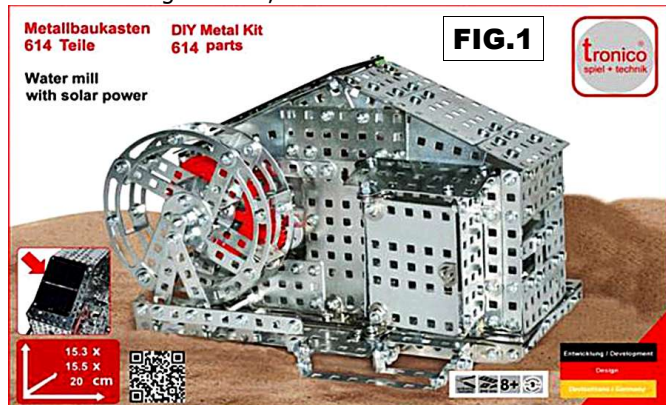
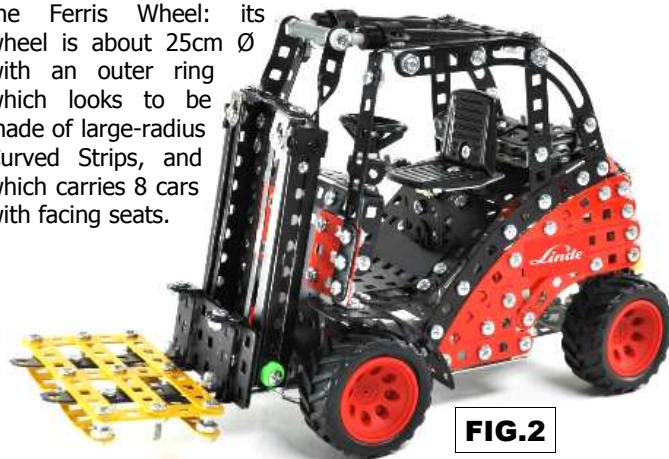


**TRONICO.** John Peach & Paul Goodman kindly sent items of interest. John had bought the Wind Turbine set (see Fig.4 of 46/1395) from a branch of a shop called Nauticalia. It is Art. No.10131, has 592 parts, was made in China, and bore the TRONICA name. 3 other Solar sets were shown on the box, a Ferris Wheel #10132, an Oil Drilling Station #10134, and, the least interesting of the 3, the Water Mill #10333 below. These

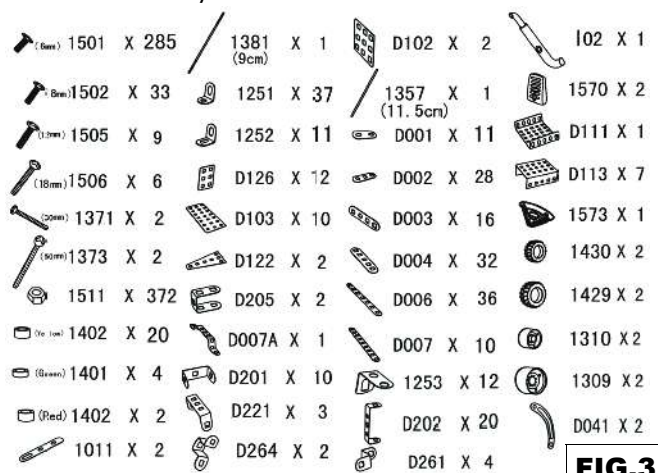


sets are no longer listed and a hunt for photos on the web (those on the box are very poor) yielded only the Water Mill above, from a shop in Australia. The best model is probably the Ferris Wheel: its wheel is about 25cm Ø with an outer ring which looks to be made of large-radius Curved Strips, and which carries 8 cars with facing seats.



John also bought one of the TRONICO Tractors that were described in 46/1396, and, see [www.tronico.de](http://www.tronico.de), other models have been added to the range since OSN 46. One is the Linde Forklift Truck H30 (#10092) in Fig.2, with 668 parts. It is to the usual 1/16-scale and is said to be steerable

Paul also bought a Tractor set but from a MECCANO enthusiast (it has originally also come from Nauticalia) with the model, the Massey Ferguson, ready made. It is 11" long, 6 1/2" wide, 7 1/2" high, and is all metal apart from the Wheels & a few trim items. The Instructions are in the form of 20 building steps in B&W over 7 A3 sides plus an A4 sheet with 6 colour photos of the finished model. The model isn't powered. As found the alignment of the front wheels looks doubtful and the Steering Wheel doesn't turn them. It's clear from the parts that an offset Pin at the bottom of the steering column is meant to operate the steering but just how is unclear from the Instructions. The parts in the Set are shown below. The Bolt lengths are 6, 8, 12, 18, 30, & 50mm, and the plastic Spacers #1402, 1401, 1402 are yellow, green, & red. Parts #1570 form the seat, and #1573 is the Steering Wheel. All the Strips are shown straight and the Instructions show them being formed where necessary by hand. But those in Paul's model look very free from any sign of kinking, and I wonder if the actual parts in the Set are ready formed.



TRONICO: S2

OSN 47/1440

### Snippet. 'New' System: another DER KLEINE INGENIEUR

With its dedicated parts for a fairground ride Car, and seeming emphasis on fairground models, the Ebay set right appears to be different in character to the other three known DKIs (DKI1-3), all probably small systems. DKI1 was mentioned in 17/476 & a small set with STABIL-style parts is shown on p220 of Baukästen. DKI2 looks akin to METALLIX and a small set with light-coloured, probably aluminium parts, was described in 43/1320. Finally DKI3, a small set was shown in 44/1324 with contents consisting of Strips, and small circular parts running on Screwed Rods.

The name on the lid of the present set is hard to read, and the words under it are indecipherable but the Ebay announcement mentioned 'BÖHAG Gera' – presumably the maker, situated in Gera, a city 60km south of Leipzig. '1940s' was also mentioned, and if correct, probably means that the system was East German.

Little can be seen of the parts in the present set beyond Strips, A/Gs, Pulleys with tapped bosses & Rubber Rings (or Tyres), and the parts for the Cars.



DER KLEINE INGENIEUR [4]: S1

OSN 47/1440



**DER KLEINE INGENIEUR** A photo of an Ebay set and a little about it appeared in 47/1440 but now Urs Flammer has kindly sent details of his set, and two other sets has been seen on Ebay.

**Maker:** See OSN 47: the name BÖHAG Gera can be seen on the manual cover (Fig.5). **Date:** Nothing known beyond the earlier, tentative '1940s'.

**The PARTS**, see Figs.1-3. Fig.1 shows the parts, refurbished, in Urs' outfit; Fig.2, said parts as found; and Fig.3 some of the parts in one of the Ebay sets. **Holes**, 4.3mm Ø at a pitch of between 13.0 & 13.9mm. The holes in Urs' parts are round but an Ebay set seems to have some parts with slotted holes. **Thread:** M4. **Material/Finish:** Nuts aluminium; the rest steel painted silver, but the Gondola parts in some sets are red.

**List of Urs' Parts:** **Strips** 13, 5h, 13mm wide. **A/G** 11h. **A/B**. **Fig.1** **Disc** 84mm Ø. **Loose Pulley**, wooden, 22mm Ø. **Gondola Side**. **Gondola End**. **Hook** (in Fig.1 but not Fig.2) bent from a narrow flat strip. **Screwed Rod**. **Crank Handle** with threaded end. **Bolt**, fillister head, 7mm u/h. **Nut**, hexagonal, 7mm A/F. **Screwdriver**.

**Other Parts** One Ebay set has some different parts which, as will appear, could be genuine, as follows. 12h long A/Gs with transverse slotted holes replacing the 11h; extra Strips 12h long with transverse slotted holes; Flat Brackets with one slotted hole; replacement A/Bs made from the Flat Brackets; metal Fast Pulleys painted red instead of wooden ones; 3 black Tyres for the 5 Pulleys in the lot; and both Gondola parts painted red. Fig.3 shows the Pulley, the Flat Bracket, the Gondola Side, & the ends of two 12h Strips. There were also 2 Double Arm Cranks with a hole in only one of their arms, but these look less likely to be genuine. Likewise smaller, square Nuts, & longer, cheesehead Bolts.

The second Ebay set has silver Gondola parts but red Pulleys fitted with Tyres as above. The other parts cannot be seen clearly enough to be sure of them.

The model sheet of the Crane (Fig.7) with Urs's set, offers a choice of using either 290 or 150mm long A/Gs: that would be 21 or 11h.

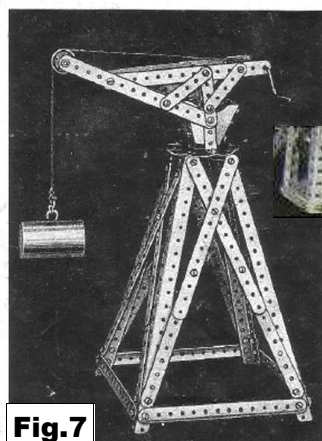
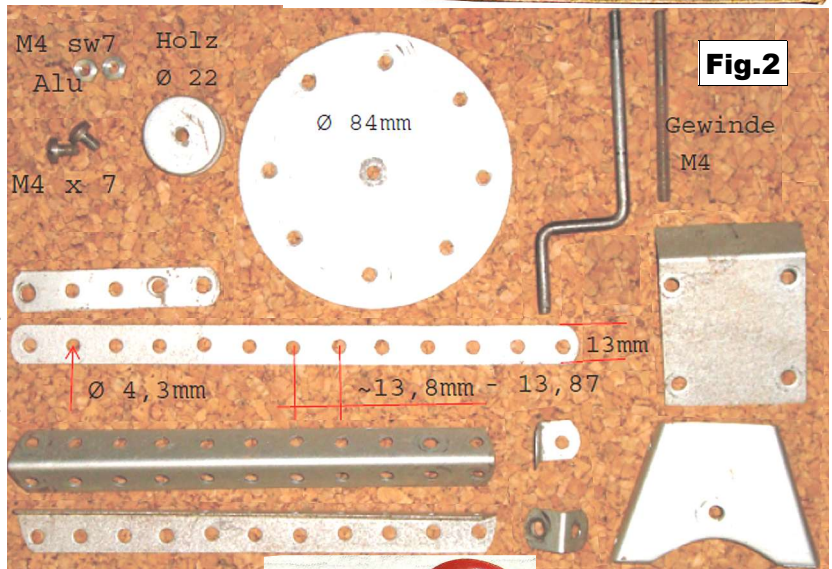
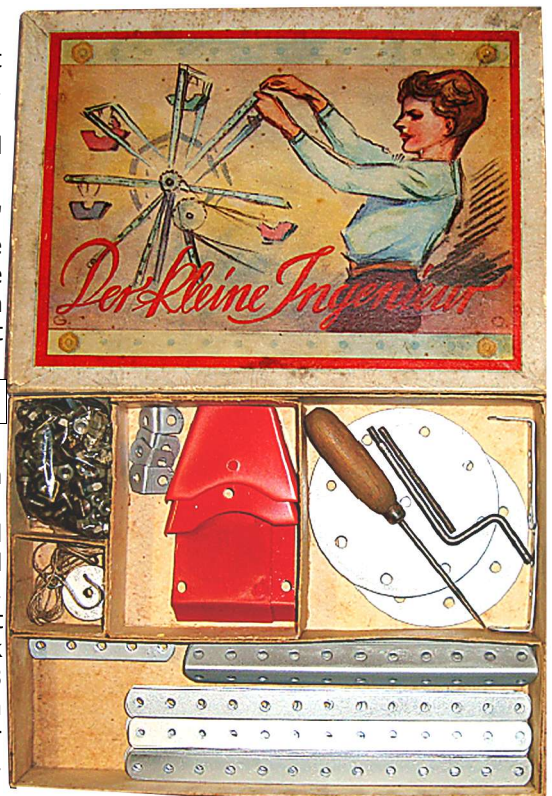
**The SETS** Urs' set (Fig.1) measures 230\*170\*30mm and as found contained enough parts to make the model in Fig.7.

The Ebay sets have the larger box in Fig.4. If as is likely the same Fig.1 label was used, the lid scales at 33\*21cm. (Fig.6 shows its corner.)

For what it is worth the main parts shown for the first Ebay set are: 18,12,23x 13,12,5h Strips; 10x 12h A/Gs; 9 Flat Brackets; 15 A/Bs; 2 Discs; & 16 each of Gondola Sides & Ends.

**The MANUALS** The model sheet (Fig.7) with Urs' set has already been mentioned.

There was a manual with the first Ebay set with the



cover in Fig.5. Two **Fig.4** blurry inside pages were shown, one with the Fig.7 Crane, & a simple Windmill with Strips for sails, driven from a crank handle. This last model appears to have A/Gs with slotted holes, and a 12h can be seen reasonably clearly in the base (Fig.8 left). The other page has a double-arched, Bridge framework, some 75cm long, & a Ship with a hull, 23h long & 5h deep, of Strips, with 2 square section funnels and little else on the deck. All the model were shown on a black ground with a list of parts above or below them.

One manual page (Fig.6) was shown for the second Ebay set, with the Roundabout ride on it. The pylon would be 11 or 12h high with the various arms in the rotating structure about the same length.