

Snippets. STEEL ENGINEERING

These add to the notes in 23/666. The system was announced in an ad dated January 1922

A dealers brochure from, probably, later that year shows sets 1, 3, 5, 10 & 25. Also the Electrification & Illumination Set 20. There is a photo of each but they are too blurry to see much detail. Their size, weight, number of parts/models are given as: **Set 1:** 12½*8¾*1"; 1lb.11oz; 92/109.

Set 3: 18¼*10¼*1½"; 2lb.13oz; 160/159. **Set 5:** 18¼*10¼*2½" (2 layers); 4lb.6oz; 192/180.

Set 10: 14¾*8¾*3¾" (wooden with tray); 11lb.6oz; 273/192.

Set 25: 18¾* 11*3½" (wooden with tray); 17lb.6oz; 1058/209.

Set 20: 18*10¼* 1¾"; 1lb.3oz.

Sets 10 & 25 include the Motor. All but Sets 1 & 20 have 4 Grooved (Spoked) Wheels. The parts in Set 20 include miniature Lamps, Wire, Sockets, Contact Strips. Sets 1 & 3 have the Book 1 manual, Set 5 Books 1 & 2, and Set 10 the 'big Books of Instruction'. Nothing is said for Sets 20 & 25.

Fig.2 shows the parts in a No.3.

As mentioned in OSN 23 a Set 35 was later added to the range, but no further details of it have emerged.

The cardboard boxes are black with a label similar to that of the No.5 in Fig.1. This basic design was used on all the cardboard boxes but the relative positions of its elements vary a little from set to set. Also the colours vary in intensity, at least in Ebay photos. The longer lid aprons have 'REAL SPORT FOR REAL BOYS' along them; the shorter ones, 'STEEL ENGINEERING' followed by the Set No.



Fig.1

Patents are listed below the base of the Big Wheel with 'Nov. 18, 1919' and 'June 1, 1920' on all; 'Other Patents Pending' on some, but Mar. 13, 1923 instead on others. One Ebay ad for a No.10 set claims 'Patented Aug. 1922' but probably this comes from the manual cover, as in the MCS one mentioned in OSN 23.

The wooden boxes have just a small label (Fig.3) on the lid's bottom right corner. The Set No. is on the inside of the lid at bottom right.

The Manuals. Fig.4 is the cover of the No.1 manual, as described in OSN 23. It has 16 pages with models for Sets 1 & 3.

The B&W cover of a No.2 manual was shown in OSN 23, and a comparable one was described there. A further No.2 is shown in Fig.5, and another ebay photo shows it open displaying the (blank) inside front cover and the first inside page. The latter is identical to the 'cover' shown in OSN 23, so it may be that all the B&W 'covers' are actually first pages. In any case the Fig.5 manual has 32 inside pages and they almost certainly match those in the OSN 23 Manual Summary.

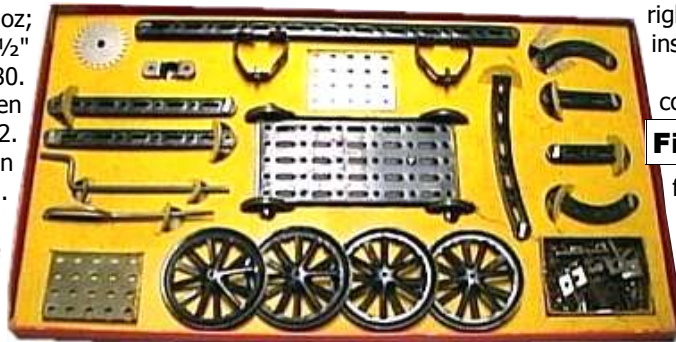


Fig.2



Fig.3

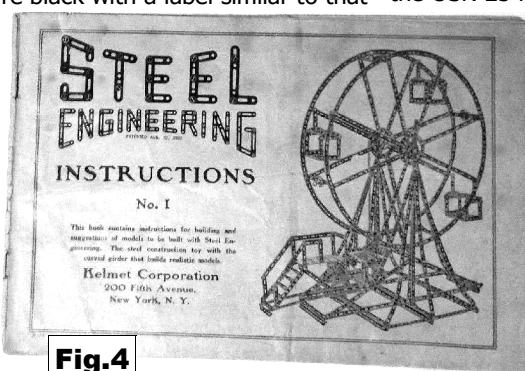


Fig.4



Fig.5

STEEL ENGINEERING [1]: S1

OSN 53/1636

'New' System: AUTO-METALLBAUKASTEN Thank you to Urs Flammer for sending the photos of the lid below, and of the parts right. The box is about 20½cm long and the Wheels are made from fire switches. The later probably indicates that this Set was introduced soon after WW2. The words on the lid bottom right translate as Educational, Entertaining, Stimulating (or Exhilarating). The words under the trademark right may just mean 'Take Note, Trademark'.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

AUTO-METALLBAUKASTEN: S1

OSN 53/1636