

clude the letters F and R.]

GORDON EZ mentions constructional and electrical sets made in the DDR by Gordon-Apparatebau KG, Schmal-kalden/Thüringen between about 1960 to 1972, but without any further details.

HELLER From what I can gather from EZ there was never a MECHANIKUS set in Germany (see 12/321). The tool was called 'Mechanikus' and was included in **HELLER'S STAHLBAU** outfits there. These sets were sold in France under the name **HELLER-MECANICUS** (HELLER-MECHANICUS in 12/321 was an error), and contained the same tool called 'Mécanicus'.

The tool described in OSN, and included in the **MECO** set, was called the 'Constructor' and with its interchangeable heads was more versatile than the 'Mechanikus'.

The period for STAHLBAU is from 1933 to at least 1938 but the French version seems to have been available after WW2 (13/360). MECO dates from about the same time, perhaps from 1934.

HOHA Jeannot listed 2 versions, the first with a hole pitch/diameter of 13.2/4.1, and the second, 13.0/4.6. Both had nickel plated parts and the first at least, rubber Tyres and Pulleys. MCS gives 13.1/4.4, and mentions brightly polished plating with some red and possibly, blue parts. It also mentions the early '30s whereas in EZ a small box is shown among early post-WW2 outfits.

Frank Beadle has some HOHA parts and among them is the 11*5 Flanged Plate (flanged on the long sides) with no holes in the centre 7*3 area, that can be seen in the MCS models. But Frank also has another which, from a photo, seems to be the last 5*5 holes of the 11h long one.

HW Metallbaukasten A photo of a box lid in EZ has METALLBAUKASTEN diagonally across it and the triangular HW logo of Hans Wunsch, the East German toymaker from Niederwiesa/Sachsen. The firm started in 1949 and this was probably one of the early products. The simple Windmill on the lid includes Strips up to about 11h long, a 9h long Flanged Plate, flanged on the long sides, and a 4h Bush Wheel or Wheel Disc.

IMPERATOR See 10/260. EZ gives the Axle diameter as 3.5mm and by scaling, the Strips seem to be about 5mm wide, and the octagonal Hub $\frac{3}{4}$ " A/F.

INDUSTRIE EZ shows an open box with the parts in it, similar to the set shown in MCS. The Strips though don't look as narrow as they appear in MCS and based on the 5mm hole, their width scales at $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The 8-spoked Pulley Wheels are about 30mm diameter. All the parts have a black metallic finish. Two periods are quoted - 1919 to at least 1931, and 1925 to at least 1935.

INGENIEUR This name is listed in EZ but without any details except that it was made by Ihag GmbH of Nürnberg around 1919.

JOLEI This little system from c1950 had only some 12 different parts, all in plain aluminium except for the steel N&B. The holes were 4.4mm Ø, spaced at 11.0mm. EZ has a photo of a backing card with some parts on it - I think I can see 3,4,5,7,9&11h Strips, 1*3*1 & 1*5*1 DAS, an Angle Bracket, and a Screwdriver rather like the MECCANO #36.

KEIM EZ gives only the maker, Keim & Co., A.G., für Blechindustrie, Nürnberg, and the period, c1923 to c1928. A graphic from 1923 shows panels falling off a skyscraper in a strong wind (or so it seems). Perhaps it was an architectural system.

KINEMA EZ confirms much of what appeared in 12/306. The Tubes are 6mm Ø and the holes 10mm apart, though their size is given as 2mm. The dates are c1946 to 1950.

KONSTRUKTOR

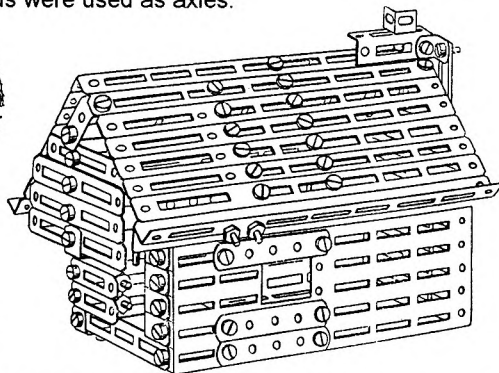
An East German set, but apart from that all I have on it is a copy of the manual cover with the model opposite on it.

KONSTRUX

A small system of some 30 parts, made in West Berlin by the firm E.P.Damaschke, from about 1946 to 1950. The parts though, painted black, are unusual and, as can be seen in the model below, most have long slots in them with square ends. The holes are 4.1mm Ø and are spaced at multiples of 12mm. Other parts can be seen in a nice, good sized multi-jib Crane shown in EZ, and include DAS, Flanged Plates, small Pulleys, and Discs of several sizes up to about 60mm Ø. The larger Discs have a centre holes, 4 long radial slots, and radial holes between them. These slots are the only ones to have rounded ends. The corners of most parts are slightly chamfered as in the House, but a few on Plates and A/Gs are square - none have the large radius of the 5h Strip in the House. An ordinary Double Bracket is shown in EZ with a similar one alongside except that it has large hexagonal holes in its sides. Its purpose isn't clear but there is a hexagonal section Threaded Coupling that might be about the same size. It looks as if Threaded Rods were used as axles.



Nr. 13



The words Konstrux Deuteron appear on the manual cover under the main KONSTRUX name, but what this signifies I don't know. Also in addition to a logo based on the initials EPD of the manufacturer, there's another (above left) with the name Bergmann, and what might be crossed hammers.

MABA EZ has a photo of the #4 Set described in 12/306. The dates given are c1946 to 1950.

MAFELL From EZ. This system was made by Maschinenfabrik Fellbach GmbH, Stuttgart-Fellbach/Württ., around 1930. It consisted of relatively few, large steel parts, including strong wheels with suitable axles. In many ways it was comparable to the GILBERT WHEEL TOY.

MECANIC/MEKANIK In answer to the point about which came first (13/361), EZ provides the answer. The original name (in 1948) was MECANIC and the original maker, Dörken & Mankel KG, Ennepetal-Voerde/Westfalen. Later (c1959 to c1963) the system was made by Adrian & Rode, Velbert/Rheinland and by that time the name had changed to MEKANIK. Jeannot wrote that the change was made in

ones are genuine they consist of some Strips & Brackets, 2 Pulley Discs, one of which looks like the TRIx variety, a TRIx-like Spanner, a Screwed Rod, and 2 sizes of Tyre.

By scaling the hole pitch is 7½mm, not far off TRIx. Unlike TRIx the spacing of the holes in the Large Pulley Disc matches the Strips and its diameter is about 28mm. All that can be said of the Tyres is that they look as if they might fit the Pulley Discs. The wooden parts in the box (Fig.3) have a hole pitch of

about 20mm have been considered foreigners.

For what it's worth the box contained about 20 each of the 3, 5, & 8h Strips, a dozen or so A/Bs, 4 large & 5 small Pulley Disc, 2 large & 1 small Tyre, 1 Spanner, and 1 Screwed Rod.



FIG.4

METABA: S2

OSN 42/1274

Snippets. JOLEI Brief details of this very small post-WW2 German system were given in 15/415. It was made by a firm called Jolei-Spiele in Hamburg and Baukästen gives the date as around 1945-50. The few sets that have been seen are all No.0's with the parts bolted to a backing card, as in Eisenzeit Plate 60 & Baukästen p218, with no sign of any outer

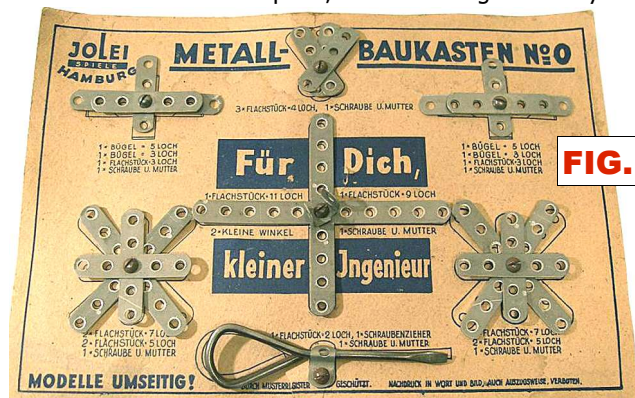


FIG.1

packaging. None of the sets is quite complete, including the one above – the names & quantities of the parts are printed under them on the card, and the parts in the top corners are incorrect, there should be 3 parts on each side, a 3h Strip, a 1*3*1h DAS, & a 1*5*1h DAS.

All the parts except the N&B are aluminium with 4.5mm Ø holes at 11.0mm pitch; the Strips are 11mm wide and all holes are round. The parts in total are: 1,2,3,4,4,1,1 of 2,3,4,5,7,9, 11h Strips (the 2h somewhat deformed, holds the Screwdriver in place); 2 each of the 3,5h long DAS; 2 A/B (held by the Bolt in the centre of the 9 & 11h Strips); 1 Screwdriver, 7 N&B (M4 perhaps, the Nuts can be seen in Fig.2).

The backing card is a little smaller than A4 (28*19cm) and on the reverse side (Fig.2) are 25 simple models. Paper & string to be supplied by the builder as necessary. The heading reads 'Some of the many models that can be built' and at the bottom is 'and now get more parts by buying Set No.1'.

No No.1 set is known but Fig.3 shows what seems to be a manual cover superimposed over one corner of a page of models. Over 50 models are claimed on the manual cover. The models are clearly much more ambitious than those for Set 0 but the range of different parts used in them may be little greater than for the No.0, supplemented by cardboard infill as necessary. There is a Parts List alongside each model and although the details can't be read, the longest seems to list no more than ten or a dozen different parts. I suppose there would be a winding shaft for the Crane, a Screwed Rod perhaps with a Strip as a handle, and possibly a Base Plate of some sort. No circular parts can be seen.

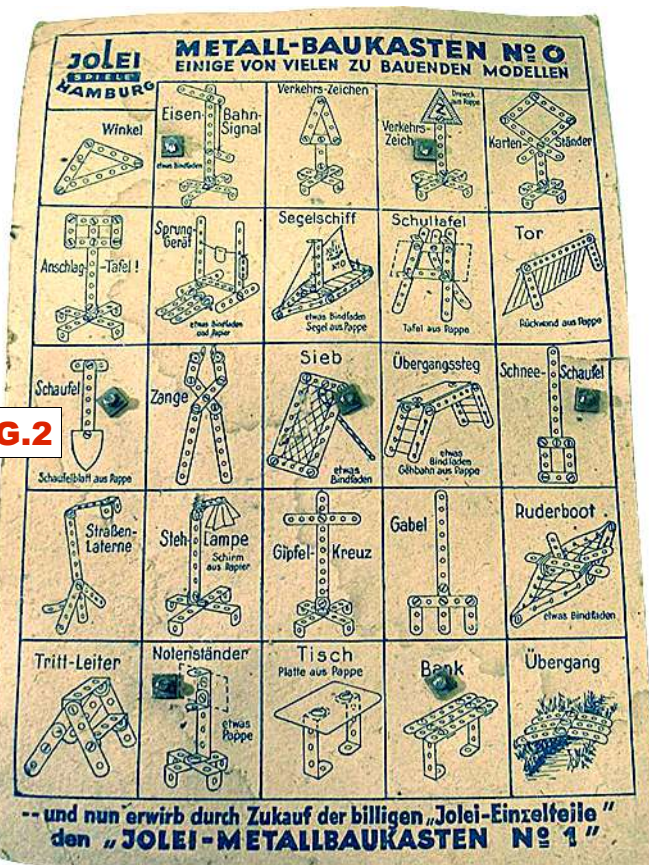


FIG.2

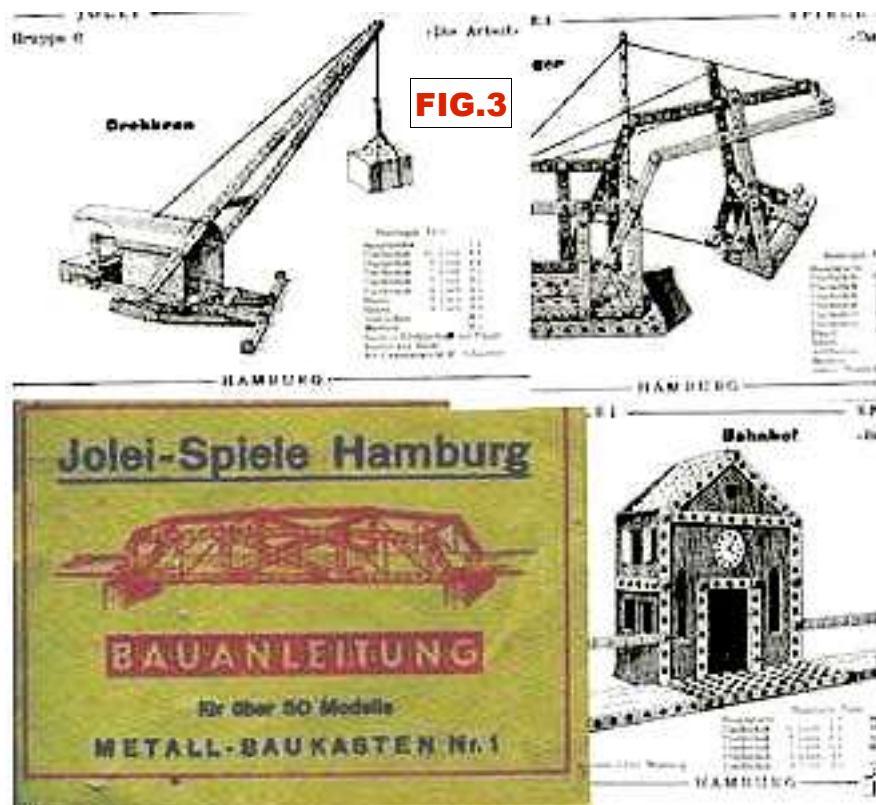


FIG.3

JOLEI: S1

OSN 42/1274

A JOLEI Manual A few details of this small German system were given in 15/415, & a description of Set Nr.0 in 42/1274. Now Jürgen Kahlfeldt has kindly sent, via Thomas Morzinck, scans of a Nr.1 manual. It is in German with 32 landscape pages, 145*102mm, including covers, printed on poor quality paper. The front is as in OSN 42 though in more muted colours. The inside pages are beige. p2 (C2) has only words that claim registration & forbid reproduction, plus a long PR which includes: 127. 5000/5.48.K1.A. p3 has an Intro signed by Josef Leier, and his initial letters explain how 'Jolei' came about. p4 has words of advice to get building underway.

pp5-30 have 51 models with a shaded line drawing for each (except the Bridge on the cover), additional scrap views as necessary, & a parts list. A few have a name on them, as in Fig.5, presumably of whoever submitted them. Going through the manual the models are classified into 7 Groups: 1. At School; 2. The Temporary Home; 3. By the Railway; 4. In the Street; 5 At the Fairground; 6. Die Arbeit [Industry?]; & 8. Shipping.

Gruppe 1 has 3 models on p5 from Lehrerpult [Teacher's Desk] to Schultafel [Blackboard]. **Gruppe 2.** Its 18 models are on pp6-12 from Behelfsheim [Temporary Home] (Fig.4) to Sägebock mit Säge [Sawhorse with Saw]. The other models are mostly domestic items. **Gruppe 3** has 18 models on pp13-18 from Bahnhof (the Station in OSN 42) to Eisenbahn-Schranke (Fig.5). Many are various Signals, on a Footbridge in one case, but there are also 2 Railway Bridges, the one on the cover (no drawing of it is provided, only a parts list), some 35cm long, & a simpler one about 50cm long (Fig.6). **Gruppe 4** has 7 models on pp19-21, from Warnkreuz to Warnschild – both are Warning Signs and the other models are street furniture except the Bridge in Fig.3. **Gruppe 5.** Its 6 models are on pp22-24, from Marktstand [Booth] to Schiffschaukel [Swing Boat]. The other models are various Swings except the Carousel in Fig.1. **Gruppe 6** has 5 models on pp25-29, from Flugzeug [Aircraft] to Funkturm [Radio Tower] – the latter's Group name is Bei der Post [At the Post] so perhaps it was meant to be in the 'missing' Gruppe 7. The other models are the Crane & Digger in OSN 42, & the Lift in Fig.2. **Gruppe 8** has just one model, Dampfer [Steamship] on p30 (Fig.7).

p31 (C3) invites builders to send in details of their original models made from the Set, & says that they will be considered for inclusion in the new manual. p32 (C4) has only Jolei Hamburg, & Jolei-Entwurf [Jolei-Design], on it.

The contents of Set 1 can perhaps be judged from the parts used in the models, as follows. 2,6,8,6,6,6 of 3,4,5,7,9,11h Strips. 6,4 of DAS 1*3,5*1h. 6 A/B. 1 Flanged Plate 5*11h. 35 N&B. The Card needed for many of the models is included in the Parts Lists and also some other items such as the crank handle used in the Crane. It's likely though that these were all to be provided by the builder – wire is mentioned for the crank handle. The Crane also has a wire hook but it isn't listed.

So, no Wheels or circular parts of any description, and given that, & the size of the Set, the models seem to be a fair selection, & likely to interest a youngster. Nonetheless some, like the Ship, could clearly be improved within the Set's parts, and it's not clear how some, the Lift for instance, are meant to operate. Given that a crank handle is used in the Crane it seems strange that it isn't more widely employed.

»Auf dem Rummelplatz« Gruppe 5

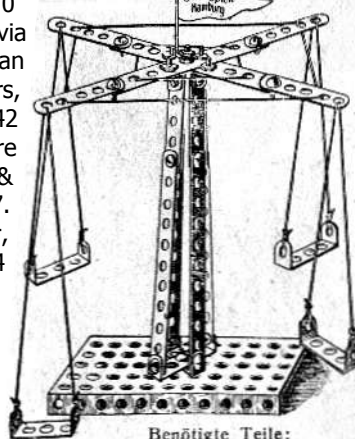


Fig.1

Benötigte Teile:

Hauptplatte	11 Loch	1 x
Flachstück	9 Loch	4 x
Flachstück	5 Loch	2 x
Bügel	3 Loch	8 x
Winkel		6 x
Schrauben		4 x
Muttern		22 x
etwas Bindfaden		23 x

Ketten-Karussell

Gruppe 6

»Die Arbeit« Lastenaufzug

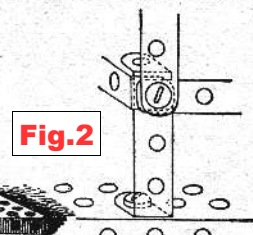


Fig.2

Benötigte Teile:

Hauptplatte	11 Loch	1 x	Flachstück	4 Loch	5 x
Flachstück	6 Loch	6 x	Bügel	5 Loch	4 x
Flachstück	9 Loch	6 x	Bügel	3 Loch	6 x
Flachstück	7 Loch	5 x	Schrauben		34 x
Flachstück	5 Loch	8 x	Muttern		34 x

Gruppe 4 »Auf der Straße«

Zugbrücke

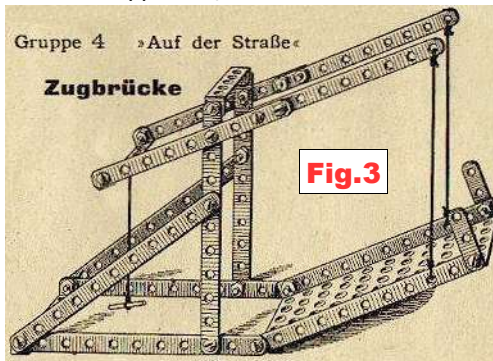


Fig.3

Benötigte Teile:

Hauptplatte	11 Loch	1 x	Schrauben	20 x
Flachstück	4 Loch	6 x	Muttern	20 x
Flachstück	4 Loch	4 x	etwas Bindfaden	
Flachstück	3 Loch	2 x	1 Zündholz ohne Kopf	
Bügel	5 Loch	3 x	Uwe Scherzels, Dahlenburg-Land	

Gruppe 2 »Im Behelfsheim« Behelfsheim

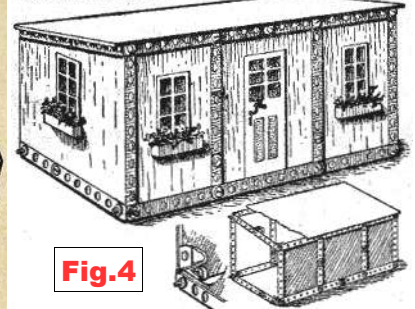


Fig.4

Benötigte Teile:

Flachstück	11 Loch	6 x	Bügel	5 Loch	4 x
Flachstück	9 Loch	6 x	Winkel		4 x
Flachstück	7 Loch	6 x	Schrauben		30 x
Flachstück	5 Loch	4 x	Muttern		30 x
Flachstück	4 Loch	2 x	Wände und Dach Pappe		
Flachstück	3 Loch	2 x			

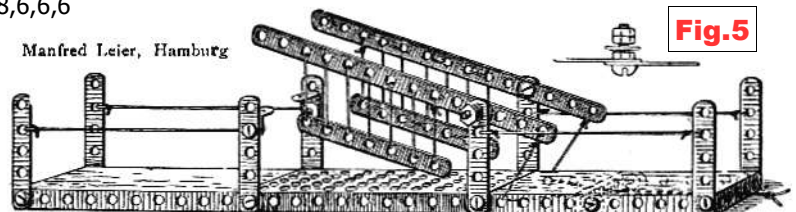


Fig.5

Gruppe 3 Eisenbahn-Schranke »Bei der Eisenbahn«

Benötigte Teile:

Hauptplatte	11 Loch	1 x	Flachstück	5 Loch	8 x	Schrauben	14 x
Flachstück	11 Loch	6 x	Flachstück	4 Loch	2 x	Muttern	18 x
Flachstück	7 Loch	6 x	Bügel	5 Loch	3 x	etwas Pappe und Bindfaden	
Flachstück	7 Loch	2 x	Winkel		2 x		

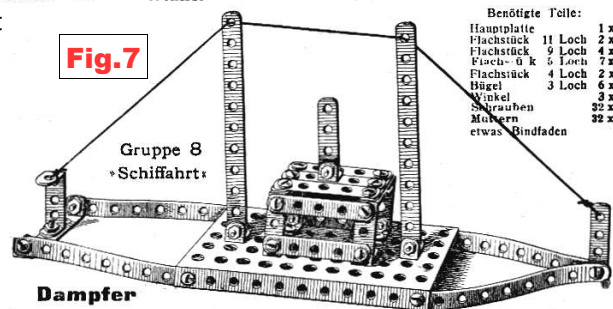


Fig.7

Benötigte Teile:

Hauptplatte	11 Loch	1 x
Flachstück	11 Loch	2 x
Flachstück	9 Loch	4 x
Flachstück	5 Loch	2 x
Flachstück	4 Loch	2 x
Bügel	3 Loch	6 x
Winkel		3 x
Schrauben		32 x
Muttern		32 x
etwas Bindfaden		

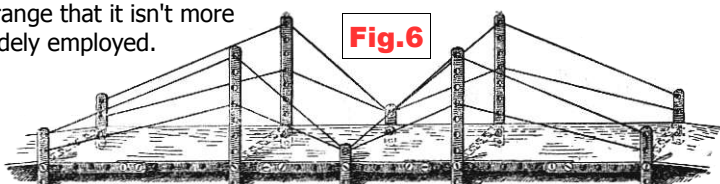


Fig.6

Gruppe 3 »Bei der Eisenbahn«

Hängebrücke

Benötigte Teile:

Flachstück	11 Loch	6 x	Bügel	5 Loch	4 x
Flachstück	9 Loch	4 x	Schrauben		26 x
Flachstück	7 Loch	4 x	Muttern		26 x
Flachstück	4 Loch	4 x	Fahrbahn aus Pappe		
Flachstück	3 Loch	2 x	Aufhängung aus Bindfaden		