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EDITORIAL Nothing to report so 'steady as she goes', and with luck I'll be able to keep to the recent near yearly interval between Issues.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **Snippet. 'New' System: METALL-BAUKASTEN.** The poor Ebay photo is shown below and the parts that can be



seen are, with 'probables' daggered: 4, 5+, 11, 14h Strips; 1*5*1 & 1*3*1h+ DAS; 2*1*2 Z-Bracket; Pulley Discs with & without boss (unless the latter's boss has simply fallen out); Axle; Crank Handle.

The Ebay ad mentioned a printer, Emil Bethge of Hagen (a town 15km south of Dortmund), and the PR included 11/46. So, no doubt, one of the many small sets which appeared soon after WW2, very soon in this case, so it's not inconceivable that this system existed before the war.

METALL-BAUKASTEN [8]: S1 [51/1548]

2. **Snippet. More on GERNER.** Since the notes on p1573 Urs Flammer has sent details of some parts, nearly all of a set, he has obtained. They are as described except that the Square

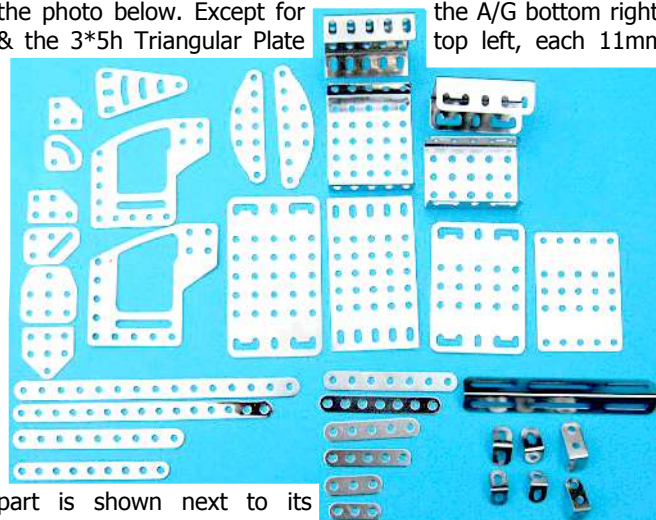
Tube, right, is as shown in the manual, an extrusion, 20*20mm, with no join. The Wheels are the earlier, turned type, but the Flanged Plate is the later pattern with alternate round & slotted holes.

Urs had also found a small ad from 1948 saying that sets in various sizes would soon be available to wholesalers for export. It was from a Franz Kauer, (20a) Letter/Hann., Postfach 6. It will be recalled that GERNER was made in Letter.

GERNER: S2

[51/1548]

3. **'POLYLONG' 11mm Pitch Parts.** It was noted in 42/1266 that some Happy People set parts have holes at 11mm pitch rather than the usual 10mm. David Hobson mentioned that he had found a selection of these in various lots and kindly sent the photo below. Except for the A/G bottom right, top left, each 11mm



part is shown next to its nearest 10mm equivalent.

Holes in the 11mm parts are 4.1mm and the Strips are smooth on one side and very slightly rough on the reverse.

POLYLONG: S21

[51/1548]

4. **AJET.** Some parts & a manual (all were as described in 37/1105) were offered by a auction house and it was said that AJET was made by Payne & Holloway of Birmingham. A web search gave nothing on this firm. Equally nothing has emerged since OSN 37 over whether there was a set other than the 'Junior'. A any information on either of these aspects would be most welcome.

AJET: S3

[51/1548]

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'New' German System: GERNER

Thanks to Urs Flammer & Jürgen Kahlfeldt for details of the only two sets known from this system. Both are No.1's & there are some differences between them. One was from Ebay, the other, judged to be earlier, is an entry in Jean-Pierre Guibert's *Encyclopédie*. Except where stated the details below are for the later Ebay set.

Maker: Wilhelm Gerner, of (20a) Letter, near Hannover (now a suburb of that city). The firm describes itself as producing Leichtbauspelzeuge (Lightweight building toys).

Date: Nothing definite but from the paper quality in the earlier set it might be from around 1948, while its larger manual, better paper with some colour printing, and the improvements to a few of the parts, point to a date for later set of, perhaps, around 1950.

The PARTS Later, Figs.2-4; earlier, Fig.5. **Holes** are 3.8-3.9mm at 10.0mm pitch. 6mm long slotted holes. **Thread:** M3. **Material:** aluminium except where stated. **Quality:** quite good but slight burr around some holes.

List of Parts As follows with quantities, in curly brackets, as given in the manual. **Strips** 3,5,7,9,11,13,15,19h, 10.1-10.2mm wide, & 1.1-1.2mm thick {6,8,5,8,5,5,2,2}. **A/B** {8}. **A/G** 9h {2}. **Square Tube** 22*22mm, 9h long (Fig.3, side, bottom, & top views). The part shown in the manual models is a closed tube with a different pattern of perforations. {1}. **Flanged Plate** 9*9h. The later part has alternate round & slotted holes (Figs.2,4); in the earlier part, and the manuals, they are all round. {1}. **Wheel.** The later parts are pressed, 28mm Ø, 3.2mm bore; the earlier ones (Fig.5) are turned {4}. **Tyre,** rubber, no tread, 39/19mm Ø, 10mm wide {2}. **Collar,** 9.8mm Ø, bore 3.2mm, 8.8mm wide, double-tapped {4}. **Axes,** 50, 110mm long, 3.1mm Ø copper welding rod in the later set (replacements?); the earlier



Fig.1

ones look to be steel {1,1} **N&B,** steel: **Bolt,** 5.5mm Ø CH {70 = 60,3,7 of 8,10,20mm u/h, plus 4,4 of 4,6mm for the Collars}. **Nut,** hex, 5.5mm A/F, 2.5mm thick {70}. **Screwdriver,** steel, not shown {1}.

DAS, 2 each of 1*3,5,7*1h were found in the later set but were not in the earlier one. They are not mentioned in the manual or used in the models, but would obviously be worthwhile additions.

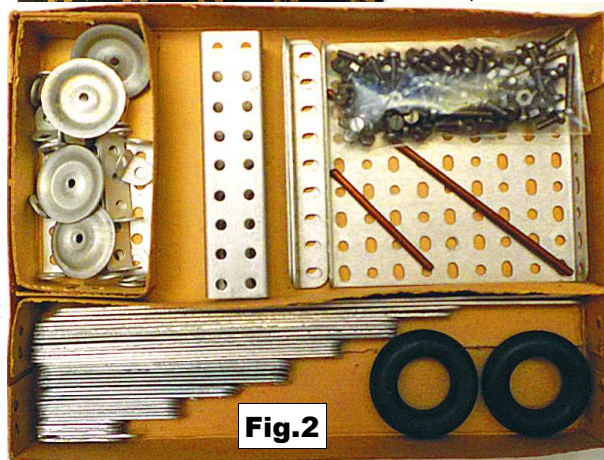


Fig.2

The SETS The boxes measure 20¾*16*2½cm and have the later/earlier lids in Figs.1/10. The partitioning is the same in both sets. All the different parts in the later manual inventory can be seen in earlier box except the Screwdriver & 19h Strip.

6 larger sets are mentioned in the later manual but with no details.

The MANUALS The later manual has 16 pages, 140*193mm, plus covers. The front

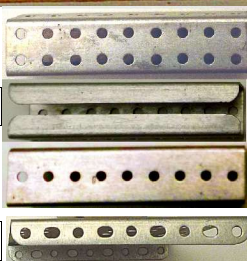


Fig.3



Fig.5



Fig.4

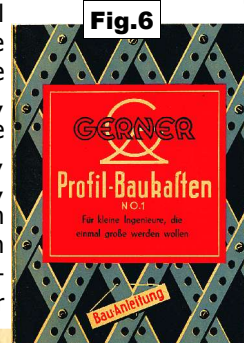


Fig.6

is shown in Fig.6. C2 has an Introduction, p1 the Set Contents, and the next 15 pages show 30 models from Barren (Parallel Bars) to Kran (Fig.7), with one line drawing of each. First there are domestic items, then a Child's Scooter amid various small Trucks & Trolleys. Finally a variety of slightly larger models including a Windmill, a Horse-drawn Sleigh, a Railway Signal & Goods Wagon, 2 Monoplanes, Drop & Trip Hammers, a simple Gantry Crane, & the Fig.7 Crane. No Car or Lorry of any sort. The larger Plane & Trip Hammer are shown in Figs.8 & 9. In some models parts are held fast to Axes by distorting Strips, in the Trip Hammer for example. Said model also needs 2 of the Tubes. C3 offers prizes for the best original models, and a next size up set for any included in a manual. C4 is blank.

The earlier manual (Fig.11) has only 8 pages. The 5 models from it seen are all in the later edition but are not in the same order, and to some degree differ in their design.

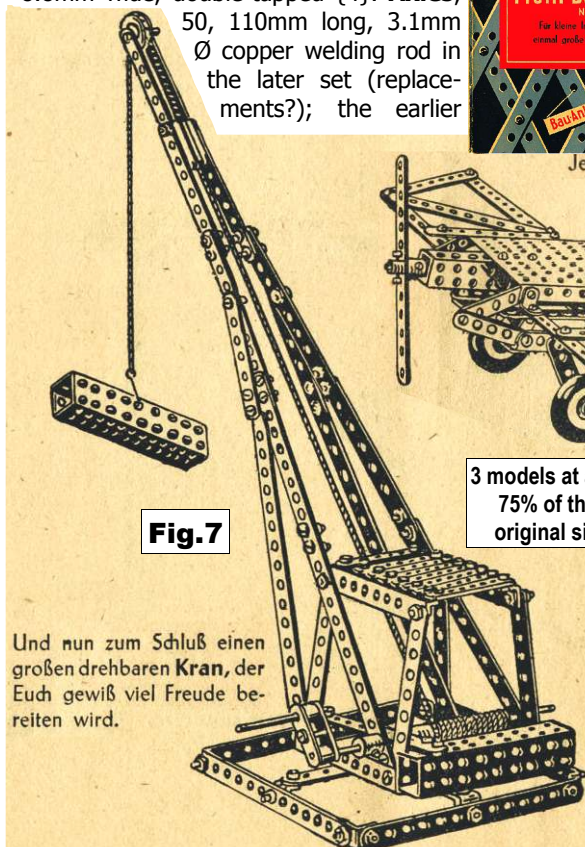


Fig.7



Fig.8

3 models at about 75% of their original size.

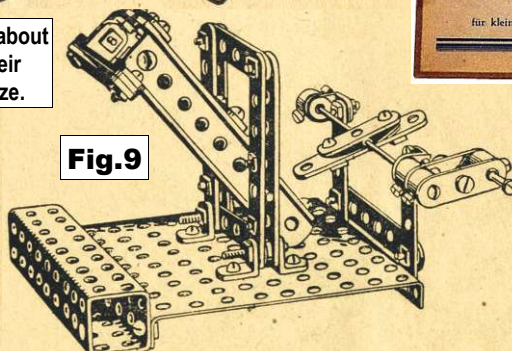


Fig.9



Fig.10



Fig.11