

New System: CONSTRUCTOR AUKRI This French system seems to have been a take on Gilbert's NEW WHEEL TOY. There was only one set and two examples are known, one belonging to Jacques Pitrat, the other to Jean-Pierre Guibert. Both have kindly sent details and the main differences are the lid labels & the colours of the metal parts. There are also slight variations in the dimensions of certain parts. What follows is basically Jacques' description of his set with, in square brackets, significant differences in Jean-Pierre's outfit, plus extra information from him. Minor dimensional differences have not been noted, for instance that the thickness of the sheet metal parts varies by .1mm, or that the Long Axle is 10mm longer in one set.

The SET The name AUKRI derives from the initial letters of the maker's name: Aubin-Krier, 40 avenue Yver, Auxerre (a town 150km south-east of Paris). AUKRI has nothing to do with the CONSTRUCTOR made at Paray-le-Monial. There is no mention of date but the set has a 1930's look to it. It could though have been made after WW2, or even in the 50's, but certainly no later – the firm's 3 digit phone number was no longer in use in the 60's.

AUKRI models were designed for use by children of from 3 to 10, and its inventor certainly knew of Gilbert's system. The Set is similar to the latter's largest No.9007 outfit, and can build the Hand Racer & the Sled. The main difference is that in AUKRI a Crankshaft replaces the Racer's large Gear & Pinion.

The box is wooden, 48*26*6¾cm, with a hinged lid & no compartments. The lid label is shown in Fig.1 [Fig.2, with the Fig.3 label on the underside]. If there was a manual, it is missing, so I've no list of parts. However my set seems almost

complete, except for the Bolts which are missing. [The Fixings & Wheels are missing.]

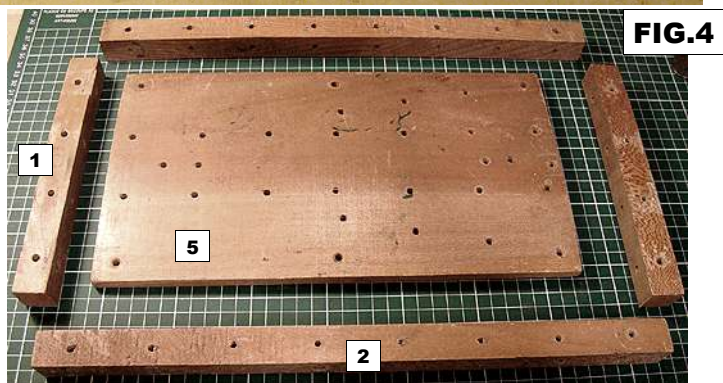
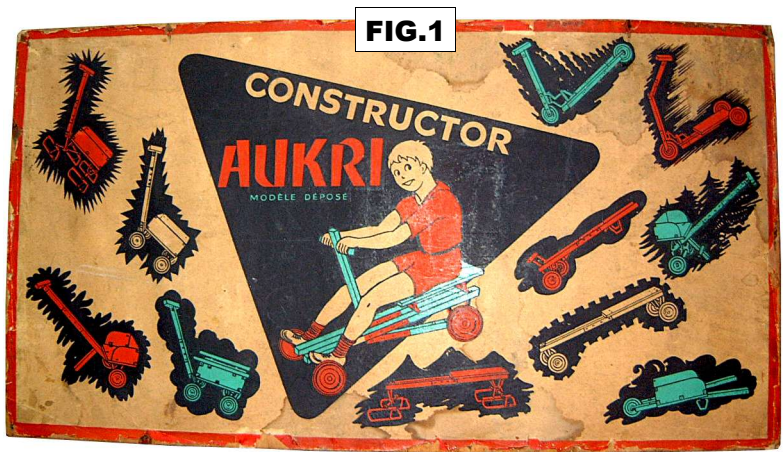
The PARTS No AUKRI part names or PNs are known so in the following list I will where possible give the names & PNs of similar NEW WHEEL TOY parts, with the quantities in curly brackets.

The **Wooden parts** (Fig.4) are in their natural state. The holes are 4mm Ø. [Those for Bolts are 5mm with smaller ones for Wood Screws.]

- **Short Wood Piece** N-1, 200*24*24mm with 2x 4 holes. {3}
- **Long Wood Piece** N-2, 400*24*24mm with 2x8 holes. {6}
- **Wood Seat** N-5, 330*174*11.5mm with 29 holes irregularly spaced. {1}

Metal parts (see Fig.5 & 6). Except the Erector Angle, N-27, the strip parts are 20mm wide & 3.0mm [2mm] thick, with some slight variations around these values. All are painted red, the axle parts too. [Most are blue-grey but some, starred in what follows, are turquoise green, and the axle parts are unpainted.] The Plates are light blue [cream] & .7mm thick. The holes for the Split Pins (Cotter Pins in the U.S.) are 3.0mm Ø; except where stated the other holes are 5.0mm. Many of the holes are at 50mm pitch.

- **Wheel** N-7, white with a rubber tyre, diameter 130mm. The Wheels have a centre bush and on one side of one Wheel it has narrow diametrically opposed slots in the bush's wall where it protrudes (by 2mm) from the Wheel's face.
- **Angle Bracket** N-11 [*], with a hole in one arm & 2, at about 12½mm pitch, in the other.
- **Runner** N-16, 21cm long o/a. It has a hole in its lug & 2 at the other end. It is used for the Sled.
- **Long Axle** N-17, 10mm Ø, 360mm long, with 2 holes at each end for Split Pins



- to locate the Wheels. {2}
- **Short Axle** N-20, 10mm Ø, 84mm long with a hole at each end for Split Pins. {1}
- **Pivot Axle** N-22, see Fig.6 & #7 in Fig.3, 25mm long with 5mm end spigots. {1}
- **Lower Universal Joint** N-24 [*], with 3 sections of 2, 6, 12.5cm, with a hole in the first, and 3 in the last. {2}
- **Hinge to Universal Joint** N-26, is a 1*2*1h DAS,

52mm wide [7mm lug holes for a 6mm Axle]. {1} • **Erector Angle** N-27. Each face is 25*25mm & 1.0mm thick with a 6.5*4.5mm oval hole. [Nickelled.] {12} • **Universal Bracket** N-28 72mm across the base & 38mm across the top {7} • **Lock Collar** N-29 (Fig.6), like a larger ERECTOR P37 Collar. The side holes are 10.5mm Ø & the middle threaded hole 4.5mm. [The Set Screw is 6mm Ø, & 1mm pitch.] {3} • **Bearing Bracket** N-30, with an 11mm hole on each side & a 7mm in the middle. {4} • **Upper Universal Joint** N-31 [*] (see #7 in Fig.3) with 5 sections 2,6,8,5,2cm long, one 7mm hole at each end & 2x 5mm holes in the 8cm section. {1} • **Loop Bracket** N-34, length 12.5cm. {6} • **Tie Bar** N-35 [*], a 2-hole Strip. {2} • **Splice Strap** N-41, a 4-hole Strip {6 [8]} • **Short Metal Side** N-40, 150*102mm. {4} • **Corner Piece** N-46, 101*76mm. {1 [2]} • **Long Metal Side** N-47, 330*102mm, 6 holes at various pitches. {2}

Naturally, the Gilbert parts for the Racer's gearing are not included: N-8, N-9, N-10, N-15, N-18, N-33, N-48.

Non-Wheel Toy parts: • **Bent Axle** (A in Fig.5), 6.0mm Ø, 8*2cm with a Split Pin hole at the end of the longer arm. {1} • **Crankshaft with Connecting Link** (B), the shaft is 10mm Ø, 360mm o/a, with 2 Split Pin holes at each end as in the Long Axle. On one end there is a third hole between them, near to the outer hole and spaced so that the Wheel can be locked to the Shaft by a Pin through it (instead of the outer hole) which engages in the slots in the Wheel's bush already mentioned. [There is no third hole – at one end the holes are spaced so one of the Pins engages the slots.] The Link is the same as the Loop Bracket; it cannot be removed from the crank. [The Link is light green]. {1}

Fixings All the Bolts & Split Pins (N-37) are missing. Various sized nuts were found including 8 hexagonal, 21mm A/F with a threaded hole 10mm Ø, but some or all may be foreigners. Also 2 nickeled bolts, length 75mm, 4.0mm Ø, with hexagonal nuts. [The Fixings needed are Bolts, Long & Short, with Nuts: thread: 5mm Ø x .9mm pitch (a pre-ISO French standard – Ed); Washers; Split Pins; & 5mm Wood Screws. A **Spanner** is shown in Fig.6.]

Instructions No manual is known. I have only a leaflet (Fig.7) which was distributed by the maker at the 'Foire de Lyon'. The front shows 12 models (not the 13 claimed) made with the set. The Strips are red, the Wheels red instead of white. The models are the same as those for the Gilbert set; the latter's simple Hobby Horse & Snow Shovel are missing although they could easily be made with the AUKRI set. Some of the system's qualities are described on the other side of the Leaflet. Nothing is said of a manual but an instruction sheet (planche de construction) is mentioned, said to allow easy assembly of the different models, no doubt the one already mentioned (Fig.3). It shows how to assemble the parts, but does not describe any particular model. Perhaps this Sheet & the pictures of the models were thought sufficient. Jean-Pierre made the Cyclorameur (Racer) right using substitute Wheels and N&B.

Verdict This system is well made, the parts are strong.

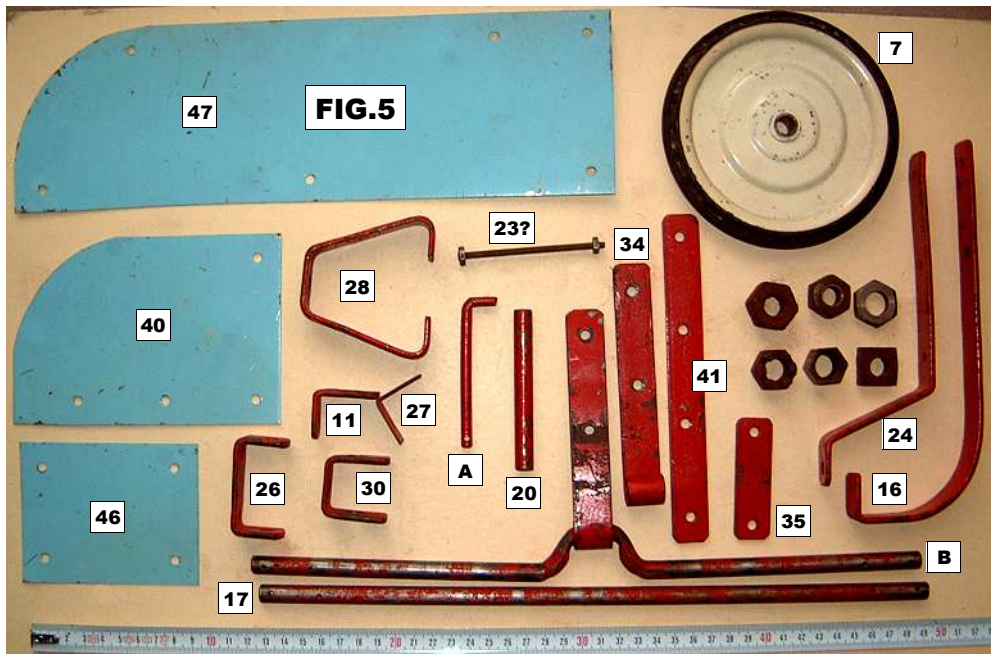


FIG.6

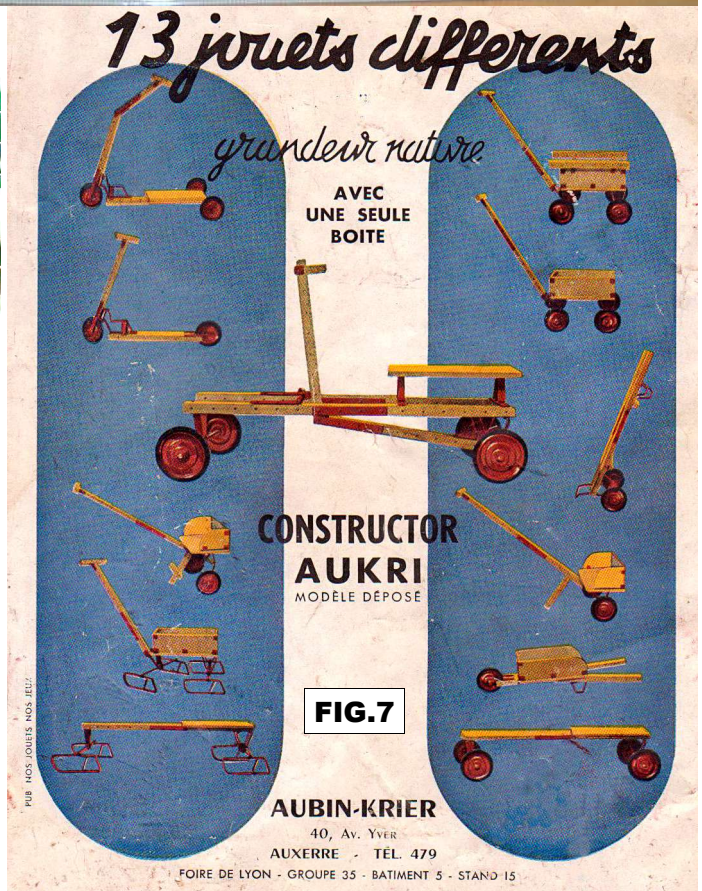


FIG.7

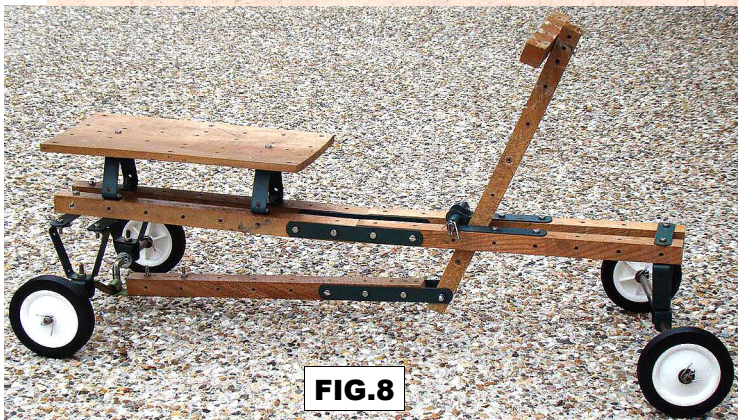


FIG.8

However, its interest is lessened by being essentially only a copy of the Gilbert NEW WHEEL TOY.