

NEW SYSTEM - WALTHER'S INGENIEUR. Thomas Keel has sent some details of a set, in its original wooden box, that he found in Zürich recently. The manual and box are in German and Walther is the name of the firm that made STABIL of course, and although there is nothing to prove that it is the same Walther in both cases, the way the models are described in the manual (see the Saw Bench opposite, x.7), unique to Walther I think, makes it practically certain, even though, as will be seen, the hole spacing differs between the two systems. Again there is nothing to positively date the set but the consensus among those who have seen the manual and box lid, is that it is pre WW1. Quite apart from the style of the artwork it is probably significant that a horse and a loco can be seen in the illustrations but no motor vehicle or aircraft.

Inside the box lid was pasted an Illustrated Parts List (opposite, x.7) which also shows the contents of this Size 11 set. It isn't a particularly large set so '11' may not mean that there were 10 smaller sets; STABIL sets for instance were numbered from 48 to 55. The Parts List shows Wooden Parts on the left, with Tools below, and Metal Parts on the right. A few remarks about the parts:

- Thomas kindly sent a 6-hole Strip, it is 8.3mm wide, .020" thick, and has semi-radiused ends. Its hole spacing is 10.3mm; the diameter of the holes is 3.0mm.
- The 5mm Rundstäbchen are dowels which are pushed into the wooden Pulleys to form a Winding Drum, although in the drawings they look as if their diameter is 3mm; those listed as 3mm are used to form a lattice (when pushed through an outer frame of Strips), within which the Stampfen rise and fall vertically in a Stamping Mill. The 1-hole Strips are rather longer than might be expected and are bolted, equispaced, on a screwed rod, and as the rod rotates they engage the cutouts in the Stampfen and cause them to rise in turn, and then fall under gravity as the cutouts are cleared.
- In the list of Tools the use of the Rundstab (round rod), is not clear, perhaps it fits in the hole in the Sockel which is 8.5mm diameter, but none of the models show it. Possibly it is used with the Sockelschraube but again this isn't shown anywhere.
- The other tools are a large and small Screwdriver, a Drift with wooden handle, and two Spanners. Also listed are the Manual - and the Schachtel mit Nietklammen, more about that in a moment.
- The Kreissägeblatt is a circular saw and not a gear.
- The details of the two Welle (Axles) at the end of the Metal Parts are not made clear in the illustrations of the models. A long one of about 215mm length is used in the Windmill opposite but is called up as 3mm diameter and not the 4mm given in the Parts List. There wasn't either a 3 or a 4mm rod in the set but there was one of the right length, 3.4mm diameter except for the last 5mm which was 2.7mm. The other perhaps connected mystery is the Deckplatte which is described as having an oversize middle hole, it doesn't seem to be used in the models.
- The other Welle is used as the main shaft for all the rotating parts, but is unfortunately missing from the set. It was supplied with 5 nuts and is shown in some of the models as being threaded over about half its 70mm length. 5 nuts would have been enough to lock the Pulleys and so forth used in the models, properly on this shaft, but from the drawings the nuts aren't always arranged to do this, and unless some of the wooden parts such as the Klemmscheiben and Stellringe are threaded internally, which seems unlikely since they are wooden, some of the parts mounted on the shaft would be loose, unless they were a tight push fit on it.

Now what is missing from the Parts List? Nuts and bolts, and there aren't any because the strips and plates are not bolted together but are held by what I would call 'Bifurcated Paper Clips'. The ends of them, bent over, can be seen in some of the drawings of the models, and the Schachtel mit Nietklammern mentioned earlier translates literally as Box with Rivet-Clips. Similar Clips were listed by MÄRKLIN as #14110 (Befestigungsklammer) and were included in sets, though not actually shown in models. They could, I suppose, fill up holes or, at a pinch, be used when the Nuts and Bolts ran out.

The metal parts in the set are tin plated; some of the wooden ones are painted red or blue, others are untreated.

Apart from the Windmill, which uses the Windrad and the Steuerruder, and the Stamping Mill, the models in the manual all consist of a framework of one sort or another, to support a shaft which carries a Pulley, Drum, etc, with a Pulley by which the model can be driven, by means unspecified. One, the Saw Bench is shown opposite. All the structures are well cross braced and so might have been fairly rigid, at least until the Clips worked loose. Other models from larger sets no doubt, adorn the box lid and three of them, plus a Winding Drum similar to one in the #11 set manual, are reproduced opposite.

Two thoughts about the connection with STABIL. Several of the 'special' INGENIEUR parts look very similar to STABIL pieces and have the same name, for example the Windrad, and the Kreissägeblatt. And the Klemmscheibe and the Steuerruder look like early STABIL parts (not in MCS) although the former was, at least later, made of metal. Also STABIL had some wooden Pulleys and a wooden Saw Bench Top. Secondly STABIL means 'stable', ie rigid not where horses live, and I have sometimes wondered if the name was chosen to emphasise the rigidity of STABIL models compared to the rather rickety ones that could be made with STRUCTATOR, assuming that STABIL came after STRUCTATOR of course. But maybe it was Walther's own early product that wasn't so hot in that respect, and was replaced by stable STABIL.

EXTRA PAGES FOR MCS: Name: X1.1,2,3/4/6,5. [2 Sheets] [These will be available with OSN 8]

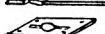
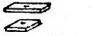
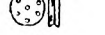
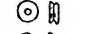
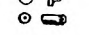
AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6. Add:

NAME: WALTHER'S INGENIEUR. TYPE: NM. CY: GG. THREAD: SPCE: 10.3. dST: 2.7. DAXL:

Inhaltsverzeichnis zu Walthers Ingenieur-Bauspiel

Größe No. II

Teile aus Holz

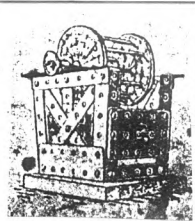
	1 Sockel,	120 mm lg., 80 mm br., 17 mm stk.
	3 Stampfen	140 " " 14 " " 7 " "
	1 Kreissägetisch	100 " " 65 " " 2 " "
	1 Tischplatte	100 " " 65 " " 2 " "
	1 Hockerplatte	80 " " 65 " " 2 " "
	1 Spannbrett	57 " " 40 " " 5 " "
	1 " "	45 " " 15 " " 5 " "
	1 " "	35 " " 35 " " 5 " "
	2 Rollen	47 " Durchmesser
	1 Wellenhaube	18 " " 45 mm hoch
	2 Antriebscheiben	20 " " "
	2 Klemmscheiben	16 " " "
	3 Stellringe	9 " " "
	6 Rundstäbchen,	40 mm lang, 5 mm stark
	10 " "	57 " " 3 " "
	5 " "	70 " " 3 " "

Werkzeug

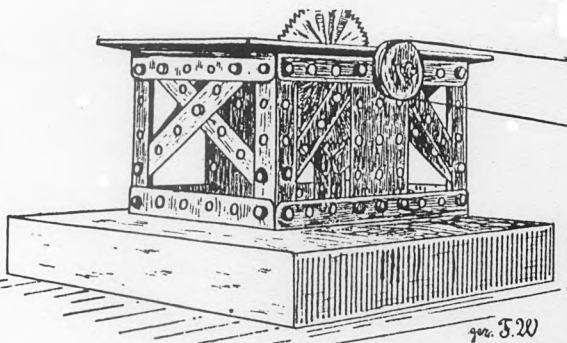
- 1 Rundstab, 210 mm lg., 8 mm stk.
 1 Arbeitsstift mit Schraubenzieher
 1 Arbeitsstift mit Spitze
 1 kleiner Schraubenzieher
 2 Schraubenschlüssel
 1 Schachtel mit Nietklammern
 1 Vorlageheft

Teile aus Metall

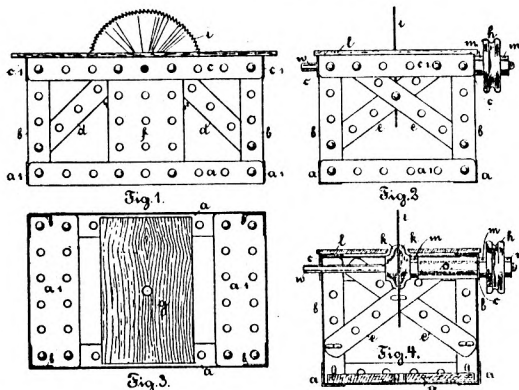
	2 Lochplatten, 5 Loch lang, 3 Loch breit
	2 " 4 " " 3 " "
	2 " 3 " " 3 " "
	1 Mittelbrücke, 7 " " "
	1 Deckplatte, 3 " " mittleres Loch größer
	2 Winkelarne 3 " " "
	1 Windrad
	1 Steuerruder
	1 Kreissägeblatt
	2 Doppelwinkel, 6 Loch lang
Flacheisen und Winkleisen a und b wie folgt:	
8 Winkleisen, 11 Loch lang	
4 " 9 " "	
6 " 6 " "	
4 " 5 " "	
4 Flacheisen, 9 " "	
4 " 7 " "	
8 " 6 " "	
4 " 5 " "	
8 " 3 " "	
3 " 1 " "	
1 stehende Welle 215 mm lg., 4 mm stark	
1 Sockelschraube mit Schraubenmutter	
1 Welle mit 5 Schraubenmutter	



Walther's Ingenieur-Bauspiel



Kreissäge 100 mm lang, 80 mm breit, 75 mm hoch



Anleitungszeichnung zur Kreissäge.

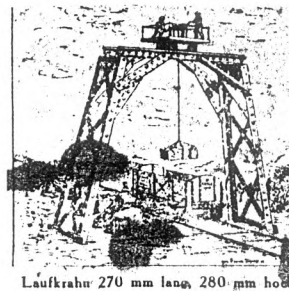
Fig. 1 ist Längsansicht, Fig. 2 Seitenansicht, Fig. 3 Grundriss, Fig. 4 ist Querschnitt mit Welle und daran befestigtem Sägeblatt.

Metallteile zur Kreissäge

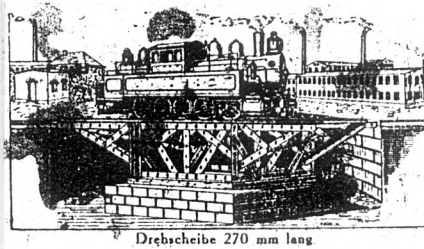
2 Langschwellen a,	Winkleisen 9 Loch lang
2 Querschwellen a 1,	6 " "
auf einer Seite doppelt gelocht	
4 Eckstiele b,	Winkleisen 5 Loch lang
2 Langrahmen c,	9 " "
2 Querrahmen c 1,	6 " "
4 Eckstreben d,	Flacheisen 5 " "
4 Kreuzbänder e,	6 " "
2 Lochplatten f,	3 Loch breit, 5 " "
1 Welle w mit 3 Schraubenmutter m	
1 Sockelschraube mit Mutter	

Holzteile zur Kreissäge

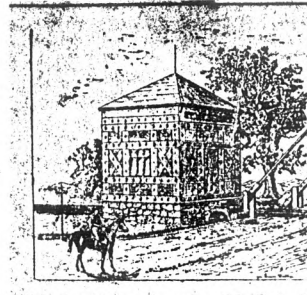
1 Sockel	120 mm lg., 120 mm br., 15 mm stk.
1 Spannbrett g,	57 " " 40 " " 5 " "
1 Tischplatte h,	95 " " 60 " " 3 " "
1 Antriebscheibe h,	20 mm Durchmesser
2 Klemmscheiben k	16 " "
1 Stellring s	



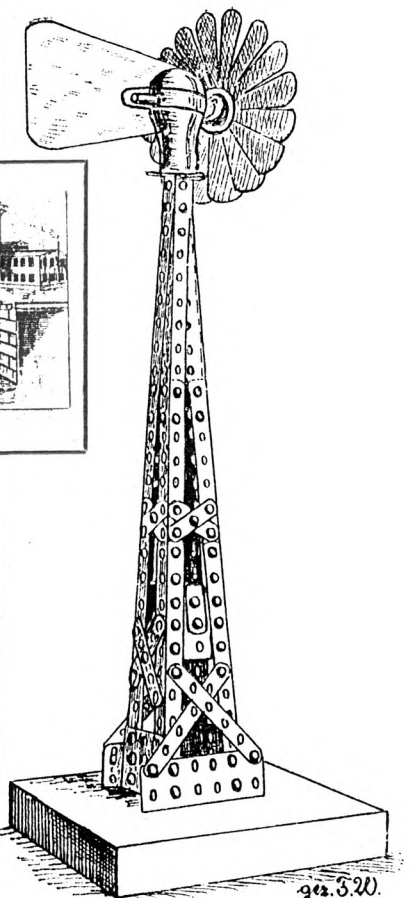
Laufkran 270 mm lang, 280 mm hoch



Drehscheibe 270 mm lang



Wohnhaus 120 mm lg. u. br., 170 mm hoch



gez. S.W.

49-52 manual has the prewar cover except that the name of the suburb, 'Neukölln', has been added to the address.

HISTORY • Franz Walther was born in 1860, and his son, Walter, in 1889. His son, Torsten, born in 1924, is still alive, and he started working in the company in 1950. He recalls that the reintroduction of the Inventor's Outfits was considered at about that time but the idea was eventually dropped. Also, no changes, apart from the date, were made to the manuals after 1957 - he has no recollection of a 49-51 manual from the 1960s, and the one mentioned in 13/350 may have been the result of a misunderstanding. Unfortunately all the prewar company records were destroyed during the war. • Walthers collaborated for a long time with Markes, who made DUX-UNIVERSAL, & they made parts for each other.

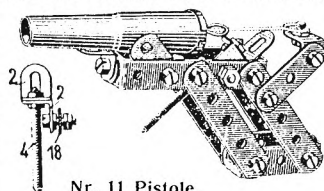
CORRECTIONS to OSN 13 & 14. • There was already a factory on the Harzerstraße site (see 13/349), & an extra 200m² was added to it. • As is obvious from the text, the illustrations of the 3rd & 4th manual covers in 13/350 should change places. • The Set Nos. in the first para of 14/368 should be 57 & 58, with 56 introduced later.

The STABIL KANONEN Outfits An account of these Sets was given in 11/273, but more details are now available thanks to information from Thomas Morzinck and Werner Sticht.

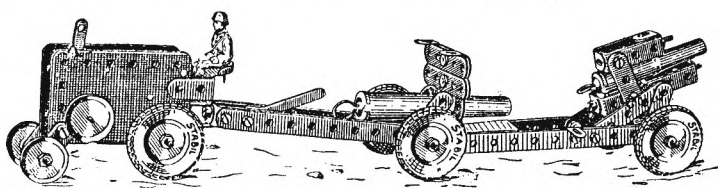
Packed with both the 46KM & the 47KM Sets were the same 2 manuals, the standard 46 and a supplementary one with military models using the Knirps motor and the special Kanonen parts. The supplementary one to hand has 8 pages including covers, about 20*13cm, all printed in B&V with line drawings of the models, and on the back cover, a PR of '35. Auflage \ 093512 J.M.'.

The Contents of the 46KM are on p2, and all but some extra N&B, a 50mm Screwed Rod, & a small Span'driver, #10b, were mentioned in OSN 11. The latter can be seen bolted to the trail of the Gun in the OSN 11 Model 15, and in the Model below, with its tail pointing upwards. The 4 Collars are made of wood (PN 7c) and the Gun Barrels are described as being 85 & 110mm long. In a photo of a Set the small one is black and the larger one is banded green (at the muzzle end), yellow & red. The 46KM models run from No.1 Trecker, on p2, to No.13, Gebirgshaubitze, on p8.

Only one, No.14 (below), is shown for the 47KM. It is described on p8 but illustrated on p1, and is in fact made up of 2 of the 46KM models, Nos.2 & 8, plus the Soldier described later. The models 14 & 15 in OSN 11 (from the Knirps Leaflet) are Nos.7 & 2 in this manual. Most of the models are large guns of one sort or another, but there's also a Tank, an Ambulance, & the Pistol opposite. Many of the models need cardboard parts, and patterns for these are given on p7.



Nr. 11 Pistole



A 47KM box lid measures 33½*22½cm and is the usual 1930s blue, with a label showing Model 14 (above) on a green foreground, with a Crane in the background against a yellow sky. Also stuck on are 2 yellow 'Strips' at right angles to each other, and, where they intersect, a red diamond with STABIL on it, edged with blue 'Strips'. The lid of a blue 46KM box has a similar label, but with no 'Strips' & diamond.

The 47KM Contents aren't given in the Manual, the reader is referred to a label inside the lid of the Set. This has the PR 'J.M. 08350' and extra to the 46KM contents are some Strips, DAS, & various other small parts. Noteworthy are a second Span'driver, the Soldier (#94), who sits on the Tractor, and a Money-box (to encourage saving up for the next outfit). The Soldier was made of 'Lineol', a mixture of the glue made by boiling animal bones & fine sawdust; the same brew from a different firm was called 'Elastolin'.

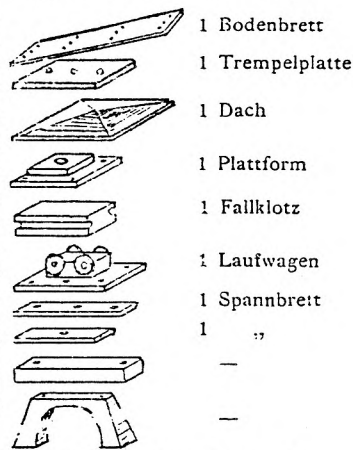
The Seat, #92, simply pushes onto the Motor, and a peg on the Soldier locates in a hole in the middle of the seat pan. The Gun Barrels, #93 & 93a, are not bolted on either, but are held between Strips or Brackets which are usually pulled together under the Barrel by Nuts on a Threaded Rod. Parts 92-94 were only ever included in the 'KM' Sets, and were not available after WW2.

A Larger WALTHER'S INGENIEUR Outfit

Notes on the #11 Set were given in 7/164 and it was thought from the 1914 Price List (13/348), that it was the largest Set in the series. However Werner Sticht has now kindly sent news that Karl Debik owns a #12 Outfit, and, thanks to him, Werner was also able to send copies of the box lid, & the Illustrated Contents label pasted inside it.

Like the #11, the box is wooden, and the same size, 28*38cm. The label that nearly covers the lid is similar in general, but some of the models around the main centre Tower are different, though of the same genre. Also a Gothic typeface is used and there's some additional wording. From this it looks as if the #12 was dropped before the 1914 List, rather than appearing after it.

The #12 has all the #11 parts, generally in the same quantities, plus a number of others. The extra wooden ones comprise 16 Round Rods of various sizes, plus those shown opposite. From the top their sizes are 270*70*2, 110*110*9, 125 sq., 80*80*13, 70*40*15, 75*60*20; 110*30*5, & 90*30*5mm. No details of the last Beam or the Arch are given. There are also 4 House Wall Panels, 105*90mm, made of card, and not illustrated.



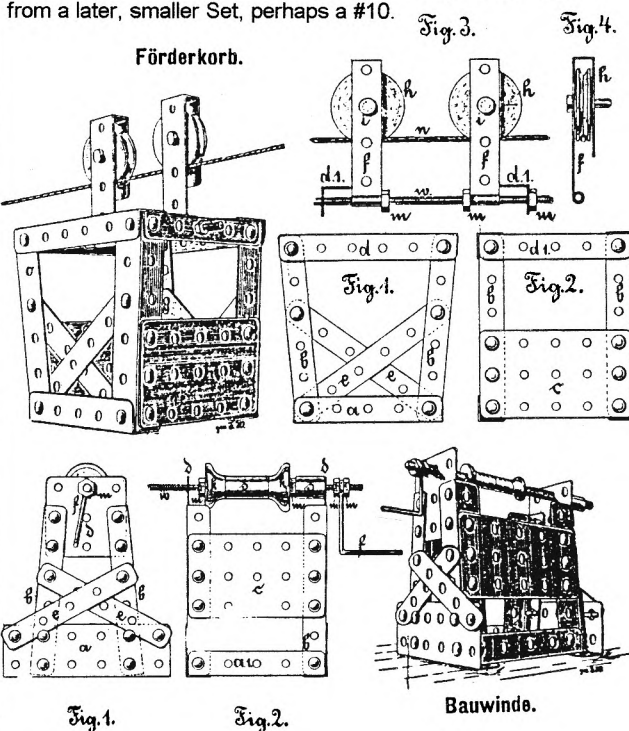
- 1 Bodenbrett
- 1 Treppeplatte
- 1 Dach
- 1 Plattform
- 1 Fallklotz
- 1 Laufwagen
- 1 Spannbrett
- 1 "
-
-

The main extra metal parts are 2 of the 3*4h Plates, 6 A/Gs, and 26 Strips including some 11 & 4h long. There are also some new ones with no illustrations: 2 Wulsteisen, 18h long, 1 Drehling, and 1 Drahtstift (Nail perhaps).

Other items: 2 Manuals are listed, but of the Tools, not the Drift or Small Screwdriver.

Karl also provided a copy of the manual that was with the Set. The cover is about the same size as the #11 (16*23cm deep), and is very similar in design (see MCS), but has an italic typeface & a slightly more ornate surround. With the covers it has 16 pages and, unlike the #11 Manual, includes an Introduction, rather similar to STABIL ones. 10 models are shown against 9 in the #11, but though of the same general type, they are smaller, & don't need many of the parts in the #11. Some however use 2 parts not listed for either Set 11 or 12 - a Wire Crank Handle, & a Hanger Strip; they can be seen in the models below. The Strip has a rolled-over end to allow it to be held on a Threaded Rod.

Since the #12 Contents includes 2 manuals, this might be one of them, but it is thought more likely that it came from a later, smaller Set, perhaps a #10.



ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. From Gordon Finch. On the **STEEL TEC Enterprise** parts in 17/481: the 3 & 5h Strips are, in MECCANO parlance, formed and not curved; the 10h Strips are both curved and formed, but not quite to the extent shown in the manual, and at a glance they appear to be identical; the black Plates are of very thin, very flexible plastic; and the 7h Formed NS has kinks/creases across the holes. The electrical functions are operated by very neat, moulded push buttons, which aren't mentioned anywhere in the Manual.

2. • On the **Gilbert MECCANO #150 Set**, see 19/546, John Hanby noted that not all the parts needed for the models are included in the Set (or the Parts List), and there are insufficient of others.

• He also wondered if all the manual models for **CONSTRUMENTS** Sets 30 & 100 would actually cost £30/£100 (19/554). [Perhaps not because the claim wasn't used in any other known ads.]

3. From Werner Sticht. • On what was produced at **Schmerbach** (see 18/504 & 19/555), Karl Debit has asked some workers at Pfaffschwende, who had worked there for over 40 years, and they told him that there was never the machinery at Schmerbach to produce aluminium parts, and no-one knew of a connection with the **SONNEBERGER** system. A friend of Karl has also asked about **SONNEBERGER** in Sonneberg and in Steinach, and there too no-one knew of production at Schmerbach (or any connection with **CONSTRUCTION** either, see 17/489). So the Schmerbach phase of **SONNEBERGER**, arising only from the reference to it in *Eisenzeit*, is 'not proven'.

• The German mail order house **Quelle** (see 13/361) have sold **TRIX** and **CONSTRUCTION** in recent years, but in their Autumn/Winter 1998/99 catalogue the 3 sets offered appear to be repackaged **MEK-STRUCT**. They are identified by the numbers of parts in them, 300, 400, & 600, and the models on the lids look just like the small ones from known **MEK-STRUCT** outfits. The main name, **METALLBAUKASTEN**, on each lid, is stylised in a way unique to Quelle,

good
play



and the 'good play' logo (above) is in the top left corner of the 600 box below it. The two larger sets contain a Motor, and the 600 has the Sound/Light Unit. The sets are priced at DM 99.95, 69.95, & 49.95.

• A photo of a **STABILA** Outfit (see 13/343), with a strikingly bright and modern looking lid (below). It is orange and yellow with a large clear panel in the centre so the manual underneath can be seen. The name is on the diagonal band top left, with the slogan **TECHNIK FÜR Mädchen** (Engineering for Girls) on the right. 7 red circles probably show real life activities, with an aeroplane in the one clearly

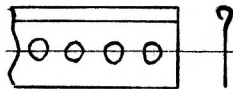


visible, and what may be a girl using a microscope in another. I still find it hard to reconcile the image this creates with the woolly looking (literally) models in the manual.

4. From Thomas Morzinck. • A photo of a **STABILA No.1 Set**, courtesy Karl Debit. Apparently the cover described above was only used for the No.2; the No.1 is a much plainer affair with no illustrations on the lid and no clear panel, just brown wording on a mottled light brown or or-

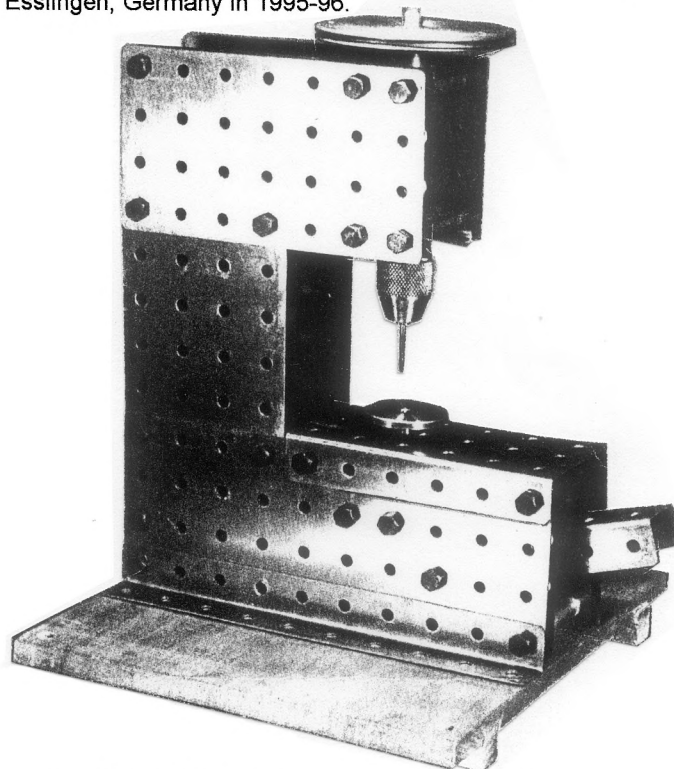
ange ground. The Wheel Discs have a brass look, and the 4 hanks of wool are white, blue, light green & orange.

• Karl also explained that the **WALTHER'S INGENIEUR** part called **Wulsteisen** (see 19/550), is a perforated strip with one edge formed over to stiffen it, as in the sketch opposite.



• **KOSMOS** (see 17/477) educational sets for children have been produced from 1930 to the present day, and have covered almost the full range of scientific topics: radio, chemistry, mechanics, electricity, optics/photography, biology, astronomy. The 'Mechanik' and 'Technikus' sets contained a lot of special parts to allow physical experiments with simple but working machines (including a steam engine). The only Set, apart from the 'Maschinen', that would really be called an 'mcs' was **TECHNOFIX** (15/419 & 17/477). In the late 1950s/early 1960s a similar set with plastic parts called **STECOFIX** was offered but it is a mystery because Franckh'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung of Stuttgart, who have produced and distributed **KOSMOS** sets since the beginning, have nothing in their archives about it. [An English language **KOSMOS** Set called **THE TECHNICAL KID** has strayed into MCS, and has 63 special parts including some for a steam engine. The manual was © 1952, and has on the cover '170 Experiments in elementary Physics, laying the foundation in Engineering, by W.Fröhlich'; W.Keller & Co. appears after the maker's name given above.]

Kosmos MASCHINEN was produced around 1930, and working models of a Lathe, Milling Machine, & the Drilling Machine below could be made, powered by a 110/220V motor. The model is on a wooden base, and the drill is held in what looks like a real chuck. This material has been taken from the catalogue of an exhibition of stone/metal/wooden sets belonging to Tobias Mey, that was held at Esslingen, Germany in 1995-96.



• The **METEOR** Windmill and Crane, (see 19/534) are very similar to the **MÄRKLIN** models Nr.1009-30 Windrad, and Nr.1010-30 Fahrbarer Drehkran, in Manual No.14910. [The 1009/1010 Sets appeared in 1957.]

• On **PONTIFEX** (19/527), the main parts are aluminium, and the basic pitch of the holes is 10mm. The holes are drilled by hand and are about 4mm Ø. The N&B found in the Set are not M4: the thread is near 5/32" BSW but slightly smaller in diameter and with a finer pitch. No doubt at that time whatever was available was used.

Corrections Under KONSTRUKTOR-MEKHANIK in 21/618, '18/566' in the 2nd line should be '18/499'.

ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. From Werner Sticht. A complete list of all the **Walther** (of STABIL, etc. fame) **patents & DRGMs**, from 1898 through 1933, that he has compiled. In fact he was able to search to 1943 but there weren't any after 1933. Some of the points of interest: • Walther's first metal system was the **INGENIEUR** sets (see 7/164, 19/550), and a DRGM application (#253288) for the **Bifurcated Clips** that were used to fasten the parts together was made on June 16th 1904. On the same date application was made for the 5 DRGMs quoted in 13/348 but their numbers are 248034 to 248038, and not 249934-38 as given in OSN 13. • The DRGM application, #289896, for the wooden **RECORD** parts, (mentioned in 13/348) was made in July 1906. • DRGM 473572, for the use of **Threaded Rods** as axles or connecting rods in a constructional toy with Strips & A/Gs having equi-spaced holes, was made in June 1911. STABIL, which used such Threaded Rods, with Wheels, etc held on them by Nuts, had been launched some time before that, and they were used in the earlier INGENIEUR, so it is surmised that something must have alerted Walther to the need to protect his use of them. Had he become aware of MECCANO, with its less satisfactory tongued Clip method of fixing Wheels to Rods that was still being used in 1911? • March 1913 saw the application for DRGM 548483, subject a **Flanged Plate** with the centre punched out. This suggests that the transition from Period 1a to 1b (see 19/548) was in 1913.

• The date of **introduction of STABIL** is further confused by a wholesaler's catalogue, believed to be from 1911, (courtesy Tobias Mey, via Thomas Morzinck) for the 'Neu! Ingenieur-Bauspiel STABIL' with metal parts. What was new if STABIL had already been on sale for some years isn't clear - new to the wholesaler perhaps. At any rate 5 sets were advertised, with no set numbers, only the sizes of the boxes. The smallest was cardboard, and the others wood, with the largest measuring 46*29*4½cm. Also listed are 2 sets (Stabil - Spezialspiele) to build Railway Wagons. From the details given it is likely that the range was Sets 49 to 53, plus the Railway Sets 60 & 61 (Railway Sets 59-63, from 1914, were mentioned in 13/348).

• On the date of **MINIATUR** (see 17/468), it was not in a dealers' catalogue printed for the toy fair in the Spring of 1914, but it was very probably introduced before Xmas of that year, under the name STABIL MINIATUR. Thomas Morzinck has seen a box and a manual belonging to Tobias Mey, both with this name on them, and though the contents of the Set are as later, the Manual has fewer models for both Sets 20 & 21, than the © 1915 one. It is supposed that the name was changed because customers thought that, particularly because of its low price, STABIL MINIATUR meant a small STABIL set, and then found that they had bought a different system with parts that were not compatible with STABIL.

A pointer to when MINIATUR was being developed is that the DRGM for the Flanged Sector Plate was applied for on May 14th 1914. This part was not introduced into STABIL proper until 1921.

Probably production of MINIATUR ceased in the 1920s but it may have resumed in the mid-1930s. It was advertised in a 1936 brochure, possibly as a reaction to Märklin's MARBI (see 10/246). No changes were ever made to the models in the 1915 version of the manual.

2. From David Hobson. • A reply from **Trix** to an enquiry last October said that their constructional set programme had ceased but that some parts were still available.

3. Clive Weston wrote that he had obtained a copy of **Baukästen** (see 21/601) from www.Amazon.de at a total cost of about £21.

4. Kendrick Bisset wrote that he now has another **TECHNICAL TRAINER** set (see 19/528), and the label on the lid has 'F. A. M.' instead of 'TUCKER TOYS' in the white 'T' (see 10/264) with a small 'CO' underneath instead of 'INC'. And the address on the lower edge of the label is for Farmingdale Aircraftsmen instead of Tucker Toys. The corners & top edges of the FAM box are rounded, but otherwise it is similar in construction to the TUCKER one.

5. From Peter Kessler. Apart from the La Manche Set (see 21/595) **Märklin** have 10 other '**specials**' currently listed. Most are railway items but of possible interest are a 60cm long metal Zeppelin from the 1930s (#11400), and a Fire Engine with Tender (#19035). [The Zep is probably non-constructional; the Fire Engine looks like a long van with a ladder on its roof, and is said to be 'auf Basis des Auto-Baukastens'.] Peter said that delivery of these items was uncertain, and that he hadn't yet been able to order any of the cheap parts mentioned in 21/595.

6. An interesting **MECCANO X** item from Tony Press, copies of the front & back of a Liverpool X2 Model Leaflet, 13/1037/5, with the text in both English & French. On the front the top panel is the same as the LIF one in 16/446, and the text (English in the LH column, French in the right) is the same as that of a 1932 'X' one. The back shows 6 'Super Models' as on the 1932 'X' Leaflet except that the 2 additional centre models of the latter are omitted to make room for the Lists of 'X' parts in the 2 languages. [Despite Tony sending it from Australia, I suppose this Leaflet might have been for the Canadian market.]

7. Ron Michalowski wrote that the 6 page **ERECTOR Booklet** described in 21/593, did bear the reference M 973.

8. Jacques Pitrat sent a picture from ebay of a 'new' system, **PERFECTOR**.

The models above the name on the manual cover (right) are a Loco, a Lorry, a Marine Engine, and a Railway Signal, but nothing can be seen of the individual parts. The box



has a similar label on the lid. It was described as being German but *Baukästen* says that it was Austrian, made in Vienna by Kappl & Trubrig in 1948. How long it lasted isn't stated but the firm stopped making toys in the 1950s. No other details are given. [Since the above was written Kendrick Bisset has sent more details which will be included in OSN 22.]

9. From Don Redmond. • A brass Flanged & Grooved Wheel with a tread almost conical, and a very smooth curve from flange to tread, is believed to be early **AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER**. Can anyone confirm?

• After removing the nickel MECCANO & AMB parts from a **STRUCTOMODE** No.3 box, the remainder are believed to be original, and include the following. ½ & ¾" tinplate Pulleys without Boss, the ¾" with 4 peened over tabs in the centre hole, the ½" with 3. Strips erratic in their punching and in the form of the ends, with punching burrs on almost every hole. One of 4 Windmill Sail with the holes too close to the outer end. Double Brackets of heavy strip and noticeable higher than MECCANO. A bright nickel 5*11h Flanged Plate, out of square in both sheet & hole punching, with the flange holes on one side distinctly above the midline of the flange, (as in the MCS illustration). 2 bright, and one dull nickel Flanged Sector Plates, with 'slanted' or irregularly punched flange holes. However there is a possibility that the bright Flanged Plates are from a different set/system. These parts are of a much poorer standard than some other parts known to be STRUCTOMODE.

isn't certain what the system was called in Australia.

6. On **THE CONSTRUCTIONER** (see 9/206), Orion DreamDancer wrote that the B-135 single-bend Bases in his oldest #8 set have no groove and are one hole longer than those with the groove that were in a newer #8. Also, it seems that all the Bases get thinner with time, through the 'old' & 'new' #8's to the thinnest in a #12. Of these three sets only the old #8 has the older style Eccentric with just the 6 holes. On N&B, the old #8 has Phillips Screws & hex Nuts, the newer #8 has slotted Screws with both square & hex Nuts, and the #12 has slotted Screws & hex Nuts. All the Screws have rounded heads and the quantities of N&B found seem to indicate that they were probably originally in the sets concerned. The larger Tire in the newer #8 set has grooves around the outer edge; all the rest of the Tires, large & small, are just rings. All the sets came with manuals: the old #8 is a © 1947; the other two are © 1948. The latter have the part count by the models, and show A/G's & the newer type of Motor/gearbox with the enclosed gears.

7. From Werner Sticht. Ansgar Henze has had the good fortune to find a **WALTHER'S INGENIEUR** set, and kindly passed some details for OSN. The Set is in 'unplayed with' condition, though without a manual, and has no set number anywhere on it. The box is wooden, about 30cm square, with a sliding lid, and quite deep to accommodate a small model, which was included, ready-made, from some of the parts in the Set. The box has 2 wooden partitions and most of the parts are strung to 3 pale green cards. The label, 26*17cm, on the top of the lid has the name with 5 models underneath. All these are in the manual that was with the No.12 set described in 19/550 (but possibly it was from a No.10 outfit). Another label on the underside of the lid has the set contents with illustrations of most of the parts.

The contents of the Set do not relate well to those of Sets 11 (see 7/164) & 12, in that though there are fewer different parts, there are more of some types, particularly the metal ones. For example the Set has 40 A/Gs against 22 in the No.11, and 11 Perf. Plates against 6. Among the parts are 2 Hanger Strips & a Wire Crank Handle, parts which are needed for models in the manual with the No.12 set (they can be seen in OSN 19), but which were not listed in the Set Contents of the No.12. They are included and illustrated in this set's Contents, and for this reason it may be later than the 11 & 12.

As well as there being fewer types of wooden parts,

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Colour pictures of some of the illustrations in OSN 2-11 & 17-26 are now included, and also lists of contents for Nos.1-26.

several have different dimensions. The main differences are that the Base is 75mm square instead of 120*80mm, and one Plate is 35*25mm instead of 35mm square. For the metal parts the most noticeable thing is that there are no Strips or A/Gs longer than 7 holes. Also 6 Screwed Rods with 25 Nuts are included against only one, with 5 Nuts, in Nos. 11 & 12.

A few of the wooden parts are unpainted; the others are variously red, dark blue, dark green, brown, or black. The metal parts are bright nickel plated on one side and black on the other.

Werner added that the metal parts in the No.12 of OSN 19 have the same nickel/black finish, and that the House Wall Panels in that set have a red brick finish, with a cutout in one as a doorway and a white oblong on another as a window, with the window frame outlined in black.

8. More from Don Redmond. • On the absence of the name **Hudson** from the 'Hudson' manuals (25/737), perhaps there is a misunderstanding about the word 'Hudson'. It is the designation of the 4-6-4 locomotive type, which is known in the UK as the Baltic. The 'Hudson' name was probably used by the New York Central Railroad because its main line from New York ran along the Hudson River to Albany (and thence westward).

• And in reply to a query about **KONSTRUKTOR VOENNAYA TEHNIKA** (25/718), the maker's name is actually ЧЗАЗ which transliterates to CHEAZ. [The address in Cheboksary is: I. Yakovleva Avenue, 5.]

Baukästen This excellent book (see 21/601) has been remaindered and at the time of writing (end of February) the hardback edition was available from www.zweiteausendeins.de at DM 24 + postage (DM 16 for UK, and the same if 2 copies are ordered at the same time). Thanks to Thomas Morzinck for this information. The site is German of course but has an English language option. Payment can be made by credit card. The copy I bought didn't have the errata slip in it that was in the original, but it only has 10 items on it and I can copy it for anyone who needs it.

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