

'New' Dutch System: FLEX

Jan Ringnalda kindly sent details of the set he received on Dec. 5th, 1946 (the date Santa comes in The Netherlands). FLEX is unusual in having no Nuts & Bolts. The box measures 40½*17*2½cm and the lid is shown right. The words under the quite elaborate Crane in the red panel (and in Fig.4) translate as 'For young builders | Fun and educational'.

The PARTS Some are steel, some aluminium, and the Plates are cardboard. Those of the original parts that remain can be seen in the open box right. Holes (all are round) are 3.9mm Ø at 16.0mm pitch. Steel parts are 15.9mm wide and .45mm thick; aluminium are 12.5mm wide and either .50 or .75mm thick.

The various parts are as follows.

- 6 & 9h Strips. • 24h A/G. • A/B.
- Loose Pulley 18mm Ø. • 50 & 110mm Axles, 3.7mm Ø, and a Crank Handle with a shaft about 115mm long. • Cardboard Plate, 95*93mm, 1.2mm thick. • 'Rivet', see Fig.3. It is about 9mm long and its 3 lobes have to be bent outwards after having been pushed through the parts to be joined. It is made of soft steel and Jan wrote that the lobes break off after being used 3 or 4 times.

The MODELS The Model Leaflet is one sheet folded to 20*26cm and the front is shown in Fig.4. There are 8 models on the other pages, from 1 Werkplaats (Workshop, but actually an open-sided building with a floor & pitched roof made from the Plates), to 8 Vliegtuig (Aeroplane, below). The names of the models are listed on p3 together with a note suggesting that other models can be made, and that the Rivets can be ordered from your dealer. Apart from the models mentioned above and the Crane, Rocking Chair & Table Lamp shown here, the others are a

FIG.1



FIG.2

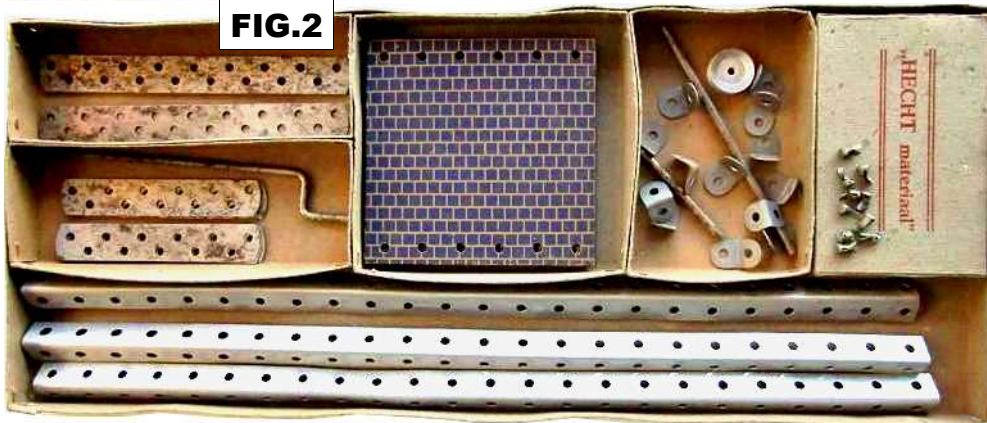


FIG.3



FIG.4



FIG.5

Girder Bridge, a Lightship, & a Light Tower.

Jan said the the Strips were flexible enough to form the circles needed in several of the models.

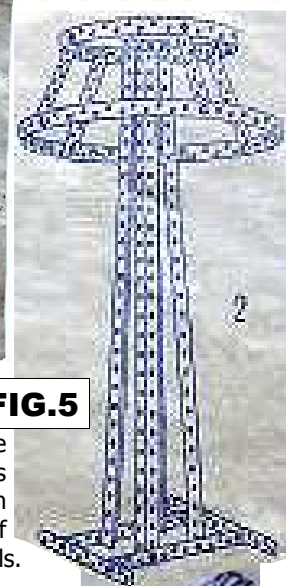


FIG.6



FIG.7

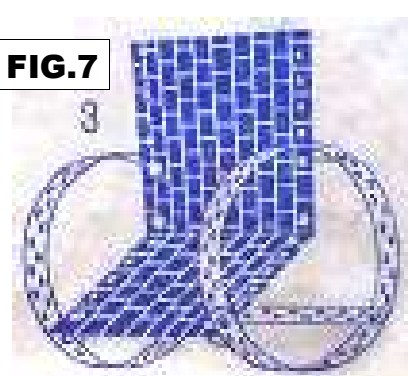


FIG.8

