

clude the letters F and R.]

GORDON EZ mentions constructional and electrical sets made in the DDR by Gordon-Apparatebau KG, Schmalkalden/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 ¾" 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 ½". 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.

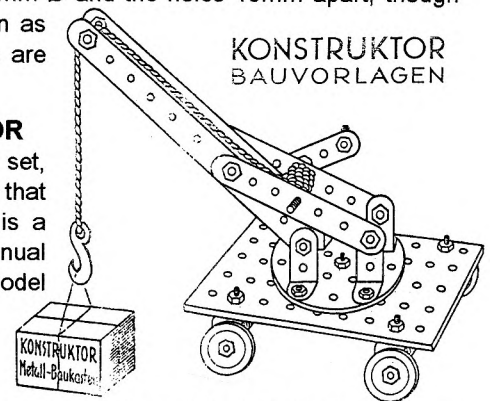
JOLEI This little system from c1950 had only some 12 different parts, all in plain aluminium except for the steel N&B. The holes were 4.4mm Ø, spaced at 11.0mm. EZ has a photo of a backing card with some parts on it - I think I can see 3,4,5,7,9&11h Strips, 1*3*1 & 1*5*1 DAS, an Angle Bracket, and a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

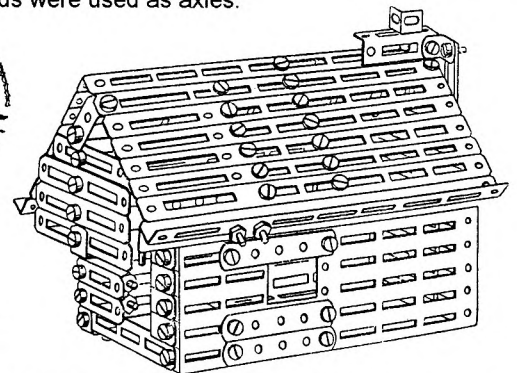


KONSTRUX

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



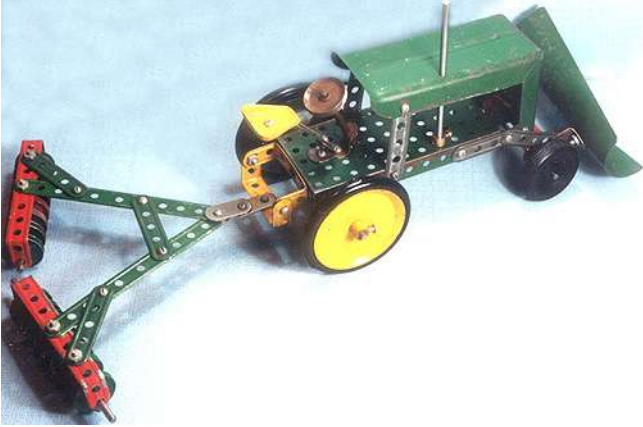
The words Konstrux Deuteron appear on the manual cover under the main KONSTRUX name, but what this signifies I don't know. Also in addition to a logo based on the initials EPD of the manufacturer, there's another (above left) with the name Bergmann, and what might be crossed hammers.

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

and it is driven from a Crank Handle by cord on 1 1/8" Pulleys. The Belt has very little 'wrap' around this Roller and I'd be surprised if the drive is adequate with the Buckets loaded. As can be seen from another of Richard's models, the Tractor below, the wheels are the 2 3/4" Pulley/Tire & the 2" Rubber Wheel. (The parts for the Implement, or at least its numerous 1 1/8" Pulleys, would not be in the Construction Set.)



there are enough parts for him to work with. Everything for the Junior farmer and lots of fun for Dad also.'

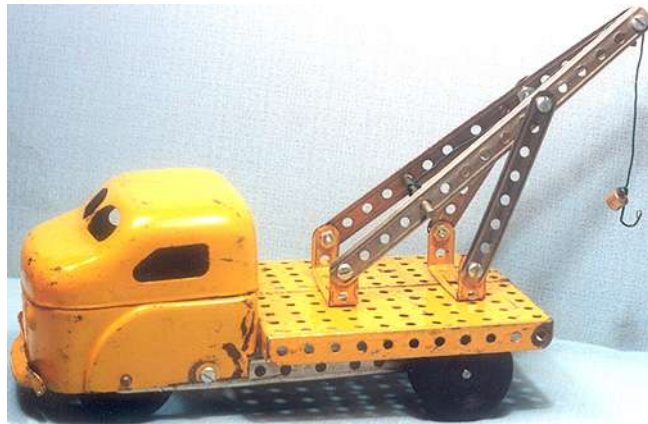
The **TRUCK Set** illustration below shows the 2 cabs in



The **FARM Set** illustration in the Leaflet is shown below.



the set, & the 14 Rubber Wheels. The parts top right & bottom left may be the 8 Flanged Plates (packed in pairs) needed for the load platform of the Low Loader on the lid. It would be over 2 feet long. The Wrecking Truck below is another of Richard's models and he also sent a photo of the bottom model on the lid. Like all THE ENGINEER models they are very simple mechanically but these look quite realistic to me. And, subject to correction, Armstrong was the first manufacturer to include a purpose-built Cab in a set. Come to that these theme sets were arguably the first of their kind too.



Despite the Elevator on the lid the parts in the Set are only sufficient to 'build his own big sturdy tractor to pull the farm implements of which he wishes to design. Perhaps it is a plow with two bottoms or shares of a cultivator, whatever he desires

OSN 31/917

THE ENGINEER: S3

Snippet: the East German KONSTRUKTOR This small system was mentioned in 15/415 and the Crane shown there is on the lid left, & on the manual, or model leaflet, right (BAUVORLAGEN = building plans).



The words at the bottom of the lid are Metall - Baukasten, followed by what might be a '1'.

All that can be seen of the parts are 2 sizes of Pulley, probably without boss, & with some traces of 'gold' on them; some Strips; and, perhaps, under the Pulleys in the bottom right compartment, the Plate & Disc used in the Crane. Also there is a bright 3h Plate that looks to have a

longer hole pitch than the other parts - if it were 1/2", the pitch of the other parts would be about 10mm.



OSN 31/917

KONSTRUKTOR [7]: S1