

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ " 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.

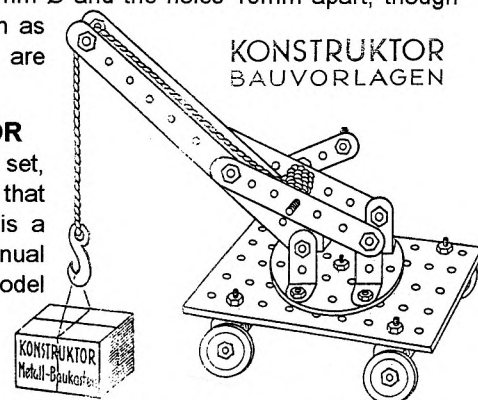
JOLEI This little system from c1950 had only some 12 different parts, all in plain aluminium except for the steel N&B. The holes were 4.4mm Ø, spaced at 11.0mm. EZ has a photo of a backing card with some parts on it - I think I can see 3,4,5,7,9&11h Strips, 1*3*1 & 1*5*1 DAS, an Angle Bracket, and a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

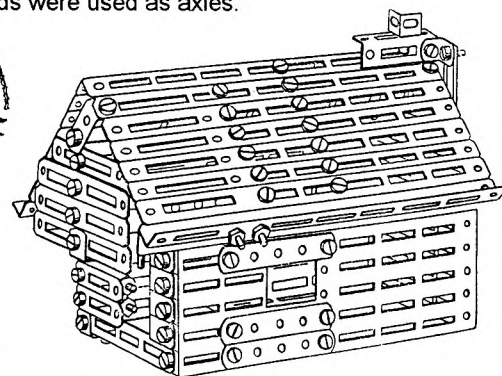


KONSTRUX

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.

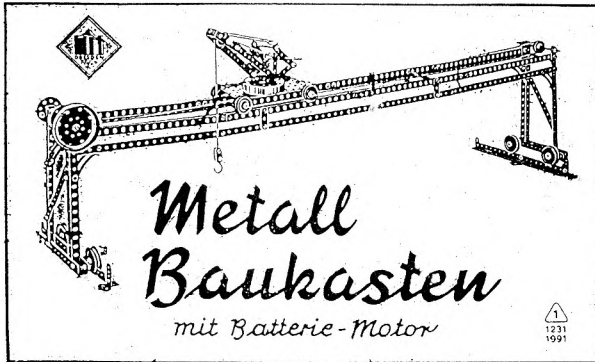
MAFELL From EZ. This system was made by Maschinenfabrik Fellbach GmbH, Stuttgart-Fellbach/Württ., around 1930. It consisted of relatively few, large steel parts, including strong wheels with suitable axles. In many ways it was comparable to the GILBERT WHEEL TOY.

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

about 1950. The Sets 18-24 in MCS were preceded by a series 1,1A...3. MCS doesn't mention that Strips, A/Gs, and small parts were nickel plated.

METALL BAUKASTEN A system from the 1930s with over 50 different black parts. Holes are 4.1mm Ø at 12.7mm spacing.

METALL BAUKASTEN mit Batterie-Motor The manual cover of this East German set is shown below - the logo on it was reproduced in 13/337. EZ says that the parts were packed in a plastic box, and that they were strong and well made, with a black finish. They included 2 sizes of Tyres, rectangular and trapezoidal Plates, and circular parts up to 7h Ø. 4mm Bolts were used, and the pitch of the holes was 12mm.



METALLO-TRIGON This 'geometrical' system was discussed in 5/93. EZ gives the period as 1913 to c1926 and lists the firms who made it during that time: Metallo-Trigon GmbH, Offenbach; from 1916, Stanzwerke GmbH, Eisenach; from 1919, Stanzwerke u. Schloßfabriken GmbH, Bad Liebenstein and Sachsendorf bei Eisfeld; from 1920, Stanzwerke GmbH at Sachsendorf and from 1923 at Eisenach again. A photo of a 1916 No.2 Set shows several types of spoked Pulleys with 3, 4 and 6 spokes, all straight, and a pair of the smaller (6-spoked) ones are fitted with Tyres, as shown in the original sketches of the parts in MCS.

MEWEKA From EZ: this DIY system (see 12/321) was made until c1960.

MIKRONO Konstruktionsspiel EZ lists this system as being made by M. Löffler of Altona/Elbe from 1918 to ?, but no details of it are given. If I've understood correctly it already existed in 1916 under the name **ROSETTA Konstruktionsspiel**, and also mentioned is **PYTHAGORAS Konstruktionsspiel** in connection with the words 'objection/Patent/renaming', but I can't sort out exactly who did what to whom.

M K A Probably from East Germany in the 1950s, this system had about 40 parts, all plain aluminium except for steel Axles, and included both TRIX-style and MECCANO-

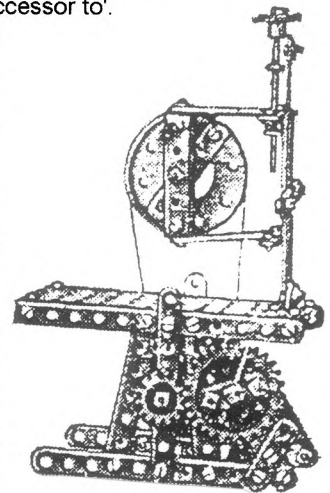
style Strips. The hole pitch at 11.2mm was larger than TRIX but smaller than MECCANO, and the holes were 4.1 and 4.3mm respectively. Mystery Part #3 from 2/25 may be a M K A part, or if not it's very similar. The model at the foot of the last column gives an idea of some of the parts. There are 3 sizes of Pulley with Tyres to fit the middle one. All of them, and the 5h Ø Disc, have tapped bosses.

M K A may well be connected to **M F C**, already in MCS - the parts look the same, the same range of PNs are used, and those for the N&B, the only parts that can be positively identified by PN, are identical.

MODELLO On the logos (12/312), Jeannot wrote that the JB one was that of the first manufacturer, Johann Brandner of Regensburg (1919-20). Ernst Plank at Nürnberg then continued (EP-MODELLO) until at least 1928. EZ confirms the hole pitch as 10mm with an Axle diameter of 4mm.

MÖWE The name is sometimes spelt **MOEWE**. This system was made from about 1946 until perhaps the early 1950s. A leaflet shows what looks like a metal box, and has at the bottom 'Made in German - Brit. Zone - N. Rh. W.' The only mention of a maker is 'Möwe Metall-Baukasten-Fabrik'; in EZ it is given as 'Möninghoff & Weiß Nachfolger' - the last word seems to mean 'successor to'.

A page from a manual shows 2 models which can be built from Sets 1 and 2, and for which about 20 different parts are listed. These include Strips 3,5,7, 8,11,12 & 20 holes long; Achsenträger which may be Double Bent Strips; a Baseplate which looks as if it is 5*11 or 12h, and may have flanges on its long sides; 2h Ø Loose Pulleys; 5h Ø Flanged Discs with a pulley groove and a large centre hole, like STABIL; 25 & 85mm Axles which are probably Threaded Rods; a Crank of some sort; and the large and small Gears that you may be able to see in the Bandsaw above, and which look as if they might be similar to the STABIL patented gears.

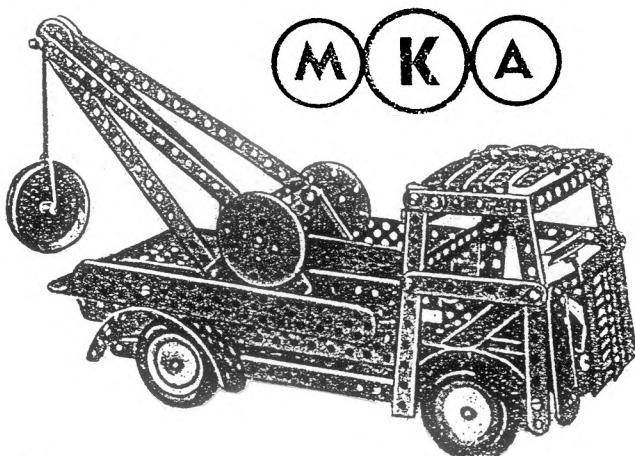


Some of the parts in a set differ from those in the models. The Baseplate is flat and has 12*5 holes, while the 5h Ø Flanged Discs appear not to have a centre hole but instead a boss, fitted to the recessed side, with 6 holes at 1h radius around it. There's also a Double Bent Strip and two 8h long Flat Sector Plates with a 5+7*3 hole pattern. They, like the Baseplate, have sharp corners.

To give an idea of the size of the sets the other model, a Double Swing, uses 57 parts plus 20 Angle Brackets, 8 Pulleys, 80 Bolts and 100 Nuts.

Nothing is known of the hole spacing or diameter but my impression is that the pitch is nearer ½" than 10mm, and in that case the holes scale at between 3½ and 4mm.

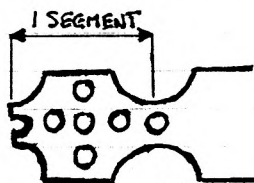
MWK This was an East German system from between WW2 and the early 1950s, with plain aluminium parts that had 4.1mm holes at 12.1mm pitch. In all there were about 36 but the models I have seen show only the following: 2,3,5,7,11h Strips; 1*5*1, 1*3*1, 2*1*2 DAS; 1h Angle and Reverse Angle Brackets; Double Bent Strip; 7*11, 3*11, 3*7 Perf. Plates; a Tapered Plate (see model at top of next column), & a 2h Triangular Plate (perhaps with a centre hole); 28mm and 62mm Ø (pulley?) Wheels, and a Handle, all of which are nipped onto 50 and 90mm Threaded Rods; N&B.



More on GERMAN SYSTEMS

Following the notes in 15/412, Jeannot Buteux, Sven-Ulrich Glage and Don Redmond have been good enough to sent comments, additional information, and the names of yet more German systems. For reference purposes the initials JB, SG or DR after each contribution indicates its origin. [The illustrations from Jeannot are courtesy of the *Constructorama* archive.]

- The form of **AKRON** parts is as sketched opposite, and some contain as many as 17 segments. (JB)



- An early 1930s commercial catalogue lists 5 main **ALPHA** sets (ALPHA [2] in MCS) and 4 linking sets. No set numbers are given, only catalogue references, but No.2 can be seen on the one set illustrated. It's the middle sized of the 5 main sets and it's the same as the No.2 in MCS, and with the same numbers of parts. So it's likely that the main sets listed are Nos.00, 0, 1, 2 & 3.

Also included is a Kanonen-Baukasten with 227 parts in a box 34*18cm. A model is shown (right) and with a geared drive for elevation at least, it is more sophisticated than the 1930s STABIL Kanonen models. (SG)



- Is **AUTO-CONSTRUKTOR** (15/412) a printing error? [Probably yes, it is spelt that way in *Eisenzeit*, p177, but if it's the same as the Dutch AUTO-CONSTRUCTEUR, which seems likely, the name on the pages still in German in the Dutch manual is AUTO-CONSTRUCTOR.] (JB)

- **BURGER** has 4.1mm diameter holes at 12.5mm pitch, Bolts are M4 with hex Nuts, and Axles are 4mm Ø. The parts are painted red, blue, green & cream, and are poorly finished. (SG)

- The lid from a photo of a small **DER KLEINE INGENIEUR** Outfit is shown opposite, and the parts in the box include various Strips, an 8-hole Wheel Disc, a STABIL-pattern Flanged Sector Plate, and 2 of what appear to be Screwdrivers, with large tapering wooden handles. (JB)



- On **DORANDO**. Unlike INGÉNIO (16/430) for example, the metal frame is on the inside and is hidden in the finished model. (JB)

- The initials **F.D.K.K.** stand for FÜR DEN KLEINE KONSTRUKTEUR. (JB)

- There was a connection between **INDUSTRIE** and **PHANTASIE** (15/417) in that the models in the manuals owned by *Constructorama* are identical: the PHANTASIE Crane in 15/417 is Model 33 on p10, and the same model, but reversed right to left, is in the INDUSTRIE manual, again on p10, but it is No.24. Also the parts in it are held together by snap fasteners. Those are the only differences as far as the manuals are concerned, but the parts in the 2 systems aren't compatible, with a different hole size and pitch. [N&B are shown for INDUSTRIE in MCS and snap fasteners were used in an earlier period] (JB)

- **KONSTRUX** is larger than stated in OSN 15 and there were 5 sets called MIKROS, DEUTERON, MEGA, MAKROS, REX - Greek or Latin names all relating to size in some way. (JB)

- The French patent (No.707915) for **MAFELL** (15/415) was granted in 1930. A model is shown at the top of the next column. (JB)



- **MECANIC/MEKANIK**. The change of name occurred in 1949 when the system was still being made by Dörken & Mankel. (The company still exists under the name Dorma and is now a leading manufacturer of door closing systems.) According to information from the firm, production of constructional toys ceased in the mid 50s [a catalogue from 1957 is known] because of problems of distribution in the toy market. A manufacturer has to be listed by VEDES, the powerful organisation of German toy retailers, to be able to sell products nationwide. D&M, (and also the firm who made MIGNON) were apparently not on good terms with VEDES. As a matter of interest it is said that VEDES played an important role in the confiscation of Meccano's rights during WW1 and their sale to Märklin.

Sven continued that he has some 25 MECANIC/MEKANIK sets in his collection but not one made by Adrian & Rode, and so he would like to know more about their period. In a mid 50s Leaflet a new Gears Set is shown but was it ever introduced? The parts were included in Parts Lists (see 3/33) but he has never seen any of them. (SG)

- **MIKRONO, ROSETTA, & PYTHAGORAS** were different names for the same system, and their parts may be wooden, but this isn't sure yet. (JB)

- On **MÖWE** (15/416) the original firm would have been Möninghoff & Weiß, the brand name coming from the first 2 letters of each. (DR)

Sven's **MÖWE** set is packed in a nickel plated box with a sliding lid and hazardous sharp edges. It measures 28.5*8.3*2.3cm and the lettering on it is stamped into the metal. Holes are 4.3mm Ø at 13.0mm pitch, and the Bolts are M4 with (unusually for German systems) square Nuts. Strips, Plates and Brackets are nickel plated steel of various thicknesses around 1mm. Pulleys have a brown finish like thin brass plating. [Sven kindly sent an 8h Strip and it is 13.2mm wide by 1.18mm thick, with 4.4mm Ø holes. Its end radius is 7mm. And in a photo of the Set can be seen a 12*5h Perforated Plate, the Flat Sector Plate mentioned in OSN 15 (with straight ends and all holes parallel to them), and 2 of the STABIL-type Flanged Pulley Discs. The manual has landscape pages almost the size of the box, against the near A5 size of the page the model in OSN 15 was taken from.] (SG)

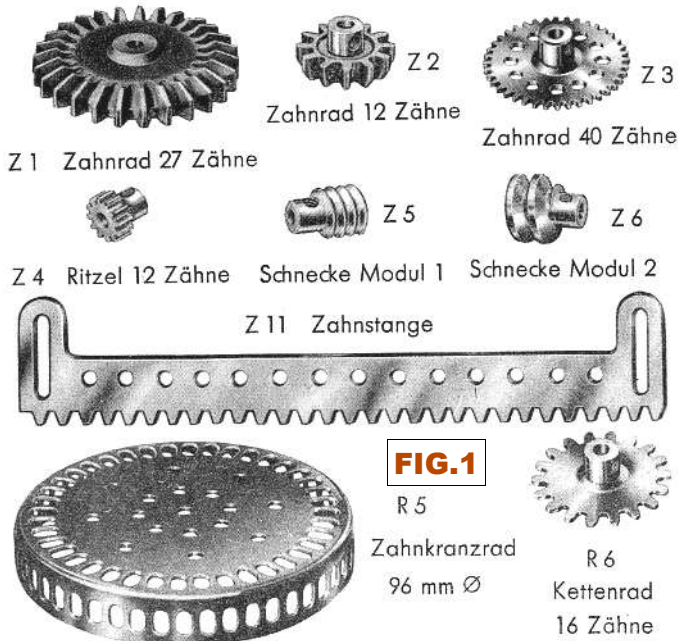
- The EMB4 **PLASTICON** set includes a motor and other electrical parts, with some plastic parts, and others of nickel plated steel. (JB)

- The parts shown in a photo of a **RECORD** Set include some short Strips and Brackets with semi-radiused ends,

Snippet. The German MEKANIK-Zusatzkasten Z

There was speculation in 17/476 as to whether this add-on Gears outfit, Z, from the mid-1950s, with its unique square-bore sliding Pinion, was ever actually produced. The answer is yes: since the advent of Ebay 4 examples have been spotted, all largely complete.

The MEKANIK manuals to hand show the parts in the standard sets, and separately, the additional gear parts which, as will be seen, made up most of the Z outfit. But before going on to the details it is worth noting the Gears which were included in the standard sets, and they are shown below. Parts



Z3, Z4, & Z5 are Mod. 1; all the others are Mod. 2 and the Sprocket R6 can be used with them, including meshing with the 48 slots in the flange, or the 40 in outer ring of the face of the Flanged Plate R5. Gears Z1 & Z2 are plastic with a boss moulded in, and one face is bevelled so that they can run together at right angles. The plastic is usually green but in some of the earlier sets (when the system was called MECANIK) they are

yellow, or a light grey/fawn. All the other parts except the brass Pinion Z4, are steel, and all are nickelled apart from R5 (painted) & Z6 (plain steel). Bosses are nickelled steel, 10mm Ø (9mm for the Pinion) and double-tapped M4 (the same thread as the N&B). Z1, Z3, Z4, & R6 are 58.3, 41.8, 13.9, & 40.0mm Ø respectively.

Fig.2 is the Set's lid, typical of MEKANIK; Fig.3 the Z Set as shown in a leaflet, and Fig.4 an actual example (with one incorrect part in it, see later).

Before discussing the 'gear' parts, notice the 'K' parts in Fig.5. In the Ebay set they are the red plastic parts, 5 Dredger Bucket & 3 Rollers, plus the folded length of dark grey Conveyor Belting. As far as I know these parts were never referred to in the manuals but were included in an illustrated spare parts price list to hand. Each end of the Rollers has a pigot and it is longer at one end of one Roller to carry a driving part. In one of the Sets the Rollers are bright metal. The colour of the Belting varies, with dark blue in one set and dark green in another.

The 'gear' parts are shown in Fig.6, with one of each in the Set except possibly more of each Corner Plate, though the photos seem to show only one. Taking into account the standard Gear Z3 there are 3 of each size of Gear Wheel, one with the normal boss, one with no boss but an integral 12t pinion, and one with both pinion & boss. Other parts are for use with the innovative square-bore, sliding 12t Pinion Z18: 2 lengths of Shaft for it to slide on, and a Bracket X13 to move it along the Shaft. The new Sprockets are R8 & R9 and complement the standard R6. Finally a small transparent packet containing some N&B, and perhaps other small parts. The 'error' in Fig.6 is that another 12t Pinion has replaced one

FIG.2

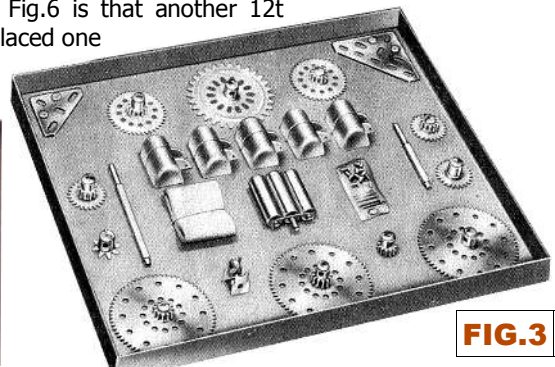


FIG.3



FIG.4

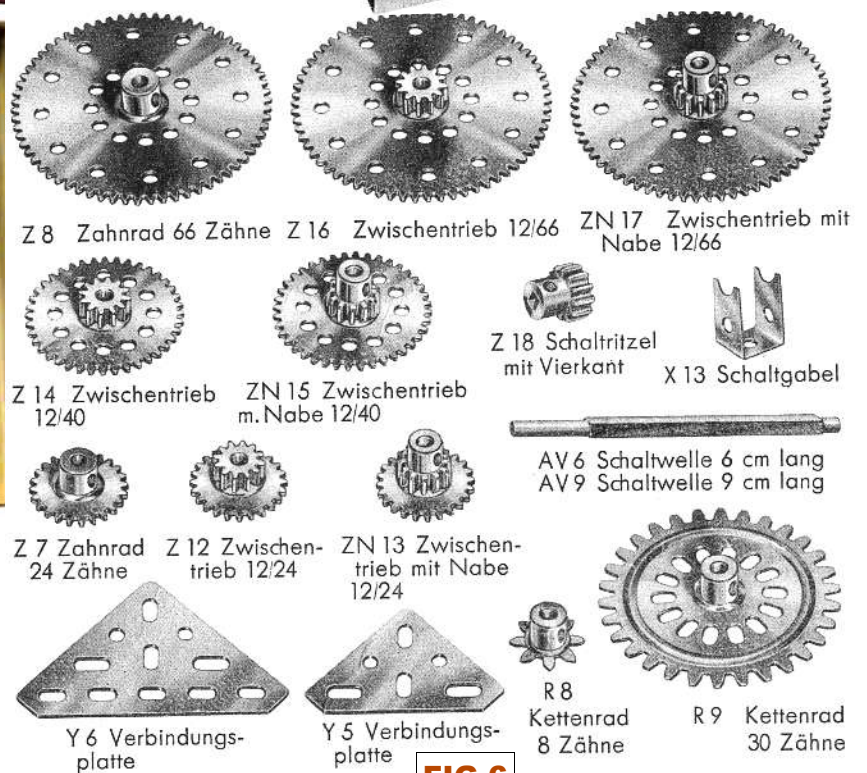


FIG.6

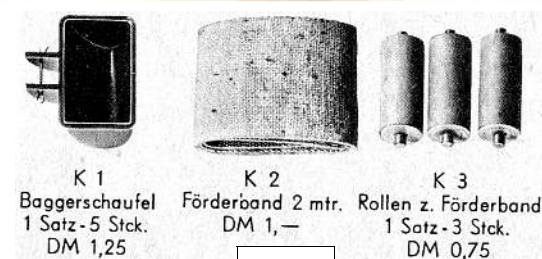


FIG.5

of the 24t Gears – unless of course the Set's inventory was changed at some stage (there are all three of the 24t's in the other Ebay sets).

The only literature with the Ebay sets was a single sheet with one of them. The one side that was shown is identical to a sheet to hand and has the photo of the open set (Fig.3) and lid (as Fig.2 but without the yellow 'Z' circle), together with 2 models to show the use of the Fig.5 parts. One, right, is a simple hand driven Conveyor Belt using the 3 Rollers in the Set. There is no indication of how the Belting is to be joined. The second model (Fig.10) uses 10 of the Buckets and is driven by the MEKANIK 5-speed, 6 volt Geared Motor. Neither model uses any of the Z parts. Both, and the other models on this page, are two-thirds their original size.

On the back of the Sheet are the models in Figs.8 & 9, without title or explanation. Presumably they are meant to

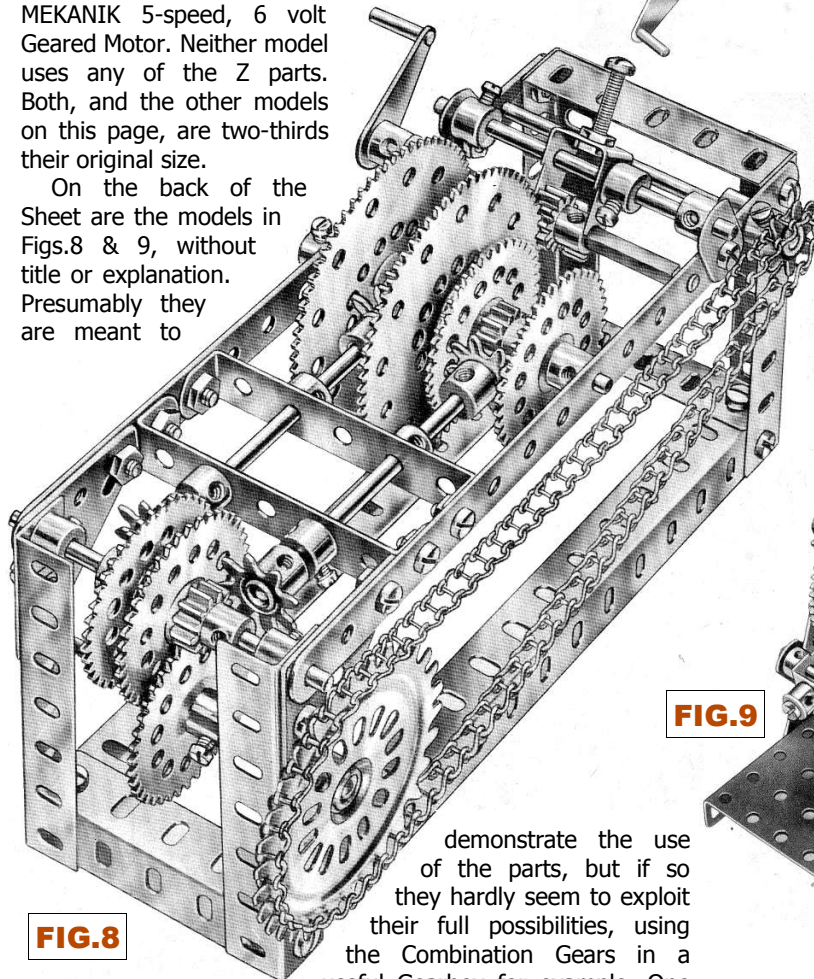


FIG.8

demonstrate the use of the parts, but if so they hardly seem to exploit their full possibilities, using the Combination Gears in a useful Gearbox for example. One feature shown are right-angle drives with the smallest Sprocket, R8, meshing with the 12h ring of holes in the 40 & 66t Gears, and in the 14 slotted holes in the 30t Sprocket. Incidentally, no less than 5 each of the 8t Sprockets & 40t Gears are used in the Fig.10 model, which meant buying 4 extra of the Sprockets, and, unless one had the largest

MEKANIK [1]: S2

Snippet. STABILUS The model from the only set then available in this small German system (which uses Eitech/Polylong type parts) was shown in 32/941. Since then the range has increased to 8 sets and they can be seen on the same site as before: www.Blechspielzeugladen.de. They are priced at between €1.50 (for a Tool Set containing a red-handled Screwdriver and a Spanner with a moulded plastic nut carrier around the ring end) and €15 (for the 143 part Xmas Tree in OSN 32), but most sets cost €5 and have 28–57 parts. One of them makes the Rocking Horse right but each of the others is a fair example of an aero or vehicle 'simplicity' model.

The Xmas Tree set is packed in a cardboard box; the

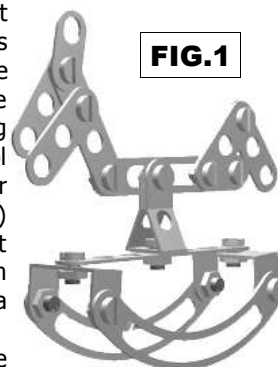


FIG.1

STABILUS: S1

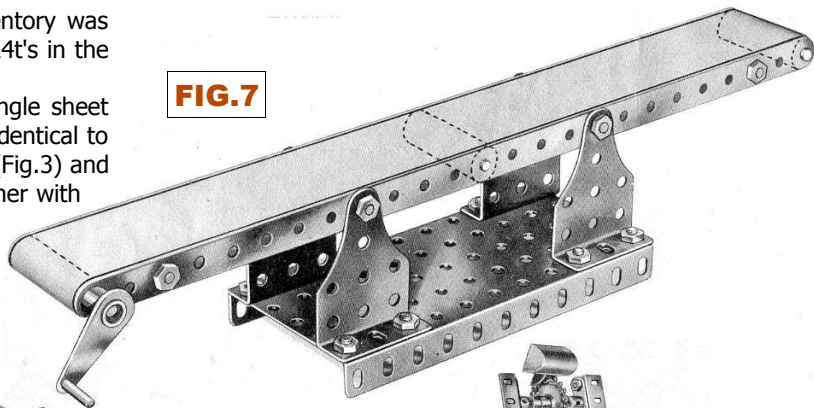


FIG.7

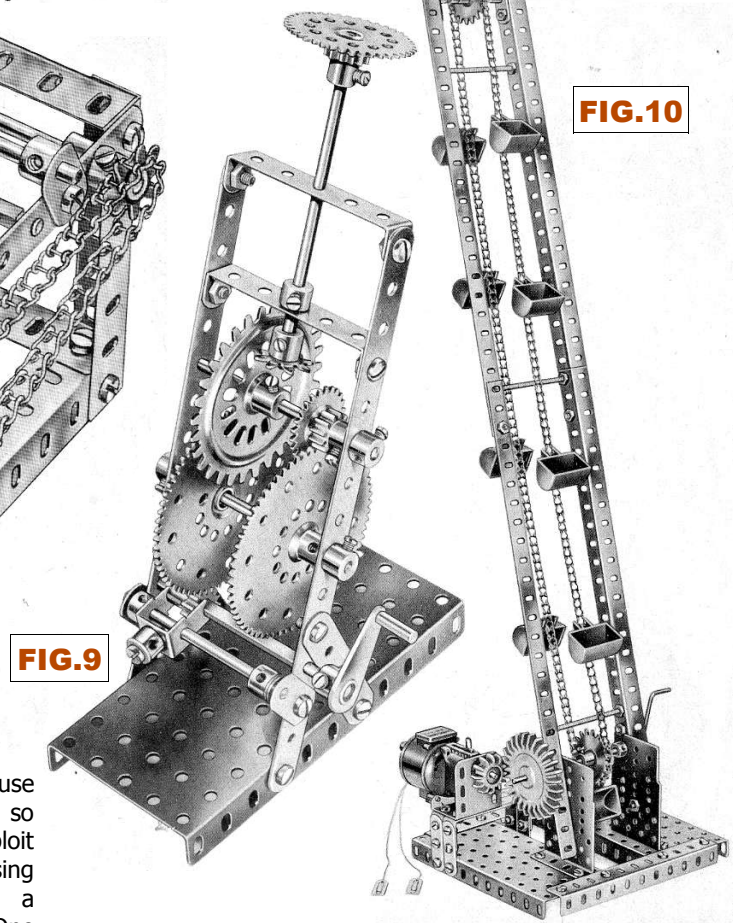


FIG.9

FIG.10

standard outfit (Nr.24), 2 extra

40t Gears. Given this it seems unlikely that the Sheet was intended as a model leaflet, and so it may have been a flyer. In that case some models needing only the parts in the Z plus those in a medium size standard set would have been well worthwhile.

OSN 43/1296

Rocking Horse in a 'PE Beutel' (polyethylene bag?); the others in a tin, 9.5* 6*2cm, as in the Ebay photo below. Unfortunately the top of the lid isn't shown anywhere.



FIG.2

OSN 43/1296

is from TRIX Band/Book 2 and needs a B1 set as well as 6 of the A1's.

I expect many readers will be familiar with prewar TRIX models and when I looked at them again after some years I noted anew how much could be achieved with relatively few different parts (plus a little cardboard), only 15 parts in the case of METEOR. The models in Figs.4-7 have been chosen as good examples to illustrate the various points of interest made above, and as good examples of models for the number of sets needed. They are about two-thirds their original size,

and except for the Roundabout, include the original parts list & instructions, though rearranged.

It is said on the Hong website (see 48/1471) that because of the spelling in it, the 'A' manual might date from the 1930s. I would be surprised though if Trix would have agreed or tolerated the use of their material in the 1930s, more likely METEOR appeared soon after WW2, before Trix was in a position to object.

METEOR: S3

OSN 50/1520

The German MECANIC/MEKANIK Nearly all the MEKANIK sets seen have a dark red lid with the label shown for the 'Z' set in Fig.2 of 43/1295, but a few have an entirely different box, with the parts in a foam insert instead of being strung. Before giving more details an outline of the system's history to tidy up the oddments from OSN 17 and earlier.

The original name was MECANIC and it was made, starting in 1948, by Dörken & Mankel KG of Ennepetal-Voerde i.W. And except for the different name the sets had the 'normal' OSN 43 label. It is said that there were Nos.1-3 with linking sets 1a & 2a: I've no evidence to hand of Sets 2a & 3 but have an Ebay photo of a Set 0. Manuals had the cover shown right, 30¼*19½cm, and the pages inside were loose, held with paper clips between an inwardly folded spine.

The MECANIC name continued into 1949 but at some point before it changed to MEKANIK the set numbering was changed to 20-23 with linking 'a' sets. A manual to hand shows that Sets 21 & 22 were developments of the previous Sets 1 & 2 but with some 'new' parts and a few more of some already in the Set. One can't be sure that the 'new' parts were newly introduced because they could have already been used in Set 3. But some probably were new, the 4 sizes of plastic Flexible Plates for example. Likewise the No.23 had a number of other 'new' parts. The manuals with these sets were A4 with normally stapled pages and covers identical to the picture on the lid (as in Fig.3, a manual on top of the later box lid).

By 1950 the name had been changed. Ultimately the range of sets was increased to 18-24 but whether all at once or in stages isn't clear. Sets 20-23 were unchanged except that Set Screws were included in the Set Contents, though they had probably been in the sets all along but not listed separately (they aren't listed as a separate part in any of the Illustrated Parts to hand). Set 24 had 1230 parts against 980 for No.23 including 36 new parts. Set 18 had 104 parts against 254 in No.20 with only 2 wheels: 27mm Pulleys with Tyres. It was the only set which didn't include the pair of coarse pitch, green, plastic Gears.

Packaging remained the same except that though the linking sets from 20a upwards had the usual lid, all the 18a & 19a seen, 6 in all, have the simpler lid in Fig.2, and in some photos it looks dark brown rather than dark red. The manual covers also stayed the same but the manual for Sets 18 & 19 was a single sheet folded to give 4 A4 sides, with no covers.

From 1959 MEKANIK was made by Adrian & Rode GmbH of Velbert (between Essen & Wuppertal, 20km west of Ennepetal) and continued until at least 1963. Or possibly until 1967 when the firm went out of business.

Now the new packaging. Fig.4 is the lid of Set 22, with Fig.3 above it to show its top (with its manual lying on it). Right, the parts snug in their foam block. The Set has a single layer of parts against two in the previous strung version. Set 21 in the same style has been seen but whether the change extended to other outfits isn't known. It seems likely but isn't certain that these changes occurred with the change of ownership, or soon afterwards. The manual with the No.22 was unchanged with the same models and it still showed sets with the earlier packaging – the model on the lid is from Set 23.

With one minor exception the colours of the parts stayed the

same throughout with red rigid Plates, Trunnions, & the plastic Flanged Pulley, the larger circular parts & Flexible Plates blue, the plastic Gears green, and all the other parts nickelled. Examples can be seen in Fig.5. The colour of the plastic Gears did vary in early MECANIC sets: a few were yellow, an Ebay set has white ones, & I have an orange pair.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4

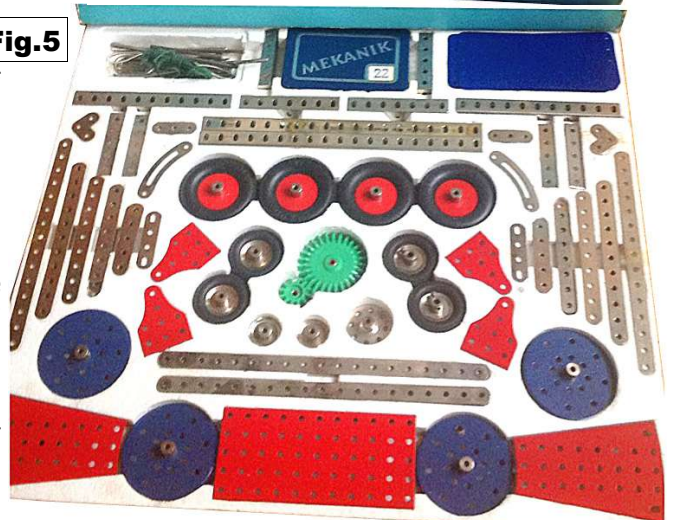


Fig.5