

5. STABIL Website Update. Werner Sticht wrote that he has recently updated his (already very comprehensive) STABIL website: www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu Click on Neuigkeiten to see what is new, and erweitert or Änderungen for updated items. The first new topic is a brochure showing 20+ models for dealers to display, and they can be enlarged by clicking on them. The following 3 items all include photos of factory display models. There is also a full account of the LILIENTHAL system, something of which was given in 22/623. It will be recalled that it was based on an 1888 patent and though it had wooden parts it could claim two firsts: Strips with equispaced holes, and one model, a Windmill, with an Axle to allow the blades to rotate. Surprisingly the Axle wasn't used in any of the other models. Another unique feature was that sets were available with 2 sizes of parts: their hole pitch was 25mm in one series, and (probably) 100mm in the larger version.

STABIL: S9

[51/1549]

Snippets. AUTO-CONSTRUCTOR Update. A number of sets have been seen on Ebay since the last notes in 42/1291, and have contained a few points of interest.

Basic Sets It will be recalled that 2 basic sets are known, one in a larger box than the other, and it seems that, with one exception, they all have the same contents, enough parts to build the Nr.1 manual models. The additional parts in the exception, a 'large' box, include 4 Buckets, some DAS, extra Chassis Side Members, & a Headlamp (with a second noted as missing), the same extra parts that were in my 'small' set (see OSN 40) but there is no way of knowing if they were originally in that set or if they came from say another outfit. The Set is unusual in having yellow Body Panels, all the parts that are usually blue or sometimes red.

All 3 of the larger sets seen & 1 of the 7 smaller ones, have 'Auto-Constructor' on the lid; in the others all the letters are capitals, as are those on all the manual covers. Where a maker is given in the Ebay ads it is usually Heinrich Fischer but Philipp Kühner is sometimes mentioned. However it now seems likely that the latter was the printer of at least some of the manuals, and the maker before Fischer was Curt Schrader.

Set Nr.1A None of the sets seen have the set number on the top of the lid but it may have been on one of the lid aprons, as in the Nr.1, a small set, mentioned in 40/1216. Most Ebay photos don't show all the aprons and the only set number that can be seen, from another small set, is shown left.



Apart from its unexpected 1A designation, it looks a typical

6. Snippet: Another FALCO Set. Like the outfit in 39/1165 it has 2 layers of parts, but is larger and some parts, mostly those with piercing, were not in the OSN 39 set. But not all the earlier parts can be seen, only a single Wheel size for instance. The lid is as before except that the white Set No. circle is missing.



FALCO [2]: S2

[51/1549]

small set, and fairly complete, but it does have at least 12 of the DAS in it. However they probably belonged to a Nr.2 set which was included in the Ebay lot, and which, though looking largely complete, had no DAS in it. No reasonable explanation of the 1A designation comes to mind. It's of dubious relevance but the box had a trade label from a shop in Prague on it.

Set Nr.2 2 sets have been seen, both similar to the one in Fig.5 of OSN 42 but more complete, and the better one is shown below. Its dimensions were given as 25.5*15.5*3cm.

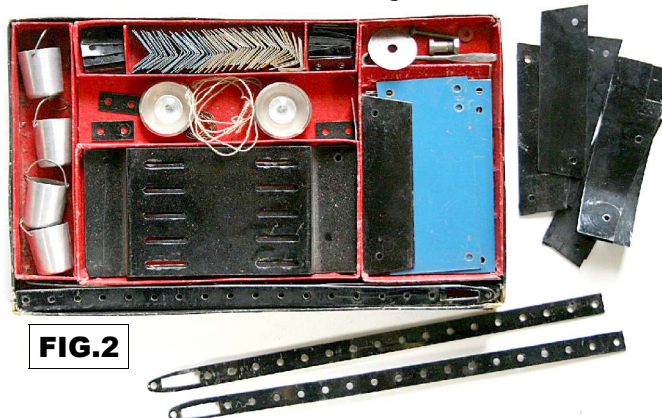


FIG.2

Its DAS are missing, but as explained above they may well be the ones in the Set 1A. The disc top right could be one of the Hose Reel Ends. It was suggested in OSN 42 that the latter were in the Fig.5 set but on a second look it is clear they are Headlamps with a deeper reflector than those in Figs.2 & 11 of OSN 40. No doubt a later, more realistic design. The Headlamps in the other 'new' Nr.2 are also this 'later' type.

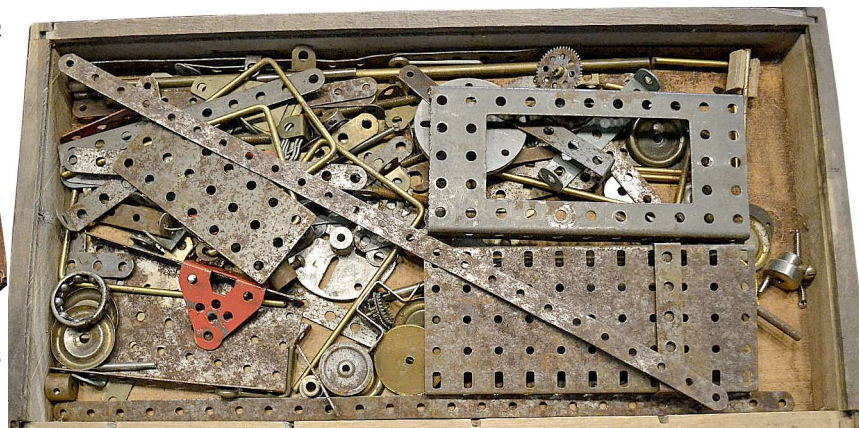
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AUTO-CONSTRUCTOR: S6

Snippet. 'New' System: MECHANIKUS



The set shown here was offered on the German Ebay recently. A PR bottom left on the lid reads (Dr.?) 2443 1047 10000 MDV Haldensleben ??/ 2456. 1047 seems a likely date and Haldensleben is a town 30km NW of Magdeburg. All that can usefully be said of the parts in the box is that they are clearly from more than one system.



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MECHANIKUS: S1