

Some GERMAN SYSTEMS Below notes on various systems that are not in MCS, and extra points about some that are. Many of them are small sets that appeared in the decade following WW2 and were only produced for a few years. My thanks to Jeannot Buteux who sent much of the information, some of it from the *CONSTRUCTORAMA* archive. Many other details have been taken from *EISENZEIT* (EZ), the invaluable book reviewed in 14/377, and from data that Werner Sticht kindly sent. However, as will be seen, there are still many gaps and any additional information will be very welcome. Also with my limited German I may have misunderstood EZ in places, and so, as always, corrections will be much appreciated.

AKRON This set dates from the WW2 to the early 1950s period and there's a small photo of the lid, and some notes on it, in EZ. Under the name is Stahl-Leichtbau-Kasten (Steel Lightweight Building Set) and what I can understand of the note says that thin elastic steel Strips were used with holes in them at 5mm pitch. And there's mention of spiral springs, possibly used as the method of fixing?

ALPHA MCS has 2 systems of this name and from the start date of 1931 given, the notes in EZ refer to the second one in MCS, the one with the 12mm spacing. The end date is given as c1970 though unless this encompasses both there may have been 2 ALPHAs on sale at the same time. There were 4 main and 5 linking sets, plus a small 50-Pfennig outfit, and it was the first system to have parts made of coloured plastic. The models included such non-technical subjects as a Weightlifter, an Ibex and Dancing Hares.

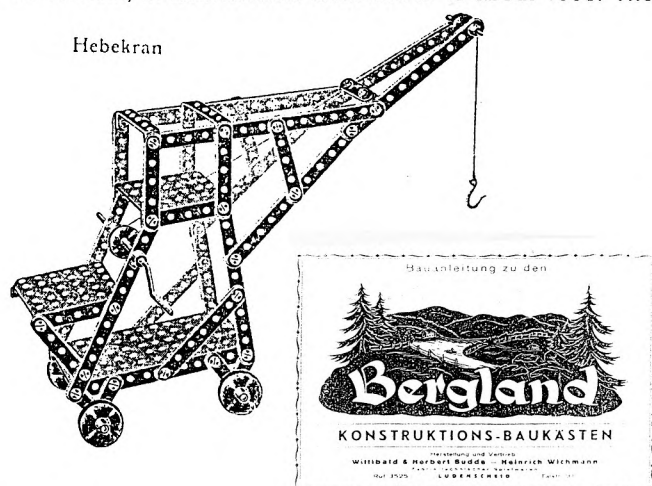
AUKI The box lid of this early 1950s set is shown in EZ but without any details, and the model on it is too small to see.

AUTO-CONSTRUKTOR This system is mentioned in EZ but no details are given. It may be the same as AUTO-CONSTRUCTEUR in MCS - that name came from a manual in Dutch, but the titles in the figures in it were still in German. EZ gives the start of production as 1928 and the maker as Curt Schrader of Eisenach, and from 1929 München. This firm had earlier made METALLO-TRIGON although it was called Stanzwerke GmbH at that time.

BAUFIX EZ gives the start date as 1932, and the maker as Saalheimer & Strauss, Nürnberg. It also refers to 'BAUFIX and **SIMPLEX**' as two cheap sets from that firm, but I'm not certain whether they were identical systems.

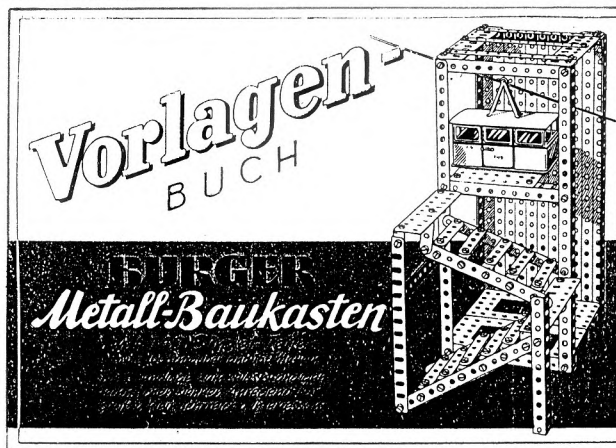
BENCO The start date isn't given in MCS - a set from around the early 1950s is shown in EZ.

BERGLAND Made by Willibald & Herbert Budde/Heinrich Wichmann, in Lüdenscheld from c1945 to about 1950. The



manual cover with its mountain scene is shown at the foot of the last column; an inner page has two Nr.1 models that can also be made from Sets 0 + 0a. About 18 parts can be seen in the Crane, including Strips from 2 to 15 holes, a 5*11h Plate flanged along its longer sides, and a smaller one, probably 5*5h but sometimes it appears to be 6h long.

BURGER Probably from the 1950s, only one set is mentioned on the manual cover (below), and the text on it says that it contains 140 parts plus 100 Bolts and 150 Nuts. That might suggest that Threaded Rods were used as axles. Other parts that can be seen in the Cable Car Station on the cover are 5*11 Flanged Plates with the STABIL-style centre 7*3h cutout; 25,14 & 11h Strips and A/Gs; and 9 & 11h Flat Girders.



CONSTRUCTION EZ gives the start date as around 1965 and the original manufacturer as VEB (K) Metallwaren Schmerbach bei Gotha. From sometime between 1979 and 1982 production passed to VEB Ppaffschwende, and the original sets numbered from 100 upwards were replaced by the series starting with C01. KONSTRUKTION, the forerunner of CONSTRUCTION (see 8/181), isn't mentioned in EZ but the manufacturer given in MCS was from Gotha (a town near Erfurt).

Of the earliest parts EZ says that the Flanged Plates were sometimes painted, and the large plastic Circular Plates (Lochscheibe) was bright blue. This might have been the 50mm Ø Scheibe shown in MCS for CONSTRUCTION but it may be noted that for KONSTRUKTION a 70mm Lochscheibe is listed as well as a 50mm version. Both look as if they are metal, but the MCS entry may well not show the earliest parts.

DER KLEINE INGENIEUR EZ has 2 references to a system of this name and I'm not sure if they are one and the same. There's a photo of a small box lid from the WW2-early '50s period, with a model of a Ferris Wheel on it, and elsewhere talk of a DDR set with STABIL-like steel parts.

DER JUNGE KONSTRUKTEUR There is quite a bit about this DDR system in EZ. It was made by Hans Wunsch of Niederwiesa and appeared in 1959. The hole spacing was 12.5mm and the parts were black, of good quality, with plastic gears. As well as the outfits in MCS there was a theme set to make a Tractor, 3-Furrow Plough, Roller, and Harrow, and a Nr.1000 outfit with about 1000 parts. Later on (after 1966?) there were sets to make bridges and cranes; railway locos and wagons; and cars and other motor vehicles. No reference to the system is known after 1972.

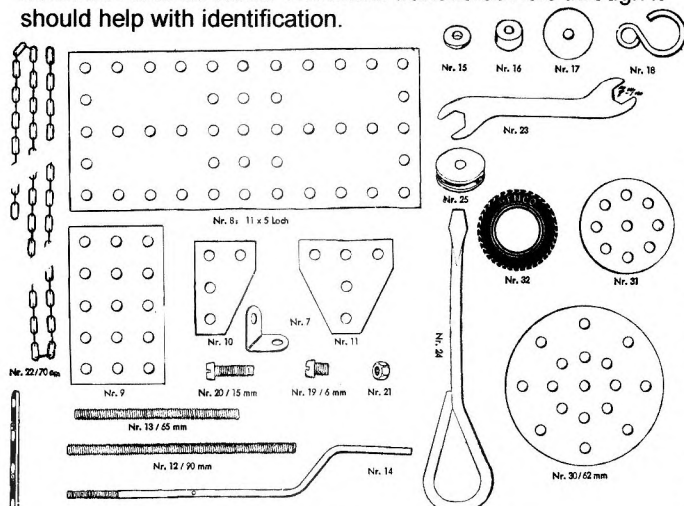
DER KONSTRUKTEUR FMF A small set from the WW2-early '50s period. The box lid shown in EZ has 3 boys and a girl admiring a very simple model of an open-topped

BENCO This quite small German system from the 1950s, with 4.2mm holes at 12.5mm pitch, has one or two slightly unusual features. Of the 6 sets, 4 (0,A-C) are comparatively small, then D is a large one, and E is a mechanisms outfit. Of the 70 different parts 26, including all 7 Gears, are only in Set E. The Gears have very coarse teeth and Screwed Rods are used as axles. BENCO was made by Berthold Neumann & Co. GmbH of Essen (Velbert from 1960) - the earliest set known is thought to be from 1950 and the system may have continued into the early 1960s. The parts & set contents are shown in MCS but more details are now available from photos of various sets, notes on a Set D, complete except for the manual, and a Spanish edition manual. My thanks to Thomas Morzinck & Jacques Pitrat for the material they sent.

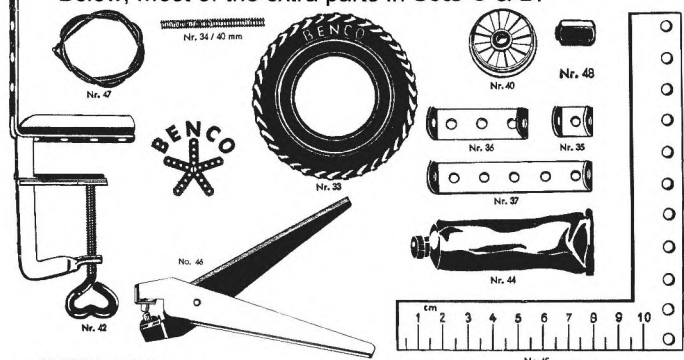
Phases To try to simplify matters reference will be made to the phases below, believed to be in chronological order. All manuals are similar in size, about 14*30cm, in landscape format, until the end of the last phase.

- **'1950'**. The one set known from this year has a relatively small box with a light blue top. It is nearly covered by a yellow label with a Bridge model, similar in size & design to the manual cover.
- **'blue box'**. The one known set still has a small box but with a dark blue top. Its label is the same blue with an Airship model, and is again similar to the manual cover.
- **'motorway'**. The boxes are red & larger, with a full colour label showing a motorway scene. Manual covers are as 'blue box' though one is mainly black rather than dark blue.
- **'stylised'**. Similar red boxes and label but the latter has stylised rather than realistic artwork. Some manuals have the Airship cover but others are in portrait format, as in MCS.
- A **'Spanish'** edition manual is also referred to; it has a different cover (shown later) and is from the 'motorway' or 'stylised' phases, perhaps soon after Set E was introduced.

The Parts All the parts are shown in MCS but no names are given and the use of a few of them isn't entirely clear. The parts in **Sets 0-B** are 6 Strips (3,5,7,9,11,25h) and those below. The Tyre #32 fits the Pulley #25 (about 20mm Ø). The Crank Handle is in Sets A & B and, even with its threaded end, is an unusual part in a system using Screwed Rods as axles. The small transverse hole through it should help with identification.

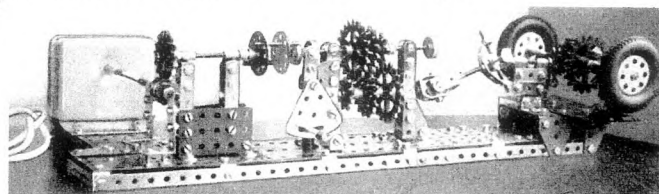
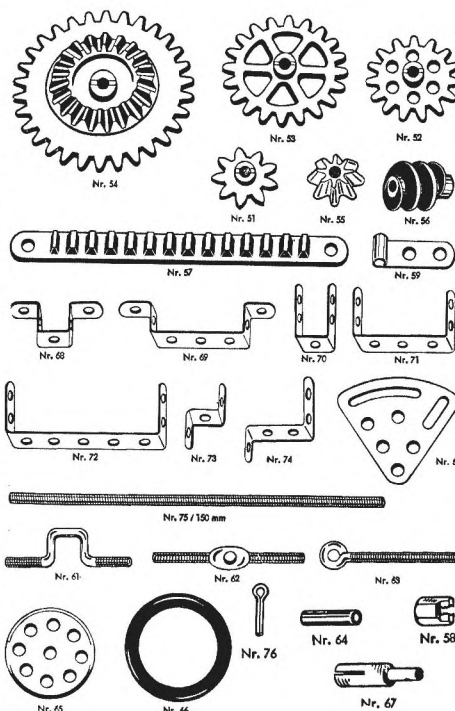


Below, most of the extra parts in **Sets C & D**.



Not shown are 15 & 21h Strips, and the Zelluloidfolien #43. The latter was available in Sheets 17*30cm & 27*35cm, in 4 colours, red, blue, yellow, & green, and was no doubt plastic rather than celluloid. It was used to cover the framework of models after being cut to shape, and perforated with the pliers-type Hand Punch (#46) supplied. Pieces could be joined using the (Tube of) Adhesive, #44, and the Tube in the Set D has a 'Planatol' label on it. #40 is a Flanged Wheel which scales at 28mm Ø and has 8 embossed spokes on its face. The Clamp #42 is intended to be used to attach models & Motors to a table top. It is in 2 parts, with the arm of the clamp passing through the slot in the right-angle strip. The example in Set D has the usual type of conical end to the screw, rather than the oblong part shown. The Square #45 is to help in making parts from the Plastic Sheet. #47 is Spring Cord. #48 is a Threaded Coupling used to join the Screwed Rods. The Large Tyre #33 fits between a pair of Wheel Discs #31.

The extra parts in **Set E** are shown right: none of them has been seen. The Gears may be Mod.2.5, the largest scales at 75mm Ø. #58 might be the male half of a Dog Clutch to engage in what may be grooved ends of the Gear bosses. #59, and perhaps 62 & 63, provide longer bearings for the Screwed Rods used as axles. #65 is a Pulley Disc and a pair fit the (Rubber) Ring #66. The curved slot in the Quadrant Plate #60 is used as a guide for a (gear?) lever in the Car Transmission model below. #67 might screw onto a Threaded Rod to provide a smooth end. The dot near the bottom



of its spigot might be a small hole for the Split Pin #76, but there are 10 of the latter in the Set & only one of #76. MCS suggests that it might be a Rod & Strip Connector but there are no other smooth rods apart from the handle end of the Crank Handle. In the same vein MCS has #64 as a Rod Connector.

Colours All parts seen are nickel plated apart from: the black 5*11h Plate; the red 3*5h Plate & Wheel Disc; the green Flat Trunnion & Corner Bracket; the blue Circular Plate #30; and the Pulley #25, which looks to be aluminium. A 'motorway' set in *Baukästen* (p221) has a silver Wheel Disc, as well as the right number of red ones, so it may be a 'foreigner'. The nickel parts in it look the light colour of the Pulley #25, and it also has some Cord with a red & white twist, but no Cord is listed or otherwise known. One '1950' Set A has the parts as above but in another the 3*5h Plate is nickel (or similar), and the Wheel Discs are black. Also the 5*11h Plate in the latter Set has one instead of three rows of 5 holes in the centre - this pattern is shown in some manual models.

Sets A Set 0 existed at some point and its contents are

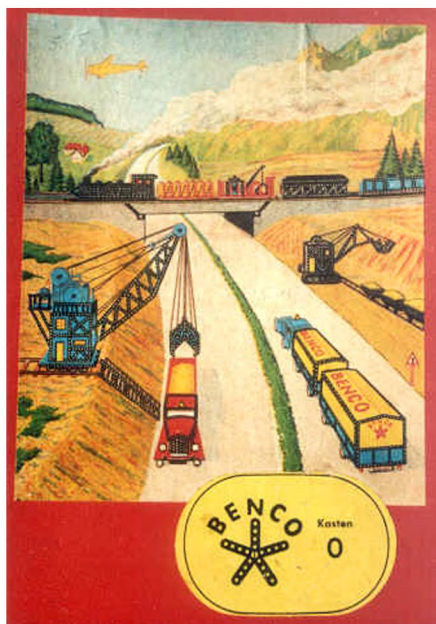
given in the 'Spanish' manual. It had 84 parts including 14 Strips (3 to 11h); a 5*11h Plate; 2 each Flat Trunnions, Corner Brackets, small Pulleys & Tyres; a Wheel Disc; & 25 N&B. The MCS entry and a Leaflet, both probably from the later 'stylised' phase, make no mention of Set 0. **Sets 0-B & D** were progressive, though with no linking outfits, and D was much larger than B (758 parts including 250 N&B, against 282/80). **C** was an accessory set for the smaller sets and its 162 parts included Large Tyres, Wheel Discs to form hubs for them, Flanged Wheels, a TRILL (see later) Motor. **Set E** had 248 parts including Strips, Brackets, and all the 'new' parts from #51 onwards, with 2 each of the 20t Gear, Worm, & Rack Strip, and 1 each of the other Gears. The only pages from the manual that are available are those in MCS, but it is described in the 'Spanish' manual as a complementary set to allow models with Gears to be made. The Car Transmission is shown as an example, with a gearbox & differential driven by an electric motor (reproduced on MCS p5, though the diff isn't shown in the /NZ edition). It would have needed many more Gears than those in Set E.

Boxes & Manual Covers Photos of the '1950' 'A' set show the manual cover below left, yellow with an orange panel at the bottom, and the Bridge in dark blue. The box label is very similar and about the same size, and it covers most of the lightish blue box top.



The 'blue box' manual cover, above right, has a large dark blue (or in one case black) panel with a white Zeppelin on it, and smaller light yellow (or white) & orange/red panels. The box label is very similar to the manual cover in size & design; the box top is the same blue as the label and only a little bigger.

The first type of red box from the 'motorway' phase is the Set B in BK, and is nearly twice as deep (in plan) as the 'blue box'. The label is similar to the one below left, in full colour with a train going over the bridge and mountains in the background. The parts are on blue & yellow cards, within card partitions of the same colours. The manual with this set is the one with the main panel black.



Boxes, thought to be later, are larger, but with the same type of label, as on the No.0 left - its parts are strung to a yellow card. A Set B box from this time is 50% deeper than the Set B above; most of the parts are strung to a yellow card, but the two 5*11h Plates & some 5h Strips are on a separate red card. A Set D with the same type of label is in a red wooden box, 444*297*63mm, with a sliding lid. It has 2 layers of parts, with most in the bottom, within wooden partitioning, and the rest clipped to a green card which sits on top of the partitions. The MCS Set Contents shows 2 Clamps in the Set but only one was found and there is no obvious place for a second. Also it contains 2 Motors, a TRILL & a TRELL, which is as given in the Spanish manual, whereas only a TRILL is listed

in the later MCS Set Contents. A B&W photo of a Set E in the Spanish manual shows it with a Motorway label and the parts in 2 layers, strung to 2 main cards in the bottom with another on top.

The 'stylised' label from a Set B is shown below, with corner covered by part of a manual. It is printed in solid colours with the motorway & other elements on a green ground, and the name in yellow on the top, black panel. The box is the same size as the 'motorway' one and again most of the parts are strung to a yellow card, but arranged differently, and just the 5*11h Plates are on a separate red card. A 'C' with the same label has again most of the parts on a yellow card. Only part of its yellow manual cover can be seen but it is enough to recognise that it is of similar size & design to the one for Set E in MCS, in portrait format. The 'E' one is about 15*21cm in size and has 7 or 8 small vehicles, probably not models, around a central BENCO logo.



Manuals The only one to hand is a 'Spanish' edition, and it is a little odd in some ways. Its black on pale yellow & red cover (below) is 300*138mm, and is in Spanish, but the



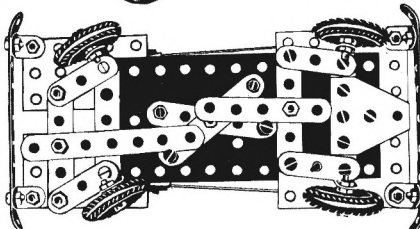
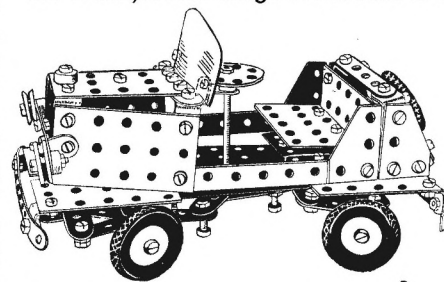
Intro, on the first two of the 36 pages inside, is in German, and the rest is in German/English/French/Spanish/Italian. The Illustrated Parts, to #48, are on pp3-4; the Set Contents, of Sets 0-D, are on p5; and Set E is advertised on p35. The cover says that the Manual is for Sets C & D, but none of the 66 (unnumbered) models in it has any indication of which set is needed, and those on the first pages are quite small.

The inside covers are blank and there is a photo of 2 boys building a Roller Coaster 'supermodel' on the back cover. A photo of a flat, partitioned dealers display box 'L' is shown on p36 - 'for your toy-man selling BENCO component parts'.

On the age of this manual, the Set E lid shown in it has a 'motorway' label, so it must be from that phase or later, and its format puts it before the 'stylised' 'portrait' manuals.

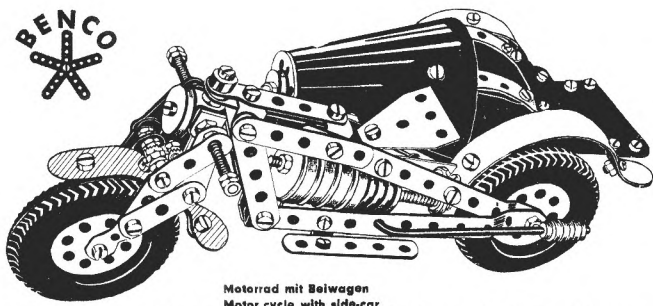
A good line drawing & a Parts List is provided for each model, with an extra view in a few cases, but not all the hidden details are easy to imagine in some of the larger models. The first model is a Swing (Schaukel) on p6, and the last, on p34, Steam Engine with TRILL (Dampfmaschine mit TRILL). A fair range of **models** is shown & on the whole

they are reasonably attractive, but with few mechanical features beyond some cord drives, and transmission at 90° by friction between 2 Discs. The Patrol Car left though has steering on both the front and rear wheels, connected by an unusual link-



Überfallwagen mit Vierradlenkung
Patrol car with four-wheel drive
Voiture de police avec commande à quatre pignons
Coché-guardia de asaltos con gobierno sobre las cuatro ruedas
Camioncino d'assalto con guida a quattro ruote

BENCO



Motorrad mit Beiwagen
Motor cycle with side-car
Motocyclette avec siège de côté
Motocicleta con sidecar
Motocicleta con side-car

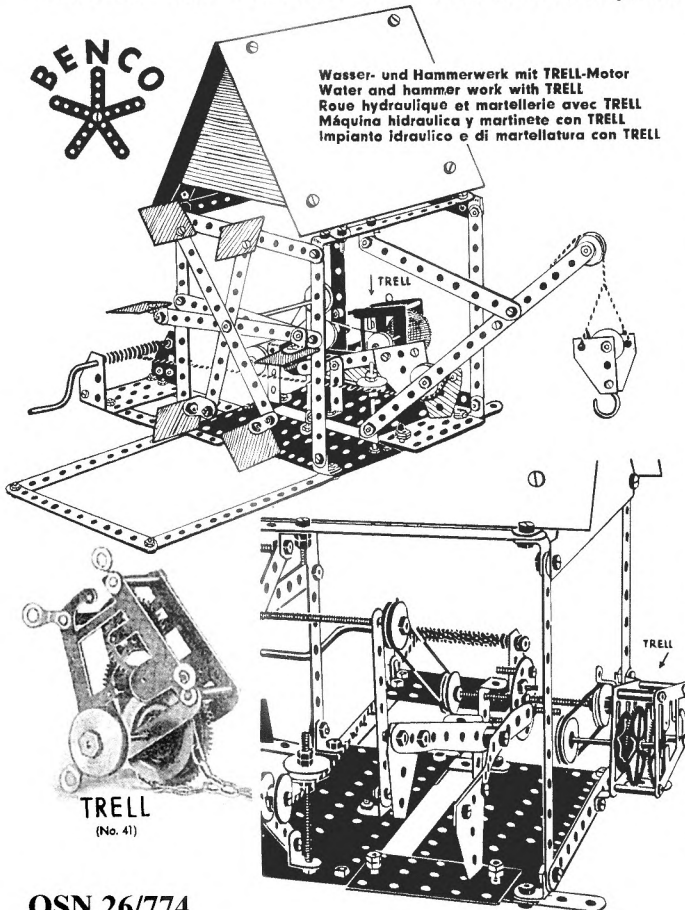
age. The Motor- perhaps one of the models in appearance, with Plastic Sheet used for the sidecar & mudguards. The cylinder is made from 4 Flanged Wheels. A number of the models use parts cut from the Plastic Sheetings but no patterns are given for them. The two other models shown here illustrate the use of the Motors.

Other manuals. The '1950' manual has Kasten A on its cover, and the 'blue box' one has Kasten B. All the others have either 'A & B', or 'C & D'. In terms of the models, all that can be said is that the one page that can be seen of the A-B manual with the 'motorway' Set B, has the same models as one page of the Spanish manual, and the open page of the manual shown with the 'motorway' Set E in the Spanish manual is again similar to another Spanish page.

Motors 4 Motors are described on p17 of the Spanish manual. **TRELL** (below, PN 41) is weight driven with the weights (unspecified) attached to the chain. It is quite small, about 4½cm across the base. **STABIL** of course had a Weight Motor at one time (see 15/407) but it was much larger, made from standard parts, and it seems to have disappeared in the 1920s. In the Watermill below the drive from the TRELL is taken from the pulley on the lowest shaft, the one with the sprocket for the chain. There seems to be 3 stages of step-up gearing from this shaft, no doubt to some form of governor. The TRELL in the Set D differs in detail. The nickelled sideplates have no cutouts and it has only 2 stages of step-up gearing to a bladed governor shaft. The output/sprocket shaft has a threaded end to allow a Pulley to be nutted to it, but curiously it is only 3mm Ø so special nuts are needed, & with no special pulley provided, it is difficult to centre one with a standard 4mm bore satisfactorily. No

BENCO

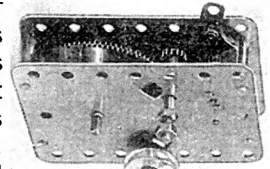
Wasser- und Hammerwerk mit TRELL-Motor
Water and hammer work with TRELL
Roue hydraulique et martellerie avec TRELL
Máquina hidráulica y martinete con TRELL
Impianto Idráulico e di martellatura con TRELL



TRELL
(No. 41)

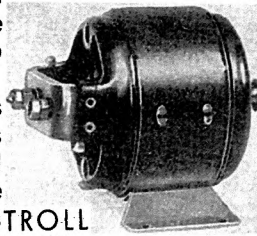
weights to attach to the chain were included in the Set.

TRILL, #41a, right, is a Spring Motor with sideplates about 9*6cm - the holes in them differ slightly in the various illustrations but the Motor in the D set has nickelled sideplates with 7*5 holes around the edges. It has a brake, forward & reverse, and 2 threaded ended output shafts running at different speeds.

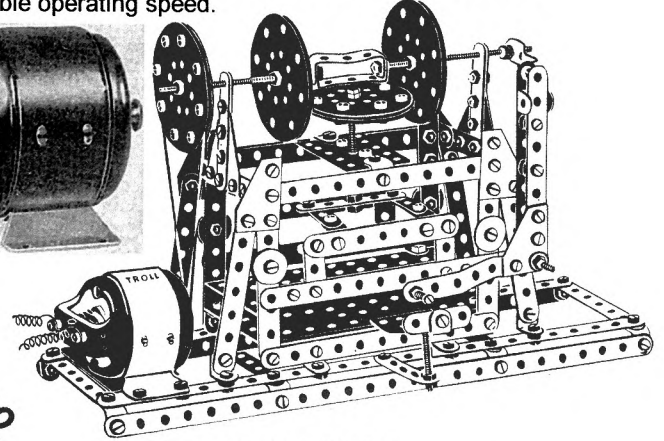


TRILL
(No. 41a)

TROLL (below) is a 4-20V AC/DC, with mounting holes spanning 7*3 holes. No mention is made of any internal gearing and a direct drive would give the Press below a reasonable operating speed.

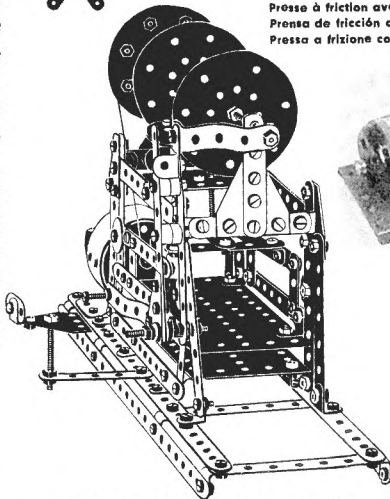


TROLL
(4-20 Volt)

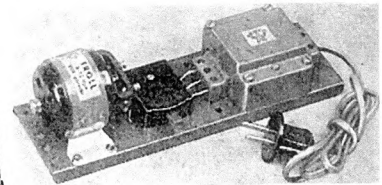


Schwere Friktionspresse mit TROLL-Motor
Heavy friction press with TROLL
Presse à friction avec moteur TROLL
Presse de fricción con TROLL
Presse a frizione con TROLL

BENCO



TROLL+
TRAFO



The item above is **TROLL+TRAFO**, with a TROLL Motor & a transformer (110 or 220V) mounted on a long flanged plate, with a switch between them that allows 8 or 12V to the Motor.

The electric motor with the rectangular casing used to drive the Car Transmission model is quite different - perhaps it is a fourth Motor, **TRULL**, which is mentioned in **BK**, but without any details. From the lead shown it might run from the mains.

SNIPPET: SEYMOUR AIRPLANE FACTORY This name can be seen at the top of the sheet below, & underneath are building instructions for 'Model No.1 Spirit of St. Louis'. This sheet was with a made up model and instructions for a number of others on separate sheets. They all look just like METALCRAFT (see 24/688), & were probably from the equivalent of a No.810 Set. The 'Seymour' outfit may have been a promotional item for the company, but I haven't so far been able to trace a firm of that name.



All the Sheets are printed red on white & it isn't clear if they were originally separate or pages from a manual. Instructions for 25 models were provided, as for Set 810.

5. MÉCAVION Parts in 1933 Some details of MÉCAVION were given in 40/1199 but with practically no dates, and no complete list of the parts. So an illustrated Parts Price List dated Dec. 1933 now to hand is very welcome, and lists both the 'Classic' & the Baby parts. The maker is as given before and below the details of the parts, rearranged. The Baby parts are the Type 1 in OSN 41, and include the Motor unit (it cost less than the price of a pair of Wings). The Wings etc which were thought to be as the Classic parts have slightly different prices but that might be because of their different finishes. 1933 seems to have been the last year of the Type 1 sets because the 1934 list of sets in MCS that was mentioned in

N°	Pièce		N°	Pièce	
1	Aile.....	4.75	30	Capot.....	1.40
1bis	.....	4.75	31	.....	1.80
2	.....	2.50	32	Essieu.....	0.45
2bis	.....	2.50	33	Tournevis.....	1.75
3	Aileron.....	2.75	34	Clé.....	0.45
3bis	.....	2.75	35	Roue.....	1.25
4	Flasque.....	3.85	35bis	métal.....	0.40
5	Cadre.....	1.20	36	Tige de 36 ^{3/32}	0.40
6	Gouvernail.....	2.75	37	.....	21 ^{3/32} 0.25
7	Flasque.....	0.70	38	.....	18 ^{3/32} 0.20
7bis	.....	0.70	39	Axe.....	0.35
8	Hélice.....	1.20	40	Béquille.....	1.80
9	Mât.....	1.35	41	Axe de béquille.....	0.45
10	.....	1.15	42	Entretoise de	
11	Ventre.....	3.35	43	moteur.....	0.35
12	Dessus AV.....	3.15	43	Clé pr moteur.....	1.80
13	- AR.....	2.80	44	Bandæ de roue.....	0.30
14	Plan.....	1.85	Boîte 10 vis.....	1.35	
15	Aile.....	4.60	10 écrous.....	0.85	
15bis	.....	4. »	10 boulons.....	1.95	
16	Entretoise.....	0.95			
17	Hélice.....	0.40			
18	Mât.....	1.15			
19	Entretoise.....	0.70			
19bis	.....	0.70			
20	Flasque.....	0.70			
20bis	.....	0.70			
21	Bâti.....	1.25			
22	Cadre.....	0.90			
23	.....	1.20			
24	Cabine AV.....	2.85			
25	- AR.....	2.50			
26	Pare-brise.....	1.15			
27	Nez.....	2.45			
28	Flotteur (a).....	2.85			
29	- (b).....	2.90			

Pièces BABY

N°	Pièce		N°	Pièce	
100	Aile.....	2.75	108	Hélice.....	0.70
100bis	.....	2.75	109	Plan.....	1.25
101	Aileron.....	2.50	110	Roue.....	0.45
101bis	.....	2.50	111	Essieu.....	0.50
102	Gouvernail.....	2.50	112	Entretoise.....	0.25
103	Flasque.....	0.70	113	Mât.....	0.90
103bis	.....	0.70		Moteur Baby.....	5. »
104	Fuselage.....	4.25		Assortiment boulons.....	1.75
105	Cadre.....	1.20			
106	.....	0.90			
107	Flotteur.....	4.80			

26/754, has an picture of a Type 2 Baby model with elliptical Wings & a 2-cockpit Fuselage. Oddly the Motor for the Classic sets isn't listed though its Key is.

MÉCAVION: S6

[43/1293]

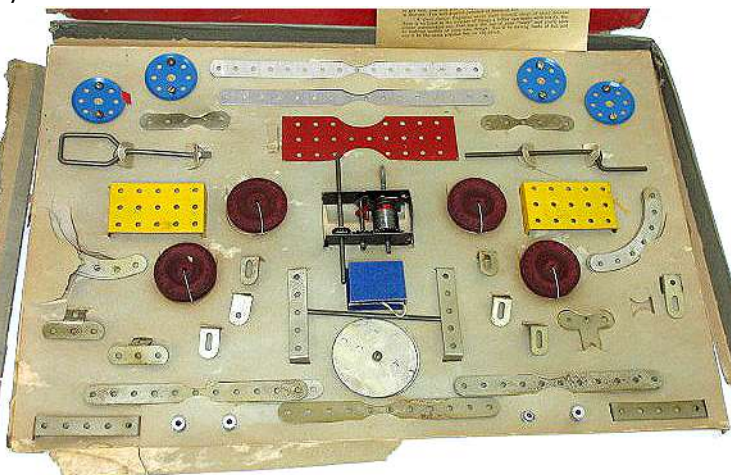
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Payments Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances must be in Pounds Sterling (GBP) or, as cash, in Euros or US Dollars (£1=€1.10=\$1.50). Payments from overseas may also be made using PayPal (in Sterling please).

Small Ads Short ads are free to subscribers; insertion guaranteed in OSN 44 if received by mid-February (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask).

6. Snippet. A JR ENGINEER Special Outfit An account of the parts & manual from this Set was given in 33/976, and now a boxed set has been seen on Ebay, somewhat the worse for wear but probably complete.

The box is the same size as the one for the '4½' Set and the lid is also the same, see 33/975, except that the bright yellow colour of the name and other details is unfaded.



From the parts that can be seen in the box above, the quantities given in OSN 33 are correct subject to the following.

- Only 4 of the 11h Strips can definitely be seen but more could be hidden under them – however only 4 are needed in the manual models.
- There are 4 Curved Strips.
- As in the OSN 33 parts there is only one Steering Bracket (under the righthand stacked pair of Curved Strips), and though the cutout next to it could take another, only one is needed in the manual models.

Other points. • The Wheels look dark red-brown rather than black. • The white Cord poking out of the small parts box matches that noted in OSN 33.

The front of the manual was shown on Ebay and it is identical to the OSN 33 example except that the bottom of the 'Fun and Education' box, blank before, now has 2 lines printed in it. The first is indecipherable but the second is 'Playthings Inc. So this adds to the suggestion in OSN 33 that the Special was produced after a change of maker (despite the Coledi name still being on the lid – old stock being used up?).

JR ENGINEER S5

[43/1293]

7. Snippet. An early BENCO Brochure. It was suggested in 26/772 that BENCO was introduced in 1950 but a 4*A4 page brochure seen on Ebay was said to date from 1949. And that is credible because a model building competition was advertised in it with an end date of Easter 1950.

Only Sets A & B were available, price DM5.50 & 11.90, and they had 129 & 282 parts. That compares with the 131 & 282 in later sets (ignoring the Paper Clips in the latter – there is no mention of them in the brochure). 26 parts were advertised in the brochure and though many of their names can't be seen clearly, they are almost certainly all but 2 of the 28 different parts included in Set B later. All the main parts of the later Set B can be seen in the sets & models shown in the brochure, but there is no sign of the small Tyre #32, so that may be one of the 'missing' ones.

BENCO: S1

[43/1293]

OSN – Your Credit Balance:

was £	after OSN 42
was £	after your remittance of £
is £	after this Issue

Please send at least £ if you wish to receive the next Issue.

Notes on BENCO These add to those in 26/772 and arise from Ebay photos, some parts & two more manuals now to hand, plus details of a Set E kindly sent by Jean-Pierre Guibert. One of the Ebay items confirms that the 4-page brochure described in 43/1293 which introduced Sets A & B, was dated September 1949.

Following OSN 26 the phases for the sets will be called 'Bridge' (was '1950' in OSN 26), 'Airship' (was 'blue box'), 'Motorway', & 'Stylised'. The manual covers, shown here or in OSN 26, with the sets named on their covers in curly brackets are (not necessarily in date order): 'Bridge' {A}; 'Airship' with a black {B, A-B} or blue {A-B} panel; 'Plain' (right), not noted in OSN 26 {C-D}; 'Spanish' {C-D}; 'German', as Spanish but with the cover in German {C-D}; & 'Portrait' (from its format, see Fig.7) {E}.

The MANUALS The 3 manuals to hand, an Airship A-B, a Plain C-D, & a Spanish C-D (the OSN 26 one) will be described in probable date order, judged by the sets in the Set Contents, and what is said about the mains TRULL Motor & Set E. It should of course be said that the promotional material in the manuals almost certainly changed with time, and possibly some of the models as well.

The Airship A-B has 42 inside pages, the others 36, and all have some of their early pages unnumbered. The two 'new' manuals have their Intro in German & English with the rest of the text in German, English, French, Spanish, & Italian. After the Intros comes the Illustrated Parts (with only those needed for the sets on the cover), and the Set Contents. The presentation of the models is the same in all three.

The Plain (C-D) manual (300*138mm) has the Contents of Sets A-D, and 65 models exactly as in the Spanish one. It shows the TRULL Motor (right) and lists 110 or 220V A.C. versions. It says that it has no brushes, it runs at 2000 rpm, and consumes no more than 15 watts. Set E is not mentioned.

The Airship (A-B) manual (298*104mm, as shown in 26/773) has the Contents of Sets 0-D, and 98 models from Weg+weiser/Finger-post (Sign Post) to Ketten-Karussel/Merry-go-round (those names in the first 2 of the 5 languages). Unlike the other manuals, the set needed for the models is given: Set A, or Set B, or A+B. Also given, the box sizes for Sets B-E:

350*330*30mm; 330*300*45; 450*300*60 (a wooden box); 350*325*52mm). The different TRULL Motor (right) is shown and again there are 110 & 220V versions. Set E is mentioned and is said to have Mod.2.5 Gears.

The Spanish (C-D) manual, described in 26/773,

also has the Contents of Sets 0-D. It does not list the TRULL, its space now occupied by the TROLL+TRAFO combination. As mentioned in OSN 26, Set E is advertised with a photo of the set and of a Car Transmission model which still shows a TRULL Motor, the version in the Airship manual.

The SETS/MANUALS. The Set/Manual combinations seen on Ebay are shown in the Table below in possible date order (omitting manuals for smaller sets).

Manual ► Set Label ▼	Bridge A	Black Air- ship B	Black Air- ship A-B	Blue Air- ship A-B	Plain C-D	Por- trait	German C-D
Bridge	Set A						
Black Airship		Set B					
Motorway			Set A	Sets A,B	Set C	Set E	
Stylised				Sets A,B	Set C,D		Sets C,D

In addition there are 3 (of the 25 combinations seen) which seem anomalous. These are a Motorway Set A & a Stylised Set A, each with a Bridge A manual, and a Stylised Set B with a Black Airship B manual.

The PARTS. The following points of interest are based on the parts in incomplete Sets A, B, & C, all with Motorway lids, and with the Airship A-B & Plain C-D manuals above. Except where stated the parts below are nickelled steel. **Holes** are at 12.5mm pitch, 4.5mm Ø in the Strips, and from 4.3 to 4.5 in the various other parts. **The thread** is M4.

#1-6 Strips. 12.0mm wide with very fine serrations along many of their edges. This is the case to some degree on most of the other strip parts. Ends are near but not quite fully rounded. **#14 Crank Handle.** 137mm long o/a, 3.5mm Ø, with 22mm of thread. **#15 Washer.** 10.6mm Ø, 2.5mm thick. **#16 Spacer.** Aluminium, 10.0mm Ø, 5.0mm wide. **#17 Disc.** 20.2mm Ø, 2.5mm thick. Why is this part and the Washer so thick? **#18 Hook.** Brassed steel, flat, 24½mm o/a, 2mm wire. **#19,20 Bolts.** 7.0, 6.7mm Ø tapered cheeseheads, 6.0, 15.0mm u/h. **#21 Nut.** Pressed, 7.0mm A/F, 2.1mm thick. **#22 Chain.** .9mm Ø brassed steel wire links at approximately 4.8mm pitch. **#23 Spanner.** 76mm long o/a with 7mm wide jaws at one end, and 8mm at the other. The latter no doubt for other hexagonal parts, the Threaded Coupling #48 for example. **#24 Screwdriver.** 111mm long o/a, 4mm wire. **#25 Pulley.** Aluminium, 20.0mm Ø, 4.5mm wide. **#32 Tyre.** 34¾mm o.d. & 7¼mm wide when on the Pulley. BENCO is

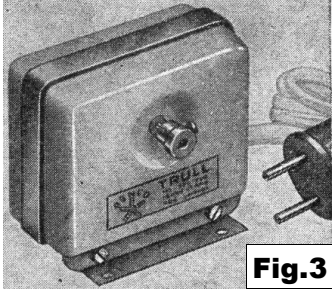


Fig.3



Fig.1

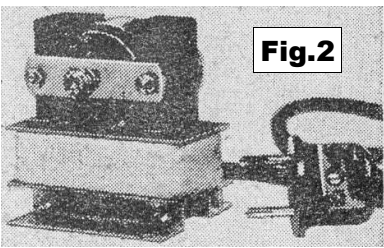


Fig.2

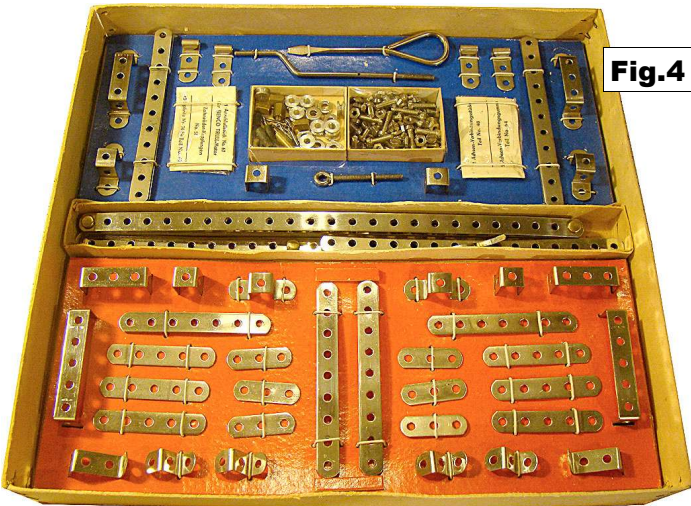


Fig.4



Fig.5

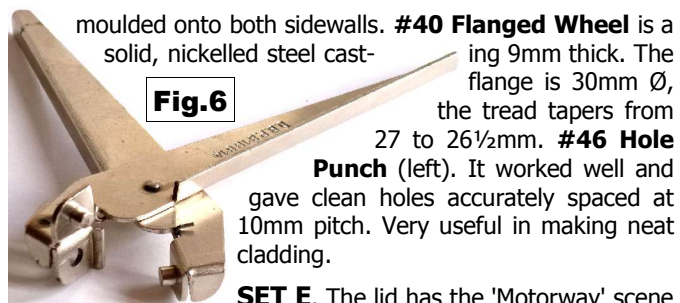


Fig.6

SET E. The lid has the 'Motorway' scene and the box, 350*320*47mm, has 2 layers of parts. The photos of the base & tray (Figs.4 & 5), together with the Illustrated Parts shown in 26/772, give a good idea of the different parts. The gear module is, as expected, a nominal 2.5. The manual with Jean-Pierre's set is the Plain C-D one shown earlier but an accompanying leaflet says that Set E

would be available for Xmas but that an 'E' manual would not be ready until the Spring of 1954. A coupon was attached to request that one be sent when available. The E (Portrait) manual with an Ebay Set E is shown right, as in MCS, and it looks to be about A5 in size.

USING the PARTS I made the Hammer Mill shown in 26/774, slightly elaborated to take advantage of the available parts. Despite the absence of slotted holes it seemed quite easy to build the basic model and to find suitable parts for various 'improvements'. The weight-driven TRELL Motor drove the model admirably.



Fig.7

BENCO: S3

OSN 51/1576

Snippet. 'New' German System:

WIR BAUEN AUF! The Ebay photos here show an architectural system, said to be from the 1940s. The name could translate as We Are Rebuilding! – apposite perhaps for Germany in the late 1940s. Fig.4 shows the open box plus the manual and a corner of the lid.

The PL under the Summer House in Fig.2 lists 16 PNs: #1-6, 12-16, 18-22.

Some of the black parts support the grey Wall Panels. There are 2 types of Upright, the Flat ones in Fig.6 & Flanged ones in the top bay of Fig.4. Quite how the Panels are fixed



Fig.1

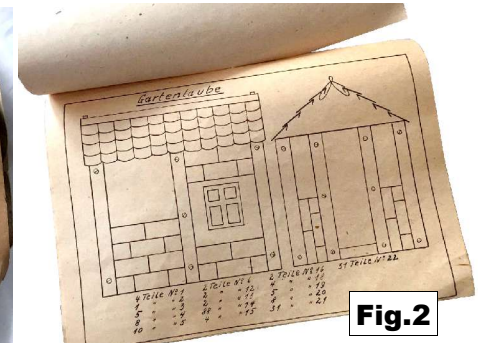


Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5

isn't clear but perhaps with Clips bolted to the Uprights. 31 N&B are called up in the PL.

The tabs on the red Roof Tiles presumably engage Roof Battens which would slide into the narrow slots in the top edges of the Gable Ends, but no parts that definitely look like Battens can be seen, though there



Fig.6

are some long parts in Fig.4's top bay. A Roof Ridge would also be needed and again this part may be in the top bay. The small, whitish parts half hidden in Figs.3 & 6 are square tiles with an alphabet letter on their under faces. A number of these can be seen in a photo not shown here and it seems unlikely that they are part of the Set.

Thank you to Urs Flammer & Thomas Morzinck for their help over Wir Bauen Auf!



Fig.7

WIR BAUEN AUF: S1

OSN 51/1576