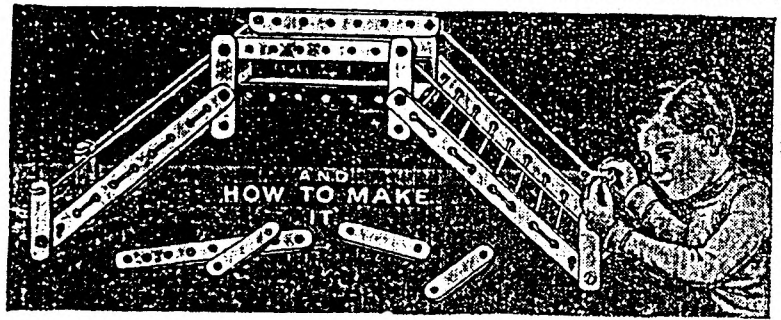


THE BRIDGE BUILDER In OSN 5, p85, the MODEL BRIDGE set was described and since then Jim Gamble has come across an ad in an old wholesaler's catalogue (Whyte, Ridsdale & Co., 73-76, Houndsditch, London, E.) which shows a similar set. The illustration and text from it are reproduced opposite. Its date is not known for certain but judging by the MECCANO sets listed on the next page it would most likely be 1913 or 1914. The bridge design is rather simpler than that in OSN 5 and the Flanged Plate is 8 holes long. Unlikely you might think, but also since OSN 5 just such a Plate has turned up chez MW Models; it is 2" wide, has only the 8 holes in each flange and has a black metallic finish. With this Plate were a few other parts - a 5½" Strip with holes every 1" as before; a 2½" DAS, again as before except that it has two extra 1/8" dia holes, ½" on either side of its centreline, though they may have been added after the part was made; and finally three Flanged Plates, identical to the OSN 5 one but with 4 additional holes, each 1" away from the end holes in the flanges.



THE BRIDGE BUILDER.

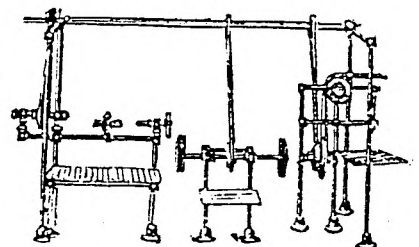
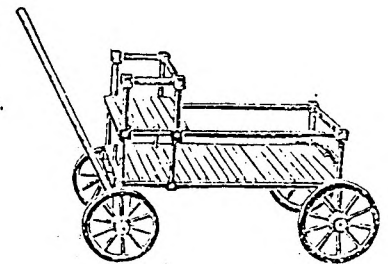
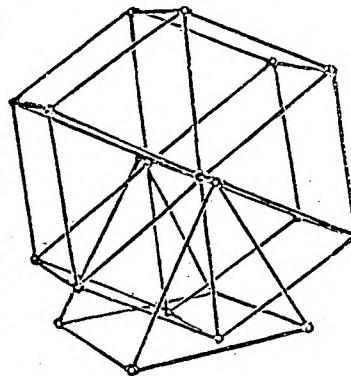
Licensed by MECCANO. Only one of the many models that can be made with our wonderful value sets, supplied complete with all directions. F 8100—Price 8/6 per dozen sets. In 3 dozen lots, 8/- per dozen boxes.

NEW SYSTEM - SIMPLICO In the same catalogue as the BRIDGE BUILDER above was the ad opposite. At first sight it looked as if it might be STRUCTATOR under another name but the reference to screwing the bars into the supports and connectors, rules this out I think. Nevertheless it might be an 'improved' version, and the 'Requires no Pincers, ...' could be easily recognised perhaps, by anyone who knew STRUCTATOR, as a distinct improvement.

As a matter of interest the BRIDGE BUILDER at 8d a box, and SIMPLICO at 2/6 or 3/3, compare with the Meccano No 0 at 2/3 and No 4 at 18/9. KLIPTIKO sets are also listed, in three sizes, at 4d, 8d and 1/8 per box. The MECCANO sets are priced per box, all the others are sold by the dozen. All these prices are wholesale of course, and the MECCANO are 80% of the then retail prices.

"SIMPLICO."

The Improved Building Toy.



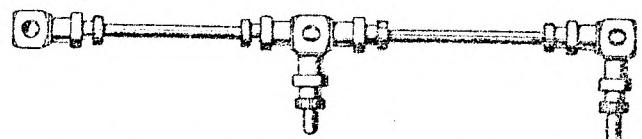
Requires no Spanner, Pincers, nor Screw-driver, Builds Carts, Chairs; in fact, dozens of models can be made without any previous experience, the bars are fitted with threads for screwing with the finger into the supports or connections. All parts are made of nickelled metal.

In strong boxes, with full instructions and displayed designs.

N F8238—Makes 16 models. Price 30/- per dozen

N F8239— " 2S " 39/- " "

STRUCTATOR This is a page of one thing leading to another, and on the subject of STRUCTATOR Roger Baker has a No 3 Set which has two points of interest. First the 'corrugated' Plates (#10) while still made of light alloy, have a black metallic finish instead of being left in their natural colour. Secondly the Joints (#1-3) are made of steel and have a squarer shape, as shown in the Parts List of the manual; the rounded ones in MCS are cast from a zinc type alloy and are sometimes found with part of the outer housing broken away. The action of the Wedge Rings (#4) might cause this type of damage, but alternatively it could be deterioration of the metal with age. Most of the models in the manual show the rounded type so it is likely that the steel ones were introduced as an improvement, perhaps after trouble had been experienced with the cast ones.



Showing the principal joints fixed to a Standard Bar by means of Wedge Rings.

continued to be made until at least 1966. The hole pitch was 12.0mm and the Axles and N&B were 3mm Ø. All parts were nickel plated. As well as the sets mentioned in OSN 8, there were packs of parts Z1-Z14 available. In a photo of a 1955 F Outfit the only part that isn't in the MCS Extra Sheets is a Circular Plate of 45 or 50mm Ø (slightly larger than B31) with only a centre hole and 4 others on a pcd of 36mm (probably). To give an idea of size, the Pulley which takes the Tractor Tyre scales at 75-80mm diameter.

STRUCTATOR From EZ. This system was made by Bing between 1913 and c1917. Then, if I've understood correctly, from 1919 to 1921 it was produced by 'H.Huck, Inh. Adolf Huck' of Nürnberg as '**TECHNIKO/TECHNICO**'. A firm called J.Kleiner of Houndsditch advertised STRUCTATOR in G&T from May 1922 until April 1924, but I suppose it's possible that they were selling old stock. As shown in MCS, the original sets were advertised here in December 1913.

The German patent was Nr.282410 of 14 January 1913. The grooved Baseboards were wooden; the Plates (see 6/115) and some of the small parts were aluminium.

TECHNIK Another small set from the WW2-early 1950s period. The parts were made of steel and bare aluminium: some of the former were plated, nickel or brass, and others painted red. Holes were 3.9mm Ø but I don't have the spacing. In EZ the name TECHNIK-METALLBAUKASTEN WESTFALIA is mentioned in passing and it might be the WESTFALIA described later. There's also a small photo of a set in Pl.60 with TECHNIK on it but it's too small to see any of the other wording.

TECHNIKUS I couldn't find anything in EZ on the postwar East German system of that name that's in MCS; the one made by VEB Funkwerk, Leipzig with an 'RFT' logo, and parts that look just like STABIL. There is however mention of an earlier TECHNIKUS made by Menki Zimmer of Fürth from 1914 to ?. No other details are given.

TECHNOFIX From EZ. This was a system in which steel Rods were joined by being pushed into Connectors (rather like the MECCANO Rod and Strip Connector) which were then joined together in some way. No N&B were used and David Hobson has suggested that the method may be that shown in a UK patent from 1924. It is No.230975 in the name of B.Buxbaum, and toy bridges and awning frames are mentioned as possible applications. One Connector has a spigot 'd' which engages in the hole 'c' of the other Connector; and then sliding the Rod 'e' in the second Connector over the holes prevents the joint from falling apart. The ends of the Rods were to be tapered if necessary.

The system lasted from 1928 to at least 1935. The original maker (or agent?) was W.Keller & Co. of Stuttgart, followed in 1930 by Kosmos, also from Stuttgart, and then from 1931, Gebr. Einfeldt of Nürnberg. An ad from 1935 is headed KOSMOS-BAUKASTEN TECHNOFIX.

The ad shows 3 models, a small Trolley with Wheels that have 4 large holes in their faces, an Arch Bridge, and a Crane. The Pulleys in the latter look like the Trolley Wheels but small holes can be seen between the large ones. The Crane has a quite complicated braced structure but no indication of scale is given.

THALE STAHLBAU TECHNIK Some notes on this

East German system were given in 8/174. There are photos of 2 sets in EZ and it's interesting to see that the 5*5h Plates have elongated holes along 2 opposite edges, and not the larger holes in OSN 8. The only other difference is that the shade of the EZ red parts isn't at all orange.

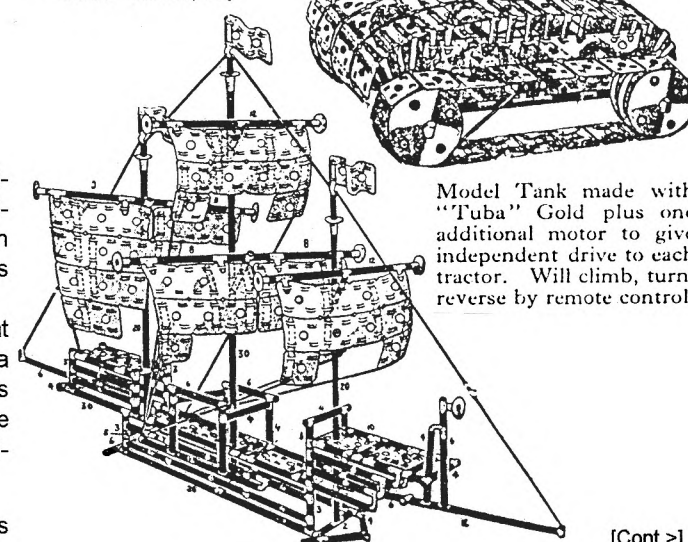
The dates given in EZ are from the 1950s to the 1970s; the maker, Krause & Co., later became VEB Metallspielwaren Thale/Harz.

TITAN EZ gives the period of this 10mm hole pitch system as c1948 to 1960. MCS/FB gives the hole diameter as 3.5mm. The manufacturer was originally Titan GmbH of Ludwigsburg/Württemberg, and later of Schwäbisch Hall, as in MCS/FB. A photo of a set from about 1950 shows the Strips and small parts black, A/Gs green, most Plates red, and most circular parts red, silver or green. The only parts in the rich blue are the 11*7h and 9*7h Plates, and the large Flanged Discs (PNs 64 & 65 can be seen). The model on the box lid is predominantly red and blue with silver wheels, the colour scheme given in MCS/FB. The parts were made from steel 1mm thick.

Jeannot mentioned a TITAN (2) with steel parts painted light grey but I don't know whether this was a colour variant of the above or a different system.

TUBA This is included as a UK system in MCS but the evidence now available indicates that it was German. The original Patent was German, applied for on 31 May 1933 by Josef Szapiro, and it was made in Berlin by the firm Die Tuba Spielwaren GmbH. David Hobson tells me that the UK Patent, 434838, of May 1934 (with a Convention Date of 31 May 1933), was in the name of J.F.Kennedy, a British subject but with a Berlin address of Joachimsthaler str. 38. In ads for TUBA in *Games & Toys* there is no mention of it being British made, and most likely it was imported from Germany. It was originally advertised in Sept 1934 by The Chad Valley Co. Ltd, Harborne, Birmingham 17, but in the last ad, in Oct 1935, Andrew Charles Ltd, 13-16 Wrothesly Street, Birmingham 5, announced that they had taken over sole distribution. Several models were shown in the different ads including the ones below. Under colours Jeannot listed steel, blued and nickel plated, and then later, gold, silver, red, green, blue, and yellow Plates. A photo of a German sets in EZ shows black Tubes, bright Plates, a red large Pulley and yellow small ones - similar colours to those given in MCS. An ad in German for the Motor is also similar to the one in MCS apart from using metric units, but it does show it running from a 4½v battery, and it gives the diameter as 30mm.

Model Galleon made from "Tuba" Silver, 15/-

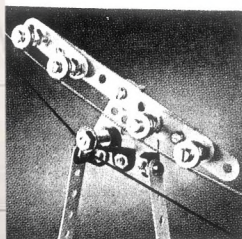
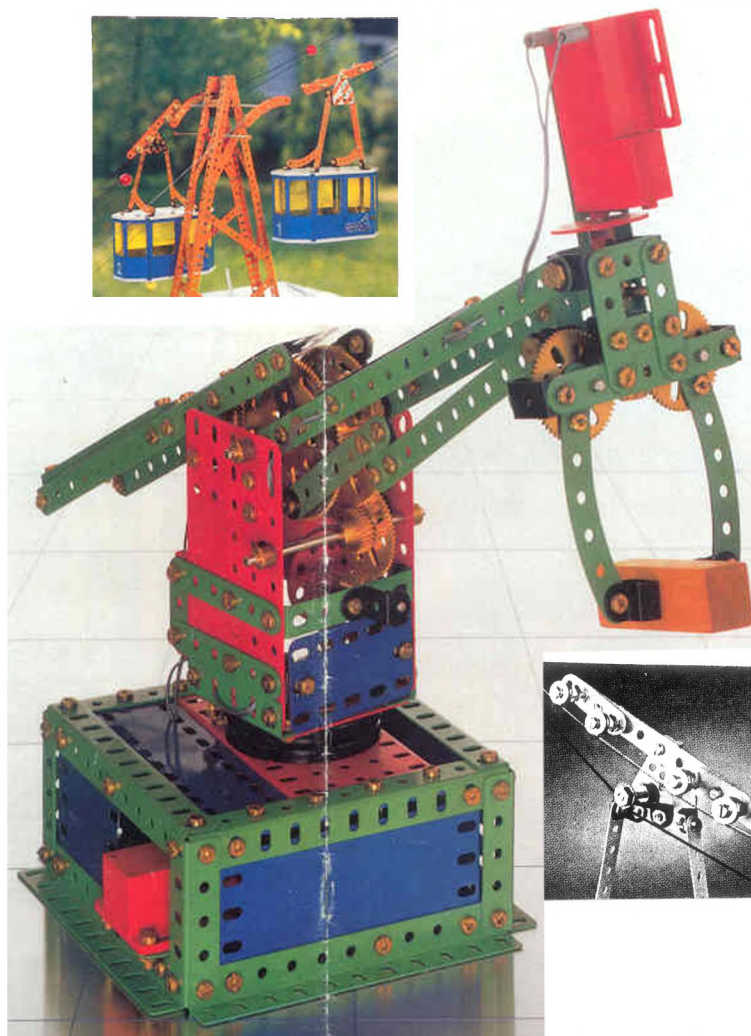


Model Tank made with "Tuba" Gold plus one additional motor to give independent drive to each tractor. Will climb, turn, reverse by remote control.

[Cont.>]

disappointing for a set that cost so much, though it does contain 4 motors (albeit 6v).'

• 'I also have the **Cable Car Set** and it makes up into a very attractive model that works quite well, and follows real practice in some respects, with steel cable, well articulated pulleys that move nicely over the saddle on the intermediate tower, etc.' [The Robot Set, #1007 was mentioned in 2/16, and the Cable Car, #1057, from the mid-1980s, in 10/266. In neither case was there an illustration but the ones below



will give an idea. The Car is made from special parts, and the body is shown blue with a white roof, and yellow tinted

windows; all the Strips and Girders are orange.

7. From Don Redmond. • The **EZY-BILT** Contrate is distinctive with a very rounded edge ($\frac{1}{8}$ " rad.) and the teeth actually cut into the curvature. It is nickel with a brass boss.

• On **DÖCO** (15/413), it was displayed in a 1920 Canadian Centre for Architecture exhibition at Montréal, and the catalogue describes it as 'a wood and metal system; split-pin rivet assembly; includes design book; box 10.5*37*24.9cm; parts: bars 24.7*0.8cm, clamps 0.8cm, discs 6.8cm; punch press 8*34.3*13.9cm.'

• The **STRUCTO** Worm (see 15/424) is a rather crude looking item of the same alloy (zinc?) as the Gears, and with noticeable flash and mold marks. The teeth look rather chewed but it has probably had much use.

• In a mixed lot, a yellow plastic Wheel, with a square-section rubber Tire, 1.5" o.d., marked **BILDIT**. That's a new name but was it a constructional system? The bore appears to have been drilled out to about $\frac{3}{16}$ ".

8. From Jeannot Buteux. • The French patent for **SPEDICON** (see 17/470) is No.923760, and it was granted in 1947.

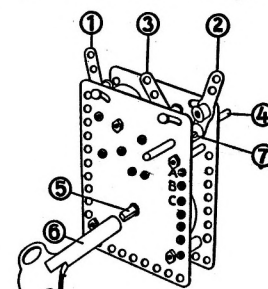
• **MAC et NICK** (17/472) was also patented, by a M.Cosneau in 1948, No.936145. [No equivalent UK patent is known.]

• Manuals in French have turned up for **STRUCTATOR** and **KLIPTIKO**.

• A **PYGMÉE** (16/448) set has been found for the first time: it's in a metal box and includes a complete manual.

9. Following the notes on the **MÄRKLIN** Chassis in 17/482, Josep Bernal sent a photocopy of a 4-page Leaflet in French (Refs: Ta 07 33 m & F. M446) showing the parts in the Nr.1105L **Motor Truck Body** Set, and how to assemble them onto the Chassis. The details of the parts have been included in an Extra MCS Sheet.

10. Thomas Keel sent a photocopy of the Instruction Leaflet, in German, for the **MIGNON C/W Motor** Nr. 250 (right), which was described in 10/262. The holes A,B,C in the side-plates allow a 12t Pinion on the output shaft, 4, to mesh with the other 3 Gears in the system, or their positions can be reversed for higher speeds.



Nr. 1 = Schnell- und Langsamgang
Nr. 2 = Abstellhebel
Nr. 3 = Vor- und Rückwärtsgang
Nr. 4 = Arbeitswelle
Nr. 5 = Aufzugschraube
Nr. 6 = Aufzugsschlüssel
Nr. 7 = Arbeitswellenrad mit Gewindestift.

EXTRA MCS SHEETS The Sheets listed here are available at 15p per Sheet plus postage. That makes £4.65 for all 31 Sheets.

MCS Amendments, List No.6 [1]

AKRON: X1.1,2/6,5,5a [2]

ENGINEERO: X1.2,4,5,6 [2]

E.Z.: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]

FAC: X1.1, [1]

FAC [a]: X1.3/4,3a/4a,5 [2]

FAC [b]: X1.6,6a [1]

FAC [c]: X1.2,3,4-4l,5-5b,5c/6,6a,6b [9]

INSTRUCTO: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]

KONSTUKTOR [10]: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]

KONSTUKTOR-MEKHANIKA [2]: X1.1,4/6,4a/6a/7,5 [2]

KONSTUKTOR SHKOL'NIK: X1.1,2,4/6,4a/6a,5 [3]

MAKUMAL: X1.1,5 [1]

MÄRKLIN: X2.3a/4b,5 [1]

ACCOUNTS Dear Subscriber,

Your remittance of _____ received with thanks.

Your credit balance after deduction for this Issue and

is

Please renew your subscription if you wish to receive the next Issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES For 1998 (OSN 18 and 19), including postage, at Printed Paper Rate where appropriate: UK £6; airmail to Europe and surface mail anywhere, £7; airmail outside Europe, £8. **BACK NUMBERS** For the zones above: OSN 1: £1/£1.30/£1.50; OSN 2,3: £2.30/£2.70/£2.90 each; OSN 4 onwards: £3.60/£4.10/£4.50 each.

SMALL ADS Up to about 150 words free for each subscriber in each Issue; above that by arrangement. Insertion guaranteed in OSN 19 if ads reach the Editor by the end of July 1998.

PAYMENT Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances in other than Pounds Sterling will be cashed locally and the resulting Sterling credited, but bank charges are usually prohibitive. However U.S. Dollar bills are acceptable at an exchange rate of £1=\$1.60. Overseas subscribers need not send sums of less than £5 for Back Numbers, purchases from the Editor, etc, until it is time for subscription renewal.