

5. **CREIN.** Jean-Pierre Guibert pointed out that the parts in this system (see p1586 of this Issue) resemble closely those in CONSTRUCTOR AUKRI (44/1347), the only obvious difference being the Handlebar used in the Irish Mail etc: one of the Short Wood Pieces in AUKRI but formed with a circular section in CREIN. Thus it is very likely that the dimensions of the parts are similar or even identical.

CREIN: S2 [52/1581].

Snippet. Gilbert's KLAX Clock Sets [Who vetoed KLAX KLOX I wonder.] Prior to the Ebay set to be described the only reference to KLAX to hand was in 6/136 where a No.2 set for a Pendulum Clock was said to date from 1925 and that ERECTOR Gears, Rods, & Chain were used.

The photos of the Ebay set don't show a set number but the manual (Fig.2) does refer to 'Clock Sets'. The small lettering on the lid (Fig.1) reads: A Highly Interesting And Amusing Toy | That Teaches The Boy | The Mysteries of Clockworks | With A Manual | "THE STORY OF CLOCKS".

The parts in the box (Fig.3) look as if the set might be complete, with the small parts in the packet just poking out from behind the Clock Face (the only word that can be seen on it is Collar). But I'm not sure how the framework would be assembled and attached to the Face.

The 2 Gears top right are identical and one of them, & all the others, are shown as a-g in Fig.4 (they are from various Ebay photos but are all about to scale). b1,c,f have 8,12,36 teeth and are probably standard pre-1925 ERECTOR Gears. g is a double 12/36t Gear. The fine-tooth Gears are probably 'specials': a,d, have 32,75 teeth, and b2 probably 15 or 16.

But I'm not sure that they all have the same tooth pitch. And given non-standard Gears one might expect a pair to have a 4:1 ratio to be used in the train between the minute & hour hands. e is another double gear combining a & f.

6. **Danish TEKNO, a Correction.** On page 1601 of this Issue the splendid Combine model, attributed to Victor Andersen, was actually built by Gunner Kannegaard from Brønderslev in the northern part of Jutland. Apologies to both and thanks to Hans Christensen for pointing out the mistake.

TEKNO [1]: S5 [52/1581]

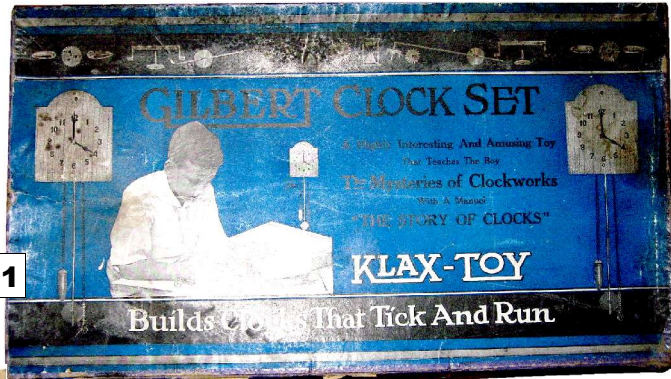


Fig.1

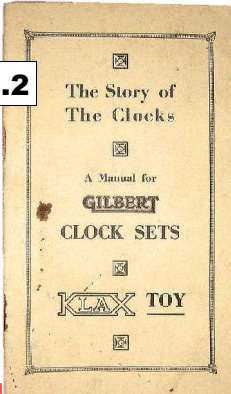


Fig.2

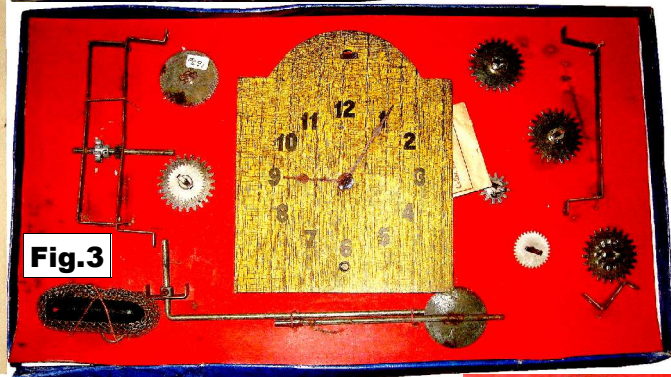


Fig.3



Fig.4

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KLAX: S1

New from VEX New parts, designs, etc have been added since the notes in 41/1243, though they are hard to pin down on Vex's confusing website, and many are probably of little interest to OSN readers. However one advance is that some products can now be shipped from the UK, Europe, & Canada, thus avoiding, one hopes, the previous high shipping charges.

Recently a number of kits to make relatively simple models have been offered on UK Ebay, all labelled VEX ROBOTICS & STEM STARTERS. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. An attempt perhaps to widen VEX's appeal & attract the young. The Ebay offerings were a Catapult with 100+ parts & a 10' throw, a Crossbow with 150+ parts & foam Darts, a Snapshot with a 10' range, a 100+ part Gear Racer with a pull-back Motor, a 270+ part Fork Lift ball machine with 8 Balls, and the Hook Shot ball



Fig.1

machine left with 170+ parts & again 8 Balls. From the start the Balls shoot up, over the blue arch, then pass through it & down to guide rails to roll along the ramp & drop down to the start. Each box shows 2 other models which can be made with the parts, often a little more realistic looking than the featured model. Those for the Hook Shot are a Helicopter & a fairground Pirate Ship. Where appropriate models are hand operated, but some can be motorized with an add-on Motor Kit. Other models mentioned are a Strandbeast, Spider, & Scarab. The range offered in the different countries can be seen at hexbugvex.com and the 'stars' are the Strandbeast & a Robotic Arm, a sort of grabbing crane.

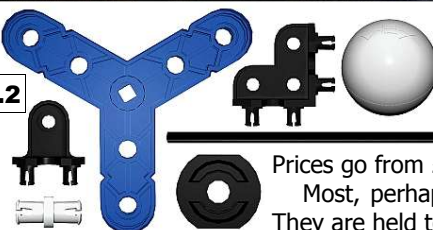


Fig.2

Prices go from £15 to £90 (for a Motorized Robotic Arm). Most, perhaps all the parts in these models are plastic. They are held together by plastic split-ended Snap Pieces, 3 of which are among some of the Hook Shot parts in Fig.2.

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VEX: S6

Snippet. 'New' Spanish System: CREIN These notes are based on one set seen on Ebay, and apart from not knowing the exact size of the parts, CREIN looks comparable to the 1920s GILBERT NEW WHEEL TOY (see 45/1385). 'Crein' has no meaning but is a Spanish surname & company name.



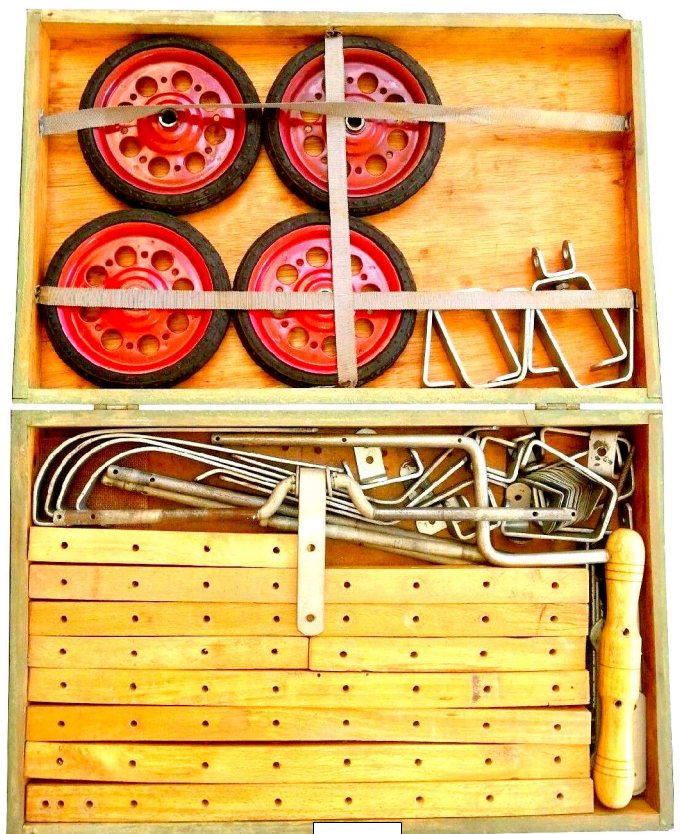
The lid above claims a **Fig.1** patent and a logo, top centre, has a rocking horse on a flag stuck in a sand castle, with what looks like 'Creaciones' [Creations] above it. The slogan in the bottom border translates as A Toy and Toys for Everyone, and Forever. The other borders have the types of model that can be made: Sledges, Lorries, Armchairs, Croquet, Tennis, Windmills, Barrows, etc. The models in the large circles include a Hoopla (bottom left), and in the centre the boy & girl are building the 'Irish Mail' ('a' in Fig.3). Many more model types than in the NEW WHEEL TOY (NWT henceforth) manual, though the range was increased for its successor, ERECTOR SENIOR.

The parts in the 2-layer wooden box include various Brackets, a Crank Handle & a Crankshaft, as well as the 4 Wheels (with, unlike NWT, rubber Tyres), Sledge Runners, and wooden Beams, but no sign of the various Plates needed for the different models, though there may be some under the Axles & Brackets.

Since no dimensions are known one can only speculate. If the hole pitch in the Beams is 50mm (near the NWT 2") the Wheel diameter scales at approx. 5¼", and the Beams at 1" wide, both comparable to NWT. But at 8½mm (⅓") the Axle diameter is considerably less than Gilbert's ½", while the bolt holes, at about 5½mm, are 1½mm larger. The box sides scale at about ½" – certainly a possibility though the sides of NWT wooden boxes are nearer 5/16".

The only paper-work with the Ebay set was the sheet right, light brown in colour but B&W here for clarity. It looks to have been folded into 4, no doubt to fit it into the box.

The Connecting Rod on the NWT Irish Mail drives a Pin at a 2" radius in the side of the 39t Gear, & the latter mates with a 13t Gear on the Back Axle. CREIN has no gears, so the Con Rod goes directly to



the Crankshaft which forms **Fig.2** the back axle. Its throw would be about 2" and this gives a much lower geared drive than in the NWT model. Thus a lower potential top speed but starting off would be much easier. When my granddaughter, 7 at the time, tried my NWT model she found it practically impossible to start without a push or a downward slope.

Apart from the Irish Mail, two other mechanical models caught my eye: the Crane (Fig.3 'b', I suppose it can slew) & the Windmill 'c'. The other models include a good selection that a youngster might think it worthwhile to build.

Many of the models would be difficult to construct with only the drawing on the Sheet, so no doubt there would have been other instructions or a manual.

