



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**, Nebenzweig 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 KOBLE, 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.
- 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.

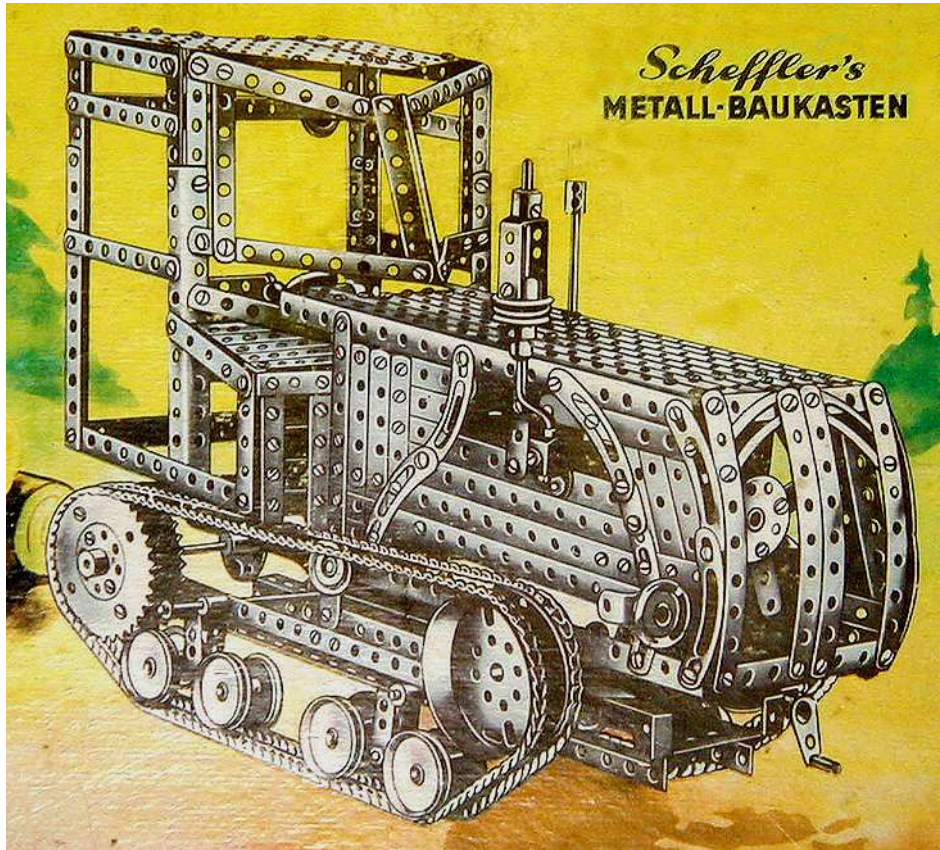
Richard wrote that parts 13,14,15,19,20,27 & 40 are missing from the Set, and I can't see 23,26,38,39 & 42-46 either.

The SCHEFFLERS Traktor

As explained in 23/622 this is the model shown on the lids of later SCHEFFLERS sets, and also their METALLBAUKASTEN successors. The model can't be made with any of the outfits and no instructions are given for it in the manuals. Nor had I seen a PL for it until Richard Gilbert kindly showed me his set with said list inside the lid. The PR under it is III 27 41 Ke G 225/67, so probably from 1967. None of the other two SCHEFFLERS, & several METALLBAUKASTEN lids to hand have either the PL or a PR.

The photo of the model on the lid is shown right and the parts in it follow, using 'Meccano' names.

• 4,4,8x #0a,b,c; 25,19,11h A/Gs. • 2, 20,23,40,68,36,8x #2,3,4,5,6,7,8; 19, 11,9,7,5,3,2h Strips. • 3x #9a; Double Bent Strip. • 10x #10; 3h high Double Bracket. • 6x #11; Reversed A/B. • 12x #12; Double Bracket. 9x #13; 1* 5*1h DAS. • 12x #14; Curved Strip. • 8,1,1,2,4x #18,19,21,22a,22c; 30, 50,110,130,180mm Axles. • 1x #23; Crank Handle. • 6x #26; 14mm Pulley. • 14x #27; 14mm Loose Pulley. • 6x #28; Bush Wheel. • 6x #29; 64mm Flanged Disc Pulley, (similar to MÄRKLIN #67). • 8x #30; 22½mm Pulley. • 16x #31; 29mm Pulley. • 1x #32; Screwdriver. • 1x #33; Spanner. • 433x #34; Bolt. • 59x #35; A/B. • 27x #36; Collar. • 3x #37; Coupling. • 436x #38; Nut. • 60x #39; Grub Screw. • 8x #42; 3*7h Perf. Plate. • 2x #44; 3*3h Perf. Plate. • 6x #45; Triangular Plate (M#77). • 4x



#47; Right Angle Rod & Strip Connector (M#212a but with a 2h long arm). • 1x #48; Handle Crank (like MÄRKLIN #44, the model's starting handle). • 4x #49; 35t Sprocket. • 8x #51; Sprocket Chain (not seen; the pitch of STOKYS Ladder Chain is very slightly too small). • 1,4x #55a,b; Thread-ended Rods, 75,37mm.

OSN 36/1077

SCHEFFLERS: S1

Snippet: GESCHA

The name of this small German system was mentioned in 17/477 & Baukästen, p304, says that it was made in 1959 by Gebr. Schmid of Stein, near Nürnberg. Also that the parts were zinc plated metal plus coloured wooden Rods, and plastic Discs. The Ebay item consisted of 8 identical No.1 sets in boxes like the one right. In each a plastic bag with the parts loose inside it, and also a sheet with all the parts shown on it, and no doubt some models as well. Far right the top of one of the sheets at 'A'; a complete bag upside down in the base of the box at 'B'; and parts of two more bags at 'C' & 'D' to show the various parts. From all the sets the following parts have been identified. Strips with TRIX pattern holes but without every other hole in the outer rows. There are 2 each with 7 & 9 holes (along the centre row), 4 most probably, with 5 holes, and 4 with 3 holes. 2 DAS. 2, perhaps 4 of 8h Wheel Discs, and 1 Large Washer (see 'D') but perhaps 2. About 12 of the yellow Rods, and 24 red 'Washers' on the circular ring. No doubt they are a push fit on the Rods so that the latter could be used as both axles and structural members.



Brass looking N&B, probably 12 of each. 1 Span'driver (in 'D'), but possibly 2. No A/Bs were seen.

Assuming that it does have 4 Discs, the Set is broadly equivalent to the basic TRIX outfit. The main difference is of course the use of the Rods & Washers instead of 3 Screwed Rods and some 12 extra Nuts for them. Clearly a way of cutting costs, and to some extent adding a little extra versatility.

OSN 36/1077

GESCHA: S1

Members all have a narrow flange along most of their length. The sides of the wheel are about 6" apart at their hubs but taper to the 2" long red DAS which join the sides at each outer joint. The Seats, all red, have 'wire wings' which clip into small holes midway along the Outer Members.

FIG.2



The parts in the Ebay set look the same and the wheel Hubs are again shown mounted on the Axle. The colour scheme is the same too except that the base parts are a lighter blue.

One puzzle is that in both sets there is a red 'strip' which is

nearly as long as the 'A' box. It is along the top of the photo above, and even if there were more than one in the Set, I don't see where it could be used in the model.

No N&B can be seen in either set but the holes for them scale at around 1/8" Ø.

OSN 46/1419

MAC-SICCAR: S2

GESCHA OSN 36/1077 contained a snippet about the No.1 set of this small TRIX-style German system, and now Jean-Pierre Guibert has kindly sent photos of, and key facts about his No.1. GESCHA was made by Gebr. Schmid (Gescha) from 1959 to 1967.

The box is 12.3*18*1.6cm and the lid is identical to that shown in OSN 36. The parts are packed in a plastic bag (right) and all in the Set are shown on the front of the Model Leaflet (far right). The actual parts match them except that the DAS has only the 3 centre line holes. The ends of one DAS can be seen in the box right, under the 3h Strips.

Holes are 3.1mm Ø, a little smaller than TRIX, but their pitch is 12.3mm, appreciably longer the TRIX's 7.8mm. Unlike TRIX, GESCHA's pitch across the Strip is, hypothetically, less than the lengthways value, and so the diagonal pitch is 7mm against 5.5mm for TRIX. The advantage of equal pitches across & along is that Strips can be joined at right angles by 2 Bolts, but this doesn't matter for GESCHA since the 'opposite' holes don't exist. A disadvantage of equal pitches is that Strips look rather too wide, especially in small models, and at 14.1mm wide GESCHA Strips are over 5mm narrower than they would be with equal pitches. The Strips are .92mm thick, much the same as TRIX. Another difference from TRIX, the pitch of the holes in the Wheel Disc matches the Strips. And another difference, the smallest TRIX set has 4 Wheel Discs (as well as 2 of the smaller Discs).

The 12 Rods are wooden, 3mm Ø & 45mm long. The Set contains 24 of the red plastic Washers that push onto them. The N&B are M3, brass steel, with Nuts 5.4mm A/F, and the Bolts' cheeseheads 5.3mm Ø. The other metal parts are zinc plated.

The Model Leaflet is a sheet folded to give 4 panes 11*16.7cm, with the front in Fig.2. When opened out the other 3 panes of the top side show 11 models from Kreuz [Cross] to Verkehrzeichen [Road Traffic Sign], & on the back panes are 12 more models from Signal (as right) to Transportwagen (far right). As would be expected the models are mostly small & simple everyday items and only 5 have moving parts. Apart from the 2 shown here they are a Seesaw, a Capstan, & a Sack Truck. The Rods are a good way of filling spaces, as in the Footbridge, but there are many more working models in a



FIG.1

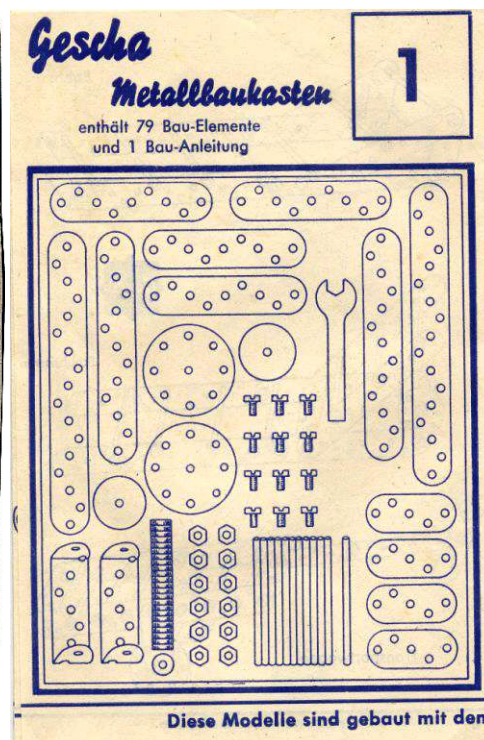


FIG.2

These 3 models are about 60% of their original size.

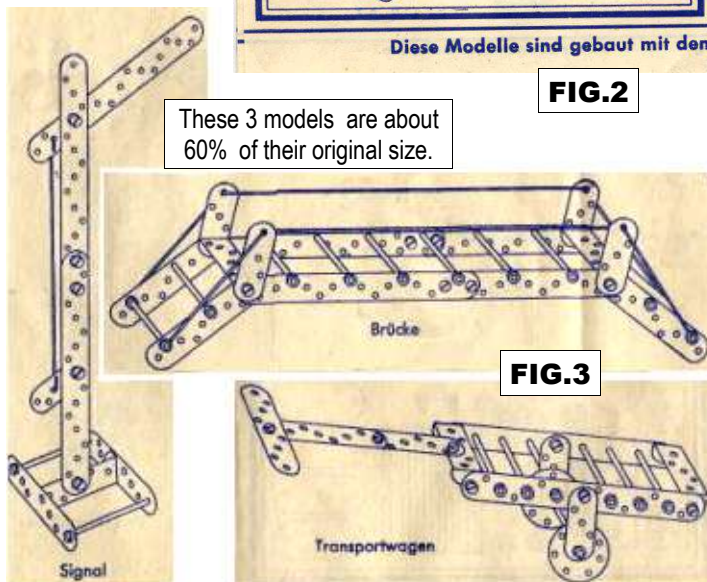


FIG.3

prewar TRIX manual for the smallest set, and they make good use of the 4 Wheel Discs in the Set, and of its Screwed Rods.

There is text along the bottom of each side of the Leaflet. On the front it says that the models can be made with Set 1; on the reverse that Sets 2 & 3 allow larger, even better models, and that Set 4 has more parts such as Wheels & Tyres for action models. Nothing is known so far of Sets 2-4.

OSN 46/1419 (the last page of OSN 46)

GESCHA: S2