



an 8-hole Wheel Disc, and the 2 Spanners with square tails shown below (enlarged), along with the top of the box lid (opposite). (JB)



- The parts in the **SACHSENMEISTER** theme sets (15/418) have only very limited compatibility with the ordinary parts. (JB)
- The parts in a photo of a **SCHWERKA** Set include the Windmill Sails illustrated in OSN 15, though they don't look black. (JB)
- On **TECHNOFIX** the parts are steel, brass plated, the holes are 3.5mm Ø, and the arms shown in Fig.5 can pivot independently. (JB)
- On **WEMA**, Nebenweig is not a town, it means 'sideline' and thus constructional toys were only a sideline activity for the firm Eberspächer from 1946 to 1948. (They made and still make, heaters for cars.) (SG)
- The early 30s catalogue that listed ALPHA also includes **ZICK-ZACK** with as an illustration the box below. The WK logo (by Nr.) shows it to be from the Wilhelm Krauss period, and the main thing is the unusual hole pattern in the Strips. 3 sets are listed with 40, 80 and 147 parts. The largest one cost 18 Marks a dozen, against 66 a dozen for the ALPHA set with 150 parts, so it would have been aimed at the



cheap end of the market. (SG)

The 'NEW' GERMAN NAMES

- **ANDERS**, blue and orange parts without many holes in them, and so not very adaptable. (JB)

- **BAUE SELBST**, from the 1930s with special parts for Cranes. (SG)
- **BOSCH**, MECCANO-type parts, painted black. A photo shows a wooden box with a sliding lid. The label on it is similar to the manual cover reproduced opposite. (JB)
- **COMBINATOR**, 1930, parts to make buildings. (JB)
- **CONRAD**, wooden parts but metal Brackets, Axles, and Wheels. (JB)
- **DUX Railway Sets**. (SG)
- **FRI-DIE**, a simple system with red and blue painted steel parts, and holes spaced at markedly more than 1/2". [It is probable that this is the FRI-BIE of 11/291; other mistakes in that list: KOHLER should be KOBLEK, and WESFALIA, WESTFALIA.] (JB)
- **GECO**, preceded CONRAD and is identical to it. (JB)
- **GESCHA**, a simple system from the late 1940s, with an unusual hole alignment. (SG)
- **HEIKO**, MECCANO-type parts but only a limited number of simple ones. (JB)
- **INGENIO**, pierced or perforated sheet steel parts painted white, red or black, which slot one into the other to make Dolls' Furniture, parts of Buildings, and also Trains. (JB)
- **KOSMOS MASCHINEN**, from the 1930s, with semi-specialised parts to make machines. [Perhaps from makers of TECHNOFIX?] (JB)
- **MAGNETO**, heavy steel parts, with Wheels & Axles. (JB)
- **METALLIX**, from the 1950s, with MECCANO-style steel and natural aluminium parts. (JB)
- **RIAG Modelbau**, another simple system from the late 40s, with a hole pattern like that of ZICK-ZACK above. (SG)
- **ROCO**, possibly from the 1950s, & based on Rods. (JB)
- **UNSERE TAKTSTRASSE**, an East German theme set to make 2 different Tractors with mainly special parts. (SG)
- **WERNER'S Metallbaukasten**, an early postwar copy of TRIK. (SG)



An EGB-ELEKTRO Outfit Well actually most of the parts from one that Richard Symonds came across last year in Canada (for \$5). He kindly sent a photo of the parts and as examples, a 3h Strip and a N&B. The Set is thought to be from the 1950s and is shown in MCS as ELEKTRO-BAUKASTEN. EGB was the name of the East German maker from Leipzig, and as well as this EM (Electro-Magnetism) Set, 3 others are noted in MCS - the M (Magnetism), RE (Static Electricity), and CE (Electro-Chemistry) - but no details are given.

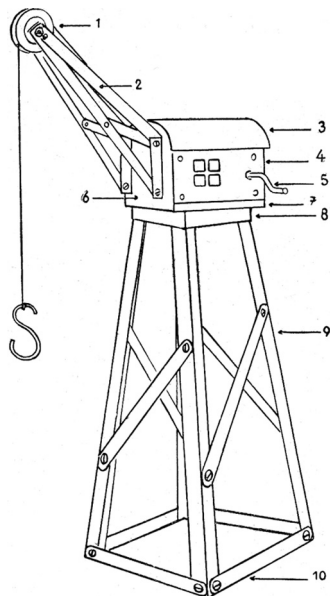
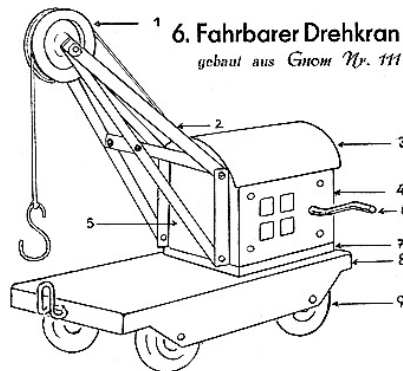
The main parts of the EM Set are 2 8*14h Flanged Plates, various Strips and special Brackets, a ready-wound Coil and motor Armature, a Horseshoe and 2 Cylindrical Magnets, and a Bell. All the parts are shown in MCS but the following details can now be added.

- **DATA** (in mm) **STRIP** (3-hole): •hole pitch/dia, 10.0/4.2; •width, 10.0; thickness, .86; •ends fully radiused. [No bosses] **THREAD**: M3 [No Axles or Gears] **NUT**: hex 5.6 A/F; **BOLT**: tapered cheesehead 5.0 Ø; both nicked steel.
- The **Flanged Plate** is moulded from dark brown plastic and has no holes in the flanges. The holes in the top look much smaller than those in the Strips.
- The 3 & 9h **Strips** are aluminium and have little material outside the end holes, so the 3h one is less than 28mm o/a. The 6h Strips look to be dark brown plastic.
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- The **Trunnion** appears to be aluminium, and the long centre slot looks much longer than in the MCS illustration.
- Most of the other **Brackets** look as if they are nickel but some may be aluminium.
- The base and switch handle of the **Switch #8** look to be red fibre, and the fittings, nickel.

- The **Coil** is about 20mm wide and its top and bottom are brown plastic. The **Armature** is about 10cm long o/a.
- The top contact part of #12 (**Contact Strip?**), and the **Brushes #18** are copper.
- The **N&B** are in a flat square box that may be made of brown plastic. It's about 4*4cm with a hinged lid, and may be a substitute for the #21 shown in MCS. In Richard's parts the **Container #22** (with Iron Filings in it I think) is a clear phial with stopper.
- The flat **Plates #29 & 30** are red - plastic no doubt.
- The **Pointers #31 & 32** are about 6cm long. #31 looks at first glance like light yellowy-brown wood, but is probably plastic; #32 is aluminium.
- Part 33 (**Nägel**, but I can't think of a suitable English word), looks aluminium, and is some 5cm long with a small hole in the 10mm long by 5mm wide spade end.
- The **Bell** is nickel and about 8cm diameter.
- What may be #35 (**Disc?**) is black and about 2cm Ø.
- **Axle #36** is a brass looking Threaded Rod, 5cm long.
- There are 4 lots of **Wire** on the card former of #41, and the wording on it is Kupferdraht 0,10mm Ø; Kupferdraht 0,30mm Ø; Eisendraht 0,30mm Ø; Heizdraht 0,12mm Ø.
- The **Bolts** are 6mm u/h, and 2 longer ones can be seen, one 15 and the other 18mm long. Their (neat) heads are 2.0mm deep. The (machined) **Nuts** are 2.3mm thick.
- There are 2 identical nickel **Spanners** which look like the one in MCS and are about 8cm long. The **Screwdriver** is perhaps 16cm o/a and has a long, round wooden handle.

Richard wrote that parts 13,14,15,19,20,27 & 40 are missing from the Set, and I can't see 23,26,38,39 & 42-46 either.

ANDERS Sets The name was mentioned in 17/477, with some very brief details. Now more is available from an ad leaflet, some Ebay photos, & the information in *Baukästen*. The Leaflet, 302*141mm, folded into three, is about the **Gnom** sets and its PR is 'Oeding CGF 138 Bswg 11549 30000 9.48 Kl.A.'. *Bk* gives the maker as Georg Anders of Braunschweig, the dates as 1945-50, and the names of two types of set - Gnom (Anders Metallbaukasten für kleine Konstrukteure), & Gigant. On Gnom there is a photo of a Nr.113 set but no other details. **Gigant** is said to have 160 parts, painted red, blue & yellow, and add-on sets were available. Little else is known of it but a few details of one set are given on p939.



7. Turm-Drehkran
gebaut aus Gnom Nr.112 oder 113

Gnom Sets The Leaflet is headed Gnom Nr.112-113 but also gives some details of Sets 111 & 114. The parts are designed to allow certain featured models to be made, and have only the holes needed for them. The scope for other models is therefore limited but some are possible and 10 are listed for the Nr.113, from 1. Wartehalle to 10. Fahrbarer Montagekran. They include the 111 & 112/3 Cranes right.

Set 111 Most of the parts can be seen in Model 6 for the 111 set, above right. Although the jib looks to be made of several Strips each side may be one complete Frame.

The **Nr.112** allows the Model 7 Crane above to be built and the main new parts are the A/Gs & Strips used in the tower, and the near square Flanged Plate at its top. However it is likely that the Set does not contain the Wheels & Long Flanged Plate in the Nr.111.

Judging by the Leaflet and the photo below, the **Nr.113** set seems to contain all the 111 & 112 parts. The box is



22*16cm and the blue A/Gs are in a full width compartment at the back, mostly hidden by the lid. The (blue) end of a Jib Frame can be seen under the left end of the Large Flanged Plate. The rectangular brownish (gold lacquered?) part next to the red Roof is probably a Plate used for the base of the cabin. The *Bk* photo shows a similar set, but apart from the

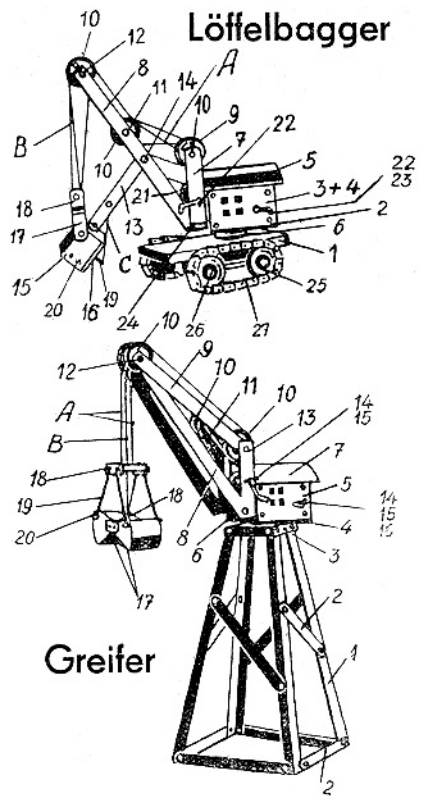
Wheels, all the parts are red or blue. By scaling, the Large Flanged Plate measures 15*5cm; the Wheels are 3cm Ø; and the Pulley slightly less.

The **Nr.114** is only known from the 2 models below. New features are the Track, Bucket, Grab, & the heavier jib members in the Digger.

Earlier? Outfits

Although the Leaflet is about the Gnom series, neither the name, nor an outfit number, can be seen on the lids of the two sets illustrated in it (though there is some small print that can't be read). Instead the name of a model is prominent across the top, below the words 'ANDERS SPIELWAREN', and over a photo of the actual model. One lid features the Nr.111 Crane & the other the 112 Crane, both as already shown left, and the same names are used.

The lid of an actual set with this type of lid, below, looks just like the B&W photo in the Leaflet, and the box is similar but a little longer. After the model name on the Instruction Sheet with this set, is 'Modell ??1', where the first two figures are not clear, but neither is a '1'. It looks then that the two sets illustrated in the Leaflet were probably the equivalent of the Gnom 111 & 112 sets, and perhaps predated them. But a word of caution, the box of the Set below is said to be 15*13cm and if correct the Large Flanged Plate scales at 10cm long, against the 15cm for the Set 113 part. As can be seen in the photo, all the main parts are the brownish colour, and the Jib Frame looks ready made.



- **Circular Parts** The **Bush Wheel & Wheel Disc** are 35mm Ø {1,1}. The centre hole of the latter is 6½mm. The **Circular Plate** {2} is 70mm Ø & has 15 (!) equispaced edge holes at a radius of 29½mm. The red plastic **Loose Pulley** {1} is 18mm o.d., 6mm wide, and the 14mm Ø bottom of the vee is flat. Both its sides are recessed.
- **Gears** All are plastic moulded onto a brass bush with boss. The 16t **Pinion** {1} is 14.3mm o.d. with a 5mm wide face, and it meshes well at 2h spacing with the 46t, 38.1mm o.d./2.5mm face **Gear** {2} – its disc has an 11¼mm Ø, 2½mm deep boss on the outer face to give extra support to the brass bush. The **Worm** {1} is 14.0mm o.d. & 12.7mm long (about 5 turns), excluding the boss.
- **Axles** are 49 & 69mm long {1,1}. The **Rods with Screwed Ends** are 130/91mm long with 74/25mm of thread at one end, and 60mm long with 10mm of thread at each end {1,1,6}. The smooth parts of all three are 3.4mm Ø.
- **Fixings Nuts** {120} for the 6 & 10mm **Bolts** {110,10}. The single turn **Spring Washer** {120!}, 6.5mm o.d., is chemically blackened. The black plastic **Spring Clip** {10} is 5mm wide, 7mm deep o/a, with 2½mm wings, and grips well on the Axles. The black **Grub Screw** {10} is 4mm long with a flat end and a

normal screwdriver slot.

- **Tools** The nickel **Spanner** {1} is 78mm long o/a. The **Screwdriver** {1}, 93mm long o/a, has a 44mm 4-fluted handle and normal blade tip.
- **Misc.** The white plastic **Axle Stop** (above the Spring Washer in the photo of the parts) {1} is 8mm Ø & 8mm long, and is a push-fit on the Axle. The plastic jelly mould shaped **Cone** is 47mm Ø & 15mm deep {3 blue, 3 white}.
- The **Motor & Battery Box** (2x AA batteries, with reversing switch) are similar to MECCANO/STEEL TEC items, but unlike the other parts, neither is well made. The boss on the end of the motor is loose in the 1mm too large hole in the front face of the casing, and the switch on Battery Box is inoperative in one of its 2 'ON' positions.

The MODELS There was no manual with the set to hand and no mention is made of one on the box. So perhaps the 7 models on the underside of the box are all the guidance provided, but on the other hand, apart from the Big Wheel, it is difficult to see much detail in most of the others, even using a magnifying glass. These 'small' models comprise a Swing and various types of Roundabout & Chair-O-Planes.

OSN 31/939

METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET: S2

Snippet - New System: MECHANIC This may well be the same as, or very similar to, METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET. Examples, apparently new and unused, of a set bearing the name were sold on Ebay from July to December 2003 by someone in Australia. The description read 'Mechanic Metal Construction Set. 544 Pieces with wind up motor included. Ages 7+', and the only illustration was the lid right. The words under the model can't be deciphered but those under 'METAL CONSTRUCTION SET' are 'Only one model can be made at a time', and under the '7+' at the bottom is '2003'.

The 544 parts is the same number as in the METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET outfit above and it will be remembered that the word 'MECHANIC' was on its box. Another similarity is the apparently identical model on the lids. Both are driven from the same yellow Electric Motor despite the C/W Motor claimed for MECHANIC. The final similarity is the model on the yellow star on the MECHANIC lid – it is identical to one on the under-



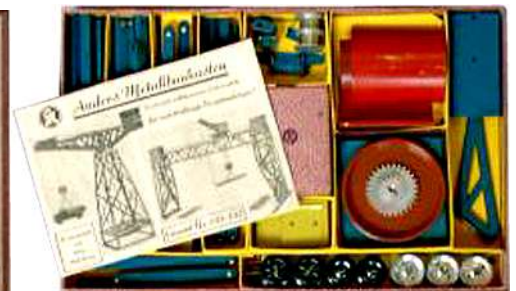
side of the METAAL CONSTRUCTIE SET box.

OSN 31/939

MECHANIC [2]: S1

An ANDERS Gigant Set Since the notes on p932 were written the **Gigant Nr.132** shown right has been seen on Ebay, a larger outfit with more ambitious models than any of the Gnom sets.

Assuming the Wheels and Pulleys along the bottom are the same size as the Gnom parts, the box scales at some 42*27cm, and the Jib Frame, far right, would be the same size as before. Also the compartment on the far left would be the right length to take the A/Gs in the 112 set. Other parts which can be seen are 2



bright, flanged Winding Drums at top centre, and the bright Gear on top of the large red Disc or Pulley.

OSN 31/939

ANDERS: S2

This is the last page of OSN 31.

Correction

In the diagram of the ASSEMBLO Plate in 30/877, the dimensions C & D should be interchanged. Thanks to Don Redmond for pointing this out.

All MECCANO & Compatible Parts

Thanks to Howard Somerville there is now a web site, www.hsomerville.com/IPL/, which has links to about 24 sources of these parts, and many of them give details of what is available or offer downloads of parts lists, etc.

Binding OSN Pages

Now the pages are double-sided there's a simple way of making them into the old B&W style, stapled N/L. Lay the appropriate sheets edge to edge & join each pair with a strip of 19mm Scotch tape. Then staple the resulting A3 sheets with a long-arm stapler, or make suitable holes with a pin and push staples through. Fold over.

9. **Snippet. A T&H Co. KONSTRUKTIONSSPIELE and an ANKER Set in a mixed Ebay Lot** Besides these little known outfits the lot included a German MERKUR set (see 36/1094) and a German INGENIO set (mentioned in 17/477). All the box lids were shown plus a heap of parts. KONSTRUKTIONSSPIELE is mentioned in Baukästen as a product of T. & H. Co., and the



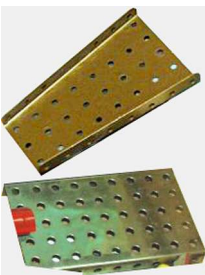
company's logo given there is on the box lid above (the '&' and 'H' are the tiny letters either side of the 'C', with a small 'o' inside it, under the Strip). The date given is '1920s(?)', though the boy looks rather later than that to me. It is also said that there were 10 sets.

The ANKER lid below has an anchor logo used by the Richter



company at top right.

An ANKER Modellbau set is included in MCS and is also listed in Baukästen but its logo, left, is not a Richter one and the set was made in East Germany by VEB Ankerwerk, Schmalkalden - the date in MCS is the 1930s but that wouldn't tally with a VEB-type company and Baukästen has 1956. ANKER was used by Richter as an alternative name for IMPERATOR (see 17/486 & 25/735) but normal Perforated Strips can be seen on the box lid.



Some of the parts in the photo can be identified as MERKUR & INGENIO and of the others only the 2 left ('cut' out of the Ebay photo) are at all distinctive, a 5*9 Flanged Plate and an 8h long Flanged Sector Plate. Both have all round holes, and they could possibly be parts used in the KONSTRUKTIONSSPIELE Signal Bridge. If anyone can help I'd be glad to have more details of either of these systems.

KONSTRUKTIONSSPIELE: S1; ANKER [2]: S1 [38/1134]

10. **Snippets. ANDERS Update**



The **Gnom Nr.113** set was described in 31/932 and since then several of these sets have been offered on Ebay. A few parts can be seen in them which were not obvious in the photo of the box in OSN 31. • Left (in part of a box), a Span'driver, 2 Axles, & a Crank Handle with a hooked end, are clipped to a backing card, along with the Wheels,

Pulley, & Strips. • The long blue A/Gs run along 90% of the full length of the back of the box. • The pierced Cab Side Panels are red. • The Jib Frame is blue and is a single part (like the one in the OSN 31 Fahrbarer Drehkran set). • There is red Cord in one set. • The parts & partitioning of another set are as in OSN 31, but the lid differs with the Railway Crane moved to the bottom left corner and the set designation is Gnom Nr.113G. The leaflet with this set is the one described in OSN 31.

The **Liliput** outfit below has not been noted before, and since it is Nr.1 perhaps there were other Liliput sets. 10 models are claimed on the lid and most of the parts that can be seen in the box would be needed for the featured model. The Pulley & Span'driver are no doubt the same as the parts in the Nr.113 set, and if so the black Flanged Plate scales at about 80% of the length of the blue one in the Nr.113 (see OSN 31). A leaflet with the Set was headed Liliput Nr.1, with '10 Modelle' underneath; Gnom & Gigant sets were mentioned in a line along the bottom of the sheet.



ANDERS: S3

[38/1134]

11. **Snippets. An 'In Between' FERROX Outfit** The Ebay photo below shows a No.2 set which is similar to the No.2 in a rectangular box that was mentioned for Phase 2 in 36/1090, except that the Plates and all the DAS are painted. Also the larger Flanged Disc in the OSN 36 set was the earlier type with the outer holes. (It should have been mentioned in OSN 36 that both the square and rectangular partitioned sets in Ph.2 were single layer sets.) The present manual has the Ph.2 cover and was said to contain models for both Sets 1 & 2.



FERROX: S3

[38/1134]

SMALL AD

[38/1134]

Wanted Meccano Magazines Feb. to Nov. 1972, volume or loose. D. A. Redmond, St. Catherine St., Kingston, Ontario, K7K 3R9, Canada.

Snippets. 'New' System AUTO-MONTEUR Two single-model sets from this German system, date unknown but possibly post-WW2, have been seen on Ebay, a Nr.50 and a Nr.51. The maker too is unknown but the logo is on the box lids, see Fig.3. The method of joining the parts is unusual – by tabs pushed through slots and then bent over. Shown here, the open box of the Nr.51, some parts from the Nr.50 (Fig.2), the Nr.51 lid, and the Nr.50 model with part of its lid.

The Parts & Model The parts are the same in both sets except for the Wheels & the colour of the Load Carrier. The main parts are a flanged plate for the Chassis, the Cab (it is seen assembled in both sets but is made from 2 parts), the Bonnet, the Load Carrier, the U-shaped Plate which supports it, & the Wheels. Smaller parts (see Fig.2) are 2 Axles which have one end flattened, 2 rubber Axle Stops, & a Screwdriver. Not seen in either set, a tool describes as a small Key which is used to bend over the tabs.

slightly rearranged. No doubt its top half has a drawing of the model similar to the Nr.50's.

The Sets The two boxes are the same apart from their colour, the Nr.50 is blue, and having a different label. As an indication of size their length is about the same as that of the finished model, 23cm. Apart from not having the 'Made in Germany' on it, the Nr.50's label has the same wording & picture as Fig.3 but arranged diagonally, as in Fig.4.

FIG.1



Nr.51



FIG.3

There is no indication of which style of set came first but to me the Nr.50's box looks of better quality and its label more modern. But if it replaced the Nr.51 why was it called a Nr.50? And was there ever an earlier Nr.50? Perhaps originally the numbering started at Nr.51 in order to have the '50' available for a later, cheaper set. With only different Wheels, the saving in the factory cost of the Nr.50, compared with the Nr.51 wasn't perhaps large, but the retail price may have been set appreciably lower than that would imply, to increase the size of the market. And perhaps the Nr.51's price could have been increased a little to compensate, particularly if its box & label were made smarter to match the Nr.50. Note the many 'perhaps' above.

Assembly of the model is straightforward with the Bonnet & Cab attached to the Chassis, and the U-Plate to the bottom of the Load Carrier. This Plate is mounted on the back Axle, thus allowing the Load Carrier to tip. The finished model is 23cm long and the Wheel scales at 4cm Ø.

FIG.2

The Instructions for the Nr.50 are on one side of a single sheet, with a drawing of the model identical to the one on the box lid on the upper half, and text underneath. The Nr.51's, folded in two, and with the bottom 2 lines hidden, can be seen in Fig.1. The text is the same as the Nr.50's but with its layout

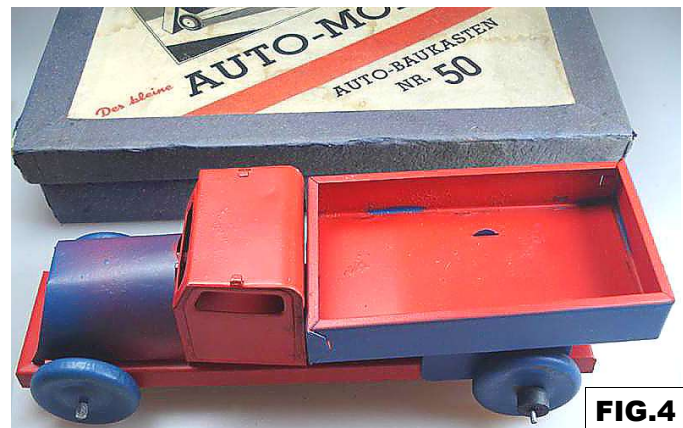


FIG.4

AUTO-MONTEUR: S1

OSN 47/1422

The ANDERS Liliput Set More information thanks to Jürgen Kahlfelt & Urs Flammer. Jürgen sent a much clearer photo of the lid of the Set shown in 38/1134, and gave the size of the box: 126*105*16mm. The Strips in the model on the lid have a shallow 'U' section, as in Urs' box right, and, as can now be seen, in the one in OSN 38. Also the buffers are cheeseheaded Bolts held by square Nuts. The length of the Flanged Plate is about the width of the box, and is thus rather smaller



ANDERS: S4

than the 'guesstimate' in OSN 38.

Urs' set has the same lid as Jürgen's; the parts can be seen left. Notice the Axles with pips to locate them between the model's sides, and the Crank Handle with a hooked end. Though not spotted at the time both parts can also be seen in the Nr.113 set illustrated in OSN 38. The hooked end is presumably to engage in some part of the model's structure to prevent the load running down. The Set's N&B are in a small fawn packet with Liliput Nr.1 printed on it.

OSN 47/1422