



an 8-hole Wheel Disc, and the 2 Spanners with square tails shown below (enlarged), along with the top of the box lid (opposite). (JB)



- The parts in the **SACHSENMEISTER** theme sets (15/418) have only very limited compatibility with the ordinary parts. (JB)
- The parts in a photo of a **SCHWERKA** Set include the Windmill Sails illustrated in OSN 15, though they don't look black. (JB)
- On **TECHNOFIX** the parts are steel, brass plated, the holes are 3.5mm Ø, and the arms shown in Fig.5 can pivot independently. (JB)
- On **WEMA**, Nebenweig is not a town, it means 'sideline' and thus constructional toys were only a sideline activity for the firm Eberspächer from 1946 to 1948. (They made and still make, heaters for cars.) (SG)
- The early 30s catalogue that listed ALPHA also includes **ZICK-ZACK** with as an illustration the box below. The WK logo (by Nr.) shows it to be from the Wilhelm Krauss period, and the main thing is the unusual hole pattern in the Strips. 3 sets are listed with 40, 80 and 147 parts. The largest one cost 18 Marks a dozen, against 66 a dozen for the ALPHA set with 150 parts, so it would have been aimed at the



cheap end of the market. (SG)

The 'NEW' GERMAN NAMES

- **ANDERS**, blue and orange parts without many holes in them, and so not very adaptable. (JB)

- **BAUE SELBST**, from the 1930s with special parts for Cranes. (SG)
- **BOSCH**, MECCANO-type parts, painted black. A photo shows a wooden box with a sliding lid. The label on it is similar to the manual cover reproduced opposite. (JB)
- **COMBINATOR**, 1930, parts to make buildings. (JB)
- **CONRAD**, wooden parts but metal Brackets, Axles, and Wheels. (JB)
- **DUX Railway Sets**. (SG)
- **FRI-DIE**, a simple system with red and blue painted steel parts, and holes spaced at markedly more than 1/2". [It is probable that this is the FRI-BIE of 11/291; other mistakes in that list: KOHLER should be KOBLEK, and WESFALIA, WESTFALIA.] (JB)
- **GECO**, preceded CONRAD and is identical to it. (JB)
- **GESCHA**, a simple system from the late 1940s, with an unusual hole alignment. (SG)
- **HEIKO**, MECCANO-type parts but only a limited number of simple ones. (JB)
- **INGENIO**, pierced or perforated sheet steel parts painted white, red or black, which slot one into the other to make Dolls' Furniture, parts of Buildings, and also Trains. (JB)
- **KOSMOS MASCHINEN**, from the 1930s, with semi-specialised parts to make machines. [Perhaps from makers of TECHNOFIX?] (JB)
- **MAGNETO**, heavy steel parts, with Wheels & Axles. (JB)
- **METALLIX**, from the 1950s, with MECCANO-style steel and natural aluminium parts. (JB)
- **RIAG Modelbau**, another simple system from the late 40s, with a hole pattern like that of ZICK-ZACK above. (SG)
- **ROCO**, possibly from the 1950s, & based on Rods. (JB)
- **UNSERE TAKTSTRASSE**, an East German theme set to make 2 different Tractors with mainly special parts. (SG)
- **WERNER'S Metallbaukasten**, an early postwar copy of TRIX. (SG)



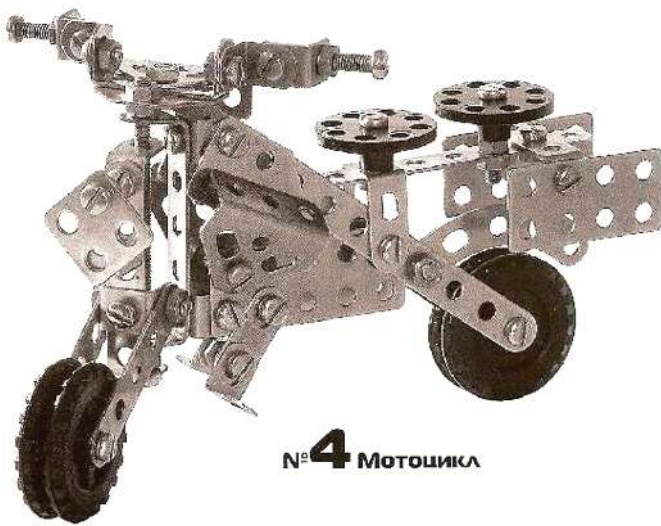
An EGB-ELEKTRO Outfit Well actually most of the parts from one that Richard Symonds came across last year in Canada (for \$5). He kindly sent a photo of the parts and as examples, a 3h Strip and a N&B. The Set is thought to be from the 1950s and is shown in MCS as ELEKTRO-BAUKASTEN. EGB was the name of the East German maker from Leipzig, and as well as this EM (Electro-Magnetism) Set, 3 others are noted in MCS - the M (Magnetism), RE (Static Electricity), and CE (Electro-Chemistry) - but no details are given.

The main parts of the EM Set are 2 8*14h Flanged Plates, various Strips and special Brackets, a ready-wound Coil and motor Armature, a Horseshoe and 2 Cylindrical Magnets, and a Bell. All the parts are shown in MCS but the following details can now be added.

- **DATA** (in mm) **STRIP** (3-hole): •hole pitch/dia, 10.0/4.2; •width, 10.0; thickness, .86; •ends fully radiused. [No bosses] **THREAD**: M3 [No Axles or Gears] **NUT**: hex 5.6 A/F; **BOLT**: tapered cheesehead 5.0 Ø; both nicked steel.
- The **Flanged Plate** is moulded from dark brown plastic and has no holes in the flanges. The holes in the top look much smaller than those in the Strips.
- The 3 & 9h **Strips** are aluminium and have little material outside the end holes, so the 3h one is less than 28mm o/a. The 6h Strips look to be dark brown plastic.
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- The **Trunnion** appears to be aluminium, and the long centre slot looks much longer than in the MCS illustration.
- Most of the other **Brackets** look as if they are nickel but some may be aluminium.
- The base and switch handle of the **Switch #8** look to be red fibre, and the fittings, nickel.

- The **Coil** is about 20mm wide and its top and bottom are brown plastic. The **Armature** is about 10cm long o/a.
- The top contact part of #12 (**Contact Strip?**), and the **Brushes #18** are copper.
- The **N&B** are in a flat square box that may be made of brown plastic. It's about 4*4cm with a hinged lid, and may be a substitute for the #21 shown in MCS. In Richard's parts the **Container #22** (with Iron Filings in it I think) is a clear phial with stopper.
- The flat **Plates #29 & 30** are red - plastic no doubt.
- The **Pointers #31 & 32** are about 6cm long. #31 looks at first glance like light yellowy-brown wood, but is probably plastic; #32 is aluminium.
- Part 33 (**Nägel**, but I can't think of a suitable English word), looks aluminium, and is some 5cm long with a small hole in the 10mm long by 5mm wide spade end.
- The **Bell** is nickel and about 8cm diameter.
- What may be #35 (**Disc?**) is black and about 2cm Ø.
- **Axle #36** is a brass looking Threaded Rod, 5cm long.
- There are 4 lots of **Wire** on the card former of #41, and the wording on it is Kupferdraht 0,10mm Ø; Kupferdraht 0,30mm Ø; Eisendraht 0,30mm Ø; Heizdraht 0,12mm Ø.
- The **Bolts** are 6mm u/h, and 2 longer ones can be seen, one 15 and the other 18mm long. Their (neat) heads are 2.0mm deep. The (machined) **Nuts** are 2.3mm thick.
- There are 2 identical nickel **Spanners** which look like the one in MCS and are about 8cm long. The **Screwdriver** is perhaps 16cm o/a and has a long, round wooden handle.

Richard wrote that parts 13,14,15,19,20,27 & 40 are missing from the Set, and I can't see 23,26,38,39 & 42-46 either.



№4 МОТОЦИКЛ



№23 ВЕРТОЛЕТ

KONSTRUKTOR [20]: S2

OSN 37/1114

Snippet: GECO The name was mentioned in 17/477 and it was also said that it was later called CONRAD. Baukästen just gives the maker, Geco-Bauspiele-Fabrik G. Conrad GmbH of Berlin, a date of 1923, and that there were at least 4 sets. This piece is based on two items seen on Ebay, both incomplete; one a No.4 set, and the other a No.3 & a No.4 with the contents mixed together. GECO structures are made from wooden Beams which appear to push into a variety of metal Connectors, a method comparable perhaps to KLIPIT, another system being sold in the early 1920s, though their Clips look less robust than the GECO Connectors.

First the No.4, said to be from 1922. There is a picture of a No.4 set on the front of the leaflet in the box below and it has

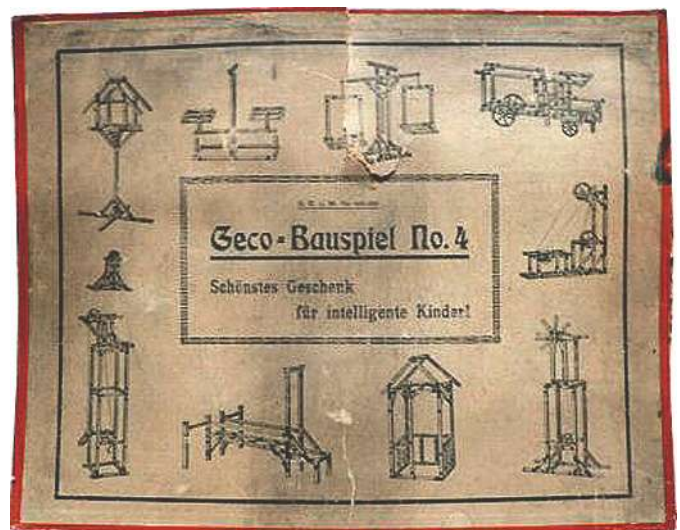


a card of parts which is missing from the Ebay set. It can be seen to contain Wheels and the Ebay ad also mentioned Gears. The 4-Way Connectors top left in the box look to have a centre bush. The Set's lid is identical to that of the other No.4, shown top right, except for the centre panel, left (in B&W for clarity). The logo is also on the Leaflet but what it represents is not clear. Some words in Danish had been written along the top of the lid but it wasn't said if the Set came from Denmark.



Now, the No.3/4 lot. The No.3 lid is in the same style as the #4 but has 12 rather simpler models around the central panel. The slogan below the name in the panel means 'The Finest Present for Intelligent Children'. The #3 box right has the 2 sizes of Spoked (Pulley?) Wheel, and the small bossed Pulley, all of which were shown in the Leaflet in the No.4 above.

The second No.4 box has the same partitions as the first



and the parts in it are mainly the Connectors from the two Sets. They look black in the photos. The other main parts, which may or may not be original, are a small Hammer, and a black Plate with a hole in each corner. Its width is about the diameter of the large Spoked Wheel and it's twice as long. It has a slight curvature across its width and could be used as a cab roof, but it can't be seen in any of the models.

The top of a model sheet can be seen under the leaflet in the first No.4 and there were 10 of these in the No.3/4 lot: 2 had No.1 models, and 1, 3, & 4 had models for Sets 2, 3, & 4 respectively. One sheet had the Geco logo on it. Each of the 10 Sheets shows from 6 large to 18 small models, with one



drawing for each, similar in style to the models on the lids. None are named or have any instructions with them. Most of the larger models are on the No.4 lid. No Gears can be seen in any of the models.

GECO: S1

OSN 37/1114

Snippet. Another GECO OUTFIT Something on an outfit from this German system, which relied on wooden Beams held with metal Connectors, was given in 37/1114. Since then a set, probably smaller, was offered on Ebay and a few more details can be seen in it. Also it was said that the Beams are 1cm square and up to 32cm long.

The set is in a plain cardboard box, 40*12*6.5cm, with no label. As shown it had a layer of parts in the bottom with 2 full width trays, about 33cm long, above. One is a little more than 1cm deep with no partitioning; the second nearer 2cm deep and partitioned into 8 bays in 2 rows of 4. There were no Wheels in the set but there would have been room for a card of parts above the trays.

Below a few of the parts including: • Various Connectors including: a 4-Way; a 4-Way with a tapped boss; a 3-Way; and two 2-Ways, one Reversed & one Angled. • The end of 2 Axles which look to be at least 4mm, and possibly as much as 5mm in diameter. • Wires with their ends either bushed or formed into a 'U'. From all the photos it can be seen that there are 3 lengths, one about 24cm long as in the foreground of Fig.1, the others one-half & one-third as long. The longest is bushed

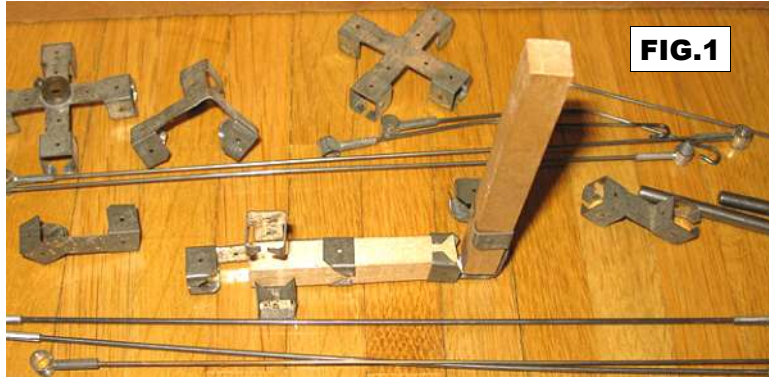


FIG.1

at both ends, the others at only one.

Other parts that can be seen in the various photos are a Collar similar to the boss, and at least 5 lengths of the Beam from about 2 to 32cm long, plus one of about 6cm with its ends cut at 45°.

The Ebay photos included 5 Model Sheets, Nr.1 to Nr.5, with models varying from simple on the Nr.1 to those for Set 2 on the Nr.5 below. These Sheets are in the same style as those mentioned in OSN 37 but whereas 2 of the present Sheets and all the 5 that could be seen in the OSN 37 photos are headed as being for the 'Geco-Bauspiel', the present Nr.3, 4, & 5 are for 'Conrad's neuem Bauspiel'. (Of the present Sheets the models on the Nr.1, 2 & 4 can be seen on 3 of the OSN 37 Sheets and arranged in the same way.)

The present Ebay item was said to be 'Conrad's Geco' but the only indication that can be seen to justify this is on the Model Sheets and I wonder if the Set was in fact a CONRAD (mooted in OSN 37 as coming after GECO) and not a GECO.

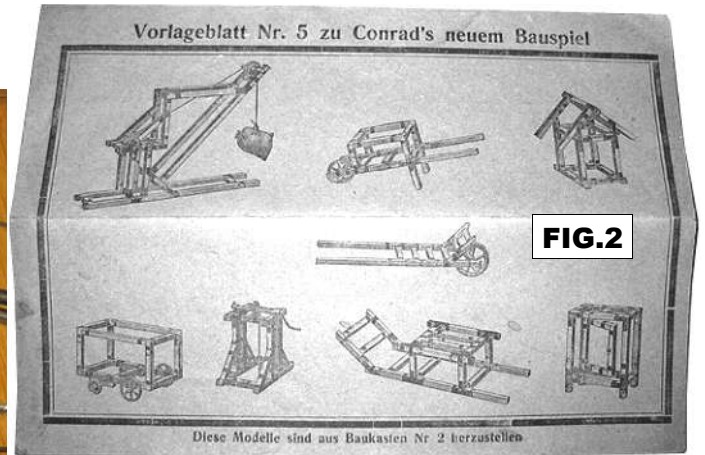


FIG.2

OSN 43/1309

GECO: S2

A DUX Auto Outfit Jacques Pitrat sent copies of some pages from a DUX Aero manual copyright 1933, and one contained a list of sets including 3 under the heading 'Der Auto-DUX-Automobilbaukasten'. The first is 'Auto-DUX SSK. (Mod. 386)', and alongside is the photo below. The words on

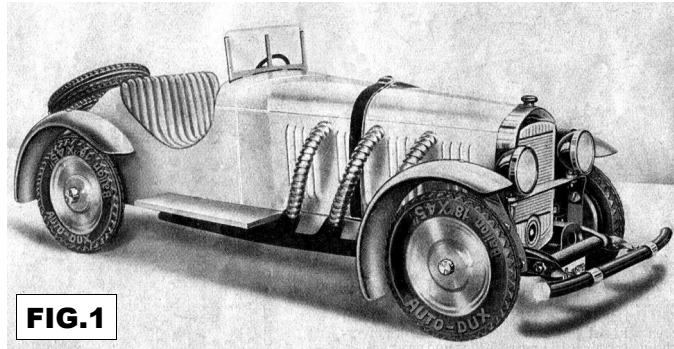


FIG.1

the Tyres are 'AUTO-DUX Ballon 18"x45"'. Apparently SSK stands for Super Sport Kurz (Kurz = Short (wheelbase)). The set is said to have parts to build a 40cm long, 14cm wide, Sports or Racing Car.

The second set is a Spring Motor (Mod. 440) which is wound up from the front of the model and propels it for 50m. The third, called Fernlenkung, is an add-on set to give remote control of the steering from behind the model (probably by pulling on cords).

Google found the photos right: the first a model, missing some of its trim, sitting in the bottom of the set box, and the second an outfit. Another blurry photo of a lid shows the whole label and the Car is running on a race track. The purple box in the top right corner of the box could be the Remote Control outfit. Few, if any N&B can be seen in the model so how were the parts held together?



FIG.2



FIG.3

OSN 43/1309

DUX-AUTO: S1