

Snippet. 'New' System: FIFA The Ebay set was a Nr.1 and was said to be East German. Fig.1 shows most of the open box, Fig.2 the manual cover, and Fig.3 the inside of the lid, with details of the 17 different parts in the set and their quantities. The parts can just about be recognised from the drawings and most can be seen in the box, but the quantities are indecipherable.

The parts look to be made of aluminium, and to have a hole pitch of nearer 10mm than $\frac{1}{2}$ ", though no dimensions were given. From top to bottom in the lid they are: 3,5,9,13,17h Strips; A/B & D/B; 2 DAS; 3 Screwed Rods; 2 Discs; a Span-driver; a roundheaded Bolt; and a hexagonal Nut. The DAS are made from the 9 & 13h Strips with the lug bend point across the second hole in from the end, leaving 5 & 9 clear holes in the bases. In the box two of the longer ones are joined by their lugs in the top compartment to the left of the 13h Strip. The D/B is probably made from the 5h Strip in a similar way to the DAS.

Were there other parts and sets? No Plates or larger circular parts can be seen in the models on the manual cover, but there is a blue electric motor in the ?Lathe on the table in front of the man.



FIG.1

FIG.2



FIG.3



OSN 42/1265

FIFA: S1

Snippets. KITSPOCK

Two sets which may be of interest have been seen on Ebay since the last mention of this 1980s Brazilian system in 29/876.

The first is the small set in Figs.1 & 2. From its packaging – the lid & the foam block housing the



FIG.1

view – the Screwdriver with a red handle and the Plates fully perforated. With these parts were some red Flexible Plates, 3h wide & up to 25h long, with all their holes elongated – they are not known KITSPOCK parts and could be BRAL. Other foreigners are the 2 grey Pulleys with Rubber Rings in the Set's top recess.

'35' can be seen on the bottom side of the box and might be the number of manual models; but if so it is one more than the 34 in the OSN manual (the 12 'BRAL' models in 26/762 was wrong, it should have been 16).

The lid of the second set (Figs.3 & 4) is completely 'new'. And as all the 5 sets covered in OSN 26 have only four Road Wheels, it isn't one of those. Perhaps the model Armoured Car on the lid denotes an Army theme set, but if so the colour of the parts is surprising. In Fig.4 the inset top right (on the lid) looks to be a booklet of some sort.



FIG.3



FIG.4

parts – it looks earlier than any of the sets previously mentioned. Also the bright parts are possibly nickelled rather than BZP. The models on the lid are among those for Set 1 in the manual described in 26/762 and from the inventory in that manual (see MCS Sheet X2.4) most of the main parts in the No.1 can be seen in the Fig.2. The large black parts in the top & bottom recesses are push-on plastic Road Wheels. The main parts missing are 3*5 & 3*11h Flexible Plates, and a Screwdriver, but these can be seen outside the box in another

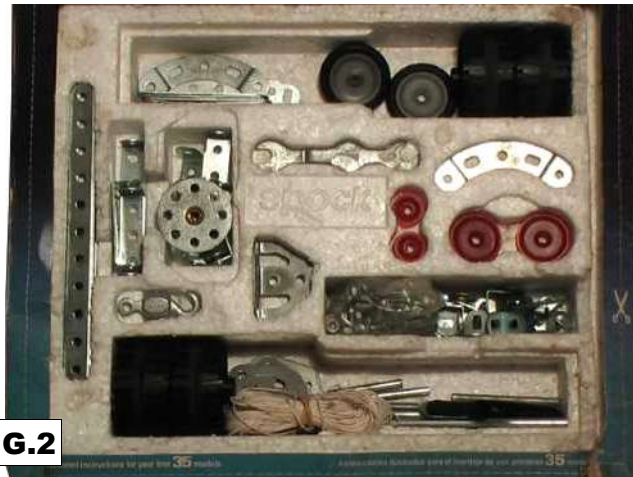


FIG.2

OSN 42/1265

KITSPOCK: S2

'New' System BLEMA

v. FIFA A BLEMA Nr.1 set offered on Ebay led to Urs Flammer kindly sending details of his sets & some comments on a FIFA Nr.1 from Jürgen Kahlfeldt.

The BLEMA box layout, set contents, and, apart from the N&B, parts, are identical to FIFA (see 42/1265). Both were made in Zeulenroda (a town some 80km south of Leipzig, in what was East Germany), FIFA by Hans-Joachim Fischer and BLEMA by VEB Blechbearbeitungsmaschinenwerk. FIFA certainly came before the VEB-made BLEMA and it may have existed in 1939, BLEMA is known from the mid-1950s.

BOXES Figs.1,2 show the BLEMA & FIFA lid labels, and they cover most of their lids. The PR on the former is 3021-V77-1,0-1054-M657/54. No box number can be seen on either set but both have the Illustrated Parts for Set 1, with quantities, pasted inside the lid. Nothing is known of any larger sets. The BLEMA box, 300*187*23mm, is light blue (as in Fig.3): another is red, and another plain cardboard. BLEMA's base partitioning (Fig.3) is the same as FIFA's, and, incidentally, as on the lid labels.

PARTS Typical BLEMA parts are shown in Fig.4. Most parts are aluminium, but the Screwed Rods are steel and the N&B plastic (FIFA's look steel & roundheaded). Holes are 3.7mm at 8.0mm pitch, and the thread is M3. All 17 parts are listed below with quantities in curly brackets. **Strips** #Fst 3-17, 12mm wide, 3,5, 9,13,17h {8,12,12,8,8,8}. **A/B** #W 1, {8}. **D/B** #DW 1, {4}. **DAS** #DW 5,9: 1*5,9*1 clear holes with bends, as in the Brackets, across intermediate holes {4,4}. **Screwed Rods** #Gb 27,62,100: 27,62,100mm {4,4,2}. **Discs** #S 17,27: 17, 28mm Ø {4,8}. **Span'driver** #Sk, {4}. **Bolt** #Schb 1, cheese-headed, 8mm u/h {40}. **Nut** #M 1, hexagonal, 6mm A/F {54}.

MANUALS Both have 4 pages plus covers. The BLEMA measures 248*155mm, the FIFA is slightly larger but with the same size text & illustrations, albeit slightly rearranged. Also, with minor exceptions, the same font. Fig.3 in OSN 42 shows the FIFA cover; right the BLEMA. Apart from the change of name & maker both have the same content, except on C4.

C2 is blank, p1 has an Introduction, p2-C3 show 11 models from Rechen [Rake] to Bahnschranke mit Signal [Level Crossing with Signal] (Fig.7), with a photo & Parts List for each plus brief notes on some. Other models include some domestic items, a simple Windmill with a pulley drive (the pulleys made from the Discs), the 4-Wheel Farm Cart in Fig.8), a Fly Press (Fig.9), & a Crane (Fig.6, as built by Urs with substitute plastic N&B).

C4 is blank in both manuals except for the printers name followed by 3022, 20-V77-1,0-954-M657/54 for BLEMA and 539 for FIFA. '539' might be thought a date but this has been questioned, so it is uncertain whether FIFA was produced pre- or post-WW2.

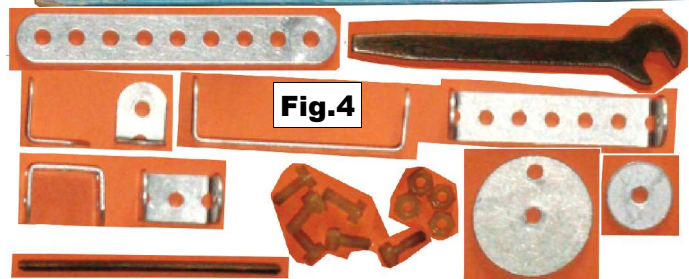
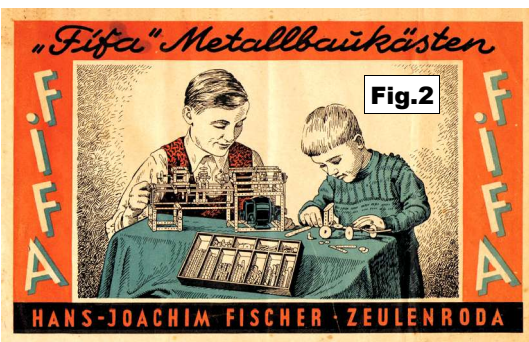


Fig.4

Fig.5



Fig.8



Fig.7

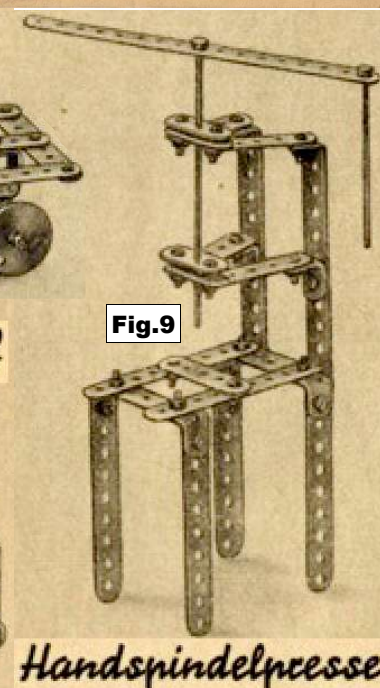


Fig.9

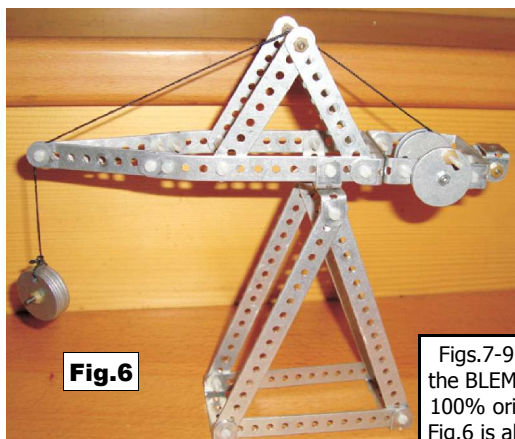


Fig.6

Figs.7-9 are from the BLEMA manual, 100% original size; Fig.6 is about 60%.