



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 TRIX. (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.