

**More on STOKYS** When I wrote the notes in OSN 23 I wasn't aware that a comprehensive history of the system already existed. It is called '**Stokys Sortiment**', which I'll translate as '**Stokys Products**' (SS for short), and was prepared by Urs Flammer about a year ago. I'm grateful to Werner Sticht for bringing it to my attention and showing me his copy. The only problem is that it is in German, but much of it can be understood without much help from a dictionary, and for the rest, one of the several free online translation services available on the internet may be worth trying.

The work consists of some 70 punched A4 pages, photocopied double-sided, and clipped into a binder. It starts with a 5 page historical summary, followed by a list of all the sets with their dates. Next the contents of the sets at the beginning of the 1950s, and then 33 pages with tabulated lists of all the parts & motors with illustrations, dates and notes on material & changes. These include the manuals, and their covers are shown on later pages, but no details of the models in the manuals are given, and I don't think the Editions in which the models were changed are noted. Also noted are changes to the set packaging but without details. Finally particulars of 3 other systems produced by Stockmann - CLIP, CITY, & MIGROS - and copies of 3 Swiss patents, including one for CITY, plus the German one.

Altogether a most useful contribution to MCS history. Readers wishing to buy a copy should write to Urs at Eichbühlstrasse 26, CH-8618 Oetwil am See, Switzerland, or email to 'urs.flammer@record.ch'.

Returning to OSN 23, some of the dates & other details given there do not agree with those in SS, even when the N/L material came from dated sources. Perhaps the explanation in some cases is the difference between the real situation and what was published in lists, etc.

One area not covered in the OSN 23 article is the years **1942-44**, during which the sets in the range available in 1945 were gradually introduced, and the parts were made from the materials then available: zinc alloy for the Plates & Strips (of rectangular section at the time), aluminium for the Gears, etc, and plain steel for the Axles & N&B.

Werner also sent details of his **1987 0-2, 3-4 & G1/G2 manuals**, which have the 'Digger' FC, all with a yellow bottom panel; '10.87.UDL' on the IFC; and just the Stokys name & address on the yellow back covers. Otherwise they are the same as the 25<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 13<sup>th</sup> Editions respectively as described in 23/675 except that in the '3-4' the Set Contents shows additional parts in the **G1 & G2 Sets**. They both have a Ratchet Wheel (#126), and the G2 has one each of the Small & Large Bevels, #120 & #121.

**1981 ONWARDS** The notes in OSN 23 covered the years through 1981; later developments have been noted in 7/166, 11/291, 13/335 & 16/453. But going through SS, there are two ranges of products which I don't think have been mentioned. The first, 12 **Minimodelle Sets** (#2211-4, 2221-2, 2231-4, 2241, 2251) for Lorries, a Helicopter, etc., available from 1986 to 1988. The other, listed only in 1984, comprised 2 **Solar Cells** (#3001-2), & 6 **Electronic Units** (#3200-4, 3250) to control lights & motors, and to make sounds.

One other item from Werner, on the **black M4 N&B** noted in 7/166, which were introduced in 1988. Their sizes remained the same with 5.5mm diameter heads, and Nuts 7mm A/F (to DIN 934), but smaller Nuts, 6mm A/F, are also available, and these can turn within the raised edges of the Strips without damaging them.

To continue the story, I now have, thanks to Werner, a **1998 Price List**, and it shows a few changes since the 96/97 one of OSN 16. On sets, a new one is '**Uhr 1**', Wanduhr (Wall Clock) mit Quarzwerk, but no illustration unfortunately - it is said to be suitable for beginners and only costs FR.45, so no doubt it's a commercial quartz movement in a suitable framework. The set to make the **Designing Machine**, now numbered SM 06, has been reintroduced.

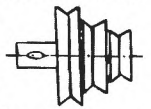
Also there's a new **Battery Box**, SE 02, with forwards/reverse for the GM motors. The **ET Packs** of parts aren't mentioned.

**New** or reintroduced parts are **3h wide Perf. Plates**, 5,7,9,11,17,24,32h long; **2\*1h L-Girders** 8,11,16,24,32h long; **3\*1h L-Girders** & **1\*2\*1h Z-Girders**, in the same lengths plus 78h; and an **Obtuse A/G**, 11h long. The male/female ended **Half Shafts** from the Diff are now listed as #W03, 55/75mm long.

**No longer** listed are the **Curved Strip** (by mistake I hope); the 78h **Flat Girder**; the **35mm Pulley**, R51 (the PN that used to be the Cone Pulley); the **LH Worm** (sad, a useful part); the **Formed Handle** (very sad, a quite unnecessary part but a touch of class); the **Emery Wheel**; the 115mm Ø **Geared Bearing**; and the 1m length of **Spring Cord**.

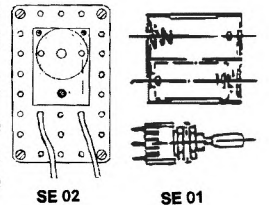
An even later **2000 Price List**, dated 1/9/99, kindly send by David Lawrence, has a few more changes. One set has gone, the supermodel **Skip Lorry outfit**, and one has been added, a simple **Jeep KP12** for beginners, but there's no illustration. The **Parts Packs** have been revised and now there are 23, from ET01 to ET62. The large FR.200/220 ones have gone; the rest have been revised and are priced from FR.10 to FR.16. New are a Pack of Flat Brackets, 4 of Tyred Wheels, & 2 of Lamps; gone are one of Pulleys, 2 of Gears, & 2 of various small parts. The new Packs are numbered ET 01, etc against ET 01-1, etc for the earlier ones.

**Additional parts** are 5\*8h **Plastic Plates** in blue & yellow, P46,47 (as well as the existing green & red); a new R51, now back to being a **Cone Pulley**, with 18/26/32mm diameters as before but from the illustration, right, it may be fabricated rather than solid brass; an 11/44t **Double Gear** (I wonder why, given the existing 11/40t one); **Allen-headed Bolts** in packs of 20 & 100 (S22,23); an **Allen Key** for them (H09); and the **Spring Washer**, reintroduced, again in 20s & 100s (S24,25).



Deleted are the **A/B** with 2\*2h in each arm, E12; the 1m long Motor connecting **Cable**, FS11; the **Remote Controller** for the Auto Set models, FS01. The **Curved Strip**, B01, is again not listed, so must be presumed lost - the only Curved Strip in the system, gone.

The **Battery/Switch Unit, SE02** for the GM Motors is illustrated (right) - it takes 2x 1.5v batteries, has forward/reverse, and is 6\*10\*4cm o/a. Also right is the **SE01**, the 'Schalter' of 11/291, apparently a battery box with a separate reversing switch.



**CLIP & CITY** These other Stokys constructional sets are in MCS but the dates in SS are more exact: CLIP was introduced in 1948 (the end date isn't known) and CITY went from 1953 to 1961. Another Stokys product was **MIGROS**, a small set (45 N&B) made for a large store called Migros in 1969. Apparently it didn't sell very well. The parts were basically STOKYS but they weren't stamped, and the Strips were made from 10\*1.5mm rectangular section aluminium. Another difference, the Flexible Plate was yellow.

**Repairing 'Paper'** Don Redmond wrote that he uses Filmoplast, a German-made transparent paper (not plastic) tape, which becomes nearly transparent when applied. It's not cheap (\$20 a roll) but is supposed to be permanent, will not discolour, or become sticky. In Canada it is available from Carr-McLean in Toronto, who handle archival supplies. Staples can be replaced by linen bookbinding thread, and photocopies of missing pages should be on archival quality paper, though this usually means supplying suitable paper to the copy shop.