

Snippet. 'New' Syrian System: MECHANO The set shown here was offered on the French Ebay. The lid below has



Fig.1

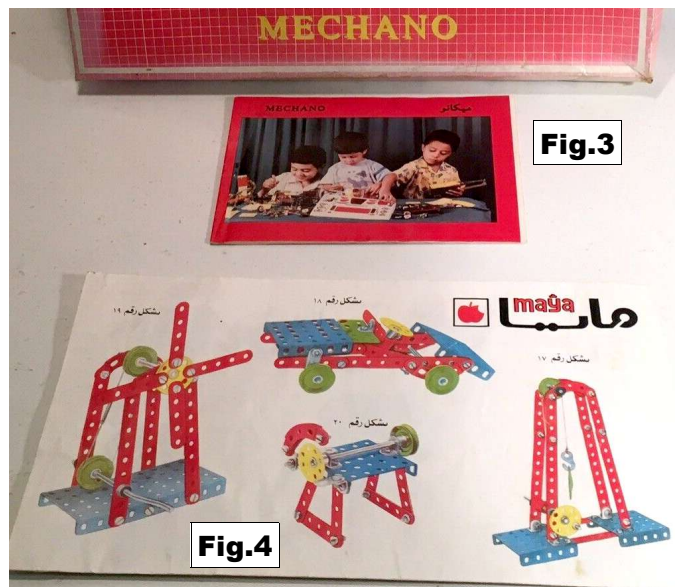


Fig.3

Fig.4

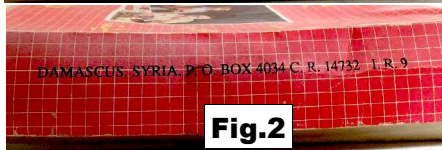


Fig.2

'DAMASCUS, SYRIA. P.O. BOX 4034 C.R. 14732 I.R. 9' on the side of the box above.

The Set is something of a puzzle. 2 layers of parts are shown (Fig.6) & those in the left one resemble Chinese WISDOM etc, while those on the right look like Czech MERKUR. There is a MECHANO manual (Fig.3) with the cover photo similar to the one on the box lid, and two models from it (Fig.5) are made of 'Chinese' parts. Two loose sheets show MERKUR models and one of the sheets is headed 'MAÿA (Fig.4) (the circumflex over the Y is blurry).

It seems almost certain that the MERKUR element was not part of the Set. When enlarged it can be seen that the boys in the photos on the lid & manual cover are using Chinese parts. No doubt the Set originally had a second layer of Chinese parts, & it would have included Trunnions, Flexible Plates, etc which would be needed for the models.



Fig.5

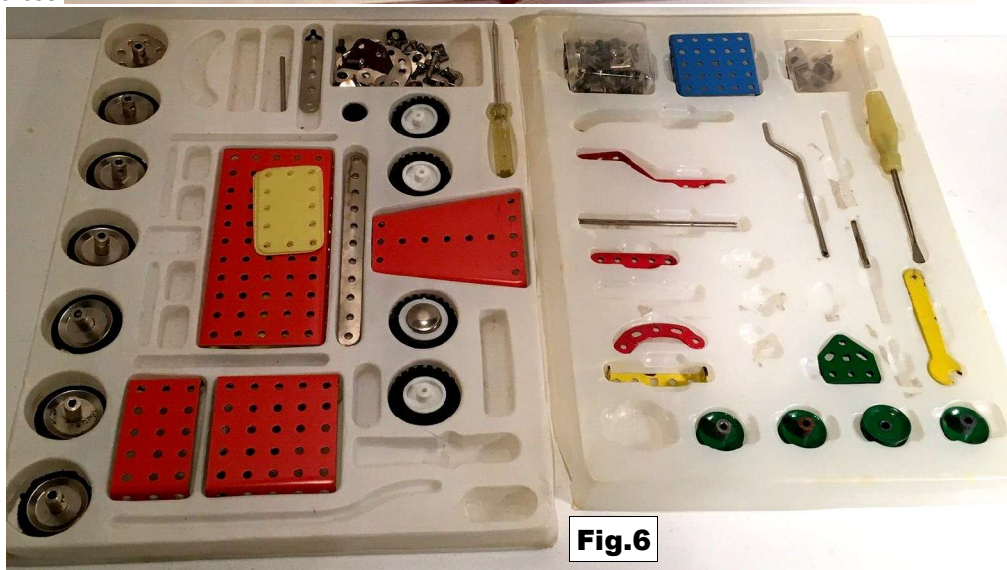


Fig.6

And what of MAÿA? Another 'new' system?

OSN 54/1661

MECHANO: S1

KONSTRUKTIONSSPIELE 38/1134 showed a box lid, & gave the name of the maker. 43/1319 showed the manual's front face together with some parts which it is now clear were not K'SPIELE.

Finally, Urs Flammer has kindly sent details of his set & its manual. The box, 12*14*2cm, has the OSN 38 lid. **The parts** are nickelled steel and those that can be seen in the open box right are: 9*5h Flgd Plate; 2,3,5,9h Strips; DAS; A/B; Pulley; Bush Wheel; Axle; Crank Handle; N&B (probably square Nut, cheeseheaded Bolt.

All holes are round: 4.5mm Ø (with some 5mm) at 12.5mm pitch. Axles are 3.5mm Ø, & the thread M4, but M3 in the bosses.

The manual is a single-sided A4 sheet folded into 4 sides. Its front is as in OSN 43 and Fig.2 is the Crane on it. There are

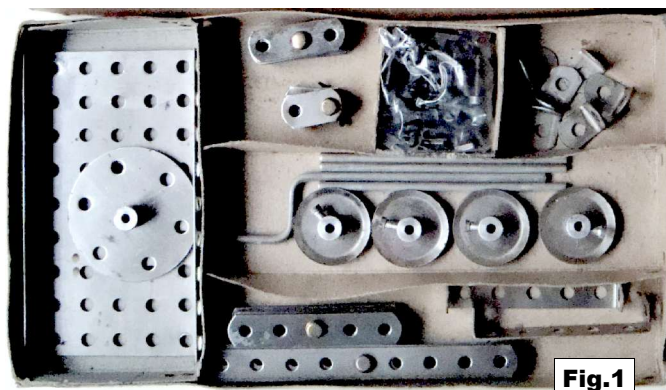


Fig.1

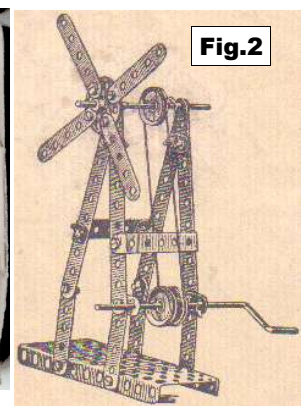


Fig.2

nine more models on the other sides, from Nr.2.Tisch to Nr.10. Eisenbahnwagon. All but one of these 9 models are much simpler than the Crane: the exception is a Railway Signal with the signal arm linked by Cord to the operating lever.

OSN 54/1661

KONSTRUKTIONSSPIELE: S3