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EDITORIAL Nothing particular comes to mind so I will simply take this opportunity to thank all who contribute to OSN. Not all the material received can be used immediately but in the long run virtually everything if of use, and most items prove invaluable.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **'New' Dutch System, METEOR** Jan Ringnalda wrote that he has a manual for Set A of this early post-WW2 system and that the parts look similar to TRIX. It was made by 'Hedi' Metaalwarenindustrie, Postbox No. 6019, Rotterdam W. There are 15 different parts in Set A but the highest PN, of the Hook, is 43. The sets were: A, B, C, A1, A2 (= 2x A1), A3 (= 3x A1), and B1, B2, & B3 were promised. The Manual has 58 pages, including 10 unnumbered, with 49 models, many the same as TRIX. Jan hopes to send more details later. I found the photo



of the manual cover below on Marktplaats.

METEOR: S1

[43/1292]

2. **KIKO & KITOU.** Following the article in 42/1285, Jean-Pierre Guibert sent a copy of remarks on the names and date from Jeannot Buteux et al, Constructorama-France. One Étienne Vial from the Lyon area registered the name KIKONSTRUITOU on 27 June 1947. Obviously it could yield both names and would be pronounced 'Qui construit tout' (= Who built all). However Jeannot continued that sets were often sold well before the name was registered, and also that it was not uncommon for all the elements of a system (parts, manuals, packaging) to have been designed pre-WW2 but because of the war, not to appear on the market until 1946-1948, or even 1948 or 1949.

Jean-Pierre also wrote that he has a KIKO set identical to the one in Fig.2 of OSN 42, and that the pitch of the holes is 12.7mm. In response Jacques Pitrat explained that this is the case for his set too, and that the 12.6mm figure in OSN 42 was a mean value. The pitch for the various parts is 12.5mm for the '5h' long Slotted Strips, 12.65mm for the 7 & 11h Slotted Strips, and 12.7mm for the Strips without slots.

KIKO/KITOU: S3

[43/1292]

3. **Guibert's Encyclopédie.** Readers may recall that a review of the Encyclopédie des Jeux de Construction métalliques by Jean-Pierre Guibert appeared in 37/1108. It was the nearest thing to the now defunct MCS, without as much detail but with the advantage of being in colour and including systems not recorded in MCS. Since then J-P has added many more systems and he recently kindly sent a copy of his latest DVD. The 'cover page' now speaks of over 600 systems against the 300 back in 2007. The main content is divided alphabetically into 16 files and in addition there is an 'Index' rather similar to my Database, and rather easier to sort (by hole pitch, etc), but without the Comments. All in all then J-P is to be congratulated on keeping up the good work. One thing to note though for anyone without WORD, the 16 files are in doc format and though they will open in Open Office the images are displaced to such an extent as to make them unusable – the answer is to download Microsoft's free Word Viewer. The 'Index' is an .xls file and an Excel Viewer is also available but it seems to open satisfactorily using OpenOffice. For more information email jeanpierre1g@aol.com.

Encyclopédie des Jeux de Construction

43/1292

4. **Snippets. More AUTO-CYCLE Junior Sets** 3 Junior sets have been seen on Ebay since the one shown in 35/1045. One has an identical box and the built-up model with it also looks the same, with rounded tips on its slightly tapered wings.

The second set has a label which again looks identical but instead of covering nearly all of the lid, it occupies less than a quarter of its area. Again there was a built-up model with it but it looked like a monoplane version of the 'standard' Biplane in OSN 35, with the tail further back than the other Junior models, and parallel Wings with swept tips (as on all the lid labels). However the Wings differed from the label in not having the chordwise 'ribbing' (always assuming that they were the originals). Going back to the the box: comparing its size with the models it seems that it is comparable to the others and that the label is much smaller.

The third set, with the lid below, is totally different to the others. There were no parts with the box but it is probably safe to assume that they would have been only those needed for the model on the lid. The motorcycle element of it looks rather simpler than known models from the standard sets, with less complicated front forks, and no panel under the top of the frame. The red wheels are new too. The sidecar looks very different to all known varieties: the metal & 'wickerwork' ones in MCS, & the plastic panelled one in 38/1156. Apart from its colour it is much boxier in shape. The box was said to measure 13*25cm and if so it doesn't seem to be the same size as the (very roughly) 20*30cm of the Junior 'Aero' boxes.



AUTO-CYCLE: S7

[43/1292]

More on METEOR A little on this Dutch system from Jan Ringnald appeared in 43/1292 and now he has kindly sent more details, photos of his Set A1, and photos of a selection of the pages from the 'A' manual.

The PARTS are shown far right, from the Manual, & right, the actual parts. All but the threaded parts are made of aluminium. Their holes are 3.05mm Ø at 8.0mm pitch, so slightly farther apart than TRIX but about ½mm smaller in diameter. The thread is M2.5 against 3.5mm Ø for TRIX.

Strips are 14.3 to 14.5mm wide, and the Screwed Rods are 56 & 25mm long. Apart from the differences in dimensions all the parts resemble TRIX except METEOR's wire Hook. The Bolts holding some of the parts in Fig.1 look to be brass.

The BOX lid is covered in brown crocodile (effect?) leather and its label is the same as the manual cover shown in OSN 43, but with 'MET' (= with) in small black letters above 'MODELLENBOEKJE'. Fig.1 shows the parts on the centre column & right half of the back-ing card: the left side matches the right.



Fig.1



Fig.3

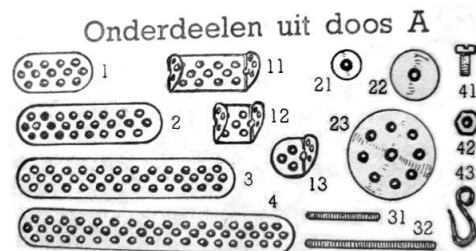


Fig.2

No doubt the N&B were in a packet or carton in the empty space at the bottom. Aside from the N&B, the quantities of the parts are the same as those in the two basic TRIX sets, 1 & 1A (called A & B in the UK postwar), but plus one extra Wheel Disc.

The MANUAL has 64 pages 202*145mm. The front cover is as in OSN 43 & Fig.3 shows the title page. All the models seen are in the 9th edition of the pre-WW2 Dutch Band 1 TRIX manual (which can be seen at www.trix-metaal.nl/, a useful site about TRIX worldwide). The METEOR drawings are identical to their TRIX counterparts, including the TRIX Hook, as in Fig.5 (though it has been changed in the Basic Constructions section), & the model Instructions are largely based on the TRIX text. The models in the UK 8th Edition to hand are the same except that the arms of the Railway Signals are straight Strips and not the type in Fig.7. Also at least one of the METEOR models, the Tram in Fig.4, is not included.

The 50 METEOR models start with those needing just one Set A1 and end with the Roundabout in Fig.6 which needs 11x A1, 1x A2, & 3x A3 outfits (as explained in OSN 43 the A2 & A3 sets contained the same types of part as the A1 but two and three times as many). Patterns for the cardboard parts needed in some models are shown on one page, superimposed on one another, in the TRIX fashion. Finally the advent of the B sets is heralded by a model of a Railway Breakdown Crane. It

Fig.4

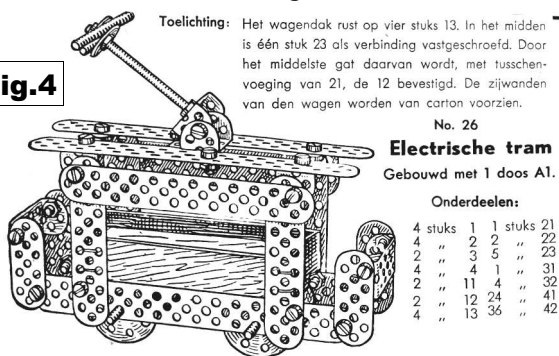
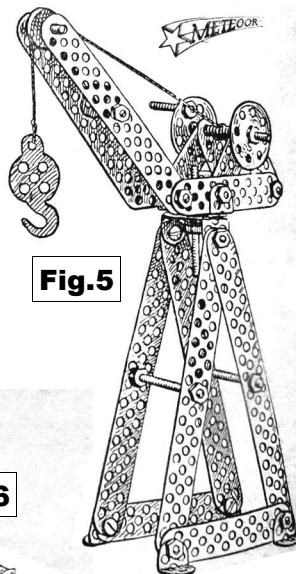


Fig.5



No. 15 Toren-draaikraan
Gebouwd met 1 doos A1.

Onderdelen:			
4 stuks	1	1 stuks	12
4 "	2	4 "	13
2 "	3	1 "	21
4 "	4	2 "	22
2 "	11	4 "	23
		2 stuks	31
		4 "	32
		15 "	41
		36 "	42
		1 "	43

Toelichting:
Het bovenstel zit in één stuk 11 en is met de 11 van het toren-geraamte draaibaar volgens G10 verbonden. Tusschen de beide stuks 11 ligt één stuk 23. Slinger wordt aangebracht volgens G6. De kraanarm is in het midden door één stuk 12 versterkt. Koordwiel volgens G4. De geteekende kraanhaak wordt ver-voord door één stuk 23 met één stuk 43 volgens G11.

Fig.6

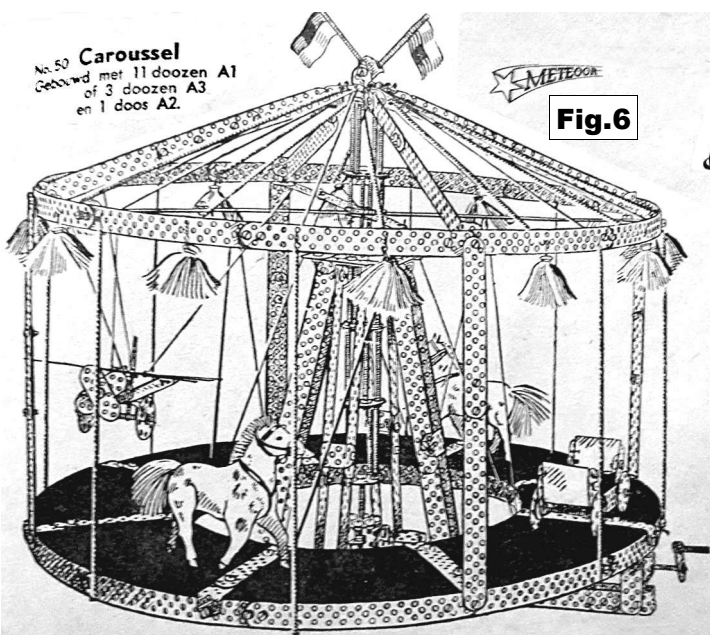
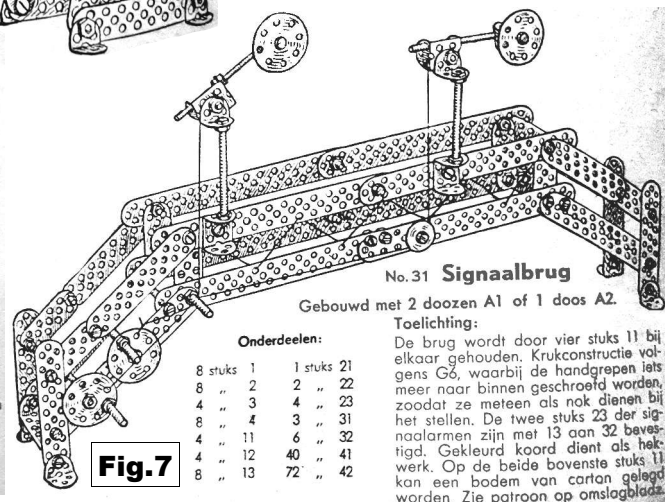


Fig.7



No. 31 Signaalbrug
Gebouwd met 2 dozen A1 of 1 doos A2.

Onderdelen:			
8 stuks	1	1 stuks	21
8 "	2	2 "	22
4 "	3	4 "	23
8 "	4	3 "	31
4 "	11	6 "	32
4 "	12	40 "	41
8 "	13	72 "	42

Toelichting:
De brug wordt door vier stuks 11 bij elkaar gehouden. Krukconstructie vol-gens G6, waarbij de handgrepen iets meer naar binnen geschroefd worden, zoodat ze meteen als nok dienen bij het stellen. De twee stuks 23 der sig-naalarmen zijn met 13 aan 32 bever-tigd. Gekleurd koord dient als hek-tig. Op de beide bovenste stuks 11 kan een bodem van carton gelegd worden. Zie patroon op omslagblad.

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.

