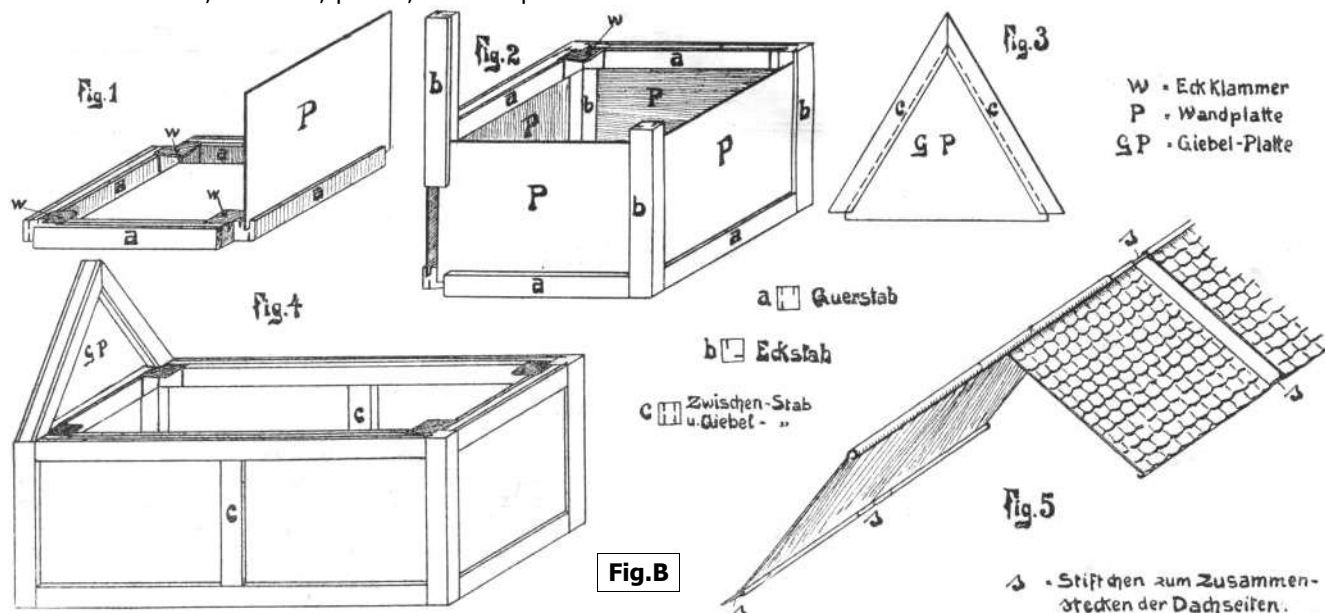
This small-scale German architectural system was called Künstler-Baukasten by its maker, Otto & Max Hausser, of Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart. 'Künstler' may be translated as Artistic which signifies the importance of giving beautiful toys to children. As is said in the manual: 'For the first time a system has been realized by architects & artists, in accordance with the principle that, for our children, only the best is good enough, because the children's taste cannot be awakened too soon. If playing is children's work, as the psychologists & teachers say, it is the duty of adults to ensure that this work is made in a cultural environment.' The system has wooden Beams for frameworks, painted, probably lithographed, steel Plates for the walls, and, with a tile pattern, for the roofs. The models really are quite small, the one above, from the largest set is less than 30cm wide.

There were 6 main outfits: 2,4,6,8,10,12, & also 5 complementary sets: 2/4, 4/6, 6/8, 8/10 & 10/12 (in some manuals they are called 2a, 4a, 6a, 8a & 10a). Finally, two auxiliary sets R & S contain trees, fountains, portals, etc. The parts in these

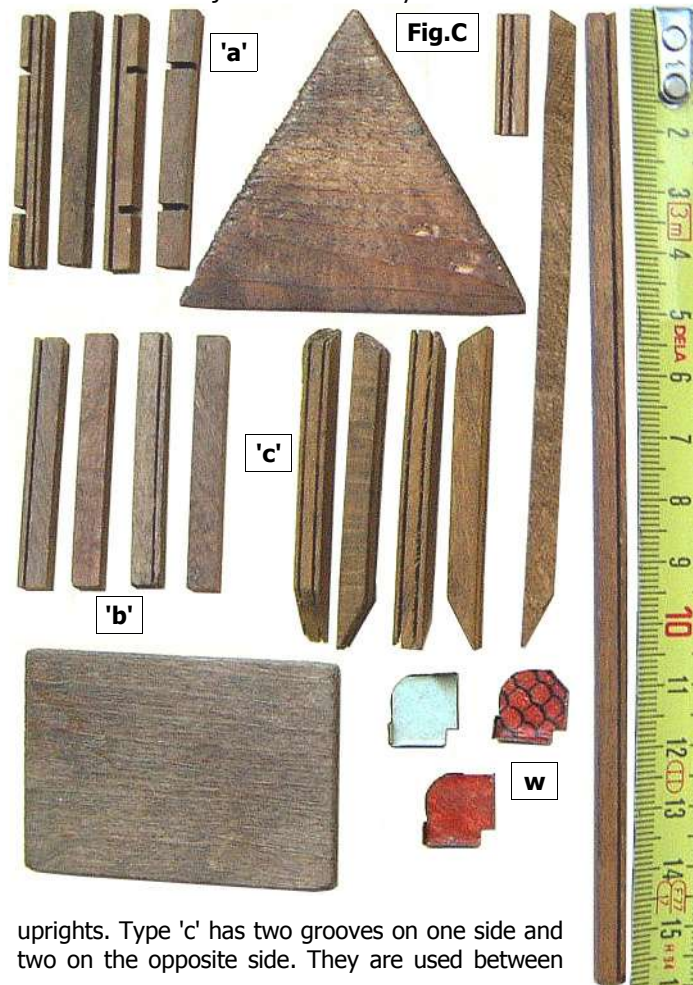
two sets are neither wood nor metal, but probably made of Elastolin, a material which the Hausser's developed. [Elastolin figures are well known - the material is made from sawdust, clay & glue, and figures are moulded around a wire armature.]

This account is based on my No.6 set, and thanks are due to Manfred Luft who kindly gave information on several aspects of the system. Baukasten has a picture of a No.10 Hausser set (T163, p207) and indicates the period of the system as 1917-1929. 1917 seems a likely date for the beginning: an ad for it appeared in a German journal on 20 February 1917; moreover one of the Plates represents a door with 1916 as the date of the construction of the building. In Baukasten the system also has the name MECO but it is not mentioned in any of the material described here.

The MODELS The basic method of building models is shown in Figs.1-5 below, taken from the manual. The framework is made from square wooden Beams with thin lengthways grooves into which metal Plates, P & GP, are inserted. Some small metal parts, w, are used to connect the Beams so that the structure is sturdy. There are three kinds of



Beam according to their grooves: their cross sections are shown as 'a', 'b', & 'c' in Fig.B, and all four sides of each type, together with the Brackets, w, are shown in Fig.C below. Type 'a' has two parallel grooves on one side & one groove on the opposite side. These parts are used for the horizontal elements of the structure. Type 'b' has one groove on one side & another on one of the adjacent sides. They are used for the corner



uprights. Type 'c' has two grooves on one side and two on the opposite side. They are used between

two rectangular Plates or for building the frame for the roof. All the Beams have a 5*5mm square section.

As can be seen, when there are two grooves one is used for the Plates & the other for the Brackets, w. Longer Type 'a' Beams have two additional, wider, cross grooves which are needed to accommodate the Brackets. They weaken the part significantly and the ends are often found broken off. Most of the 'c' parts have bevelled ends, and usually one of them is very acute.

There are 2 types of Roof Plate used for 'V' roofs. Both have rolled edges at the bottom to take the 1mm Ø Rods that are used to join roof sections together, and one type has the same at the top. The top edge of the other type is rolled to allow the first type to push into it. The finished roof simply sits on the gable ends.

The PARTS All the parts in my No.6 set will be described and also a few which can be seen in the larger manual models, balconies and other kinds of roofs for example. The contents of the sets are not given on the boxes, or in the Manual, so I will give the numbers of parts as found in the No.6 set in square brackets. It seems rather complete although a few parts are certainly missing. Most steel parts have a part number included in painted design, usually in a corner, but it is often missing, difficult to read, or has worn off.

Wooden Structural Parts There are 13 Beams, 3 of which are shown in Fig.C as well as 'a'-c'. They are: 20mm Type 'a' [12]; 33mm 'a' [6]; 33mm 'c' without bevelled ends [1]; 45mm 'a' [47]; 45mm 'b' [14]; 49mm 'c', both bevels are not acute [2]; 55mm 'c' [20]; 81mm 'b' [3]; 95mm 'a' [8]; 104mm 'c' [4]; 120mm 'b' [4]; 145mm 'a' [4]; 160mm 'b' [4].

There are no doubt other wooden parts in the bigger sets, bevelled 'a' Beams for building octagonal and part octagonal structures for instance (as in Figs.M,K). In that case, it would also be necessary to introduce a new kind of Bracket.

Auxiliary Wooden Parts Two wooden parts, shown in Fig.C, do not appear in the finished buildings: a 55mm side equilateral Triangle, 10 mm thick [2]; and a Rectangle 55x39x 3mm [2]. They are used to help the builder during construction, and are then removed when no longer needed.

Wall Plates, see Fig.D below (the 3 large Plates along the top are actual size; the large Trapezoid is not included in the



small images).

Rectangular 48*38mm [30]. They are beautifully painted on both sides and the pictures on both are different. There are 24 different pictures on the 60 sides (and two more can be seen in the models for larger sets). Most of the pictures occur only once, but some appear on several Plates, for example 9 times for the half-timber pattern without windows. The part numbers for these plates go from 1 to 15, plus 37.

Triangular 48*48*48mm, #23,24,25 [7]. There are three kinds of Plates, painted on both sides with 5 different pictures.

Trapezoidal 96*48*52*48mm, #26a,26b [2], with four different pictures.

Large Arches 48*41mm, #16 [2], painted on both sides with two different patterns.

Small Arches 23*41mm, #17 [4], painted on both faces with the same patterns as the large ones.

Other Plates In the models in the Manual, two new sizes of plates with half the width of the Rectangular ones are included in the No.8 set: a Plate #34, 38mm high as before, and a Plate #35 which is roughly 1½ times as high. Each has 2 new pictures. They are particularly useful for building octagonal structures. It is not clear if the balcony in Fig.A is built up from special Plates or if it is a one piece moulding.

Brackets (Figs.C,E) They are 12*12 mm [37] with a rim around two corners, and are red [13], white [12], tiled [11], and one that has not been painted.

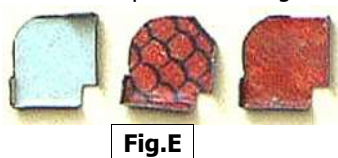


Fig.E

Roof Parts (Figs.F,G)

Rectangular Their top sides are printed with a tile pattern; the other side is unpainted (as at 'x'). Many have small slots so that it is possible to attach other parts such as Chimneys. The four main parts are: 110*55mm, 2 slots [4]; 60*55mm, 2 slots [8]; 60*45mm, 2 slots [2]; 60*33mm, no slots [4]. There is also the Small Roof, 36*21mm [2] which is used for the second kind of dormer window; it has no slots, but two small hooks at the top.

Only two of the small Rods used to join the roof sections were found in the box and one is shown in Fig.G. There were

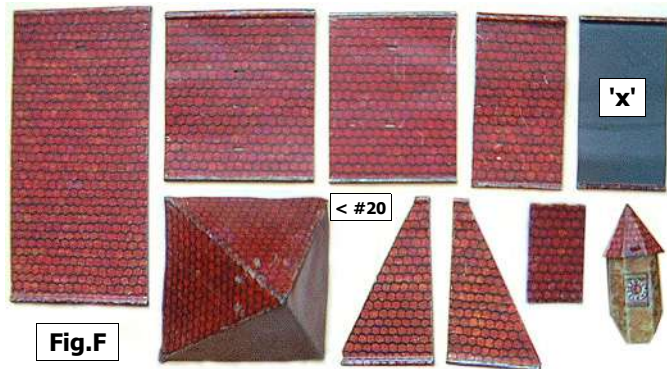


Fig.F

probably about 20 originally.

Other Tiled Parts • One Large Pyramid #20, height 50mm with a 60*60mm square base. • One Small Pyramid #27, with an octagonal base (8mm for each side) and two slots. It is put on the top of the Tall Octagonal Turret. • Handed Triangle parts, 110mm high, 33mm wide at the top & 5 at the bottom [2 of each]. They are used at the intersection of two straight roofs (Fig.A). • 'V' Roof #30 [2]. Each side is 28mm high, 22mm long at the top, & 8mm at the bottom. It is used above the first kind of dormer.

A roof part with three triangular surfaces appears with No.8 set; it is used for example as the roof of the part octagonal bay on the front of the building in Fig.K. There are other kinds of tiled roof parts in the larger sets, but it is not easy to describe them from the models.

Other Parts (Fig.G) • There are two kinds of Dormers,

both with a tongue at the bottom.

• The first #30 [2] has a window with a triangular top above it & two short triangular sides; it is covered with the V Roof, also #30. • The second #31

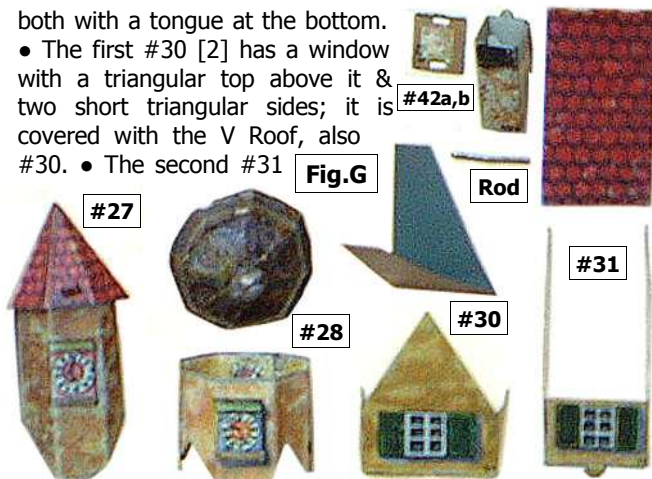


Fig.G

[2] has only a rectangular front with a window, but very long (45mm) triangular sides which are covered with the Small Rectangular Roof. • Chimney #42a [2] with 1 tongue at its base and 2 at the top for the Chimney Top. • Chimney Top #42b [1]. It is a tiny, 10*10mm, square plate with 2 slots. • Short Octagonal Turret #28 [1], height 18 mm, diameter 23 mm. It can be put on the top of the Large Pyramid Roof. Its Top #28 [1] is a green part, perhaps made of Elastolin. • A much larger green hexagonal Top, probably in the same material, appears with No.8 set and can be seen above the octagonal arches in Fig.M. • The green fencing around the base of the octagon is again probably Elastolin and is also used in a No.12 model to edge a balcony. • Tall Octagonal Turret #27 [1]. Height 29 mm, diameter 18 mm. It can be put on the ridge of a roof and has two tabs at the top for the Small Pyramid Roof #27. • A Square Turret with a very steep Roof #29 appears in the No.10 set. It can be placed at the intersection of two perpendicular roofs as in Fig.K (the left tower).

The SETS My No.6 set is in a pine box with the sliding lid below. Underneath is the open box with its tray alongside. The



Fig.H



Fig.I

box measures 305*175*78mm (the set in Baukästen is 285*285*75mm). Many of the metal parts slide into the two compartments with grooved sides to protect them from damage by rubbing together. Some of the other sets were packed in cardboard boxes and some in luxurious wooden boxes made of beech. The larger of the two auxiliary outfits R & S mentioned earlier is shown on the next page. The R has many of the same parts but fewer of them, and the large octagonal Base is not included, nor are there any large Trees.

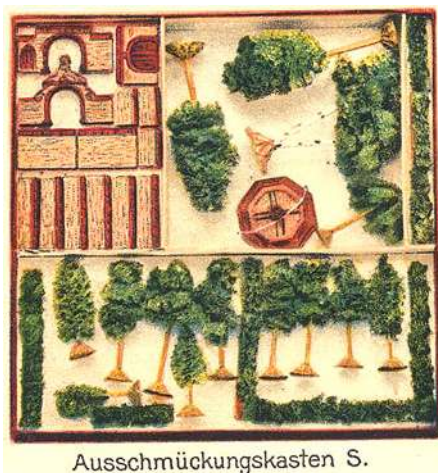


Fig.J

The MANUALS My manual is only in German. There are the covers, four pages on ordinary paper and 20 pages printed on good quality paper. Only the first (below) and the third cover are printed. The first four pages present the system, give a list of the sets and their prices, and there is a



Fig.K

16

one page (Fig.B here) which describes, with illustrations, how to build with the parts. There is no mention of part numbers anywhere in the manual. The prices of the sets had been hidden with a glued-on piece of paper, but the previous owner had partially removed it and the price was 4.50 marks for set No.2, 11 for set No.6 and 28 for set No.12. It is difficult to compare these prices with those of Märklin sets because there were large variations in the value of the mark at the time and I do not know exactly when this manual was printed. The next section of the manual has the models in colour with for each, a black &

Fig.L



white plan view. There are 4 or 5 models for each set, two per page for the small sets (including Fig.L), and one per page for the larger ones (including Figs.A,M). The final page has pictures of Sets R and S.

There are two other versions of this manual known: one has black & white pictures and the other is in Dutch. HAUSSER'S KUNST BOUWDOOS was the name of sets sold in The Netherlands.

LAST WORD This excellent system was very well made with beautifully painted parts, and the sets allowed a variety of good-looking and quite complex buildings to be constructed. Manfred Luft has sent me photos of two models that he has built and they look very nearly as good as the pictures in the manual.

erbaut mit Grundkasten N°12.



Platte mit ausgestanztem Eck.

Fig.M



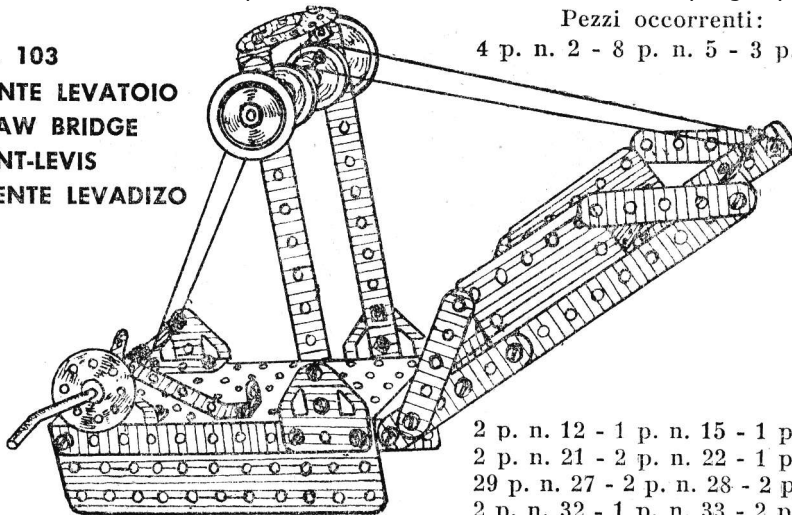
More on STAR Some parts & a No.3 manual from this Italian system came to hand recently. The parts were from a No.3 set with only the Crank Handle & a few N&B missing. They were still tied & clipped to 3 backing cards, the same colour as those in the No.4 outfit reviewed in 26/759. The Illustrated Parts & Set Contents from the Manual are shown right. The latter also contained linking 'A' sets but not a 6A, nor strangely, a 1A, though one is mentioned elsewhere in the Manual. The main parts in the No.4 but not the No. 3 are 25h Strips, 1*3*1h DAS, Braced Girders, 5*5h Flexible Plates, 1" Loose Pulleys & a Propeller.

The PARTS Listed below are points of interest from the No.3 parts, & a few corrections to the earlier information. In general the parts are similar to MECCANO/BRAL. • **Holes** are at 12.7mm pitch & are mostly 4.2mm Ø, with a few 4.3mm. **Slotted holes** are 7.4mm except where stated. • The **thread** is $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW. • **Bosses** are 10.0mm o.d., 4.1mm bore, single-tapped, and with slightly recessed peening. The **Set Screw** is 5½mm u/h with a 5.4mm Ø tapered cheesehead, & has a blackened steel finish. • The **parts** are accurately made but with a little burr around a few of the holes. The nickel on the Strips, DAS & Brackets, and the paint on the other parts, have survived quite well. • The **Strips** & all the other **nicked parts** are 12.1mm wide. The 3h Strip has one end hole slotted. • The **Curved Strip** has 9.3mm slots. • The **Double Bracket** is made from the 3h Strip and so has one side hole slotted. • The flange holes in the 5*11h **Flanged Plate** are round; in the 8 hole long **Flanged Sector Plate** they are 7.1mm slots. • The 3*11h **Perforated Plate** is made of the same .27mm thick steel as the Flexible Plates. • The **Fast Pulley** is 26mm Ø. • The white **Rubber Ring** for the Pulley, 37mm Ø, 5¼mm wide, has STAR moulded into one wall. • The **Loose Pulley** #35 is brass, 15.0mm o.d., & 4.1mm wide. • The **Bush Wheel** is 36mm Ø and painted green. • The **Axles**, 3.93mm Ø, are dull blackened and have badly sheared ends, some of which won't entered the bosses. • The **Hook**, left ½ f-s, is flat, 1mm thick, with a shiny metallic black finish. • The **Spanner** is the opposite hand to most MECCANO examples and has slightly wider jaws to take the STAR Nuts. • The **Screwdriver** is as in OSN 26, 154mm long o/a, with a 83mm wooden handle. • The **N&B** are nicked steel. The **Bolt** is 10mm u/h with a 6.9mm Ø tapered cheesehead. The **Nut** is square, 6.9mm A/F, & 2mm thick. • The **Spring Clip** is nickel,



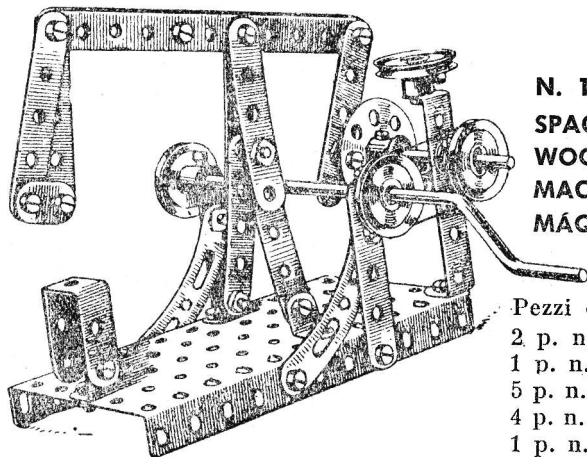
N. 103

PONTE LEVATOIO
DRAW BRIDGE
PONT-LEVIS
PUENTE LEVADIZO



Pezzi occorrenti:
4 p. n. 2 - 8 p. n. 5 - 3 p. n. 10 -

2 p. n. 12 - 1 p. n. 15 - 1 p. n. 19 -
2 p. n. 21 - 2 p. n. 22 - 1 p. n. 23 -
29 p. n. 27 - 2 p. n. 28 - 2 p. n. 31 -
2 p. n. 32 - 1 p. n. 33 - 2 p. n. 36 -
2 p. n. 41 - 2 p. n. 43 - 2 p. n. 48.



N. 101

SPACCALEGNA
WOOD CUTTING MACHINE
MACHINE À COUPER DU BOIS
MÁQUINA PARA HENDER LEÑA

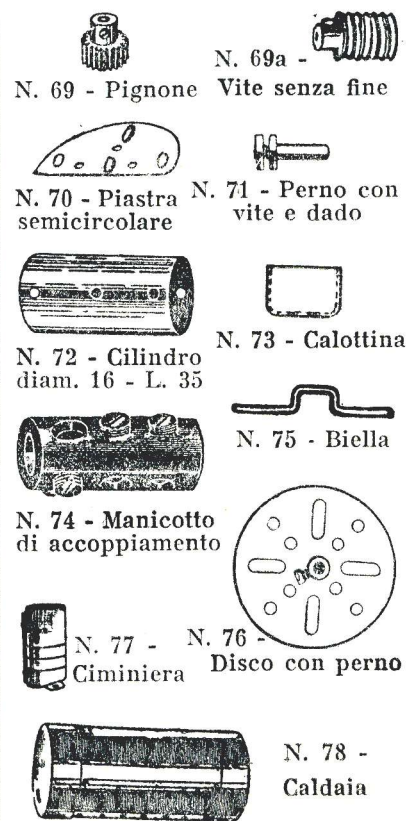
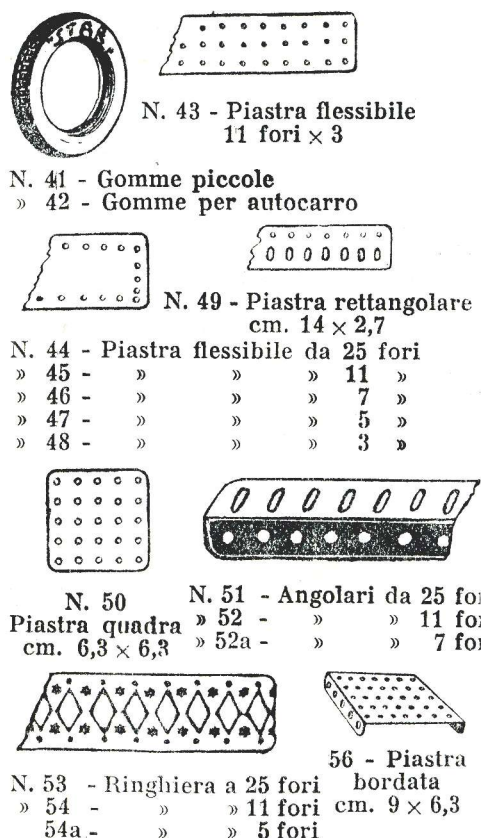
Pezzi occorrenti:

2 p. n. 2 - 1 p. n. 3 - 8 p. n. 5 -
1 p. n. 7 - 1 p. n. 9 - 1 p. n. 10 -
5 p. n. 12 - 1 p. n. 14 - 1 p. n. 19 -
4 p. n. 22 - 1 p. n. 23 - 25 p. n. 27 -
1 p. n. 28 - 1 p. n. 33 - 2 p. n. 36.

6.8mm wide with 4½mm long wings.

The MANUAL has 42 pages, 247*168mm, plus covers, with most of the text in Italian, English, French & Spanish. There is no mention of the manufacturer. C1 is shown on the next page, C2 is blank, C3 explains the 'A' sets and has the printer: STAMPERIA ED. COMM. - BERGAMO, - Bergamo is a town 40km east of Milan. C4 has an ad

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1							
2	2	4	4	8	12	12	14
2a							
3	2	2	2	4	6	6	8
4					4	4	6
5	6	6	8	10	14	14	16
6	2	2	2	4	6	6	6
7	4	4	4	8	10	14	18
8			2	2	4	4	5
8a							
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9a							
10	1	2	2	6	8	8	10
10a							
11				1	1	2	4
11a							
12	6	8	8	8	12	18	16
13	1	2	2	2	4	4	5
14	1	2	2	2	2	3	3
15	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
16					2	2	3
17					2	2	2
18					1	1	1
19		1	1	1	1	1	1
20					1	1	1
21	4			2	2	2	4
22		4	4	4	4	4	4
23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
24	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
25	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
26	4	6	8	10	14	14	14
27	20	26	36	56	106	116	120
28	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
29		1	1	2	2	2	4
30					1	2	4
31	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
32		2	2	2	2	2	2
33	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
34			1	2	2	2	2
35			1	1	1	1	2
36		2	4	4	4	4	8
37				1	1	1	1
38	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
39				4	4	4	4
40						2	2
41			4	4	4	4	4
42						4	4
43			2	2	2	2	4
44						2	4
45						2	2
46			1	1	1	1	4
47				2	2	4	4
48	2	2	2	4	4	4	6
49						2	2
50					2	2	2
51					4	6	8
52						2	4
52a							
53					2	2	2
54				2	2	2	2
54a							1
55				1	1	1	1
56						2	3
57					4	4	4
58						4	8
59					14	14	16
60						1	3
61						1	3
62					2	2	2
63						1	1
64					2	2	2
65					2	2	2
66						2	4
67					4	4	4
68					1	1	1
69					1	1	1
69a							1
70						2	2
71						1	2
72						1	1
73						2	2
74						1	2
75							1
76							1
77							1
78							1



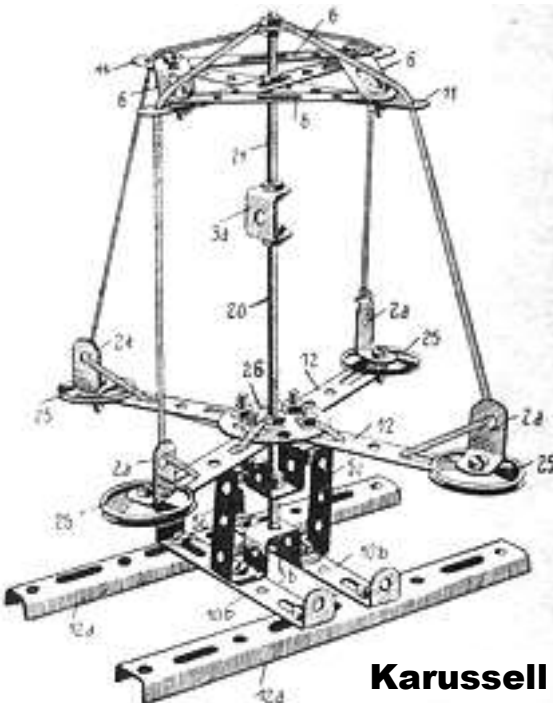
for Star roller skates. p1 has an Intro, pp2-3 the Illustrated Parts, pp4-5 the Set Contents, pp6-8 some basic constructions, & pp9-42 have 105 small models for Sets 1-3 as follows. Set 1: N.1, an unnamed letter 'S' on p9, to N.46 TROLLEY FOR DISHES on p23. Set 2: N.47 ROCKDRILL on p 24 to N.79 CAR PROVIDED WITH STEERING on p33. Set 3: N.80 POINTER on p24 to N.105 DRILL on p42.

There is a list of parts and a shaded line drawing for each model. Most of them look familiar but one or two have been changed to include the unusual 3*11h Perforated Plate. Many though were virtually identical to MÄRKLIN & MECCANO models and some seemed to have come from CONDOR with their larger radius Curved Strip unchanged. None of the models make full use of the selection of parts in the No.3 but the models on the previous page are among the better ones.

Snippet: STATO-BAU Some details from a brochure were given in 35/1060 and now the photos from a manual on Ebay provide more information. They show a page with the set contents and 3 pages with 6 models, 2 for Set Nr.47, 3 for Nr.47a, & 1 for a larger outfit, probably Nr.48. The inventory right has been typed out from the difficult to read original. Compared with OSN 35 it includes the additional sets Nr.49a & 50, and there is a slight increase in the number of parts in Nr.48a & 49. Two points of interest on the parts. Shallow U-section Girders from 9 to 31cm long are widely used and there is only one (10cm long) A/G. The other surprise, the Curved Strip has a narrow flange on its outer edge.

The German & my English names of the parts follow, with a few comments where they have been seen in the models, or in OSN 35. Starred items have not been seen. The lengths given for the structural parts include all elements of the parts, e.g. the lugs of DAS. In speaking of the number of holes in parts, a slot equals 2 holes.

- ***Antriebekette** (#29) = Driving Chain (to run on the Gears presumably).
- ***bunte Verkleidungs Pl.** (#19,a,b) = coloured Cover Plate (a Flexible Plate perhaps).
- **Doppelwinkel** (#3a,5a,e) = Double Bracket. #3a,5a are 1,2h deep. #5e has slotted side holes.
- **Felge** (#24,25) = Pulley (Durchm. = diameter).
- ***Flachplatte** (#16a,b,17a) = Flat Plate.
- **Flachstange** (#1,2,b,3,b,4,a,5,d,6-10,11,12,13,14) = Strip. #1 & #2 each have 2 holes.
- **Gewindestange** (#20-22) = Screwed Rod.
- ***Grundplatte** (#16,17) = Base Plate.
- ***Gummireifen** (#24a,25a) = Rubber Tyre.



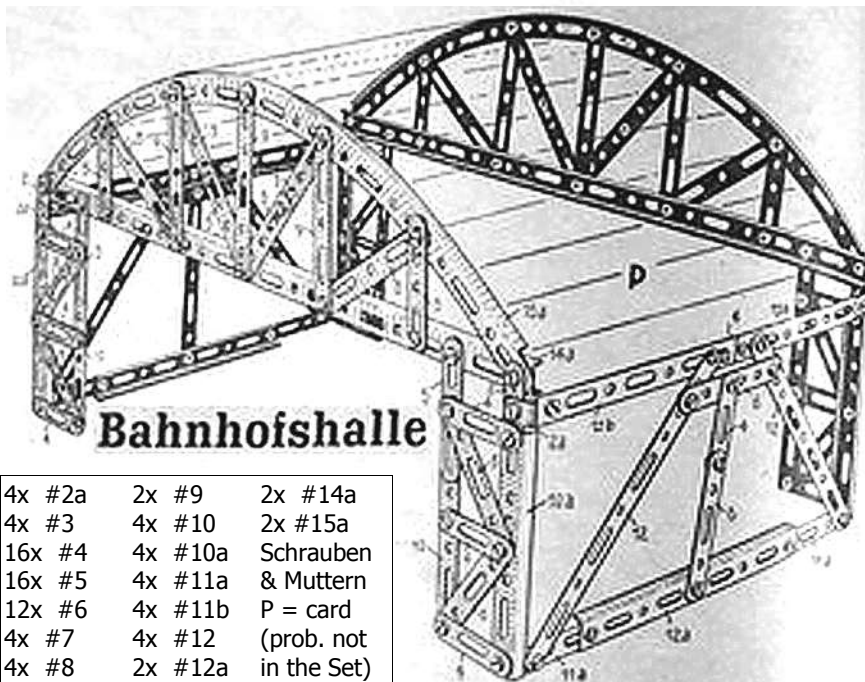
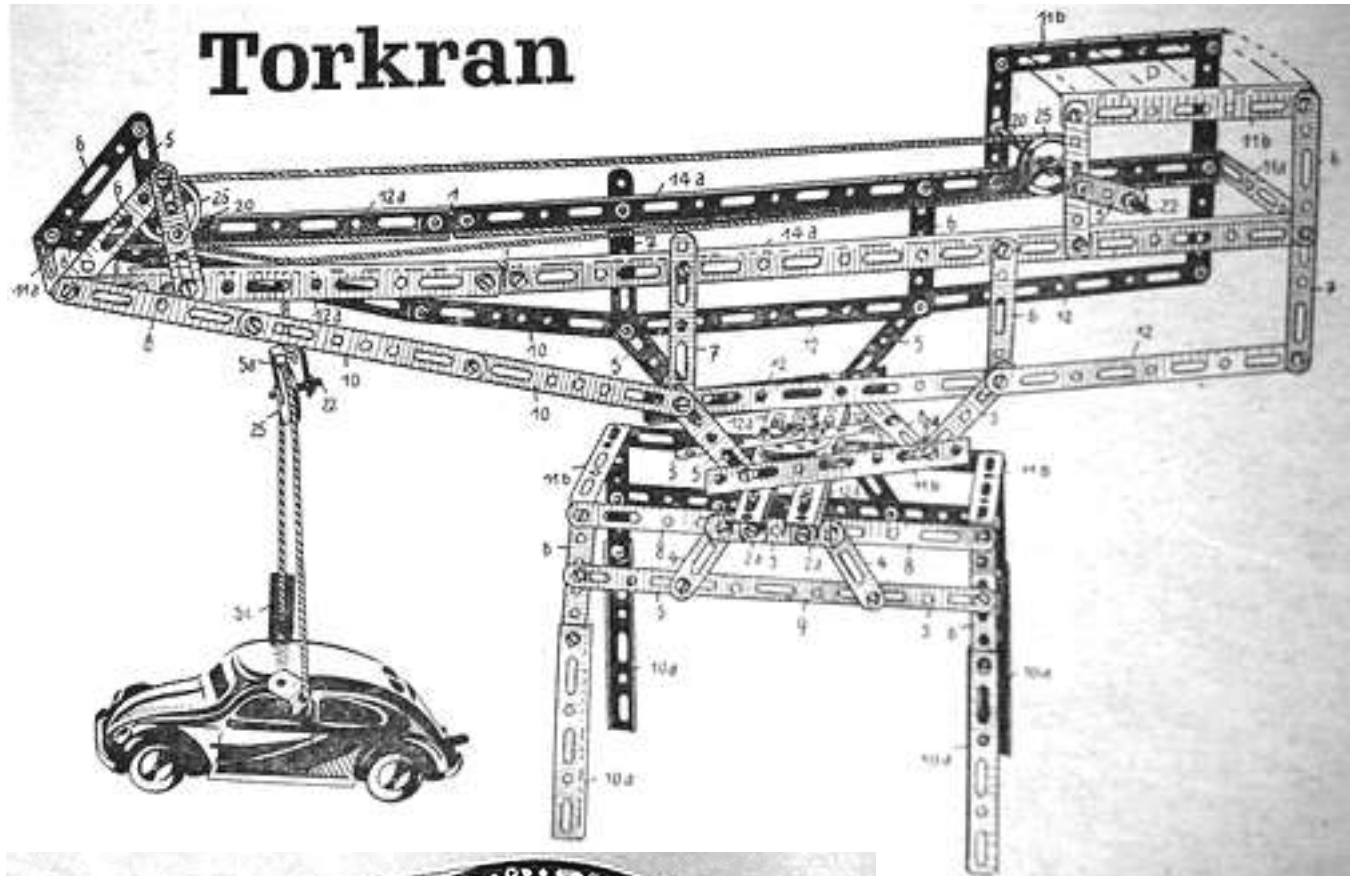
Karussell

4x #2a	4x #6	2x #12a	1x #26
1x #3a	2x 10b	1x #20	Schrauben
2x 5b	2x #11	1x #21	& Muttern
2x 5c	2x #12	4x #25	

Nr.	Bezeichnung der Teile	Nr:	47	47a	48	48a	49	49a	50
1	Flachstange 22mm	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	
2	Flachstange 25mm	10	2	12	-	12	-	12	
2a	Verbindungswinkel 25mm	8	4	12	-	12	-	12	
2b	Flachstange 25mm	-	-	-	4	4	2	6	
2c	Verbindungswinkel 25mm	-	-	-	4	4	4	8	
3	Flachstange 30mm	4	1	5	1	6	2	8	
3a	Doppelwinkel 30mm	-	2	2	-	2	2	4	
3b	Flachstange 30mm	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	
3c	Z-Winkel 30mm	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	
4	Flachstange 40mm	16	-	16	-	16	-	16	
4a	Flachstange 40mm	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
4b	Verbindungswinkel 40mm	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
5	Flachstange 50mm	16	-	16	-	16	-	16	
5a	Doppelwinkel 50mm	-	2	2	-	2	-	2	
5b	Lagerbock 50mm	-	2	2	-	2	-	2	
5c	Verbindungswinkel 50mm	-	2	2	-	2	2	4	
5d	Flachstange 50mm	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	
5e	Doppelwinkel 50mm	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	
6	Flachstange 60mm	12	4	16	-	16	-	16	
7	Flachstange 70mm	8	2	10	-	10	2	12	
8	Flachstange 75mm	8	-	8	-	8	-	8	
9	Flachstange 80mm	2	-	2	2	4	-	4	
10	Flachstange 90mm	4	-	4	2	6	2	8	
10a	U-Eisen 90mm	4	-	4	-	4	-	4	
10b	Verbindungswinkel 90mm	-	2	2	2	4	-	4	
11	Flachstange 100mm	-	4	4	2	6	4	10	
11a	Verbindungswinkel 100mm	4	-	4	-	4	-	4	
11b	Winkelisen 100mm	4	-	4	-	4	-	4	
12	Flachstange 130mm	4	2	6	2	8	4	12	
12a	U-Eisen 130mm	4	2	6	-	6	2	8	
13	Flachstange 190mm	-	-	-	4	4	2	6	
14	Flachstange 310mm	-	-	-	4	4	2	6	
14a	U-Eisen 310mm	2	-	2	2	4	-	4	
15a	Winkelbogen	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	
16	Grundplatte 130x80	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	
16a	Flachplatte 70x40	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	
16b	Flachplatte 100x40	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	
17	Grundplatte 80x60	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
17a	Flachplatte 40x40	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	
19	bunte Verkleidungs Pl. 100x40	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
19a	bunte Verkleidungs Pl. 70x40	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
19b	bunte Verkleidungs Pl. 40x40	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
20	Gewindestange 90mm	2	1	3	1	4	2	6	
21	Gewindestange 50mm	-	2	2	2	4	2	6	
22	Gewindestange 20mm	-	2	2	2	4	2	6	
24	Felge 34mm Durchm.	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	
24a	Gummireifen	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	
25	Felge 23mm Durchm.	-	4	4	4	8	2	10	
25a	Gummireifen	-	4	4	4	8	2	10	
26	Lochscheibe 34mm Durchm.	-	1	1	1	2	1	3	
26a	Lochscheibe 50mm Durchm.	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	
26b	Lochscheibe 70mm Durchm.	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
27	Zahnrad 4?mm Durchm.	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
27a	Zahnrad 2?mm Durchm.	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
29	Antriebekette 1m lang	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
30	Schraubenschlüssel	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	
31	Schraubenzieher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
32	Schrauben 8mm lang	45	20	70	25	80	25	100	
32a	Schrauben 6mm lang	45	25	89	25	90	25	120	
32b	Schrauben 15mm lang	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	
33	Muttern M3	95	50	160	60	180	40	250	
33a	Messinglangmutter	-	-	-	2	2	1	3	
Gesamt - Inhalt		303	142	474	178	580	190	778	

- **Lagerbock** (#5b) = Double Bent Strip.
- **Lochscheibe** (#26,a,b) = Disc. #26a has 8h; *#26b.
- ***Messinglangmutter** (#33a) = Brass Scr. Rod Coupling.
- ***Muttern** (#33) = Nuts.
- ***Schraubenschlüssel** (#30) = Spanner.
- ***Schraubenzieher** (#31) = Screwdriver.
- ***Schrauben** (#32,a,b) = Bolts.

Torkran



Bahnhofshalle

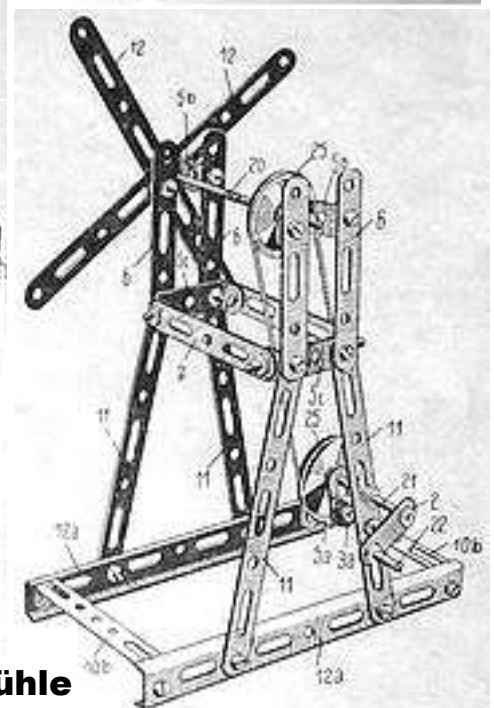
4x #2a	2x #9	2x #14a
4x #3	4x #10	2x #15a
16x #4	4x #10a	Schrauben
16x #5	4x #11a	& Muttern
12x #6	4x #11b	P = card
4x #7	4x #12	(prob. not
4x #8	2x #12a	in the Set)

- **U-Eisen** (#10a,12a,14a) = shallow 'U' Girder.
- **Verbindungswinkel** (2a,c,4b,5c,10b,11a) = A/B & DAS but not D/B. The lugs of A/B #2a look to be about 5 & 10mm. #5c, 10b, 11a are DAS, 3, 7, 8h long, with 1h lugs. *#2c,4b.
- **Winkelbogen** (#15a) = Flanged Curved Strip (the long arch strip with one shallow flange cut back at the ends).
- **Winkelisen** (#11b) = A/G.
- ***Zahnrad** = Gear (#27,27a). Their exact diameters are not clear in the original but may be 43 & 22mm.
- ***Z-Winkel** (#3c) = probably, a Reversed A/B.

On the Set Contents, one may doubt the accuracy of a few of the quantities in it, particularly for the N&B, but although some were indistinct, I think they are all as per the original. The only near unreadable numbers were, as already mentioned, the diameters of the Gears.

Windmühle

4x #2a	2x 5c	2x #11	1x #20	1x #26
1x #3a	4x #6	2x #12	1x #21	Schrauben
2x 5b	2x 10b	2x #12a	4x #25	& Muttern



Most of the parts in sets through Nr.48 can be seen in the 4 models shown here. For clarity their PLs and some of their names have been typed in. Unfortunately the PL for the large Crane wasn't shown on Ebay. The Railway Station Hall, on p9, is from the smallest set, Nr.47, and the other Ebay model for this Set, on p10, is a Bridge with sloping approaches and a span using the Curved Strips. The two smaller models are for Set 47a and the third on Ebay was a small Crane - unusual that, to have models for an add-on set. Also they are all on p7, and so come before the Nr.47 models.

POLYLONG News Polylong now has a web site, www.polylongtoys.com, and the firm is called the Shantou Polylong Industrial & Trading Co. Ltd, of 111 Qingnian Road, Lianxia, Chenghai, Shantou City, Guangdong Province, tel: 0744-5161111. The site has photos of the 41 sets in the current range and they are listed below with, for ease of reference in the future, my codes for their names before the Set Nos., and where possible (in brackets) a reference to the set, or a similar one, in earlier Issues.

COMBINED Solar Sets: Cd555 (34/1029, the 6-model 'Truck' set).

Cd556A,B (A: 33/973, Windmill, Roundabout; B: a similar but different Roundabout & a very small Big Wheel).

Cd558A,B (each has 2 models from Cd555. A: 6-Wheel Truck & Radar Scanner. B: Tractor/Trailer & Cyclist).

COMBINED EXCELLED CE521,2,5,6 (30/887: Trike; Crane; Truck; Tow Truck).

CE801,2 (30/887 Truck towing Gun; the 34/1029 Truck but minus the Solar Cell).

COMBINED RACING CR705,6 (Each for a Racing Car, see later).

COMBINED TOYS CT501,2,5,6 (32/962, as METAL KITS Plane; Helicopter; Racing Car; Lorry).

CT530A (31/910, Biplane).

CT810A-D (34/1009, HYPA multi-model sets: Super Racing; Aero; Furniture; Earth Movers).

CT901 (8-model set, see later).

CONSTRUCTION Cn701,2 (30/886: Roller; Shovel).

Cn711,2 (34/1009: Truck towing Crane; Gantry Crane with Truck under).

Cn722,3,5,6 (30/887 & 34/1009, 4 tracked Earth Movers).

MOTORCYCLE MC805 (30/886, the righthand Cn665 Racing Car).

MC806 (a Trike large Road Wheel Trike, like HAPPYPEOPLE model D, see later).

RACING Rg530C,D (31/910 lid shows 530D; 530C is similar).

Rg735-8 (34/1010 Racing Cars).

SUPER TANK ST750B (34/1009).

TANK Tk530B (31/910).

ST750B, CT810A-D, & CT901 were marked as new products.

By type there are 10 Racing Cars, 10 Cranes & Earth Movers including 4 with tracks, 6 Trucks/Cars/Trikes, 4 2-model sets, 6 multi-model, and 3 Aircraft.

The CONSTRUCTION name is still being used for some sets but none now have Eitech style boxes (see 30/886). The site makes no reference to the numerous other names that some of the outfits are sold under. Nor is there any sign of the models from certain sets, Rig Out Yourself for example (see 32/958 & 34/1011) which look to have many similar parts. For convenience though they will still be included here as Polylong.

Now brief notes on the new sets & new names which I have noticed, usually on Ebay, since the last update in 34/1009. As will appear, some models in sets with 'other names', mostly small ones, have never been seen in any of the 'genuine' Polylong sets.

BG TOYS 2 different sets have been seen from time to time on the French



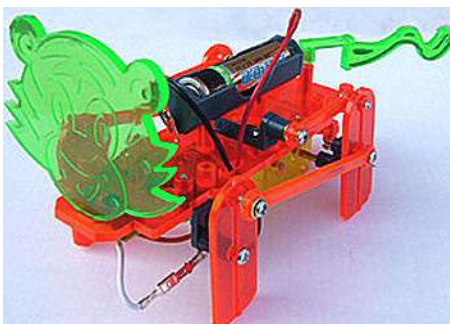
Ebay over the last 2 years. The models on No.25512 above are CT502 & 505; those on the other are CT501 & 506.

CAMBRIDGE BRAINBOX That's the name of a company (of Akhter House, Perry Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 7PN; tel: 01279 821222; www.cambridge-brainbox.co.uk) which sell a range of educational/science material for youngsters. 9 'metal' sets are listed, 7 of which are for Polylong models. They are: Combi,



above, with 388 parts for any one of 12 models, though only 8 are shown on the lid, £14.99); **Jeep** (CT506, 93 parts, £2.99); **Road Roller** (Cn701, 226 parts, electric Motor); **Tank** (similar to ST750B, see 34/1009, but with only 6 Wheels on each side, 156 parts); **Earth Shovel** (Cn726, 148 parts); **Excavator** (Cn723, 199 parts); **Earth Loader** (Cn702, 221 parts, electric Motor). All the boxes are in the same style and an alternative model can be made from most of the sets.

The other 2 sets are quite different and probably do not have a Polylong connection. One is for the Walking Robot below, with cams, linkages, a variable ratio gearbox, and a 1x AA Motor. It



costs £3.99 and has largely plastic parts. The other, Solar Racer set (£9.99), makes a simple model, again from red & green plastic parts. It has a flat body with a Solar Cell on top. Underneath the back wheels are driven by a Motor via a variable gearbox.

My thanks to Ivor Ellard for alerting me to this company's products.



COMBINED RACING CR705 below has 282 parts, and is powered by a 2x AA electric Motor. CR706 looks very similar.



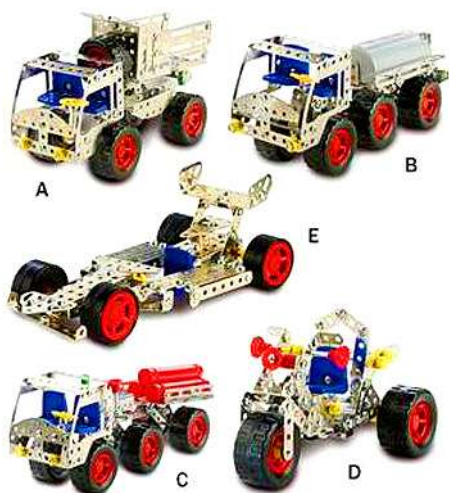
COMBINED TOYS Below one, CT511C, 72 parts, of 3 small sets not seen before & not in the current Polylong range. The others are CT511D Fork Lift Truck (75 parts) and CT511B Plane (75 parts). All are in boxes 16½x11½cm. All Set Nos. need confirming.

CT901 is an 8-model set for the models shown on the lid of the CAMBRIDGE Combi outfit.

DIY CONSTRUCTION (A new name from New Zealand). The lid seen is rather like the MECHANIH one in 32/958 with the name along the top and MADE FROM YOUR OWN CREATION down the left side. The featured model is the Plane CT501.

HAPPYPEOPLE That's the name of a store in Bremen and the lids of their 15 current sets (see www.happypeople.de) are only identified by the logo in their top right corners. There are 6 small one





model outfits (CT501,502,506, CT511B, C,D); 4 sets for 2 small models each, of the type on the lid in the last column; and 5 for the models above. 'A' may be a CT901 model, 'C' is CE802, & 'D' possibly MC806, but I can't place the other two.

Earlier sets had similar lids but with METALL Baukasten at the top as in the METALL Baukasten set in 34/1009, and also a similar boy, but on the left side. Another set was the same except that the name was in an oblong box

HYPÄ One more set has appeared, the equivalent of CT901.

KUSTOM METAL Another new name and the 5 sets seen, all on Ebay UK,



match CT506, Cn722, Cn723, Cn725, & Cn726 (above) They are said to have over 80, 160, 190, 130, & 140 parts.

MECHANIC'S A new name with 2 series of sets in similar style boxes. The lid below is from one type, 29*24*4cm,



and the 9 models available are shown on the underside with a black dot against the model actually in the box. They are the 9 for METAL MECHANIC in 32/958. The other series has 4 sets for models

CT501,502,505,506, with the Racing Car 505 on the lids.

All the lids have Aglow Toys in their top righthand corners and on the underside is 'IMPORTE PAR AGLOW FRANCE, ZI DU FURTS, 57730 FOLSCHVILLER (FRANCE)'. (Most of the text on the box is in French, German, & English.) The photos of the tops seen also have rows of 'KS Discount' overprinted on them faintly in white.

METAL CONSTRUCTION The lid below, featuring the Rg530D model, is



from a set that was being sold from China (the yellow wing in the bottom left corner is from an actual model standing in front of the box). Most of the text is in Chinese but there is 'N0.MET-600' on the back. Also there, a small photo of the featured model and 9 other simple ones which can probably be made with the parts in the set.

METAL CONSTRUCTION KIT Their lids are identical to those of HAPPY-PEOPLE except that the logo is replaced by METAL CONSTRUCTION KIT along the top, and METALLBAUKASTEN in small letters along the bottom. The sets seen are for models CT501,502,506, and CT511B,C,D.

METAL KITS (see 32/962). 3 new types of lid have been seen. One is shown below and the 4 models in the



series are on the box's underside. John Peach kindly sent details of 2 of these sets. One is for the model on the lid (generally like Cn723) and the other is a fairly similar tracked Shovel Dozer. They are made in China and have 'Kandy Toys, EX5 1DR' (an Exeter address) on them. With each was an A5 model leaflet marked 273D & 273B respectively. One side has the illustrated set contents and the other the instructions with 4 or 5 steps. Parts I'd not seen before are a 7h Flat Trunnion and a 5*7h Perforated

Plate but with the 2nd & 6th 5-hole rows unpierced.

The second type is generally similar in style but each of the two examples seen features one of the models on the OSN 32/962 lid (CT501 & 506).

Of the blurry models on the third, below (possibly the back of a box), the



Plane & Racing Car can be made from the set. Some of the models look familiar but none can be positively identified.

METALL Baukasten see 34/1009. 2 other sets are for models Tk530B & CT505.

MODEL KITS One set has parts for 2 of the 32/962 models in one box.

MODEL MECHANICS The box, 17*



12*31½cm, above, was seen on the UK Ebay recently, and also a larger 251 part set to make any 1 of 3 models - a Road Roller, a Dozer, and (probably) a Shovel.

SERIES IRON-VEHICLE What seemed to be the top & underside of a box was shown in one Ebay item. The top was identical to the one in 34/1011, but the underside was completely different. It had CONSTRUCTION along the top in the style of the Cn702 set in 30/886, and underneath a man & a boy looking at a range of models, the main ones being the 2 models shown for the 702 in OSN 30. Such boxes, if genuine, could obviously cause confusion, and this instance is not the first time that different names etc on the box tops & bottoms has been a possibility.

SUPER INTELLECT RACING (if I've deciphered the rather fanciful lettering correctly). Another new name with 4 sets, 273A, B, C, & D (180, 228, 218, 213 parts) to make the models on the box overleaf. It may be the underside because one Ebay item also showed what looks to be a top. It has the same name but just a large photo of 'C' model. 'Made in China' can also be seen, and



some text in 8 languages. The 273B & D models are the same as two of those already described for METAL KITS, and the latter had those numbers on their model leaflets.

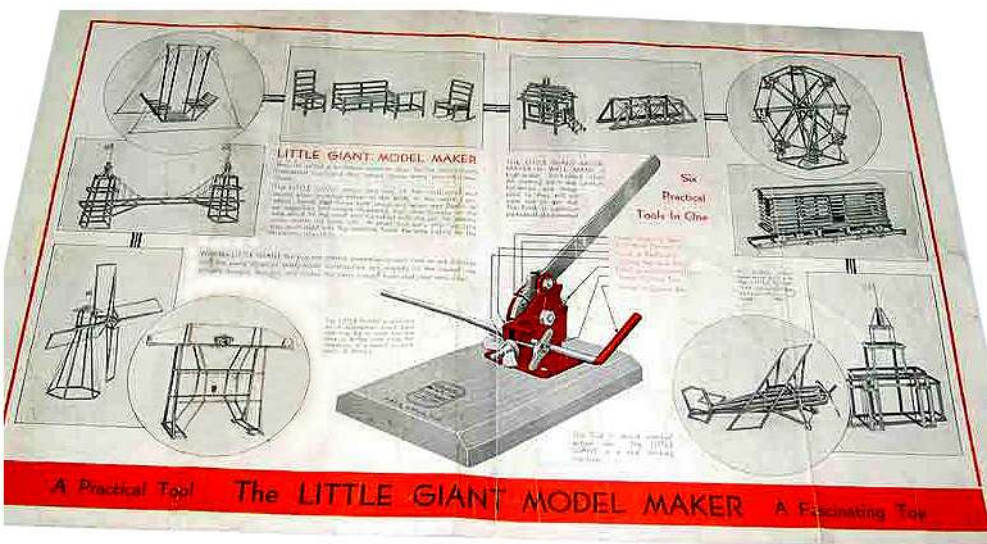
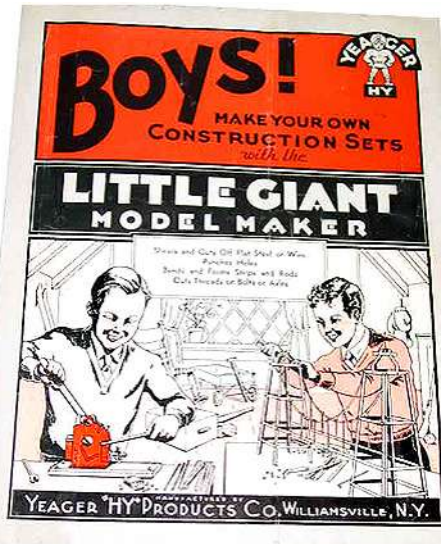
TECH 4 sets were seen on the UK Ebay late last year. The model on the lid right is new to me; those on the other sets, a Quad Bike, a Helicopter, and a Tank, look very similar but not identical to three of the models from the CT901 outfit.



OSN 37/1125

POLYLONG: S11

Snippet. LITTLE GIANT Models A little on this American 'DIY' system was given in 36/1070 but at the time no models had been seen. Below the front & inside of a flyer or model leaflet: it is probably just a single sheet folded over.



OSN 37/1125

LITTLE GIANT: S2

Snippet. 'New' System: TECNICAVIA L.P. Two Ebay lots of this system have been seen, both with blue and silver parts that look identical to those of Phase 1 AVIADYP (see 35/1052). The first has a fairly deep box with the lid right; it has Boîte 'A' under the name & 'c'est un jouet Sofic Sapem' at the bottom. It is recalled that 'S.O.F.I.C.' was blanked out on the Phase 1 No.2 set lid in OSN 35. 'L.P.' is on the hangar & also follows the name on the manual cover far right. Possibly they are the initials of Louis Petit who signed some of the AVIADYP artwork, and he invented the system and/or was the principal of the company who made it (compare STANDARD L.R., see 21/590).

The parts in the lot included Floats, a Wing Centre Skin (AVIADYP #24), & more Wing parts than would be needed for a parasol wing model, but not enough for a Biplane. Thus the Set A may be the equivalent an AVIADYP No.2 but with some parts missing (or less likely Nos.1+1A with a few parts from another set). Also shown in the Lot, two brownish backing cards in the same general style as those used in Phase 3 AVIADYP with the outlines of the parts drawn on them. However only the PNs of the parts are shown, not their names, & though they can't be read clearly they don't look to be the same as AVIADYP. Other difference are: a) in some cases the drawings of the parts differ very slightly from their AVIADYP counterparts; b) a few of the No.2 parts are not shown, notably the smallest Fuselage Frame #37 & the Wing Full-span Spars #32; c) the layout of the other parts is not the same as the No.2; d) several major parts are shown as if assembled or packed one on top of the other, the Floats, & the

Fuselage Skins #9 & 10, for example; and e) no holes can be seen in the cards for cord or clips to hold the parts in place.

As can be seen the manual is also for Set A. But what of the model



on the manual cover? There were no twin-fuselage models in

AVIADYP Phase 1 and even allowing for some artistic licence the centre wing & fuselage don't look possible with Phase 1 parts. Nor with later parts for that matter. Was there a Set B with extra parts?

The second Ebay lot has no box or cards but is otherwise similar to the first. It consisted of a near complete Low Wing Monoplane that looks identical to Phase 1 AVIADYP, the same Set A manual, and some parts not used in the model, including Floats, parts for another Wing, & an assembled Centre Wing.

On balance it seems most likely that TECNICAVIA preceded AVIADYP and perhaps the change was made to take advantage of the popularity of Bébé DYP.

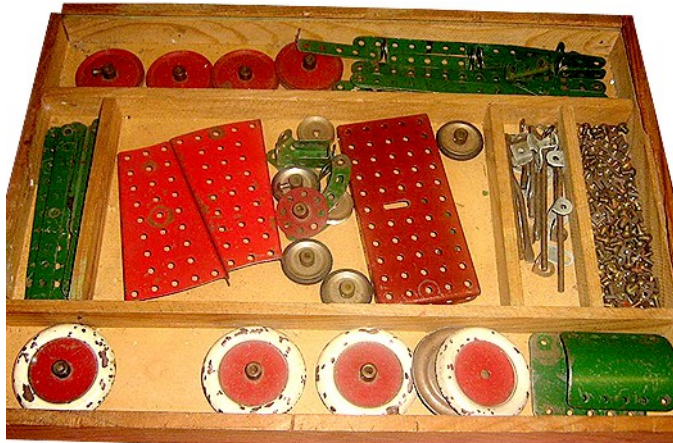
OSN 37/1125

TECNICAVIA: S1

BETTA-FIT Some notes on this Australian system were given in 19/540, 22/636 & 26/753. In OSN 19 a **Set 5** was mentioned and below the Ebay photos of what is probably such an



outfit. The righthand Road Wheel is missing its boss which holds the 2 sides together. Notice the $\frac{1}{2}$ " long slot in the Flanged Plate. Also, in the original it is possible to see that the **Trunnion** has diagonal slots, the '**U**' Piece is the 2h high Double Bracket type with sharp corners, & the handle of the wire **Screwdriver** is, as shown in MCS, somewhat less wide than most. The **Nuts** are square, perhaps plain steel & probably $\frac{5}{16}$ " A/F, while the **Bolts** are roundheaded with a brass finish.



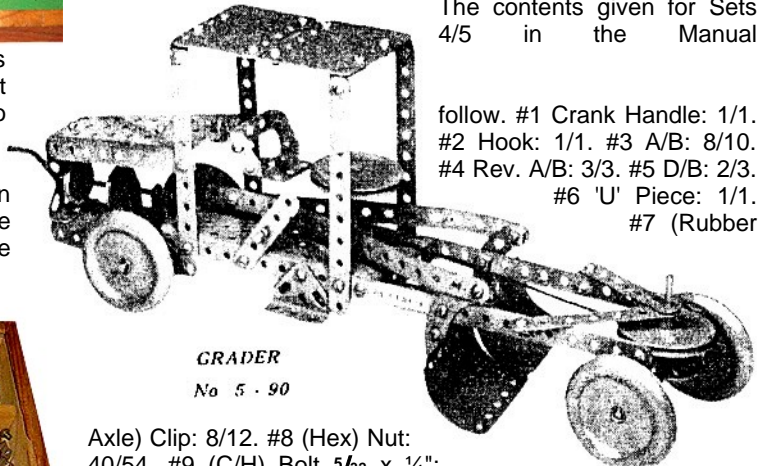
The cover of the manual with the OSN 19 No.5 was the BETTAFIT (no hyphen) one described later. With this No.5 only the top of a BILD-A-KIT manual (see 31/912) can be seen, below the open box. There was also a Model Sheet. It had no name but its 21 simple models are those for Set 1, on pp3-5, in the YOUNG ENGINEER'S SET manual described in 22/639. They are not in the same order and run from Garden Edge Lawn Cutter to Travelling Crane (a model shown in OSN 22). All the Trunnions in the models are the 7h type with no diagonal slots, but as mentioned in previous notes there are similarities between YOUNG ENGINEER'S & BETTA-FIT.

Vern Ellis kindly sent a photocopy of a **BETTAFIT** manual. It appears to be the one used for the front cover & Illustrated Parts in MCS. Ignoring blank pages, it has 19 portrait, un-numbered sides, 144*252mm, plus a missing back cover. p1 (C1) has 2 boys & a Tower, with 'AN R.K.M. PRODUCT' along the top. p2 says that the set is a high class toy but is also useful to artisans, and urges 'Buy Australian'. At the bottom is 'Manufactured by The R.K.Morgan Engineering Works, Glenroy, Victoria. p3 is the title page; p4 has the Crane right, 70% f-s, & pp5-6 show the Illustrated Parts. pp7-14 have 65 small models from No.1 GARDEN SEAT to No.65 DRILLING MACHINE, with a small photo of each. No sets are mentioned but these are without doubt the Set 1-3 models. Strangely p7 also has the No.5 Set Contents amid models 1-5. pp15-16 have 12 models for Set 4, from No 4-66 PICNIC TRUCK No 4-77 CORVETTE, again with one photo of each, but a little larger.

The 17 models for Set 5 on pp17-20 go from No 5-78 FIRE TRUCK to No 5-94 POWER DRIVEN LATHE, again with one photo of each, & again a little larger. p21 has the No.4 Set Contents in a table which also shows the overall dimensions for each No.4 model and the quantity of each part used in it. Perhaps there was a similar table for Set 5 models on the back cover.

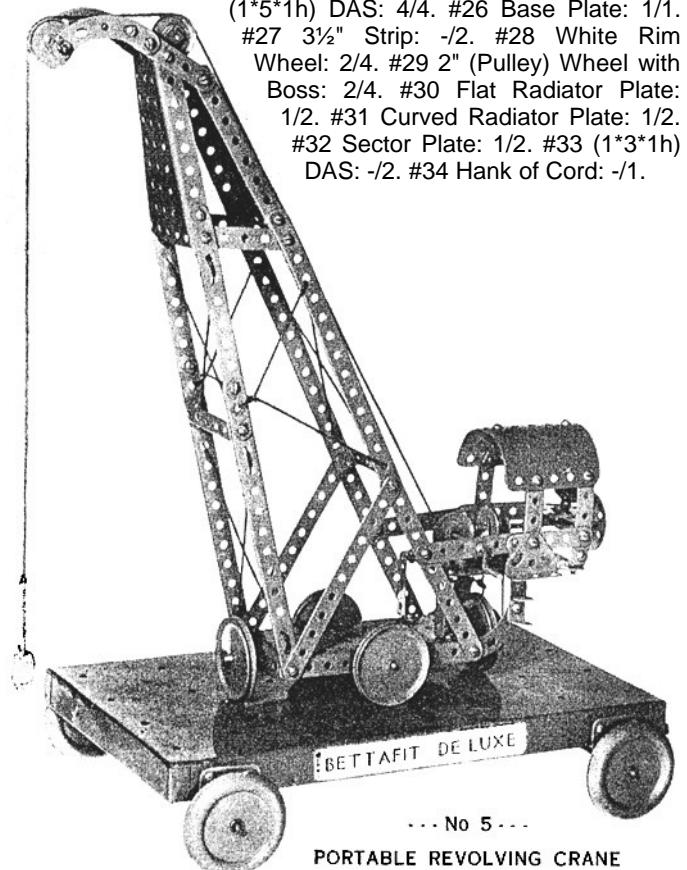
The supposed models for Set 1-3 are similar in style & size to those on the Model Sheet with the No.5 set but none are identical. All the Trunnions shown are the 7h type. The No.4 & 5 models are also original but they have the slotted Trunnions. Perhaps there were originally only Sets 1-3 and later the Trunnions were modified, the parts on the second page of the Illustrated Parts (#27 onwards) added, and Outfits 4 & 5 introduced. Some of the No.4 & 5 models are rather rudimentary but usually have a little character. Witness the Grader left, full-size. The No.5 model on p4 (below) is credible except for the Base Plate used in the under-carriage.

The contents given for Sets 4/5 in the Manual



follow. #1 Crank Handle: 1/1.
#2 Hook: 1/1. #3 A/B: 8/10.
#4 Rev. A/B: 3/3. #5 D/B: 2/3.
#6 'U' Piece: 1/1.
#7 (Rubber

Axle) Clip: 8/12. #8 (Hex) Nut: 40/54. #9 (C/H) Bolt $\frac{5}{32}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
40/54. #10 $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Axle: 2/2. #11 2" Axle: 2/4. #12 Flat Brkt: 6/6.
#13 Bush Wheel: 1/1. #14 1" (Pulley) Wheel, less Boss: 2/2.
#15 1" (Pulley) Wheel, with Boss: 4/4. #16 1" Tyre: 4/4. #17 ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") Pulley Wheel: 1/1. #18 Angle Trunnion: 2/2. #19 Flat Trunnion: 2/2. #20 Screwdriver: -/1. #21 $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip: 10/10. #22 $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip: 4/6. #23 $7\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip: 4/4. #24 Curved Strip: 4/4. #25 ($1\frac{1}{2}$ "x1h) DAS: 4/4. #26 Base Plate: 1/1. #27 $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip: -/2. #28 White Rim Wheel: 2/4. #29 2" (Pulley) Wheel with Boss: 2/4. #30 Flat Radiator Plate: 1/2. #31 Curved Radiator Plate: 1/2. #32 Sector Plate: 1/2. #33 ($1\frac{1}{2}$ "x1h) DAS: -/2. #34 Hank of Cord: -/1.



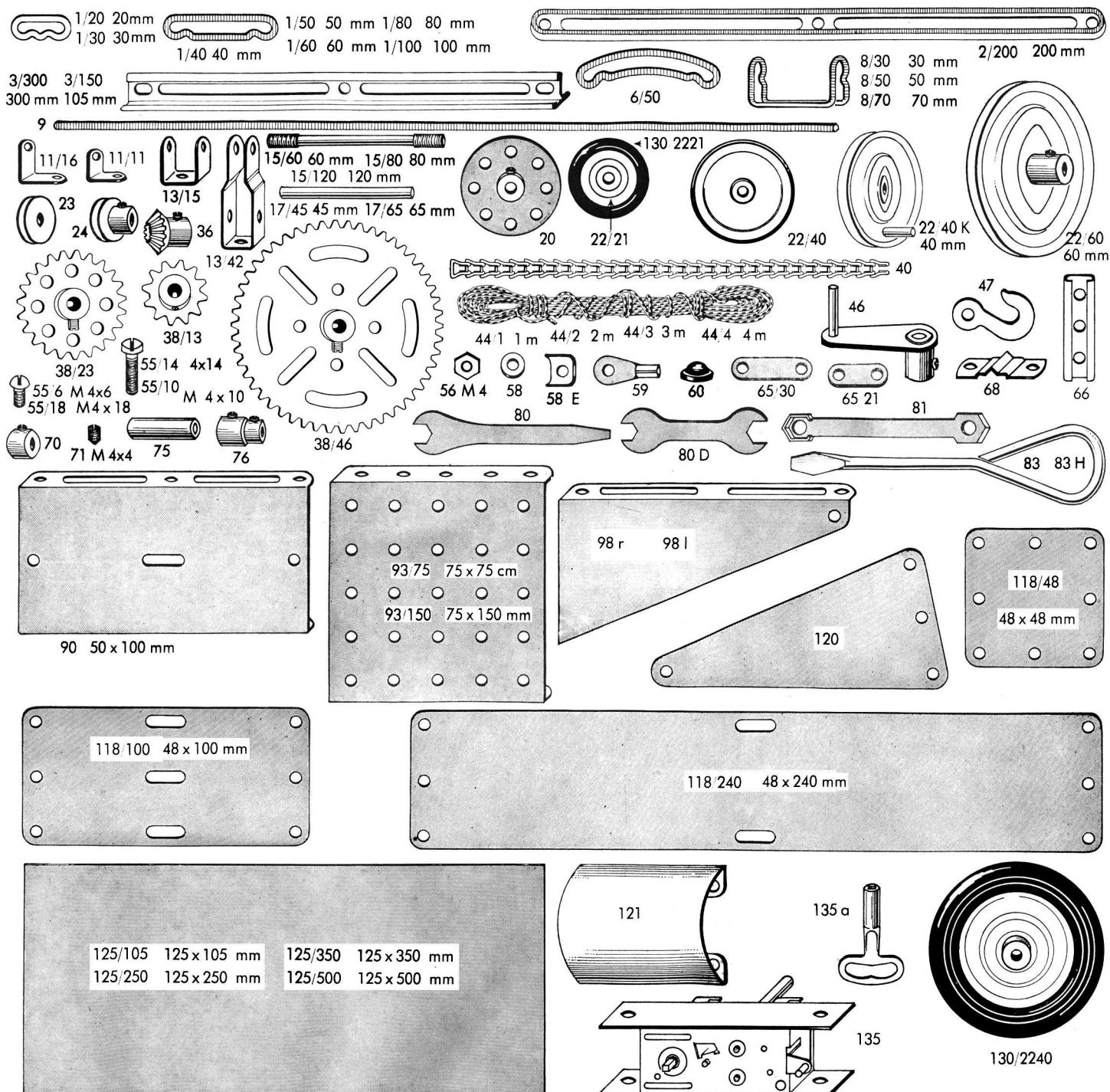
STABA This is about the West German STABA with the unique 'outline' Strips, see 8/194. It is based on the manual & remaining parts from the largest, No.4, set, kindly lent by David Hobson; another similar manual but an overseas edition; a few other parts in a lot to hand; & various Ebay photos. STABA was made from 1949 to 1954 by Staba GmbH, principal Heinrich Hülter, of Gelsenkirchen & Iserlohn (near Essen & Dortmund respectively).

The PARTS Below the parts from the Manual, usually at about half their actual size. Where a part is in more than one size only the smallest is shown but with the other PNs near it.

Dimensions. In many cases the parts' main dimension(s) in millimetres is given after the first part of the PN and/or after the complete PN. They are also in the Set Contents on the facing page. **Finish.** The Plates and most Pulleys are painted; the other parts are nicked, including those which were black in OSN 8. **Holes** are mostly 4.1mm, with a few up to 4.3mm, but 4.8mm in the Flanged Plate #93/75. The pitch in the Flanged Plates & a few other parts is 15.0mm or multiples thereof, but otherwise it varies and is 19mm across the Flat

Plates. The holes in the #3/150 & 3/300 T-Girders don't quite line up despite their end holes being slightly elongated. The **thread** is M4. **Bosses** are 10mm o.d., single-tapped, bore 4.1mm, and have the same finish as the parts they are on.

The parts are well made and are listed below with notes where appropriate. In many case the details are as in OSN 8 but where of special interest they are repeated here. • **Strips #1** are as OSN 8, serrated except for the 20 & 30mm lengths. It is said in the Manual that the Strips can be angled & bent as required but some force is needed & a sharp bend would be difficult without a vice. • **#2**, not seen but appears to have shallow flanged edges. • **T-Girders #3**: 11mm deep, 7½mm wide. The section is made by folding a ½mm thick blank as left. • **Curved Strip #6** is not serrated. • **DAS #8** are made from Strips. • **Serrated Bar #9**: not seen but probably similar to the OSN 8 part. It is to be bent as required, according to the manual. • **A/Bs #11**: about 11*11 & 16*16mm o/a, and 7.5 & 8.2mm wide. • **D/Bs #13**. #13/15 is about 15*15*15mm o/a, & 8.2mm wide. #13/42 has not been seen but is no doubt 42mm high. • **Thread-ended**



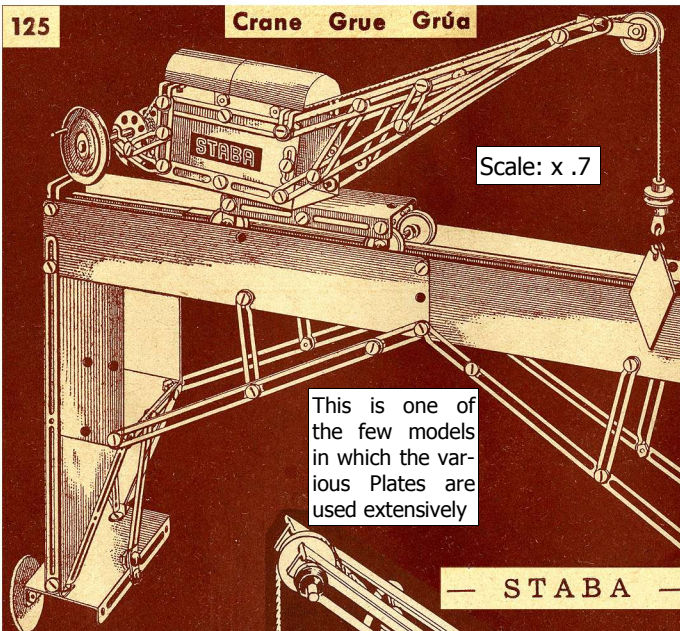
No.	Construction Element	Measures	Pieces in the STABA Boxes						No.	Construction Element	Measures	Pieces in the STABA Boxes					
			00	0	1	2	3	4				00	0	1	2	3	4
1/20	Construction Bar	20 mm	—	—	2	2	4	6	55/6	Screw	M 4 x 6 mm	2	2	12	12	12	30
1/30	dito	30 "	2	2	4	6	8	12	55/10	dito	M 4 x 10 "	17	27	32	67	85	155
1/40	dito	40 "	2	2	4	6	10	20	55/14	dito	M 4 x 14 "	—	3	4	8	10	21
1/50	dito	50 "	—	4	4	10	10	16	55/18	dito	M 4 x 18 "	4	10	10	10	21	24
1/60	dito	60 "	2	2	4	6	28	30	56	Nut		18	36	49	86	110	195
1/80	dito	80 "	2	2	6	8	14	20	58	Washer		—	—	8	8	10	20
1/100	dito	100 "	2	4	4	8	16	30	58E	Washer, cornered		4	4	6	10	12	20
2/200	dito	200 "	—	—	—	—	2	8	59	Connecting Piece		2	2	4	6	8	20
3/150 T-Iron		150 "	—	—	—	—	—	4	60	Socket of gum		4	6	6	12	15	15
3/300	dito	300 "	—	—	—	—	—	8	65/21	Fish with 2 holes	21 mm	—	2	2	4	6	20
6/50	Curved Bar	50 "	2	2	4	6	8	8	65/30	dito 2 dito	30 "	—	—	2	4	6	10
8/30	Double Angle	30 "	2	3	3	6	12	16	66	dito 3 dito		—	—	—	—	2	6
8/50	dito	50 "	1	2	4	6	6	8	68	Fixing Fish		—	1	1	2	4	25
8/70	dito	70 "	—	—	—	2	4	6	70	Adjusting Ring		—	2	2	4	6	14
9	Construction Bar	295 "	—	1	2	2	4	6	71	Set Screw		—	4	6	8	22	32
11/11	Angle		—	2	3	6	10	25	75	Shaft Clutch with thread		—	—	1	1	1	4
11/16	dito		2	4	4	6	9	20	76	dito with Set screw		—	—	—	—	1	1
13/15	Fork		1	1	2	3	4	6	80	Screw Key		1	1	1	1	1	1
13/42	dito		—	—	—	—	—	2	80D	Double Screw Key		—	—	1	1	1	1
15/60	Shaft with thread	60 "	1	1	1	2	4	4	81	Nut holder		—	1	1	1	1	1
15/80	dito	80 "	—	1	1	1	3	4	83	Screw Driver		—	1	1	1	1	1
15/120	dito	120 "	—	—	—	—	—	2	83H	dito with wooden handle		—	—	—	—	1	1
17/45	Shaft without thread	45 "	—	—	—	—	2	2	90	Lobe Plate	50 x 100 mm	—	1	1	2	3	4
17/65	dito	65 "	—	—	—	—	—	2	93/75	dito	75 x 75 "	—	—	—	—	—	2
20	Disk wheel with holes		—	—	1	1	2	2	93/150	dito	75 x 150 "	—	—	—	—	1	1
22/21	Groove wheel without Set Screw		2	4	4	8	8	8	98r	dito triangular (right)		—	—	—	—	—	2
22/40	dito with Set Screw		—	—	—	—	4	6	98l	dito (left)		—	—	—	—	—	2
22/40K	dito		—	1	1	1	1	1	118/48	Construction Plate	48 x 48 mm	—	—	—	—	2	4
22/60	dito		—	—	—	—	—	1	118/100	dito	48 x 100 "	—	—	—	—	2	4
22/60K	dito		—	—	—	—	—	1	118/240	dito	48 x 240 "	—	—	—	—	2	8
23	dito small without Screw	16 mm	—	—	—	—	2	2	120	Construction Plate triangular		—	—	—	—	2	4
24	dito small with Screw	15 "	—	1	2	2	2	2	121	Construction Piece, half-round		—	—	—	—	—	2
36	Bevel wheel with set screw		—	—	—	—	—	2	125/105	Metal foil	125 x 105 mm	2	2	3	4	2	6
38/12	Chain wheel	12 teeth	—	—	—	—	1	1	125/250	dito	125 x 250 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
38/23	dito	23 "	—	—	—	—	1	1	125/350	dito	125 x 350 "	—	—	—	—	2	—
38/46	dito	46 "	—	—	—	—	1	1	125/500	dito	125 x 500 "	—	—	—	—	—	2
40	Driving Chain	1 m	—	—	—	—	1	1	130/2221	Rubber Tyre		2	4	4	8	8	8
44/1	Driving Cord	1 m	1	1	—	—	—	—	130/2240	dito		—	—	—	—	4	6
44/2	dito	2 m	—	—	1	1	—	—	135	Elastic Force Motor		—	—	—	1	1	1
44/3	dito	3 m	—	—	—	—	1	—	135a	Key		—	—	—	1	1	1
44/4	dito	4 m	—	—	—	—	—	1	140	Catalogue 00-1		—	—	1	—	—	—
46	Cranked Handle		—	—	—	—	—	1	140a	dito 00-4		—	—	—	1	1	1
47	Crane Hook		—	—	—	—	1	1	Total Pieces:			78	149	219	362	550	972

Rods #15, as OSN 8. • **Axle Rods #17**: 3.98mm Ø & square ended. • **Bush Wheel #20**, 35mm Ø. • **Pulleys #22-24**. Loose Pulley #22/21: 21mm Ø & 5½mm wide. #22/40: 40½mm Ø & 5mm wide. #22/40K is similar but has a 10mm long, 3mm Ø winding pin riveted on. #22/60: 61mm Ø & 5mm wide. #22/60K hasn't been seen but would have a similar pin to #22/40K (the #22/40 & 22/60 discs have holes for the pin but are assembled with them staggered). #23: 16mm Ø & 6mm wide. #24: not seen but is listed as 15mm Ø. **Finish**: all are nicked except: /21 & /40 are also red; /40K is red; & /60 is light blue. • **Bevel #36**: not seen. • **Sprocket Wheels #38**: the /xx gives the number of teeth. /46 is 72mm o.d., & /23 is 37½mm. /13 not seen. • **Chain**: brass plated with a pitch of 4.8mm. • **Cord #44**: two strand red & white twist. • **Handle Crank #46**: 3mm pin at 35mm offset. • **Hook #47**: not seen. • **Bolts #55**: as OSN 8 - there are also some longer with round heads but their lengths don't match those in the PL. • **Nut #56**: as OSN 8. • **Washer #58**: 10mm o.d. • **Clamp #58E**: 10*8mm, used to clamp other parts to Strips. • **Connector #59**: used to hold the Bar #9, 22mm long o/a. • **Axle Stop #60**: black rubber, 10mm Ø. • **Links #65**: see OSN 8. The A/Bs are made from them. • **Link #66**: 35mm long with holes at 10mm pitch. The use of this parts isn't clear but the 8.2mm wide Link & Brackets are a sliding fit in it. • **Rod Clamp #68**: the hole pitch is about 21½mm, the same as the Link #65/30. There were 3 different types in the No.4, one 9mm wide, one 11½mm, & one 11½mm with tiny turned down tabs at 3 of the corners. Any of them could be used to clamp Rods #15 & 17 to a suitable part.

The reason for the tabbed corners isn't clear, base to base the 9mm part fits between the tabs but the squarish 'bearing' thus formed is about 6mm 'diameter', & in any case two of the flat based parts would serve equally as well (or badly). • **Collar #70**: 10mm Ø & 6mm wide. • **Grub Screw #71**: either 4mm long with a blunt end or 5mm with a point. • **Threaded Coupling #75**: 7mm Ø & 23mm long (the OSN 8 part was 24mm). Bored right through but only about 7mm at each end threaded. • **Coupling #76**: 8 & 10mm Ø, 13mm long. The reason for the different diameters isn't understood. • **Span'driver #80**: 69mm long. • **Spanner #80D**: not seen. • **Nut Carrier #81**: 70mm long with one end angled upwards a little. • **Screwdrivers #83 & 83H**: not seen. • **Flanged Plate #90**: blue. • **Flanged Plates #93. /75**: 5*5h, dark red. /150: 5*10h, not seen. • **Flanged Triangular Plates #98r & 98l**: 100*50mm. Handed. Light green. Flanged on all sides. The 50mm flange has a hole at each end; both long sides are as the 100mm flange shown but with an additional centre hole. • **Plates #118**: .45 - .50mm thick & moderately flexible. /48 is yellow & /100 light blue. There was one more than the nominal eight /240 in the No.4 set, all light red on one side, 2 light red & 7 brown on the other. All had 3 centre slots as #118/100 • **Triangular Plate #120**: a light green isosceles triangle, 100*50mm, & .55mm thick. • **Half-Round Plate #121**: 50mm wide & 37mm across with a hole at the corner of each flange, pitch 42mm. A pair bolted together would give a 'cylinder' about 37*40mm. A potentially useful part but the hole spacing makes it difficult to use - it is in only one manual model as a cab roof. • **Metal Foil #125**:

125

Crane Grue Grúa



Scale: x .7

This is one of the few models in which the various Plates are used extensively

— STABA —

124

Dreging machine

Drague

Draga

Little use is made of the Bevel #36 & the Sprockets #38 in the Manual models.

Scale: x .7

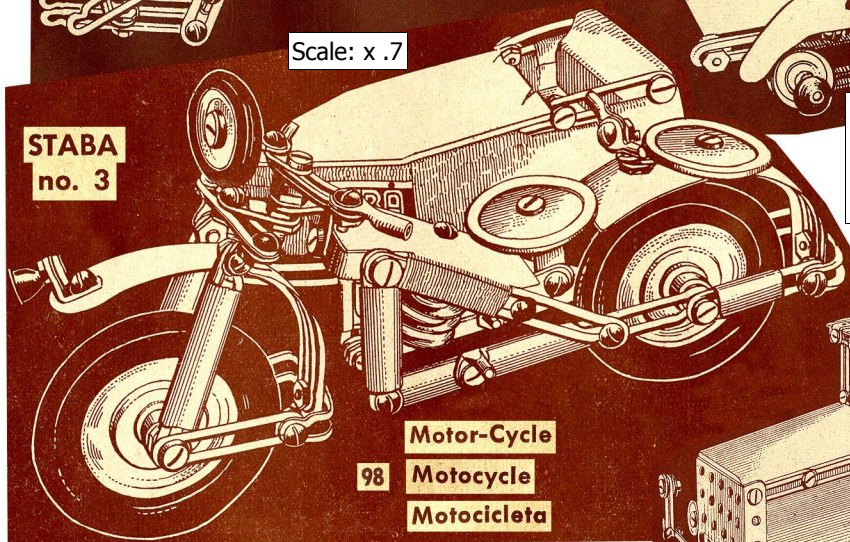
Models constructed with STABA no. 4

Modèles construits avec STABA no. 4

Modelos construidos con STABA no. 4

Scale: x .7

STABA no. 3



Motor-Cycle

98

Motocycle

Motocicleta

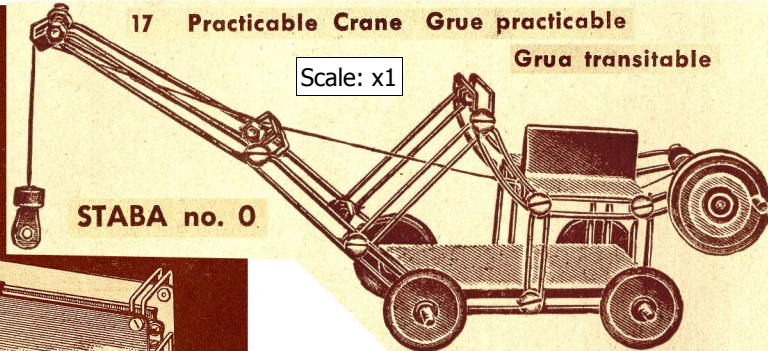
The Metal Foil is attached by bending the edges around the sides of the Strips, etc. The Manual suggests that to reduce wastage a paper pattern should be made first.

17 Practicable Crane Grue practicable

Grúa transitable

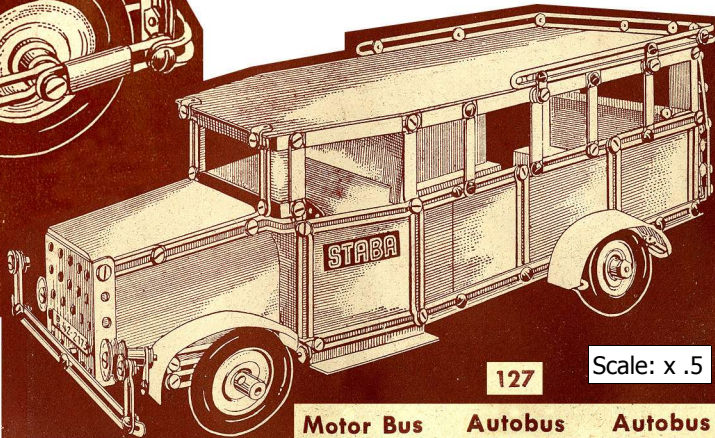
Scale: x1

STABA no. 0



The Strips seem a good idea and produce light looking structures. They are easy to use but many of the other parts are not, with too few holes at different pitches. There are other design 'defects', the sub-standard size pin fitted to the Handle Crank #46 & Pulley #22/40K for instance. Even the attractive looking T-Girder does not allow Strips to be easily attached at right-angles to the vertical web. The Metal Foil is used to improve the appearance of many of the models but it isn't known how satisfactory it was in practice, and often it wouldn't be reusable.

The only manual model fitted with the Spring Motor is the Digger above. But does it drive the tracks or the bucket arm? The large gear looks too thick to be the Sprocket #38/46.



127

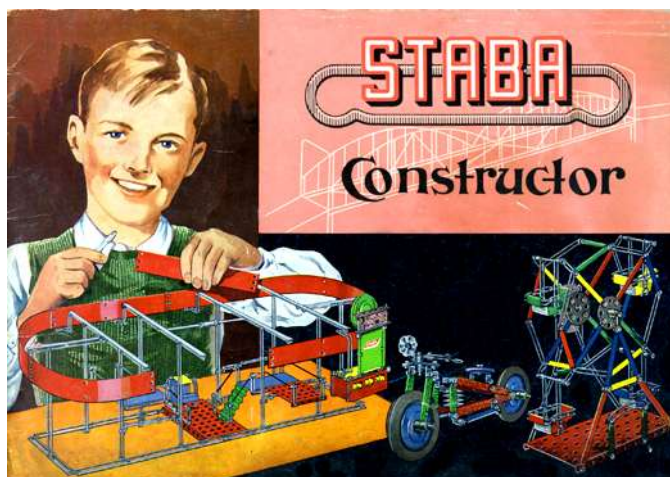
Scale: x .5

Motor Bus Autobus Autobus

not seen. • **Rubber Tyres #130.** Black. /2221, 27½mm o.d., fits Pulley 22/21 and those in the lot have '<OPEL> 2518769' moulded into one wall. /2240, 63½mm o.d., fits Pulley 22/40 & has '6.' on one wall. • **Spring Motor #135 & Key #135a:** not seen.

The No.4 SET MANUAL The example with the No.4 parts

is in German; the overseas edition is in English, French & Spanish. First the German version. It has 40 cream A4 page printed in brown, plus covers. The front is shown in the next column. p1 is the title page, p2 a list of contents, p3 an introduction, pp4-8 the illustrated parts, pp9-10 general building instructions, pp11-38 models, p39 an index of the models,



& p40 the contents of sets 00-4. Cover C2 is blank, & C3 lists 7 accessory sets, each with a colour code & each containing a selection of extra parts: Nr.1 'Gelb' (Strips); Nr.2 'Blau' (longer Strips); Nr.3 'Orange' (DAS); Nr.4 'Schwarz' (N&B, Clamps #58E, & a Collar); Nr.5 'Grün' (4x 21mm Pulleys & Tyres); Nr.6 'Rot' (Metal Foil); Nr.7 'Lila' (Axle Stops, a Flanged Plate #9, & a Span'driver). C4 has the B&W photo of the No.4 outfit shown in the next column.

The models for the various sets are as follows, with the English names from the overseas edition in square brackets. **Nr.00:** 9 models from 1 Schlitten [Sledge] on p11 to 9 Bank mit Tisch [Bank (= Bench) with Table] on p11. **Nr.0:** 23 models: 11 Hocker [Stool], p12, to 23 Bank [Bank], p14. **Nr.1:** 18 models: 41 Sessel [Settle], p15, to 58 Windmühle [Wind-Mill], p21. **Nr.2:** 3 models: 66 Signalbrücke [Signal Bridge], p22, to 68 Lastwagen [Lorry], p23. **Nr.3:** 8 models: 91 Motorrad [Motor-Cycle], p24, to 98 Motorrad mit Beiwagen [Motor-Cycle (with Sidecar)], p28. **Nr.4:** 10 models: 120 Drehbank [Lathe], p29, to 129 Russenrad II [Merry-Go-Round (actually a Big Wheel)], p38. The Nr.1 models include all in the OSN 8 manual. There is one large drawing for each model, but no instructions, and only a few of the smaller ones have a list of the parts needed. The models are simple mechanically and often the one drawing is adequate, but for some the extensive use of Metal Foil hides details of the basic structure. Overall there is a good range and a few of them are shown left.

The Overseas Edition is very similar and the models are identical (though the first page of Nr.1 models is marked for Set 3). There are 4 extra pages - 2 for the 3 language Intro on pp9-12, p43 has details of the 7 Accessory Sets, & p44 is blank. So is C3. The model index has been omitted.

OTHER SETS & MANUALS seen on Ebay. The No.4 manual above was most likely from the latter end of STABA's life. It isn't known if all parts were included from the outset (but probably not judging from the different PNs in the OSN 8 manual) or if all the sets were available. The only known changes to the parts, apart from their colour, are the extra holes & slot in the top of the Flanged Plate #90, & these provide a possible way of tracing the changes to the packaging as follows.

The earliest sets seen are two identical No.1's with parts like those in OSN 8, that's to say with certain of the small ones black, & a red Flanged Plate like #90 but with no holes in its top. The lid from one of the sets is atop the next column. The Strips & Wheels are attached to 4 red cards & the small parts are in a box with a label like the 'STABA 1' on the lid. Only one of the sets had a manual & its cover was the one in OSN 8.

Next sets in which the top of the #90 has a hole at each end & one in the centre (rather than a slot). A No.0 has a red lid with a white label that just has the STABA over a Strip logo on it, and a small white '0' label in the bottom right corner. The packaging is similar to the earlier No.1's, and the Flanged Plate is still red. The front of a model leaflet shown with this set is identical to another Ebay item, a long sheet folded into 3 to give 6 sides 15*21cm. The front panel has an introduction under the STABA/Strip logo, signed 'STABA G.m.b.H. Werk Iserlohn' (the OSN 8 manual's Intro was signed 'STABA



G.m.b.H. GELSEN KIRCHEN', the German 'No.4' has 'Euer STABA-Werk', the overseas edition has no signature.) The other 2 panels on that side have the set contents & a list of the 7 extra parts sets, as already described. The other side has 10 models, from a Stool to a Mobile Crane. None of them are in the OSN 8 manual but all except 2 are shown for Set 0 in the No.4 manual. A No.1 has a brown lid as on the early sets but its label is completely different. It nearly covers the lid and is the same as the No.4 manual cover except for the top right panel. Its top half is blue with the logo on it & a small '1' at the right edge. The lower half is red with 'METALL | STAB Bastel Kasten' on it. The box is 9*12½". The layout of the parts is as before but the '3 hole' Flanged Plate is blue. It can't be seen if any of the parts are black. The manual is as in OSN 8.

The only other set seen with the one below, from the back of the No.4 manual. Presumably, the photo was taken before the



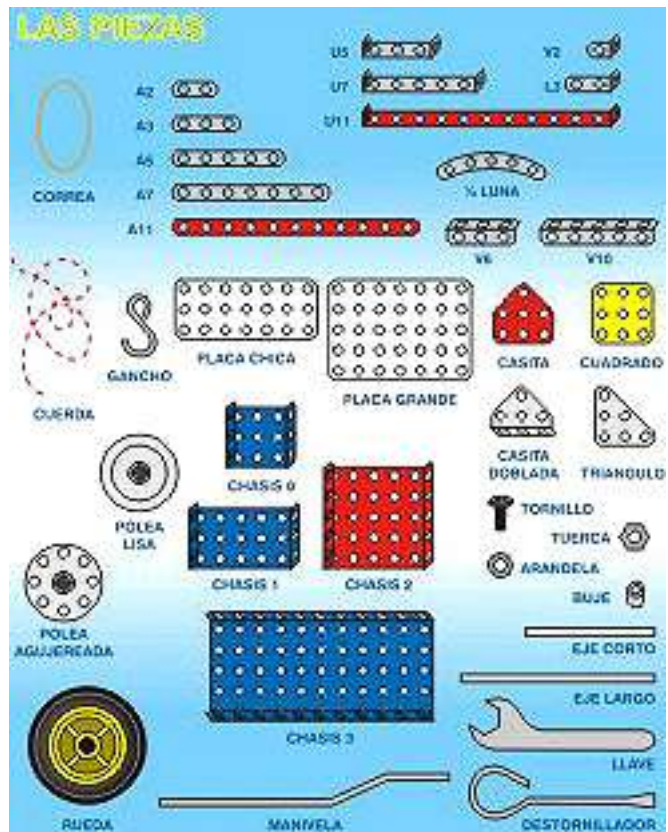
slotted centre hole had been introduced. The set's lid isn't shown

All the other sets seen have a blue #90 with a slotted centre hole. All have red lids & none have any black parts.

A set larger than the No.1's has the 'STAB Bastel Kasten' label and its manual has an identical cover but without the set number. Another example was said to have 44 A4 pages. The box is partitioned for the parts. The 21mm Pulleys are red & a larger Pulley looks blue.

All sets & manuals after this have the STABA logo but with 'Constructor' under it, as on the No.4 manual. Lid labels are just the pink corner of the manual's cover. A No.00 has a label which nearly covers the lid & has '00' in a gold diamond in the top right corner. The parts are attached to a red card and it has red Pulleys. The remains of a set which includes some parts which were only in the No.4 are in a deep box with at least 2, and probably 3 layers of parts. Many are still attached to red cards. The lid is missing but the manual cover is identical to the No.4.

Finally a set with a partitioned box and the same label but with no indication of the set number. A leaflet with it is headed **STABA ELECTRIC-KASTEN** & one of the models on it is a fair sized Crane. Not much of the box's contents can be seen but they include a Coil, a red 5*5h Flanged Plate like #93/75, a bank of at least 4 copper-coloured Wiper Arms, a Morse Key, & a black box that could be a Transformer. Perhaps the parts could be used with models from the constructional sets.



Snippet. New System: EL MECANICO ARGENTINO

A range of new sets was noticed on the Argentine Ebay last April. The pictures here are from the model leaflet of an outfit with 301 parts, and the models are representative of the decent range of 2 dozen models shown for the Set (with only 3 'Buggies'). What I take to be the box lid is very blurry but is in the same style as the



front of the Leaflet (top left). Parts were said to be epoxy coated. There was no indication of the hole pitch.

Other sets have 99 parts; 151 parts (called El Chico - The Boy) for 24 models; 222 parts (called El Modelo Mediano - The Mid-size Set), 39 models; and, the largest, 333 parts. The 4 models shown for the 333 part outfit are again too blurry to reproduce but include a Fork Lift Truck, and a Lorry-mounted Crane - both slightly larger than the 301 set models.

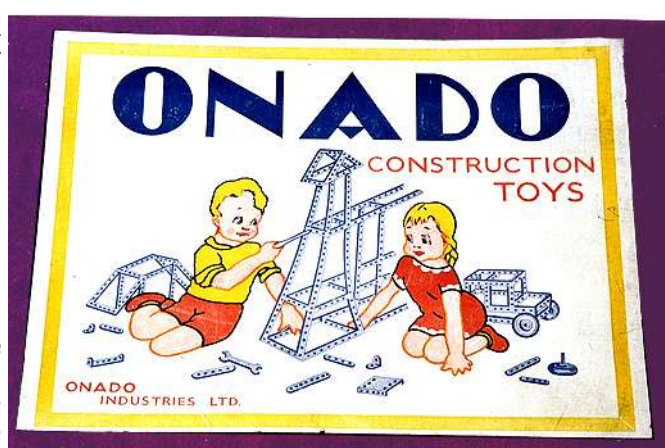
OSN 37/1131

EL MECANICO ARGENTINO: S1

Snippet - An Undoubted ONADO No.4 Outfit

For different reasons there were doubts about a red/green No.4 described in 20/865, and a royal blue/crimson No.3 with an added layer of the extra parts that would be in a No.4, see 32/947. Now two, identical, unused No.4's seen on Ebay (from the same seller) look entirely as would be expected, at least as far as the parts and packaging are concerned - the only possible query concerns their manuals.

Each box is purple, 16*11", with the label above. The 2 layers of parts are mounted on yellow backing cards, and have the normal dull crimson & royal blue colour scheme. One layer is like the No.3 card in 25/728 except that the Tools have been rearranged slightly to allow room for 2 N&B boxes in the bottom left corner. The other layer is exactly like the one in 29/865 apart from the colour of the parts.



The manual with each Set has the blue cover of the one described in 25/728 and so presumably has no No.4 models in it. The red/green No.4 also had this manual and in that case the No.4 version (described in 15/405) might not yet have been produced. One starts to wonder though if there was ever a variant of the 'blue' manual which included No.4 models. If the manuals with these Sets were the originals (likely given that there are the two outfits), and if they did not contain No.4

models, was there perhaps a supplementary model leaflet for the No.4 models?

Finally a correction to the notes on the manuals in OSN 25. It was said that the Tower Bridge model (the one on the cover of both the 'red' and the 'blue' manuals) 'was later a No.4 model': in fact it stayed a No.3 even though it needed a few parts not in the No.3 outfit.

OSN 37/1131

ONADO: S3