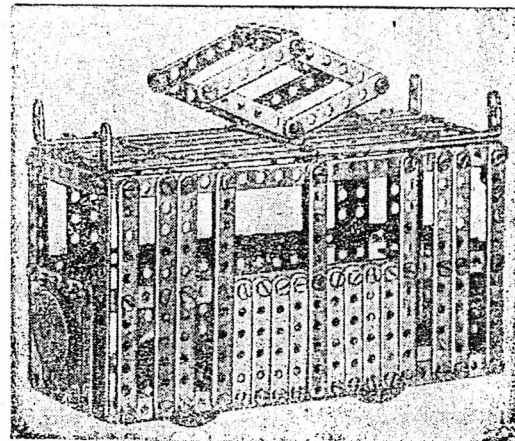
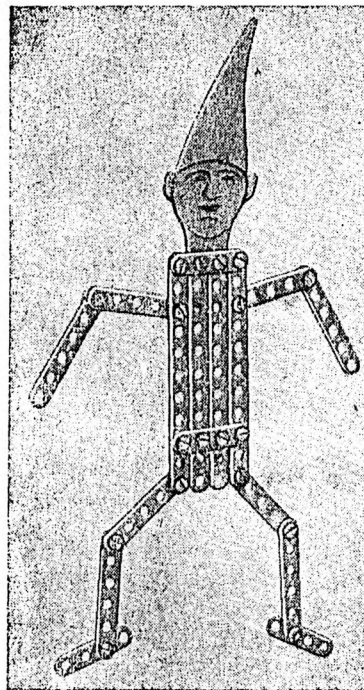


NEW SYSTEM - KONSTRUKTIONSPIEL. Another find in Zürich, an early postwar German Set, and Thomas Keel kindly sent a photocopy of the Instruction Leaflet, some notes, and a 4 hole Strip and N&B. On the front of the Leaflet is, 'Made in U.S. Zone - Germany'; the U.S. Zone included Bavaria and Württemberg and became part of the new West Germany in 1949. There are only 13 different parts, plus Cord and Spanners, but it is a fair sized Set with 478 parts including 110 Strips (4, 6, or 11 holes), 150 Nuts and 140 Bolts. The parts are quite small with 3.1mm holes, 7.5mm apart, so the 11 hole Strip is only about 3¼" long. There is no mention of any other size sets.

KONSTRUKTIONSPIEL

Inside the box lid is a photo of the largest model, a Big Wheel, and 10 more are shown in the Leaflet. They vary from a simple Chair to the Tram below; the latter came ready assembled and had to be dismantled before most of the other models could be made. Various details:

- There are 4 4-hole Discs listed in the Contents which are used as wheels etc, but the Tram seems to be shown with more, 4 to run on plus at least one at the front. No Axles or Screwed Rods are used, the Discs rotate on a lock-nutted Bolts. Where an Axle is needed for the cord drive in the Big Wheel, it is made from a DAS with Bolts in each end; the Winding Drum for the Crane is made in a similar way.
- The Strips are 7.3mm wide and the holes have some roughness around them; the hole spacing in the 4 hole Strip seen is not quite uniform.
- Apart from the Strips, Discs, and N&B, the other parts are Angle Brackets in 5, and DAS in 2, different sizes. In fact all have 4 or 6 holes in them, eg 2x2, 5x1, 2x2x2, and so are no doubt made from those sizes of Strips.
- The thread used is M3; the Nuts are hexagonal, 5.2mm A/F, and the Bolts, in 2 sizes, 8.1 and 10.2mm overall, have 5.8mm dia cheeseheads.
- The Bolts are untreated steel, all the other parts have a dull, dark grey finish which may be a form of zinc plating.
- Among the parts found was a Scale, made of card and marked in grammes, which is used for one of the models, a Letter Balance. Under the Parts List is a note, 'Der Kopf für den Hampelmann, ['Jumping Jack', top right] die Skala und die Platte für die Briefwaage [Letter Balance] sind aus dem Einsatz auszuschneiden.' So these parts were to be cut out of card but I'm not sure if there is an implication that they were designs printed on the card.



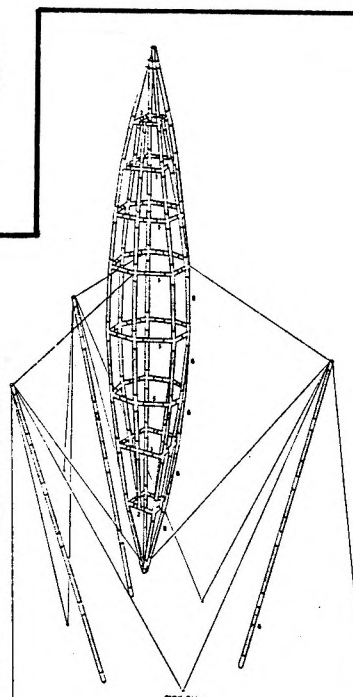
The Parts List/Contents, some more models including the Crane and Big Wheel, and a list of the parts needed for all models, are included in MCS Extra Sheets.

AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6: NAME: KONSTRUKTIONSPIEL. TYPE: MPSH. CY: GG. THREAD: M3. SPCE: 7.5. dST: 3.1. DAXL: --.

QUERIES.

1. More on TRIX threads, Peter Kessler sent a N&B from a Presentation Set No.905, whose literature is all in German. The thread is M3.5, that is a pitch of .6mm. Summarising it seems that the continental TRIX thread was 3.5x.8mm (OSN 2/17), or just possible 3.5mm dia x 32tpi (3/41, 7/166), later (presumably) changed to M3.5; the UK thread was 4BA postwar but the 3.5x.8 was used prewar. This was mentioned as a possibility in 7/166 and was confirmed recently from the N&B in a prewar ELEMENTRIX Set. It may well be that the change in the UK thread did not occur until after WW2.

14. I made a mistake over ALCON in 8/199, the 'sticks' are wooden and not plastic. Malcolm Hanson when he wrote to tell me this, also mentioned that he has since acquired a larger set, probably later because the maker is shown as TRIX. One of the models in its Manual is the 'Skylon' (right) which for anyone who hasn't heard of it, was a tall attraction devised for the Festival of Britain, held in 1951.



ALCON

More on KONSTRUKTIONSPIEL

Notes on this this small-scale, 7mm pitch, post-WW2 German system were given in 9/224 & 38/1138. Only one set was ever produced and it contained around 500 parts (200 plus N&B). The 11 main parts among the 15 shown right in Fig.1, were 4, 6, & 11h Strips, 5 A/Bs, 2 DAS, & a 27mm Pulley. More examples of the Set have been seen on Ebay since OSN 38 and recently Urs Flammer kindly sent details of his outfit, notable for its shallower than usual box, and also the Ebay photos of a similar outfit.

K'SPIEL's HISTORY Most of what little is known comes from the sets' model sheets, and two versions have been seen. Both are a sheet approximately 29*26cm, folded into four; both show the same models and the only differences are in the front face. One (Fig.1) has 'Made in U.S. Zone' along the bottom, and thus dates from before 1949; the other has 'Made in Germany', and so no doubt K'SPIEL continued into the 1950s. (The rest of the text is in German and why 'Made in Germany' isn't I don't know.) As explained in OSN 38 the post-49 version shows a few more of 5 of the parts than are listed in Fig.1. In both versions the 2-line heading of the list of parts says that the Set contains a ready-assembled Tramcar and some additional parts. (In dating Ebay items it is sometimes useful to notice that in the post-49 version the second line is nearly as long as the first – the increased length comes from Einsatz [something extra?] being replaced by Einsatzkarton.)

URS' SET is in a red box 16*14*4cm with the label as in OSN 38. • The parts sit in the bottom of the box, in 9 bays formed by shallow cardboard boxes. • The model sheet with the Set is as Fig.1 but if the Set originally contained the built-up Tramcar the model's top face would be well above the top of the box. In that case the box lid, which looks much deeper than in the other sets, might still engage with the base, though this would hardly be an ideal arrangement. • All the parts in the Set are steel with the grey finish of the OSN 38 parts, and they look the same as those described in earlier Issues. Urs wrote that the Strips are 7.0-7.2mm wide, 1.2mm thick, and their holes are 3.1mm Ø at 7mm pitch. Also that the thread is 2.5mm Ø with a pitch of .45mm, and the Nuts are 5mm A/F.



Fig.1

A SIMILAR but later SET From its model sheet Urs' set would be pre-49. The Ebay photos he sent of a similar set show it to be post-49, but in an identical box, with the same unusual, deep lid. Its parts though, apart from the Span'drivers and N&B, look to be all aluminium.

K'SPIEL PACKAGING & PARTS No definite pattern can be seen in the packaging and the type of metal used, but there follows an attempt to summarise the main features of the 8 known sets (including Urs' & those in OSN 38).

Packaging. • One box is light blue & one black (both pre-49); all the others are red. All have the same label and all are about the size of the OSN 38 boxes except that at 10cm the black box is deeper, and 2 (1 pre-, 1 post-49) are only 4cm high. • The 2 OSN 38 sets (pre-49) both include a small, light blue box to house the parts (other than those in the Tramcar); in Urs' 2 sets, & 2 others (dates unknown), the parts are in shallow boxes which form partitioning in the base of their boxes, and 1 set, the black one (pre-49), has a lift out tray partitioned into 9 bays.

The Parts. In the sets where the parts can be seen reasonably clearly, all have steel Span'drivers and N&B. **Pre-49.** 1 set has all steel parts. 2 sets (those described in OSN 38) have steel Pulleys, and either: one has steel & one aluminium Strip parts, or both have a mix of both. **Unknown date.** 1 set has steel Pulleys but aluminium Strip parts. **Post-49.** 1 set has steel Pulleys but aluminium Strip parts. 1 set has steel Pulleys & a mix of Strip parts. 2 sets have all aluminium parts.

So steel parts are more likely pre-49 and almost all the Pulleys are steel.

Card Parts Sheet. 2 sets (the 2 pre-49 in OSN 38) have the card parts sheet (right), 160*149mm, folded twice (joggled) to fit over the blue parts box. 2 sets (1 pre-, 1 post-49) have a similar sheet but only about 12½cm high, unfolded, and with the Scale printed below the other parts.

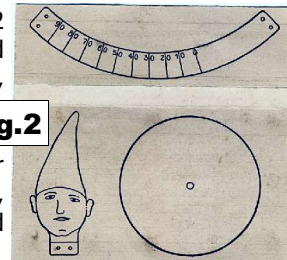


Fig.2

OSN 49/1501

KONSTRUKTIONSPIEL: S3

Snippets. New Argentinean

System: ARMAMEC

The top face of two boxes are shown right and on their undersides are small pictures of the 8 models in the current range. The featured models for the other 6 sets are a Breakdown Truck, a Fire Engine, a Helicopter, a Mechanical Shovel, a Buggy, & one too blurry to be recognisable. The sets vary in size from 80 to 260 parts and the boxes from 17*25 to 34*50cm. 3 different models can be made from at least the larger sets, and one is simple Crane with a 20h long jib on a 20h high tower.

Parts that can be seen in the various models are 5, 7, & 11h Strips; a 5h Curved Strip, 1*3*1 & 1*5*1h DAS; 3 & 5h A/Gs; 5*3, 5*5, & 5*11h Flanged Plates, and a 3*5h flanged on the 3h & one of the 5h sides; 2*8 or 9, 3*3, 3*5, & 5*7h



Fig.1



Fig.2

Perforated Plates; a 3*3h Corner Bracket; a Trunnion & Flat ditto; a 2h wide 1*2h A/B; an 8h Bush Wheel; a Road Wheel; a small Pulley; Axles; a Crank Handle, & a Wire Hook. There is no indication of the pitch of the holes, or their diameter. The colours of the various parts (red, blue, green, yellow, white, & silver) vary somewhat from model to model, and sometimes even on the top & bottom of the boxes.

OSN 49/1501

ARMAMEC: S1