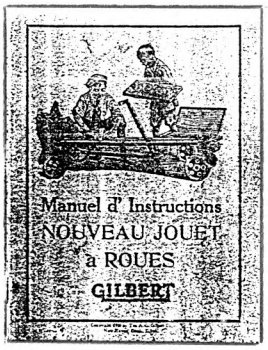
by a Grub Screw and engages in one of the 5 large holes in the Wheel's face. The Ski Runner N-16, bolts to the Formed Bearing Bracket N-34, which fits onto the Axle instead of a Wheel. • There are 2 sizes of N&B, the standard ERECTOR 8-32 for most purposes but also 14-20x3/4" Bolts (.242" dia), with square Nuts, to hold some of the metal brackets together. The Grub Screw in N-45 also has this larger thread. • The 2 Gear Wheels appear from the Illustrated Parts to have 13 and 39 teeth, and the larger one has a diameter of some 6". They are used in only one model, the Geared Hand Lever Cart (entitled Expédiateur Engrené but Expédiateur isn't in my dictionary). This model has several points of interest and is included in the new MCS Sheets. • The wooden part shown bottom right of the Ill. Parts has no PN and doesn't seem to be used in any of the models. • The metal parts are probably quite substantial, most of the Strips and Brackets are about 1" wide and look up to 1/8" thick in the illustrations.

FOOTNOTE. Gaston wrote again to say that he has now seen one of these sets in the Toy Museum at Mechlin (Belgium). A model from the set is displayed made up and the remaining parts are in the original wooden box. The basic hole spacing is, as surmised above, 2". In addition he sent a p/c of a page from a book called The Wonderful World of Toys, Games and Dolls, kindly supplied by Mr Marc Wellens of the Museum. This shows the Set on a page from a 1919 Sears Roebuck catalogue under the name GILBERT NEW WHEEL TOY. Since this was no doubt the original name I shall use it as the MCS title. Also Peter McCall has showed me a 1923 GILBERT YEAR BOOK which includes this Set, along with two other smaller Outfits. Full details of these items will be included in the Extra MCS Pages.



SUMMARY OF MANUAL. #Name: NOUVEAU JOUET à ROUES GILBERT. #Details of maker: THE A.C.GILBERT COMPANY, NEW HAVEN, CONN., E.U.d'A. AU CANADA: THE A.C.GILBERT-MENZIES CO., LIMITED, TORONTO, ONT. #Dates &/or Ref Nos: Copyright 1919 on front cover. #Page size: 134x177mm deep. #No of pages: 16 plus covers. #Language: French. #Printing: Line drawings of models. #Page Nos of Parts List & highest PN: 15-16, N 48 (Order No. 2642). #Page Nos of Set Contents & highest PN: None. #Sets covered: One Set only. #No of models: 13. #Name, Model No, Page No of first & last model: Glisseur à Trois Roues,15,3. Pelle à Neige,5,14. [models are not shown in order of Model Nos; there is no #6, and #15 is also labelled #8]. #Other notes: Details taken from photocopy.

EXTRA PAGES FOR MCS: GILBERT NEW WHEEL TOY: X1.1,2,3,4,5-a,7-a. [4 Sheets]

AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6: NAME: GILBERT NEW WHEEL TOY. TYPE: NM. CY: CA. THREAD: 8-32,14-20. SPCE: 50.8x. dST: DAXL: . Also on p123 add NOUVEAU JOUET à ROUES GILBERT as Alternative French Name.

QUERIES.

14. Malcolm Hanson answered the query about ALCON. He has a Set and the parts are round plastic Strips, thinner than a matchstick, which push into aluminium Couplings of various types, to produce 3-dimensional frameworks.

15. The essence of MOBILO is simplicity, only 3 elements, Rods, Wheels and U Clips; and only 8 different parts altogether, 5 lengths of Rod, the Clip and 2 Wheels. But why 2 Wheels? One is 30mm in diameter and the other is 33mm, not a big difference, and from the material in MCS the diameter appears to be the only difference between them. No question of one with boss and one without; it is possible that only one of them has a pulley groove but then the one without might be thought a luxury in this austere system. So why 2 Wheels?

16. I have a LYNX manual, large format about 15"x8", which has the contents of sets on the inside front cover. Unfortunately half of it is missing and if anyone has it intact please let me know. The smaller LYNX manuals sometimes have a Reference No on the front cover or on the page on which the parts are illustrated. I have ML.1A, MB 4, M.B.6 AND M.B.6A, and I'd be pleased to hear of any others.

SMALL ADS.

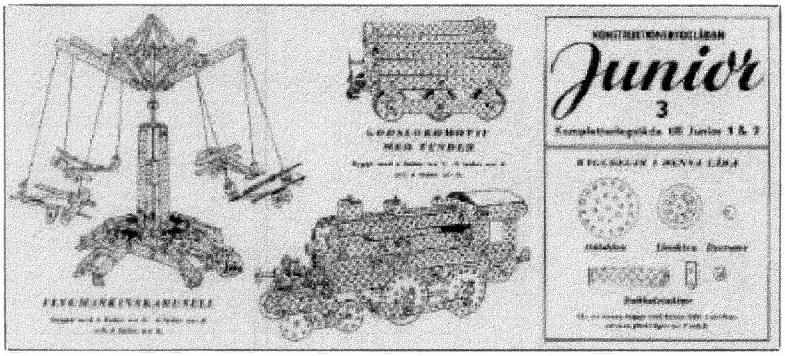
WANTED. MÄRKLIN ELEX parts - Roger Baker, The Walnuts, Ashbury, Nr Swindon. SN6 8LN. (0793) 710358.

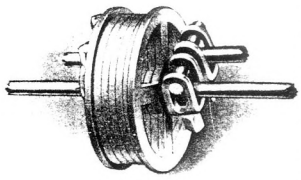
FOR SALE. TRIX manuals, UK editions including the large format Book of Engineering. Some TRIX cartons with set packets included, and motor carton. Also a few parts in average condition. SAE for details please - Brian Rowe, 23 Courtenay Park, Newton Abbot. Devon. TQ12 2HB. (0626) 52188.

TECNIC WORM. Harry Mariën sent me a photo of a rather smart Chassis he has build using parts from his TECNIC No.9 Set, and the steering mechanism includes a Worm. Seeing it I was reminded that Harry had shown it to me some long time ago and whereas the illustration in MCS shows a conventional worm with a boss at one end, the actual part has tapped bosses at each end.

And More from Sweden Since this piece was written Staffan has added two more systems to his web site (http://home1.swipnet.se/~w-14485/meccano/). The first is about **Konstruktionslådan** (building set) **X**, which is in MCS as KONSTRUKTOR, (but I list it as simply X). It's a small system but includes Rubber Belts for use in Conveyors and the like. No parts are known but an empty tin box has been found, 330*205*25mm, with 8 partitions inside and a hinged lid. The latter (below) is mainly blue with the name in red, and you may be able to see a boy (the same one as on the manual cover in MCS) with a Crane, and another boy and a real marine diesel in the smaller windows. X was made in Nybro, in the south of Sweden.

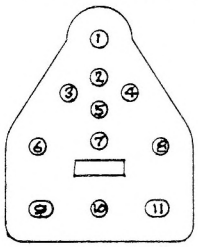
The other is a 'new' system called **JUNIOR**, with parts like TRIX but chrome plated, and with smaller, 3mm, holes at a slightly greater pitch of 8mm (or conceivably 5/16"). The thread is 1/8" Ø, with a small hex Nut and what looks like a round or mushhead Bolt. There were 3 boxes, Nr 1, 2 & 3, and the range of parts seems to include all those in the UK Units A, B & C. The Nr 3 box lid, mainly red, is shown below, with underneath a photo of the various parts, and part of a Model Leaflet. Among the parts the Spanner has no holes in the handle, and the Hook has an extra hole above the centre five. Also, as well as the expected 25 & 55mm threaded Axles, there are 4 others: 76 & 87mm with the centre 45 & 15mm respectively smooth; and 52 & 95mm, smooth with no thread. I wonder if they are all JUNIOR parts. The models are copies of prewar TRIX manual models, and the Roundabout needs 6 each of Sets 1 & 2, plus 2 of Nr 3. The printing on all the items is in Swedish but it isn't entirely certain that the system was Swedish in origin.





QUERY 15 About the MOBILO Wheels (8/199), Jacques Pitrat has explained that the 2 sizes are needed to make Pulleys, with 2 or more of the 30mm Ø between a pair of 33mm. The illustration opposite is from the Manual.

QUERY 25 About ERECTOR bosses, see 19/537, Don Redmond wrote that the 1⅛" Pulleys in his 1916 No.5 Electrical Set have the domed boss, but the Gear & Crown Wheels have the normal solid type.



QUERY 26 Don Redmond asks about the MÄRKLIN Trunnion/ Flat Trunnion and why its holes are as they are. He notes that holes 1,3,4 & 1,6,8 form 60° triangles; hole 7 is not in line with 6,8, nor is it ½" from 3,4; and holes 2,5,7 are ¼" apart but are not ½" from 1,10. The slot isn't ½" wide and isn't in quite the same position in the two parts. So why are the holes as they are, and what is the purpose of the slot? [Don surmised that the non-standard spacing might be to allow meshing of unusual combinations of Gears, but I couldn't find mention of this in the Basic Constructions sections of the manuals to hand.]

The MÄRKLIN Ferris Wheel Peter Kessler & Thomas Morzinck have commented on their friends' experience of building the 'super' model described in 19/553. Both had found the main axle inadequate and replaced it by a non-MÄRKLIN 8mm Shaft, & related parts. In one case the bearings were changed to the open-topped type, again using non-standard material, to allow the wheel to be easily removed for transportation.

The other problem was in attaching the cords, and tightening them to get the wheel to run true. Thomas said this was a 'REAL problem', and it took weeks to get the model right. Peter mentioned that more than one person was required to do it, and it is thought that even wives may have been needed to help.

Conclusions: 'Altogether a fine and impressive model, taking much time and even more patience to construct', and 'But when finished the model is a winner'.

Other points: the motor is the standard No.1022; the cabin parts are held together by small, 6 BA size, Bolts which screw into pretapped holes. Peter enclosed a hank of Cord, actually from a Güterwagen Set. It's a darkish orange-red colour, closely woven, about 1mm Ø, probably synthetic, and very strong.

Peter also made the interesting point that most of the Märklin super sets contain a large number of parts, a typical set weighs about 25kg, and enthusiasts often buy them just for the parts, which work out at about a quarter of the list price for extra parts. One man bought 2 of the Ferris Wheel Outfits, to ultimately increase his stock of parts, but in the meantime he was able to fit 30 cabins to his Wheel, as per the original before 15 were removed in the 1940s.

on the AMI-LAC, Eitech, & Dickie-Schuco sets in the next Issue.]

4. On **PRINCE WILLIAM** (23/679), Tony Press sent the photo below of Jack Little's Loco & Tender, standing in front of the Loco's box. The main parts, including the Loco's Undercarriage, are green, with red Wheels, Boiler Supports, Coupling Brackets, and Saddles for the (brass) Chimney & Steam Dome.

5. Thomas Morzinck sent the photo below of Dr. Griebel's **KÖSTER Goods Train** (23/679) on 0-gauge track. The sides of the Loco are green and those of the Wagons red. The Loco roof is grey and all the Strips are black.

6. On the claimed Aug. 22 1922 patent for **STEEL ENGINEERING** (23/666-7), David Hobson has found that the only 'toy' patent of that date was No.1426376 to A.C.Gilbert, but it related to 'square girder construction', not STEEL ENGINEERING. It was originally filed on 2 Feb. 1915.

7. On the **AMI LAC** Gearbox Plate (23/659, John Hanby wrote that it wasn't available when he asked Guiseppe Servetti about it in around 1968. The MÄRKLIN part was shown in a June 1967 List but by 1969 it had been deleted, along with over 20 other parts.

8. From Dan Farmer, St Paul, Minnesota, 'Hello! I just found your website. My grandfather, Weston Farmer, created the **BUILDO** erector set back in the mid '40's. My father has told me stories about how he & his four brothers would sit around creating the models that were eventually used in the manual. Quite apart from BUILDO, my grandfather was a world renowned naval architect & writer. He even worked for Walt Disney in the early days, and I recall actually throwing out some Disney 'cells' as a teenager when helping my grandparents clean out the summer cabin!

The reason I went online looking for references to BUILDO is that my father just sent me a complete BUILDO set. Of course, BUILDO was a small player, with Gilbert at the top of the heap, and ironically I think it was my grandfather who bought me the Gilbert ERECTOR set I played with as a child. But I'm pleased to find that BUILDO is still remembered and mentioned on several web sites.'

[BUILDO was a small system of some 36 parts, but with some unusual features. It is shown in MCS and I hope to include some notes on it in OSN at a later date.]

9. From Jacques Pitrat. 'I have found an ad for the French system **MOBILO** in the 18 December 1919 issue of the weekly 'Sciences et Voyages', and it is likely that the system had recently come onto the market at that point.' [See 20/581 for a note about MOBILO Wheels.]

10. From Orion DreamDancer. • Photos of a **Super GIRDER BILT** Set which match the one described in 19/555 except for the N&B. They have the same 4-40 thread, but the Nuts are brass (again ¼" A/F), and the Bolts, 5/16" & 7/8" u/h, are steel (perhaps brassed) with respectively round & fillister heads. [A set shown on ebay seemed very similar except that the background colour of the tubular container was light brown instead of the red of Orion's set & those described in 17/467 & OSN 19. No Spanner could be seen and the Screwdriver was a 'commercial' type with a clear yellow plastic handle. The Bolt heads were too blurry to be clear.]

• 'The manual from a **STEEL TEC** No.4 Set corresponds to the one mentioned in 11/277, and is #7021 dated 1993. The Dump Truck is the only model in the No.6 which uses the 6*8 & 6*5h Plates in that outfit, and they are not in the No.4 Set or the #7021 manual.'

EXTRA MCS SHEETS Each Sheet costs 15p + postage if the whole batch as listed in each Issue of OSN is ordered at the same time. That makes £3.30 for the 22 below, plus postage. For all other purchases each Sheet costs 20p + postage if copied double-sided like the originals, but 7½p per side + postage if copied single-sided. All back Sheets can be supplied.

MCS Amendments, List No.9 [1 Sheet]
BIG-JOY: X1.1,5,6,4/5a/6a [2 Sheets]
BILD-A-SET: X1.2/5,4/5a/6 [1 Sheet]
CONSTRUCTOR [0]: X1.1,2,4,5 [2 Sheets]
CONSTRUCTOR [1]: X1.1,6,a,b,3/4c [3 Sheets]
ELECTRIC: X1.7,a,b,c [2 Sheets]
MECHANIX [3]: X1.1,2,3/4/6,5 [2 Sheets]
METALCRAFT 'LYONS': X1.4b/5a,5b/6a,4c/5c,5d/6b, 5e/6c,5f,4d/5g,7 [4 Sheets]
MICKEY MOUSE: X1.1,2,5,7 [2 Sheets]
MOKO'S SIMPLEX: X1.1,2,4/5,5a [2 Sheets]
PRIMUS LOCOMOTIVE: X1.3a/4a [1 Sheet]

ACCOUNTS Dear Subscriber,
your remittance of received with thanks.
Your credit balance after deduction for this Issue and
is Please renew your subscription if you wish to receive the next Issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES For 2001 (OSN 24 and 25), including postage, at Printed Paper Rate where appropriate: UK £6; airmail to Europe and surface mail anywhere, £7; airmail outside Europe, £8. **BACK NUMBERS** For the zones above: OSN 1: £1/£1.30/£1.50; OSN 2,3: £2.30/£2.70/£2.90 each; OSN 4 onwards: £3.60/£4.10/£4.50 each.

SMALL ADS Up to about 150 words free for each subscriber in each Issue. Insertion guaranteed in OSN 25 if ads reach the Editor by the end of JULY 2001.

PAYMENT Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances should be in Pounds Sterling, or U.S. Dollar bills (at an exchange rate of £1=$1.60). Other currencies are acceptable in principle but bank charges in converting them to Sterling are usually prohibitive. Overseas subscribers need not send sums of less than £5 for Back Numbers, purchases from the Editor, etc, until it is time for subscription renewal.

Fig.1

MOBILO MOBILO was a French rod system which claimed to have only 3 different parts. It appeared in 1919 and continued for an unknown period into the 1920s – perhaps not very long judging from the few sets which are seen.

The 3 parts were the Rod (though in 5 different lengths), the Wheel (though in 2 diameters), and the U-Clamp. Sets also included a Box Spanner and a Tape Measure.

These notes are based on a No.1 set, probably near complete, & a leaflet with it; an unnumbered set, complete, belonging to Jacques Pitrat; some patent material from David Hobson: and a few Ebay photos. Thank you to everyone.

HISTORY MOBILO was patented in Switzerland in March 1918 by John Albert Chappuis, Engineer, 87 rue du Nord, La Chaux-de-Fonds, a city some 60km east of Besançon, just across the border from France. A French patent, 490268, is dated May 1918, and a UK patent, 117252, was applied for in April 1918 and accepted in July. An American patent, 1309240, was filed in May 1919.

A copy of the UK version is to hand and claims that the 3 elements can be used to make models, and that the parts are dimensioned to give maximum versatility. The details can be seen in the figures below taken from the patent.

Despite its Swiss connection MOBILO's claim to be French arises from 'Fabrication Française' on the box lids & manual cover. Nothing is known of the maker but the Manual & Leaflet were printed in Paris, and entries to a MOBILO competition were to be sent to 20 Rue Richer, Paris (IX^{e}).

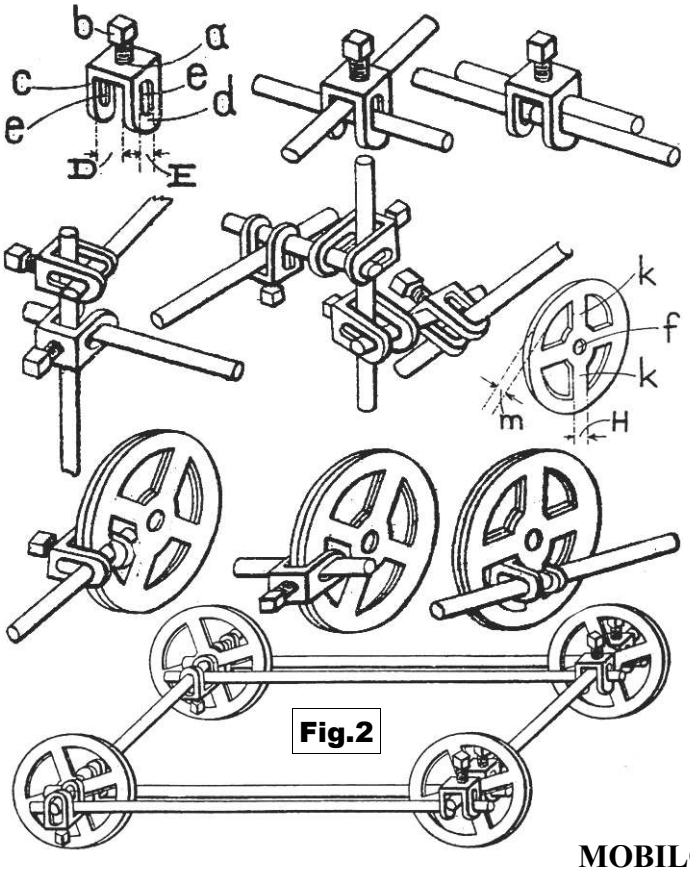


Fig.2

The first known ad for MOBILO was in December 1919, and another in a 1920 Bon Marché catalogue, shows one set with no indication of any others. Two versions are known of this unnumbered set, one with slightly fewer parts than the other. Eventually there was a small range of outfits: Nos.1, 2, & 3 with linking sets 1A & 2A, and a small Mobilo Essai (Trial or Sampler) set.

The PARTS, less the 4 other lengths of Rod, are shown below, at near their natural size. All are nickelled steel. Rods

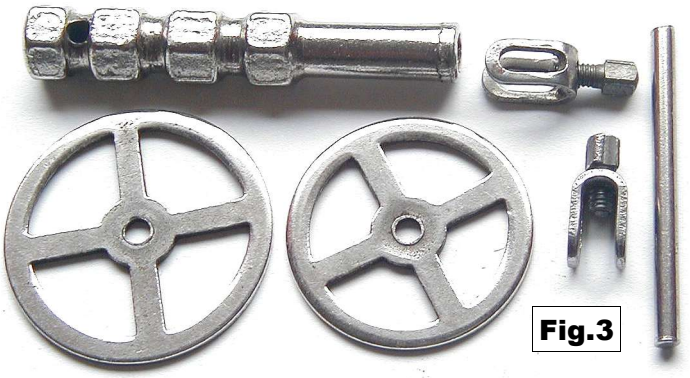


Fig.3

are 3mm Ø with sheared ends, and are 20,40,80,160,320mm long. The Wheels are 30 & 33¼mm Ø and vary in width from 1.3 to 1.55mm. The Clamp has 7mm slots; its set screw has a square head 3½mm A/F, and is 6½mm u/h. The thread is the old French standard: 3mm Ø, .6mm pitch (not the ⅛" BSW currently in the Database). The Box Spanner has a 3.2mm Ø transverse hole through the handle's outer necking. The part is used in one model as a gun barrel but is shown there with a knurled handle and no necking. The Tape, see Fig.5, is metal, 32cm long, 12½mm wide, & marked MOBILO. The small part next to the Box Spanner in Fig.5 is in the style of the other parts but is not mentioned anywhere and is probably an alien – it's large end is tapped and it has no obvious use.

The SETS **The original unnumbered '30-Clamp' set** contained 10,10,10,10,5 Rods 20,40,80,160,320mm long; 10,5 Wheels 30,33mm Ø; 30 Clamps; 2 Box Spanners, & a Tape. 93 parts in all. The Leaflet has a photo of it, right, virtually identical to the one shown in the Bon Marché ad.

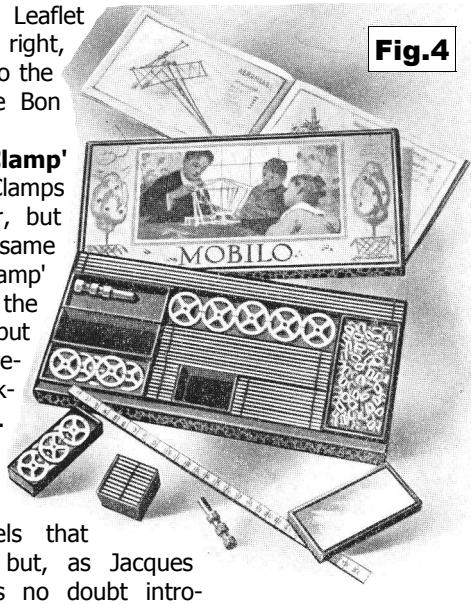


Fig.4

Jacques' **'22-Clamp' set** has only 22 Clamps & 1 Box Spanner, but otherwise the same parts as the '30-Clamp' outfit. It also has the same manual but with one page removed and 2 stuck-in labels added. Having only 22 Clamps greatly reduced the number of manual models that could be made, but, as Jacques suggested, it was no doubt introduced to increase the number of potential purchasers.

All the unnumbered sets have the same blue boxes with lids like the No.1 (Fig.1) but without the set number. Jacques' box measures 33*15½*2½cm and its base (Fig.5 overleaf) matches the one in the Bon Marché ad. A set seen on Ebay has blue trays forming the partitioning. (A second Ebay box also has blue trays but the box looks to be black and its lid has a label identical to the manual cover (Fig.6), with a red

surround. I wouldn't be surprised if it were a misguided restoration.)

Fig.5

The 6 later sets are listed in the Leaflet and it says that the Essai, 1, 1A, 2, 2A, & 3, have, respectively, 64, 140, 122, 262, 146, & 4?? parts. The digits following the '4' for the No.3 have been abraded away but the total might well be 408.

The No.1 to hand has a black box 33¼*20½*2½cm and the lid is shown in Fig.1. The red circle with '1' in it looks to have been stamped on. Some of the parts are in 2 blue trays, about 11*4cm, and there would have others of different sizes originally. As found it contained 12,12,12,12,8 Rods 20,40,80, 160,320mm long; 12,8 Wheels 30,33mm Ø; 58 Clamps; 2 Box Spanners; & a Tape. That makes 137 parts against the 140 given in the Leaflet. Perhaps there were 60 Clamps originally but what of the other one? Possibly the manual.

The manual with the Set was the original version. It has no mention of the numbered sets but there could of course have been another leaflet about them and the extra models that could be made.

A larger set has been seen on Ebay. Its box is in the same style as the No.1, with blue trays, but at 33*55cm (as scaled) much larger. The centre pages shown of its manual are as in the original version.

The MANUALS **The original '30-Clamp' manual** has 48 art paper pages, 210*130mm, plus covers (of slightly corrugated card). Most of the text is printed in blue. The front is shown

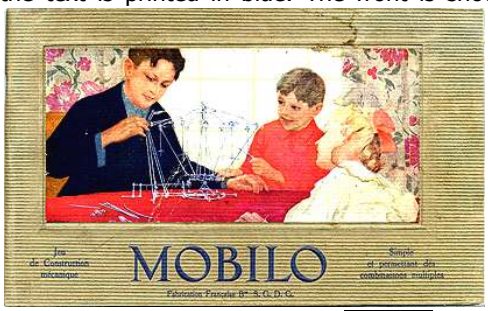


Fig.6

above, the picture is stuck onto the cover. C2 is plain. p1 is the title page & p2 is blank. p3 has an Intro with mention that the parts are nickelled. p4 is about the 3 parts; p5 has the set's contents, a price list of extra parts, and says that all the models through p28 can be made with the Set. p6 shows how youngsters can 's'amuser d'une façon charmante' (have fun in a delightful way) by using MOBILO parts to outline the main features of a picture of a church set in a landscape. Well, maybe. pp7-12 show 14 basic constructions including a crank handle, fast & loose pulleys, and a 4-tooth pinion with an 8-tooth gearwheel. p13 shows a Rod being curved by using Box Spanners, one of which is slid over each end, through the transverse hole. pp14-47 have 47 models from TOUR (Tower) to LA TOUR EIFFEL. The model on p28 is OBUSIER EN BATTERIE (Howitzer & Limber). Each model has a Fig. No. but in random order. p48 is about a model competition with 10 prizes from a gold Oméga watch plus 3 sets, to some extra parts. C3 has a detachable entry slip stuck on it to be returned by 31 Mai, but no year. C4 carries just a small printer's logo with DRAEGER IMP. PARIS under it.

The models are illustrated by excellent quality halftones and many carry a signature which looks like G. Onkelinx. The small models are two to a page and have one photo each; the largest has 3 larger photos over 3 pages. Building instructions are limited to a few words for a few models but the photos are adequate for the smaller models, and perhaps for the others if one has experience of the system.

The '22-Clamp' manual is the 30-Clamp one above but with p5/6 carefully removed (undoubtedly by the manufacturer). This of course because p5 had the contents of the 30-Clamp set. It was replaced but a small label stuck on the back cover giving the 22-Clamp inventory. p5 also had a price list for extra parts and this was replaced by another small label stuck onto p1. Some of the prices were slightly lower.

Another Manual? The Aeroplane on the manual page in Fig.4 is on a lefthand page but in the manuals above it is on a righthand one. The model on Fig.4's right page is the Howitzer – it it on the back of the Aeroplane page in the manuals above.

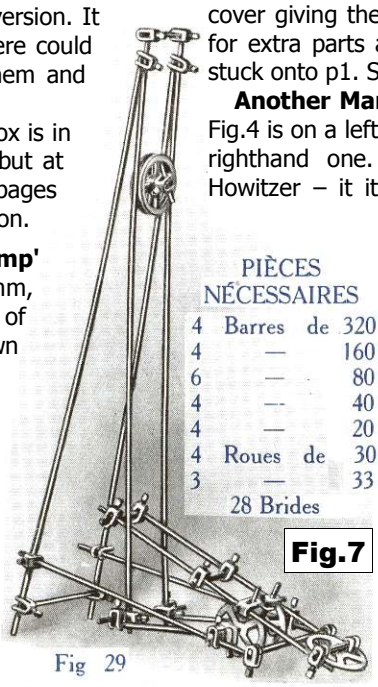


Fig.7

Fig 29

Le projectile est une poulie qu monte plus ou moins haut suivant la force du coup frappé à l'extrémité du levier.

ENREGISTREUR DE FORCE

The Models The **30-Clamp set's** 27 models are mostly small, with a good many Trucks, Barrows, etc, and domestic items. But a few are more interesting including a Mobile Crane, the Try-Your-Strength Machine left, a cord driven Joy Wheel, the Howitzer (Fig.8), & a Monoplane (though it doesn't have a tailplane).

The **22-Clamp outfit** only allowed 13 of the 27 models, and those are the less interesting ones.

The **No.1's** extra parts allow only one more model over & above the 27. a CATAPULTE (LANCE-PIERRES) (Ballista) on p29.

The larger models are generally much more advanced and include a Fire Escape (Fig.14), a credible Arched Bridge, a Windmill Pump (but there's no pump), a Lift (Fig.13), a Rotating Crane (Fig.12), a Chassis with centre-pivot steering, a slightly strange looking Pick-up Truck based on the Chassis, a Van (Fig.9) with different centre-pivot steering, a gear-driven Cake-Walk, a

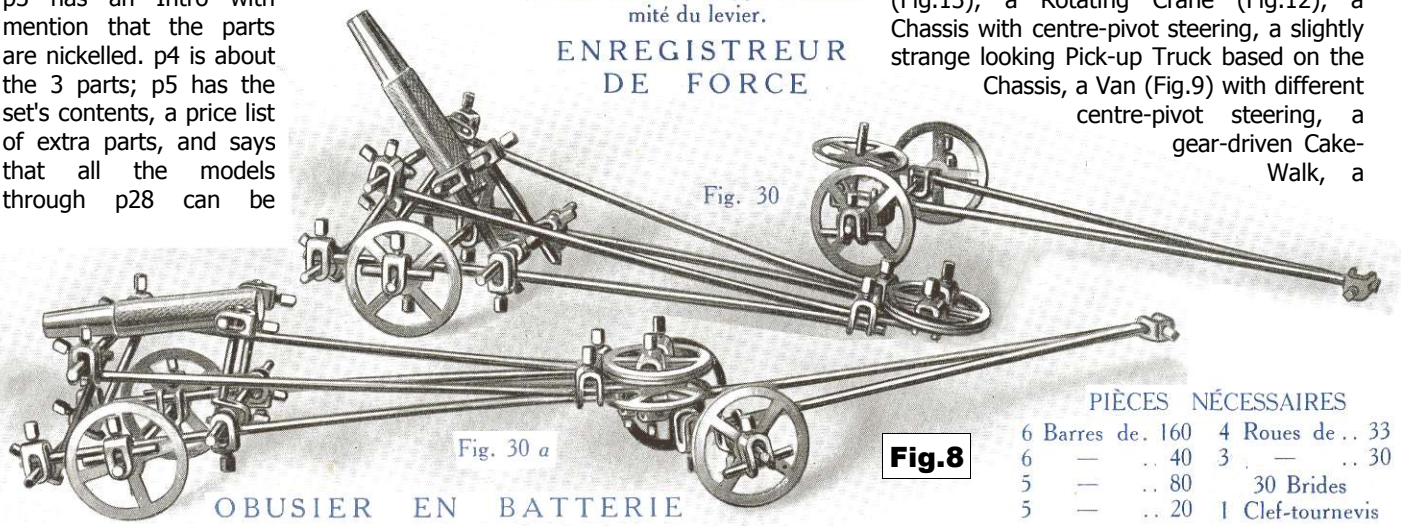


Fig. 30

Fig. 30 *a*

OBUSIER EN BATTERIE

Fig.8

PIÈCES NÉCESSAIRES

6 Barres de. 160
6 — .. 40
5 — .. 80
5 — .. 20
4 Roues de .. 33
3 — .. 30
30 Brides
1 Clef-tournevis

AUTOMOBILE

PIÈCES NÉCESSAIRES

2 Barres de	320	24 Barres de	160
24 —	80	9 —	40
21 —	20	4 Roues de	33
7 Roues de	30	108 Brides	

Fig.9

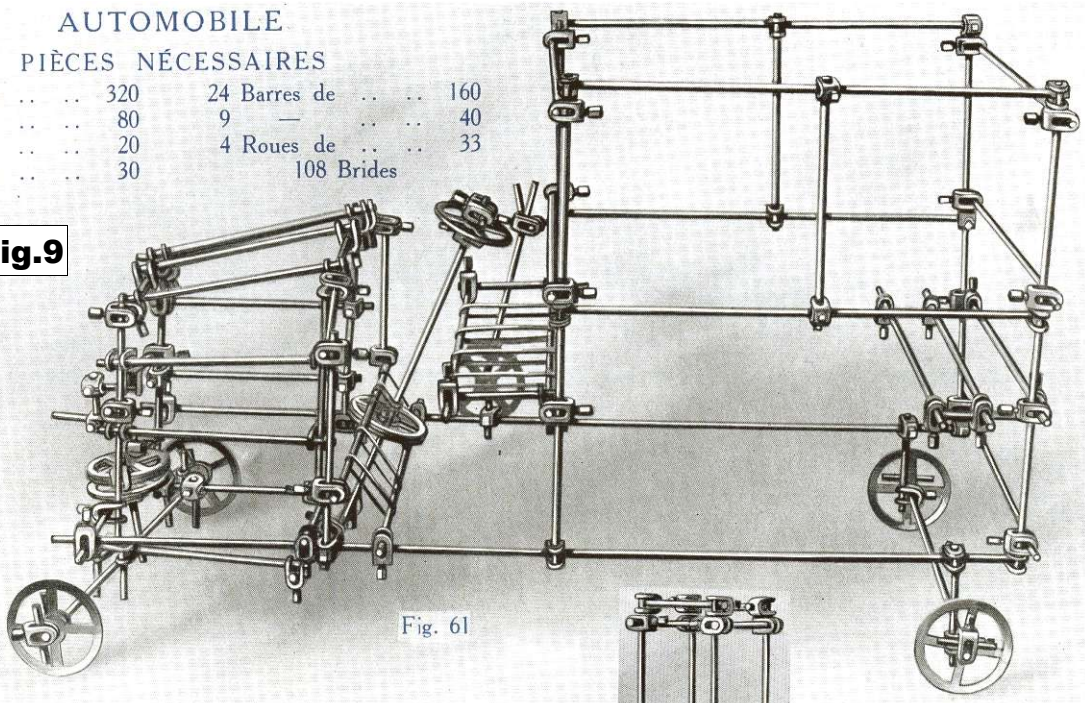


Fig. 61

LA TOUR EIFFEL

PIÈCES NÉCESSAIRES

20 Barres de		320
12	—	160
90	—	80
36	—	40
39	—	20
277 Brides		

Fig.10

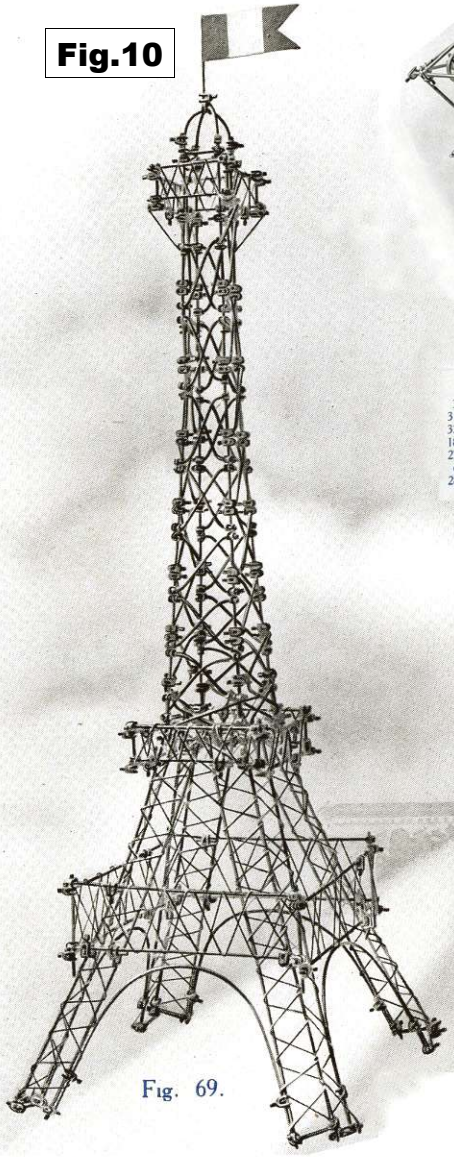


Fig. 69.

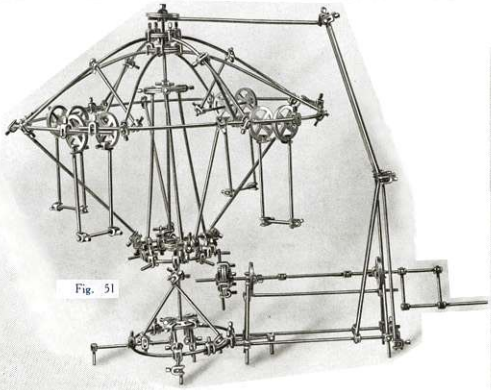


Fig. 51

MANÈGE

PIÈCES NÉCESSAIRES

3 Barres de		320
31 —		160
32 —		80
18 —		40
27 —		20
6 Roues de		33
28 —		30
155 Brides		

Fig.11

GRUE TOURNANTE

PIÈCES NÉCESSAIRES

7 Barres de		320
24 —		160
10 —		80
9 —		40
18 —		20
20 Roues de		33
30 —		30
130 Brides		

Fig.12

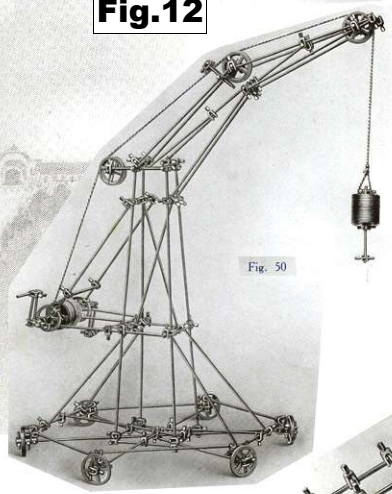


Fig. 50

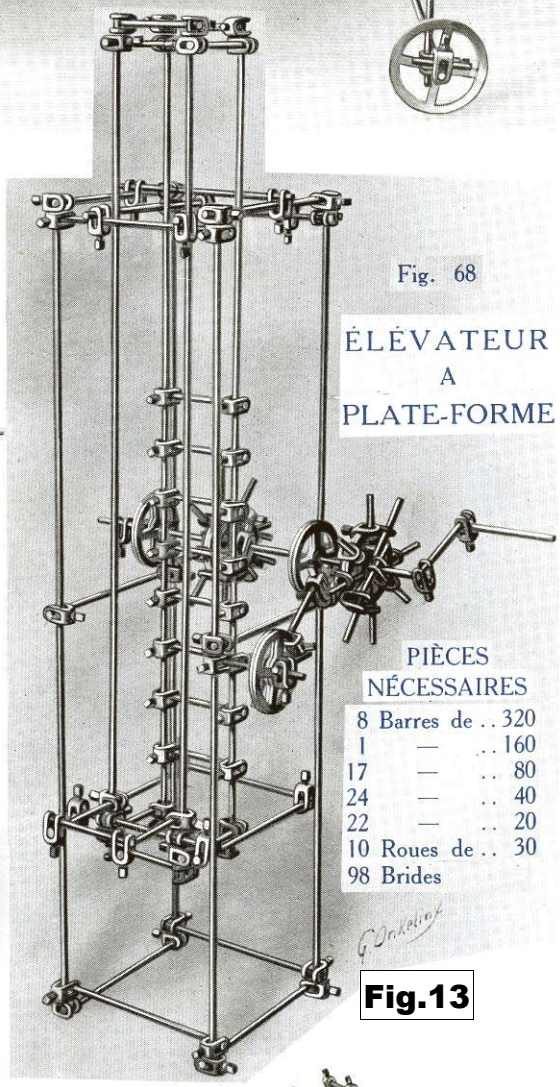


Fig. 68

ÉLÉVATEUR A PLATE-FORME

PIÈCES NÉCESSAIRES

8 Barres de ..		320
1 — ..		160
17 — ..		80
24 — ..		40
22 — ..		20
10 Roues de ..		30
98 Brides		

Fig.13

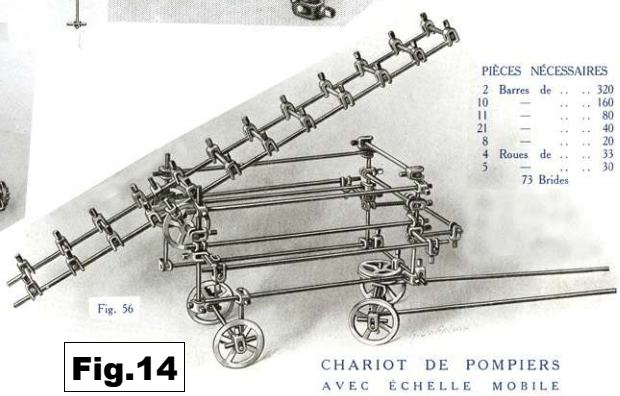


Fig. 56

PIÈCES NÉCESSAIRES

2 Barres de		320
10 —		160
11 —		80
21 —		40
8 —		20
4 Roues de		33
5 —		30
73 Brides		

Fig.14

CHARIOT DE POMPIERS AVEC ÉCHELLE MOBILE

En remplaçant les croisillons entre la deuxième et la troisième plate-forme par de la ficelle, comme dans la partie inférieure, il ne faut plus que 26 barres de 80 au lieu de 90 et 150 brides au lieu de 277.

Roundabout (Fig.11) again gear-driven, a 32cm diameter Big Wheel, and the Eiffel Tower (Fig.10) which could be built with 5 of the 30-Clamp outfits if the cross bracing Rods in the upper tower (S-shaped!) were replaced by cord (as in the lower levels). All the models illustrated are their original size except Figs.11,12,14 at 50%, and without their extra views.

USING The PARTS Below the method suggested in the Manual to make a fast pulley. The wall thickness of the Box Spanner makes it difficult to keep the Wheels tight together. The assembly looks a little neater if only 1 or 2 of the 30mm Wheels are used because then a 20mm locking Rod can be used. Loose pulleys are as the tup in Fig.7 with just one Clamp on the axle at either side.

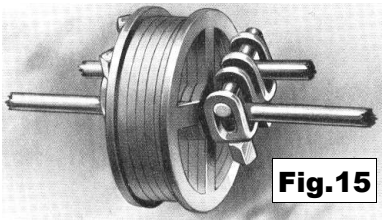


Fig.15

I made one or two of the simple models, then the Try-Your Strength Machine, and then the Howitzer & Limber. The Clamps held the Rods firmly and structures were adequately rigid. The Set Screw's tip is slightly rounded and this allows cross Rods to pivot slightly within the Clamp's sides but this would only be a (minor) problem if the Rod's other end was free. It would have been better though if the end of the set screw had been concave. The Box Spanner turned by hand was adequate for most joints but a Rod as a tommy bar could be put through the transverse hole if necessary. This isn't suggested in the Manual and could have led to the 9 Clamps with stripped set screws found in the No.1 Set. (They were replaced by 5 BA screws – they were a tight fit and could only be used because the Clamps' tappings were on the loose side.) Inevitably the Box Spanner couldn't be used in some tight corners and a normal spanner proved essential in such cases.

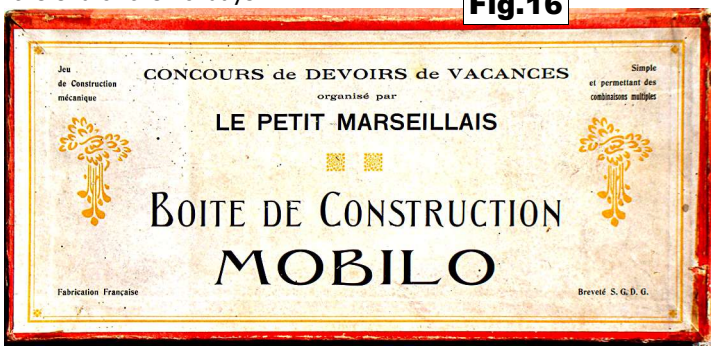
One problem was that to attach, say, a cross member, both its ends had to be engaged in the Clamp before either could be tightened. This wasn't difficult for the simple models but in tight corners in the Howitzer, or where parts had to be sprung apart, as in the uprights of the 'Machine', one wished for a second set of hands. The other problem was that the only way of creating a bearing was to use the centre hole of a Wheel which had been clamped to a suitable Rod (as in Fig.2). This looked very clumsy in small models and for the Howitzer it would have been impossible for the hinged frame which elevates the barrel. The only alternative was to only partially tighten the Clamp through which the axle passed. But then said Clamp would often be free to move sideways and collars either side of it would be needed. These are made from a Clamp with a 20mm Rod through it (as outside the Howitzer's Wheels) and said Rod, besides looking rather ungainly, can be difficult to fit into the space available. A 10mm Rod would have helped, or better still, a longer Set Screw to avoid the need for a Rod at all. This problem was overcome in the Howitzer but only by using numerous non-MOBILO washers to form spacers.

The Try-Your-Strength Machine wasn't a great success as the tup was too heavy to rise more than a few millimetres.

Ignoring their drawbacks, the models made were thought attractive looking, partly due to their delicate air, partly to the still very shiny nickel finish of the parts.

POSTSCRIPT Jean-Pierre has kindly sent details of an unusual set which he obtained recently. The lid below shows that it was a prize in a competition sponsored by Le Petit Marseillais, a newspaper in the south of France. J-P explained that between 1907 & 1939 numerous local/regional news-papers issued 'school' exercise books of 'homework' for children to complete during the long summer holidays, and some, as an incentive, awarded prizes for the best efforts at the end of the holidays.

Fig.16



Apart from the lid and the box being red instead of blue, the set is the 22-Clamp outfit already described. The manual too is the same except that the leaf with pp47/48 has been removed as well as pp5/6. This no doubt because p48 gives details of the 'standard' competition with 10 prizes, and might have caused confusion. The stickers giving the set contents and the prices of spare parts are as before.

OSN 47/1431 **MOBILO: S4**

Fig.1

Another PAJTÁS Set Jean-Pierre Guibert kindly sent details of his set, thought to be complete or very nearly so. It is basically the same as my example described in 46/1397 but with a few differences.

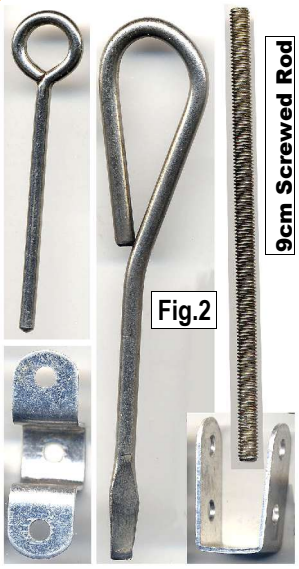


Fig.2

The Parts Of the parts in the OSN 46 set J-P's has 4 DAS, 6 A/B, 8x 11h Strips, 2x 90mm Axles. 2 Collars, 38 Nuts, 22 CH plus 8 RH Bolts (both are 9mm u/h, the CH is 6.9mm Ø), and 18x 8.8mm Ø nickelled Washers (there were actually 2 in my set, but were inadvertently not mentioned).

Parts not in the earlier set are, except for a 5cm Screwed Rod, shown left. In the Set were: a Screwdriver, & a 3mm Ø Drift, both steel, 1 each of the Double Bent Strip & 2h high D/B, & of 5 & 9cm Screwed Rods. 2 each of said Rods are needed in the manual models, as for example in 46/Fig.4.

Other differences. The hole pitch is exactly 12.85mm; bosses, at 11.5mm Ø, are smaller; and Strips are 12.5mm wide against 13.0.

The Box is identical to mine except for some differences to the lid label (Fig.1). It has 2 boys instead of a boy & a girl, the models on the table are the same but are seen from a different viewpoint, and the BFV logo is much smaller. Not noticed at the time, one of the Vatera sets mentioned in OSN 46 had the same 2 boy lid except that it had the larger logo.

The Manual As before (see 38/1145) it consists of 6 sheets inside a wrapper, and all are identical except that the PR on the back of the wrapper starts with '65 3846' (though the first figure is blurry and may not be correct) instead of '66. 17'.

OSN 47/1431 **PÁJTAS: S4**