

'New' System: DER KLEINE KONSTRUKTEUR This is yet another German system with this name, but it may be the first because it is said to date from before WW2, and possibly from the 1920s. As a small system it has limited scope but its one or two special or unusual parts allow some worthwhile models. Thank you to Urs Flammer and Jürgen Kahlfeldt for sending details.

Nothing is known of the maker and there is nothing to indicate that there was ever more than one set. Its box (Figs.1 & 2) measures 19¾*23½*4cm and the 23 different parts found, and thought genuine, are shown in Figs.2-4. They are listed below with my PNs & names for convenience, and the quantities found in curly bracket, though no doubt some parts are missing.

The PARTS • **Holes** are 4.0mm, with a few 4.1, at 11.9mm pitch. **Axles** etc are 4.0mm Ø. **Threads:** The N&B are M3 but M4 Nuts are used on the Screw-ended Axle. Tapped holes are M3.

• **#1 Flanged Plate** 5*5h, the outer holes across are at 63.9mm centres. {1}

• **#2 Flanged Sector Plate.** {2}

• **#3 A/G,** 13h, 10*10mm section. {8}

• **#4 U-Girder,** 6h, 9.0*3.8mm. The 2 holes at one end are at 16.5mm pitch. {2}

• **#5 A/B,** 13*13mm, the slotted hole 3.6*6mm. {14}

• **#6 Strip,** 11h, with a joggled tongue pressed out at one end. 7mm wide. See also Fig.6a. {12}

• **#7 Strip,** 11h, 6.7mm wide. {10}

• **#8 Fairground Seat,** 59mm long, 39mm wide. {6}

• **#9 Z-Strip,** 9.8mm wide and the end holes span 7 holes. {4}

• **#10 Strut,** 7.0mm wide, 143mm long if flattened. {6}

• **#11 Post (SAS),** 11.2mm wide. {2}

• **#12 Bush Wheel,** 36mm Ø with 6h at 13mm radius. The boss, tapped M3, is shown more clearly right. {1}

• **#13 Wheel Disc,** 36mm Ø, 8h at 14mm radius. {1}

• **#14 Crank Handle,** 74mm long o/a. {1}

• **#15 Screw-ended Axle,** 65mm, M4 thread. {2}

• **#16 Axle,** 180mm long. {1}

• **#17 Collar,** 9mm Ø, 6.8mm long, tapped M3. {2}

• **#18 Pulley,** 35mm Ø, with boss tapped M3. {2}

• **#19 Nut,** square, M4, 6.2mm A/F, for #15. {16}

• **#20 Nut,** hexagonal, M3, 6.2mm A/F. {3}

• **#21, 22 Bolts,** cheeseheaded, M3, 6, 8mm u/h. {27,3}

• **#23 Wire Hanger,** 1.5mm Ø, for #8, though Strips are used in the manual models, as in the Big Wheel on the lid (Fig.5) for example. {9}

Material/Finish All the parts are made of steel except #6, 7, & 13 which are aluminium, and #19 brass. #14-23 are plain metal; #1, #2, #9, #18, & 4 of #8 are painted brown; the other parts are chemically blackened except that #10-12, & 2 of #8 are painted black.

Model Sheets 5 model sheets are known, all of poor '1950 quality' paper, each 208*147mm, and printed on one side only with a single model. There is no model name or number, nor any reference to a printer, maker, or the name of the system. The models are a Swing Bridge (Fig.8); a Roundabout (Urs' model is shown in Fig.6, with Fig.6a inset showing the use of the tongued end of #6); a Slewing Crane (Fig.7), a Telfer Span, and a Windmill. Another model is the Big Wheel on the lid, shown in Fig.5.

All the known model sheets show working models, generally quite attractive, with their motion provided by a pulley drive, plus the hoisting function of the Crane.



Fig.1

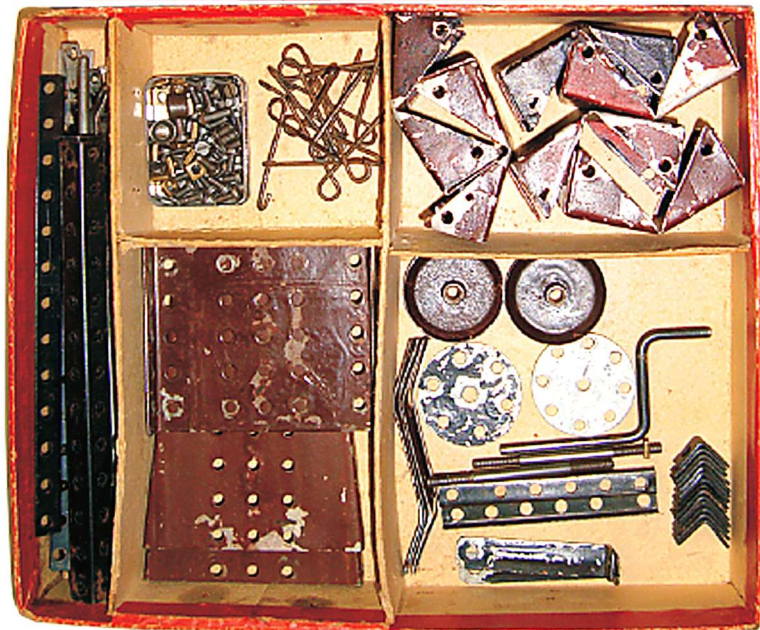


Fig.2



Fig.3

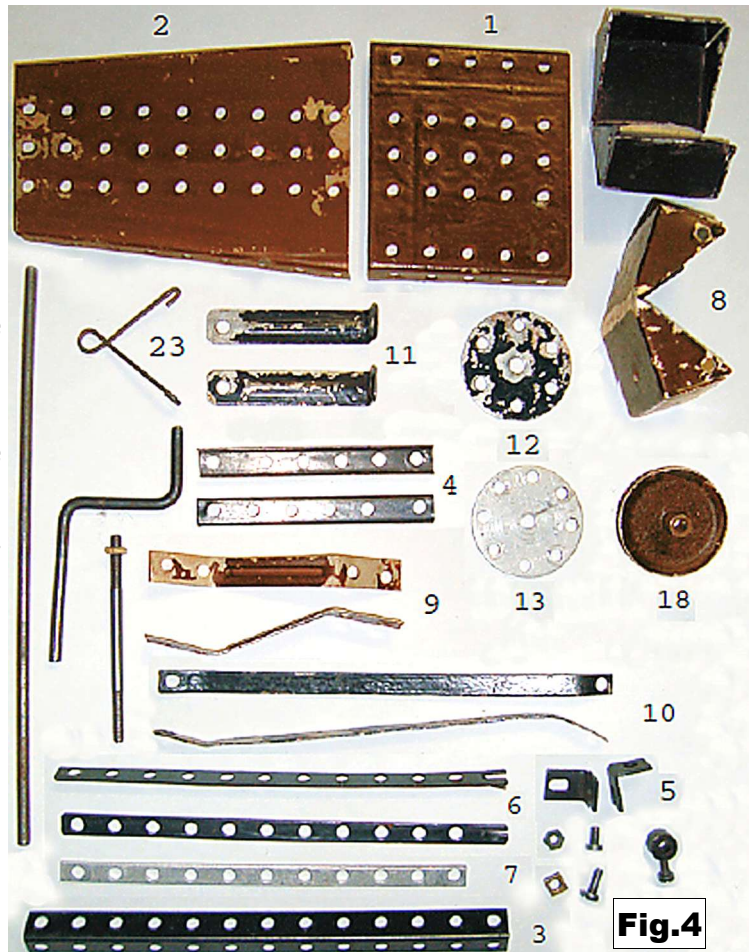


Fig.4

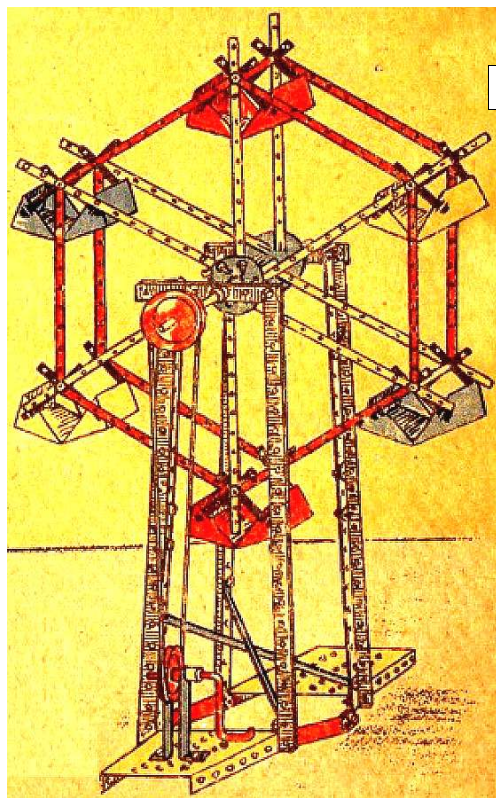


Fig.5

Fig.5 is about 90% of its original size; Figs.7 & 8 about 50%.

Fig.6a

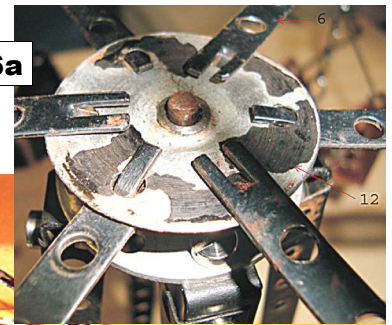


Fig.6

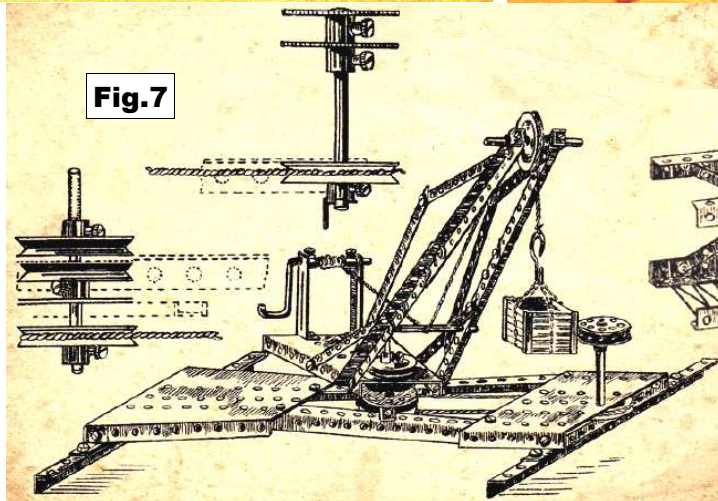
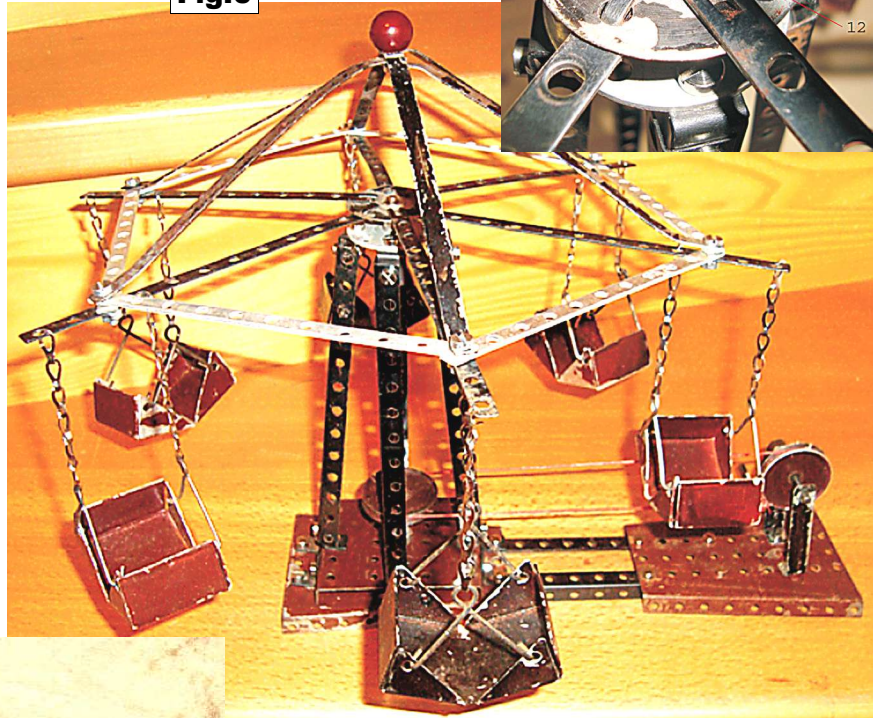


Fig.7

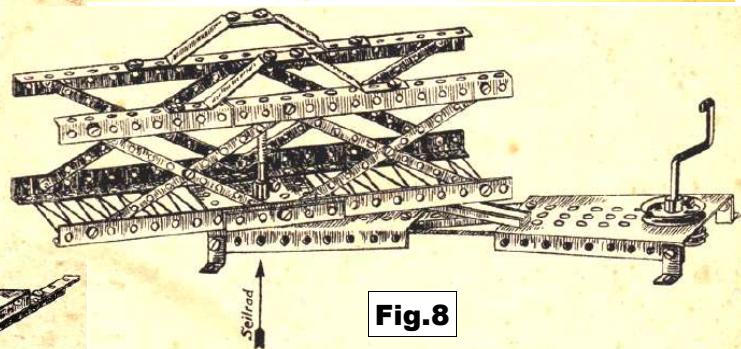


Fig.8

DER KLEINE KONSTRUKTEUR [4]: S2

OSN 50/1524

Snippet. 'New' System:

MECOTEC The two sets shown right were offered on the Argentine Ebay. The logo, top right, looked familiar and India came to mind, but in the event I couldn't trace it, or the 'TOY BOX' brand name (bottom left), but a web search found two sets being offered new on the Indian Ebay, though nothing relevant on TOY BOX. So on balance, and pro tem, Indian.

In case it's not clear the sets seem to be called Silver Finish 1 and Military 1, and the latter was said to include 'real looking soldiers to complete your battle scene'. Both are '1st Level' and claim 5 models with their 88 and 101 parts respectively.



Fig.1



Fig.2

A few of the parts have an Eitech look, the slotted Curved Strips for example, and the Seats, but most look MECCANO-ish, with a touch of BRAL perhaps in the shape of the ends of the slotted holes in the Flexible Plates.

MECOTEC: S1

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