



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



EFEL I thought when I looked at the two versions of EFEL shown in MCS that some of the details might have got a bit mixed up between the two of them, at any rate they didn't all agree with a set I once bought in France. So I asked Dr Figureau if he could let me have information on the EFEL sets in his collection, and he has sent me notes on which this article is based and some splendid colour photographs which have copied well enough to be included here.

The first thing is that there is a third distinct version of EFEL and it is probably the earliest. Fig 1 shows Set 6 and on the lid after EFEL is TYPE TRAVAUX PUBLICS (Type Public Works). Fig 5 is part of a photo of a second Set 6, this shows better the pulleys and the half and quarter discs. The contents of these two outfits differ slightly but both have the same 8 page manual. The box in Fig 1 is basically blue in colour, the other one is red; the label is the same in both cases. Details of the parts: the hole spacing is 10mm and the diameter of the axles is 2mm. All parts are in unpainted steel except for nuts and bolts, couplings and bosses, all of brass, and the screwdriver in aluminium.

The second version of EFEL is again labelled TYPE TRAVAUX PUBLICS and it is thought to have been made in the 1950's (a page in Frank Beadle's latest MCS shows these sets advertised in the Martinaud price list for 1962). Sets from this period are shown in Figs 2,3 4,. The earliest is a Set 1 (Fig 2) and the label on the lid is identical to those of the first version. The parts though are entirely different, the spacing is still 10mm but the holes are bigger to admit 4mm axles. All the parts are finished, the small brackets are nickel plated, the flanged plate is painted green, the longer strips and the DAS red, and the rest of the parts blue. The pulley wheels (about 2.5cm diameter) are red plastic. The spanner has EFEL stamped into it in large letters. Fig 3 shows a Set 0 with a different label on the lid, otherwise the parts are similar to those in the set 1 except that the plastic pulleys have brass bosses. The final set of this period (Fig 4) is a No 5 and it looks superb in the colour photo. Many additional parts are included with angle and flat girders of varying lengths (like the strips they are red unless they are 5 holes in length or less, when they are blue), various sizes of perforated plates in green and the large circular pulley in red. The all plastic, red small pulleys are fitted with white plastic rings.

The third version is the second in MCS (called E.F.E.L. there), and is completely different in all respects except that the axle size is still 4mm. The parts are well illustrated in MCS but Fig 6 is included, it is a Set 0A, to show the lid and the rather nice box for small parts with 'Efel' written on it. The parts are of bare steel except that the pulleys are painted red. The spacing between centres of the slots along the length of the P plates and the C angle girders is 30mm. Note the 'Gede' on the box lid (top left) - this is the maker's name.

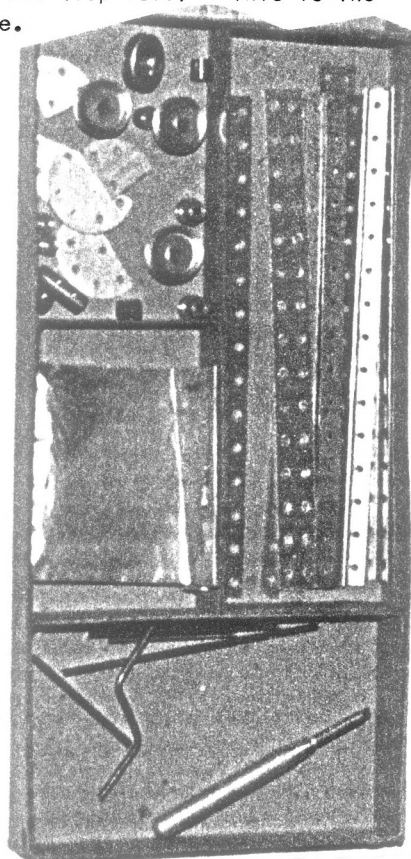


Fig 5



Fig 6