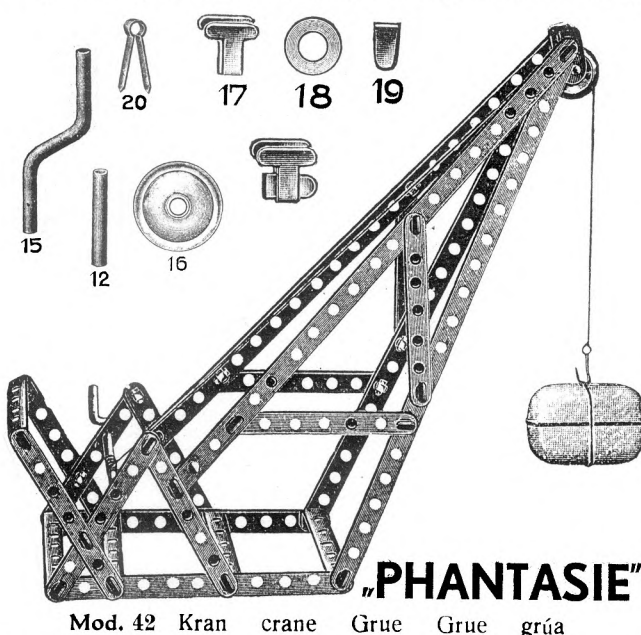


One or two of the parts in the model don't quite match their descriptions in the Parts List - the 7\*11h Plate appears to have 6\*10h in the model for instance.

**OLYMPIA** The 30 or so different parts of this East German system are shown in MCS but more details are given in EZ. It was made between 1949 and 1955 by Elektrobau Werner Gennencher of Löbau/Sachsen, and the parts were tiny with 2mm N&B in holes spaced at 7mm. The models fitted well into HO railway layouts. The main parts were made from .5mm steel, nickel plated, but the Pulleys were aluminium. The Bush Wheel also looks as if it's aluminium and has 4 holes in its face that aren't shown in MCS. It may be PN16 even though the MCS illustration of it looks like a pulley. Bolts were brass and the Nuts aluminium.

**PHANTASIE** This small system first appeared in 1923 made by Joseph Sponseil of Nürnberg, but from 1925 to 1936 it was produced by the Gebr. Fleischmann. The illustrations of the parts in MCS/FB were from a manual that came my way, together with some parts, a while ago. The parts were designed for cheapness and special ('U' section) 'T' Clips were used instead of N&B, to join the various Strips and DAS, the main parts. A Clip is put through the Strips to be joined and locked by a Wedge inserted through



the tail of the 'T'. Washers are used as necessary as packing under the Wedge. This arrangement works quite well provided the Wedges are pushed right home, but pliers or

the like are really needed to do this. The Strips are 10mm wide with 5.1mm Ø holes at 15.0mm pitch. They are made of slightly springy steel and are a medium grey in colour with the look of having been plated.

The only wheel is a Pulley and it pushes onto the tubular Axles which were rolled from thin tinplate. This is described in the Manual - 'The wheels are applied on the axle-trees where they are kept in position by the resilience of the latter.' - and the Axles are springy enough to hold a Pulley reasonably securely: however my Axles are slightly too large to turn easily in the holes of the Strips, even when their free edges are pressed together. The 4 Pulleys in my parts are 33mm Ø and have 6 spokes; they are made from 2 tinplate pressings joined by a brass eyelet at the centre. The ones shown in the Manual scale at about the same size but are solid.

The wings of the Spring Clip are about 15mm long, so long that they prevent the use of the part in many instances - it can't be seen in any of the models in the Manual. The stubby Crank Handle is 57mm o/a and mine is 3.50mm Ø with slightly raised strakes on either side at one end. The idea I suppose is that it would push into and grip the Axle, but mine would need to be appreciably thicker to do that.

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Name: PHANTASIE •Details of maker, Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. •Page size: 213\*145mm deep. •No. of pages: 32 + covers. •Language: German, English, French, Italian, Spanish. •Printing: black line drawings of models. The light brown cover has just the name shown by the Crane on it. •Page No. of Illustrated Parts & highest PN: 32,20. [No Parts List or Set Contents] •Sets covered: 000-4. •No. of models for each set: 000: 12; 00: 5 0: 6; 1: 6; 2: 11; 3: 16; 4: 21. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 000: Schaukel,1,4; Flugzeug,12,5. 00: Kran,13,5; Steg,14,6. 0: Wagen,18,6; Automobil,23,7. 1: Schaukel,14,7; Brücke,29,8. 2: Leiter,30,9; Brücke,40,12. 3: Sportwagen,41,13; Aussichtsturm,56,17. 4: Reparaturwagen,57,18; Russische Schaukel,77,31. •Other notes: 1. The back cover of the manual is missing. 2. Only the German names of the models have been given.

EZ has a photo of a PHANTASIE set from around 1926 which is in a wooden box, and the parts look a darker grey than mine, possibly they are tin plated. Two types of Pulley are shown, both solid - one is dark grey and the other brass. An Axle seems to have short stubs at each end which are considerable smaller in diameter than the main part: but they don't look long enough to take a clip on the outside to retain wheels running on them. The manual is shown open and all the models that can be seen are in mine, but the order isn't the same.

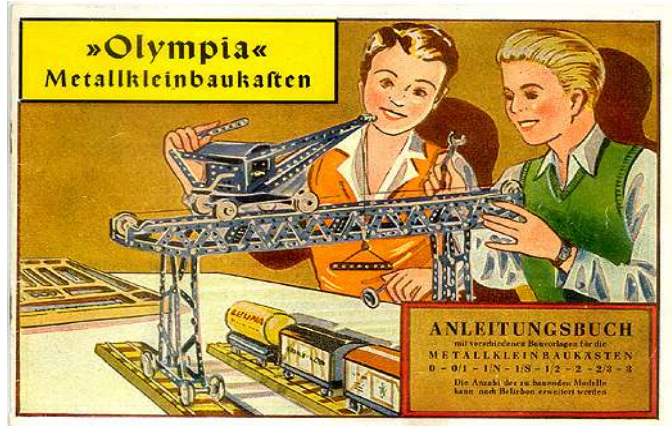
**PIONIER** The dates given in EZ for this East German system are from 1955 to at least 1960. There's also a photo of a set and some of the parts are black, and others, including the Strips and the unusual Windmill Sails, are a light colour, perhaps plated. Some of the black parts don't correspond to those in MCS. The 5\*11h Flanged Plate has a 7\*3h centre cutout; there's a 3h Ø disc similar to the TRIX Dished Pulley (half); and as well as a MÄRKLIN-type 5h Ø Flanged Disc with Boss, there's a similar part but with 16 large slots replacing the outer ring of holes and slotted holes - it looks as if a pinion would run in them. The box lid shows a model Crane fitted with an electro-magnet and a girl is holding a sideplate electric motor.

**PIONIR** From EZ. This early (1903-05) metal architectural system was made by Otto Nentwig of Neustadt/Oberschlesien. It consisted of black members which clipped together to form a framework, with solid red and yellow in-fill panels, and black ones for the windows and doors. Possibly the red panels could also be used for pitched roofs.

**OLYMPIA** A brief note about this small-scale East German system with tiny M2 N&B appeared in 15/417. Now, courtesy David Hobson & Werner Sticht, some sets & manuals are to hand, and photos of others, mainly culled from Ebay. Werner also kindly provided some translations.



**HISTORY** The dates in the panel top right are from the reference books, and although some of the PR on manuals etc may seem to include a date there are too many inconsistencies to make most of them credible. Two phases though can be easily distinguished. In the first the box lid labels & manual covers were what I'll call the '5-ring' design, as in the lid above; in the second both were replaced by the 'Crane' design shown below as a manual cover.



Perhaps the OLYMPIA name was used to evoke the memory of the 1948 Olympic Games, the first after WW2.

Some of the Crane manuals have an official registration number of 6024/52 and this may indicate that the change from the 5-ring design was in 1952.

No mention is made of the Nr.00 set in the (very limited number of) extracts from the 5-ring literature available and most likely it was not in the original range of sets.

It is said in the Crane manual that some add-on sets were under development, to be used with the basic outfits. These would be for machines, vehicles, bridges, motors & gears, and plating (patterned as various types of roof tiling, walls & brickwork, road surface, etc.). As far as is known none of these went on sale.

Sets were exported to Russia and a leaflet in Russian to supplement the German manual is known.

**The SETS** The range is given in the panel top right: the 1N & 1S differ only in the type of box. Sets 00, 00/0, 0, 0/1, & 1N are in cardboard boxes, with the parts attached to a backing card by brassed steel clips. The cards are usually red but green is also known. The other outfits have wooden bases with cardboard lids. Their bases have numerous compartments for the different parts and these are routed

## Leading Particulars of OLYMPIA

**Country** East Germany

**Maker** Elektrobau Werner Gennencher, Löbau/Sachsen.

**History** 1949 to 1955.

**Hole dia.** 2.2mm.

**Hole pitch** 7.0mm.

**Sets** Nos.00,0,1N,1S,2,3, & linking sets 00/0,0/1,1/2,2/3.

**Material/Finish** Nicked steel, with aluminium (& sometimes brass) Wheels, Collars, Couplings.

**Boss** Integral, 6.0mm o.d., 2.1 bore, d/t M2.

**Fixing** M2 N&B. Aluminium hex Nuts, 5.5mm A/F; plain steel Bolts with 3.7-3.9mm Ø CH.

**Axles** 2.00±.02mm Ø, nicked brass or steel.

**Remarks** No Gears or Motors.

out of a piece of solid wood. Each compartment has a red card in it, some loose with parts clipped on, some glued down with the parts loose above. In both types the small parts are in the circular boxes, #35.

The cardboard bases are black; the wooden ones are left as natural wood. The lids for both can be either red or a dark green, and a list of the contents of the set is pasted inside each lid. The two main types of lid labels have already been mentioned but there are three versions of the Crane one, and referring to the illustration of the manual cover these are: (i) Identical except that the bottom panel has the set number in it. (ii) Likewise but the round logo (shown later on the Parts Box lid) replaces the top panel. (iii) The bottom panel is blank and the set number is in a circle under the top panel.

Most sets seen include a printed card sheet the size of the box advertising the system and saying that the models fit in well with H0 scale trains.

On the limited evidence available there seems no difference between the bases used for the 5-ring & Crane sets. This is reasonable because the contents of the 0-3 sets in MCS, taken from a 5-ring manual are the same as those in the Crane version.

The sets to hand have the following dimensions: 00, 16\*11½\*2cm; 1S, 22\*16\*1.7cm (9 compartments); 2/3, 32\*23\*1.8cm (29 compartments). From Ebay a 1/2 has the same base as the 2/3, and the size of the Nr.3 is 47\*34\*3.5cm.

The Nr.3 is quite a large set and includes 10 Flanged Plates, 280 Strips, 135 DAS & Brackets, 20 Pulleys & Tyres, and about 300 N&B. Working backwards the Nr.2 has roughly 60% of the parts in the Nr.3, and the Nr.1 half the parts in the Nr.2.

**The PARTS** The 34 parts in the system (including 2 Spanners & 2 Screwdrivers) are shown in MCS, so the notes below give a few more details and clarifications.

• **Basics.** The parts are accurately made and nicely finished with most parts nickel plated. Holes are 2.2mm Ø at 7.0mm pitch, and none are elongated. Strips & Brackets are 7.1mm wide, .45-.50mm thick, and have semi-rounded ends of about 5mm radius.

• The 'strip' parts are: **Strips**, 2,3,5,7,10,15h; **DAS**, 1\*5\*1, 2\*5\*2, & 2\*3\*2h; **Brackets**, Angle, Double, Reversed Angle, & Double Bent Strip.

• The 5\*5h **Flanged Plate** is .53mm thick and has corners of the same radius as the end of the Strips.

• The **Fast Pulley** #15 is 16mm Ø and 4.0mm thick. The **Bush Wheel** #16 is 20mm Ø and its 2mm thick disc has 4 holes at 7.0mm radius. Both are turned from aluminium with integral bosses, and are fitted with 3mm long **Grub Screws**, either brass or steel. The tiny **Loose Pulley** #17 is aluminium, 6mm o.d., and 2mm wide. Bores in these parts are 2.1-2.2mm Ø.

•The d/t **Collar** is 6mm Ø and 4.5mm long. The **Coupling** is



also 6mm Ø and is 13½mm long, d/t each end at 7.0mm pitch, with a centre cross bore at 90°, again d/t. All seen are aluminium except that one of the 3 Couplings seen is brass.

- The **Tyre** is black rubber with a V tread around the outside. It is 24½mm o.d. and 5mm wide.

- The **Axles** are 25, 39, & 54mm long, except for one 24mm & one 27mm. The **Crank Handle** is 66mm long o/a with a 48mm shaft and the handle offset by 14mm. The bends are near 90° but are larger radius than usual. All these parts are 2.00±.02mm Ø with sheared ends, and are brass or steel, nicked in both cases.

- The aluminium hex **Nuts** are quite large, 5.5mm A/F, and quite thin, 1mm. The **Bolts** are cheeseheaded, 3.7-3.9mm Ø, and look like plain steel but are probably treated against rust. (*Eisenzeit* mentions brass Bolts.) The 3 lengths are 3½, 5, & 7mm u/h. Two types of **Washers** were found in the Sets, brass & steel, both nicked. The steel are 5.0mm Ø, 2.3mm bore, & .65mm thick; the brass are 6.0mm Ø, 2.1mm bore & .3mm thick.

- The **Hook** is made from the 2h Strip. The **Cord** is a natural fawn colour and a little thinner than average.

- The **Screwdrivers** #31 & 32 are the same except that their tips are about 3½ & 2½mm wide respectively. Their varnished wood handles are of a tapering circular section, flatted on both sides, and are 70mm long including the steel ferrules. The blades are 3mm Ø steel, about 46mm long. Both tips are wider than the Grub Screw and both are thin enough to enter its slot, so it's hard to see why one of each are in all sets (except the 00). The **Spanners** #33 & 34 are both aluminium, flat, 80mm long, and identical except that they are 1.1 & 2.1mm thick respectively. The thin one is presumably meant to allow lock-nutting, a worthy thought but unfortunately it's a little thicker than the Nuts. And one wonders if the thicker one is really necessary with M2 Nuts, and whether an 80mm long Spanner was wise with that thread.

- A little circular **Cardboard Box** #35 is used to house the N&B, and other small parts. It is 35mm Ø with the lid covered by a label printed with the Olympia circular logo below. #36-39 are not illustrated anywhere. #36 & 37 are the Cardboard & Wooden **Boxes** used for the sets, the same number whatever the size. One **Pappetui** #38 is listed for each of the wooden boxed sets – the name translates as a cardboard folder but it isn't clear what it actually is. A #39 **Befestigungstafel** (board for fixing parts to) is in each of the cardboard sets, with



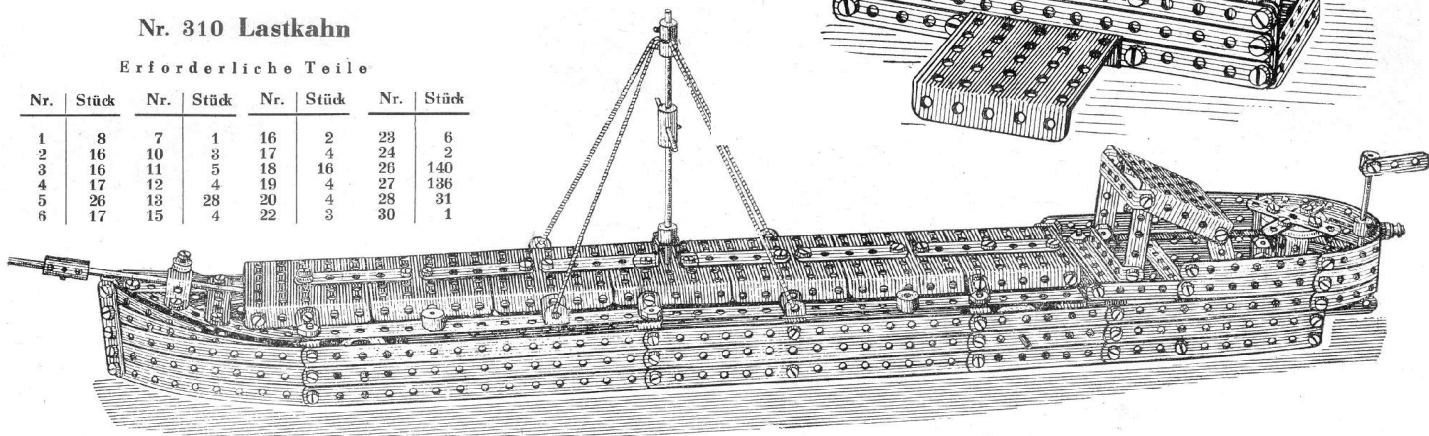
two listed for the 1N. An example of a 1N hasn't been seen and whether the 2x #39 indicates a 2-layer set isn't known.

**The MANUALS** The 5-ring manual has a cover similar to the 5-ring label but with ANLEITUNGSBUCH in the bottom

### Nr. 310 Lastkahn

#### Erforderliche Teile

Nr.	Stück	Nr.	Stück	Nr.	Stück	Nr.	Stück
1	8	7	1	16	2	23	6
2	16	10	3	17	4	24	2
3	16	11	5	18	16	26	140
4	17	12	4	19	4	27	136
5	26	13	28	20	4	28	31
6	17	15	4	22	3	30	1



panel. No example of it has been seen but the MCS pages are taken from it, and it most probably covers sets 0-3. The Crane in MCS is in the later Crane manual, with the same model number but on a different page (34 against 32 later). 4 other pages in a photo have the same models as later but the page & model numbers can't be seen.

Two manuals with the Crane cover are known, one with 0-3 models, and one with 00 & 0 – full details are given in the summaries later. The 0-3 is about the same size as the 5-ring one but the 00-0 pages are only about half the area. In both there is a shaded line drawing of each model together with what looks like fairly full building instructions.

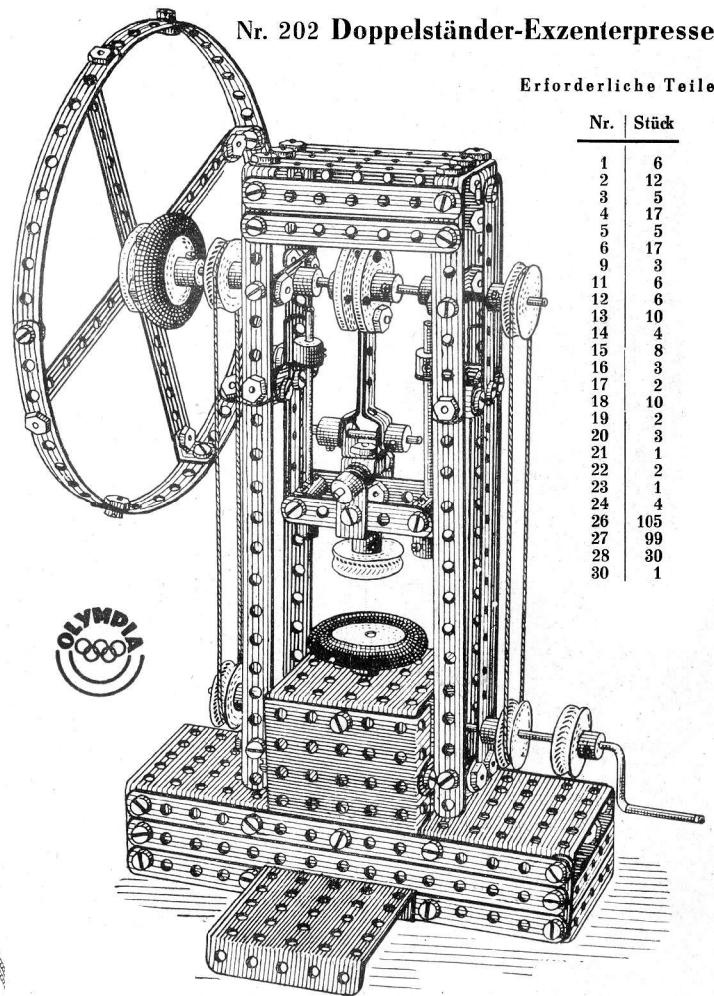
The 0-3 has a good selection of simple models for Sets 0 & 1 including some Railway Signals, Wagons, etc. There are only 3 models each for the larger sets, a Crane, a Drilling Machine, & a Press for the Nr.2, and a Bridge, & a Crane (the one on the cover) for the Nr.3. They are all fair models but none use more than about half the number of parts in the sets. And there are no large railway models. The Nr.2 Press & Nr.3 Barge are shown below, natural size.

A few of the 00 models in the 00-0 manual are from the Nr.0 range in the 0-3 manual but the others are new, and quite

### Nr. 202 Doppelständer-Exzenterpresse

#### Erforderliche Teile

Nr.	Stück
1	6
2	12
3	5
4	17
5	5
6	17
9	3
11	6
12	6
13	10
14	4
15	8
16	3
17	2
18	10
19	2
20	3
21	1
22	2
23	1
24	4
26	105
27	99
28	30
30	1



reasonable considering the size & nature of the set. Those for the Nr.0 are most of the rest of the Nr.0 models in the 0-3 manual but in a different order & with different model numbers. At the end are a few models from the larger sets.

**SUMMARY OF 0-3 MANUAL** •Name: Olympia •Details of maker: none. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: TRPT-Nr.6024/52 on C3; III/19/1 – H243 – 10 – 6161 on C4. •Page size: 210\*148mm. •No. of pages: 32 inc covers. •Language: German. •Printing: models: shaded line drgs, blue on white with red text; cover, left. •Page Nos. of Illustrated Parts & highest PN: 6-7, 35. •Page Nos. of Set Contents & highest PN: 4-5,40. •Sets covered: 0,1,2,3. •No. of models for each set: 15,79,3,3. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 0: Warnungs+tafel,1,8; Rolltisch,15,12. 1: Bett,50,13; Windmühle mit Hammer,78, 24. 2: Säulenbohrmaschine,200,25; Doppelständer-Exzenterpresse, 202, 27. 3: Brücke,300,28; Fahrbarer Brückenkran, 302,30. •Other notes: Intro & details on pp2 & 31. Model 310 should be 301. An

identical manual doesn't have the C3 Ref. No., & the C4 one is III/19/1-12/451-1351. A 4-page leaflet in Russian has the 'circular' OLYMPIA name on the front (with О Л И М П И Я under it), the Set Contents on the inside pages, & the model names on the back.

**SUMMARY OF 00-0 MANUAL** •Name: Olympia •Details of maker: none. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: III/19/1-10/451-1352 on C4. •Page size: 146\*100mm. •No. of pages: 36 inc covers. •Language: German. •Printing: models: shaded line drgs, blue on white with red text; cover, similar to the 0-3 above but with a 'circular' name top left. •Page Nos. of Illustrated Parts & highest PN: 8-9, 35. •Page Nos. of Set Contents & highest PN: 6-7,40. •Sets covered: 00,0,1,2,3. •No. of models for each set: 25,10,5,1,1. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 0: Warnungstafel,1,10; Balance,25,23. 0: Sägebock,26,24; Rolltisch,35,28. 1: Lastkraftwagen,65,29; Bett,50,13; Windmühle mit Hammer,78,32. 2: Doppelständer-Exzenterpresse,202, 33. 3: Lastkahn, 301,34. •Other notes: Intro & details on pp2 & 35.

OSN 31/923

OLYMPIA: S3

**A DISTLER GIANT No.5000 Set** David Hobson kindly lent me his recently acquired set, apparently complete & unused.

The sturdy **box** measures 52½\*39\*5cm and weighs about 6kg. It is white, printed in blue & black, and the lid, with a boy & a Mobile Crane, is shown in 2/14. The Set No. isn't anywhere on the box. The parts are housed in a white moulded tray with a transparent lid; the N&B are in the same type of clear box as in the 22511 outfit (see 27/808). There is no obvious place for the Feet (for the A/Gs) in the box but there is room for them under the longer A/Gs.

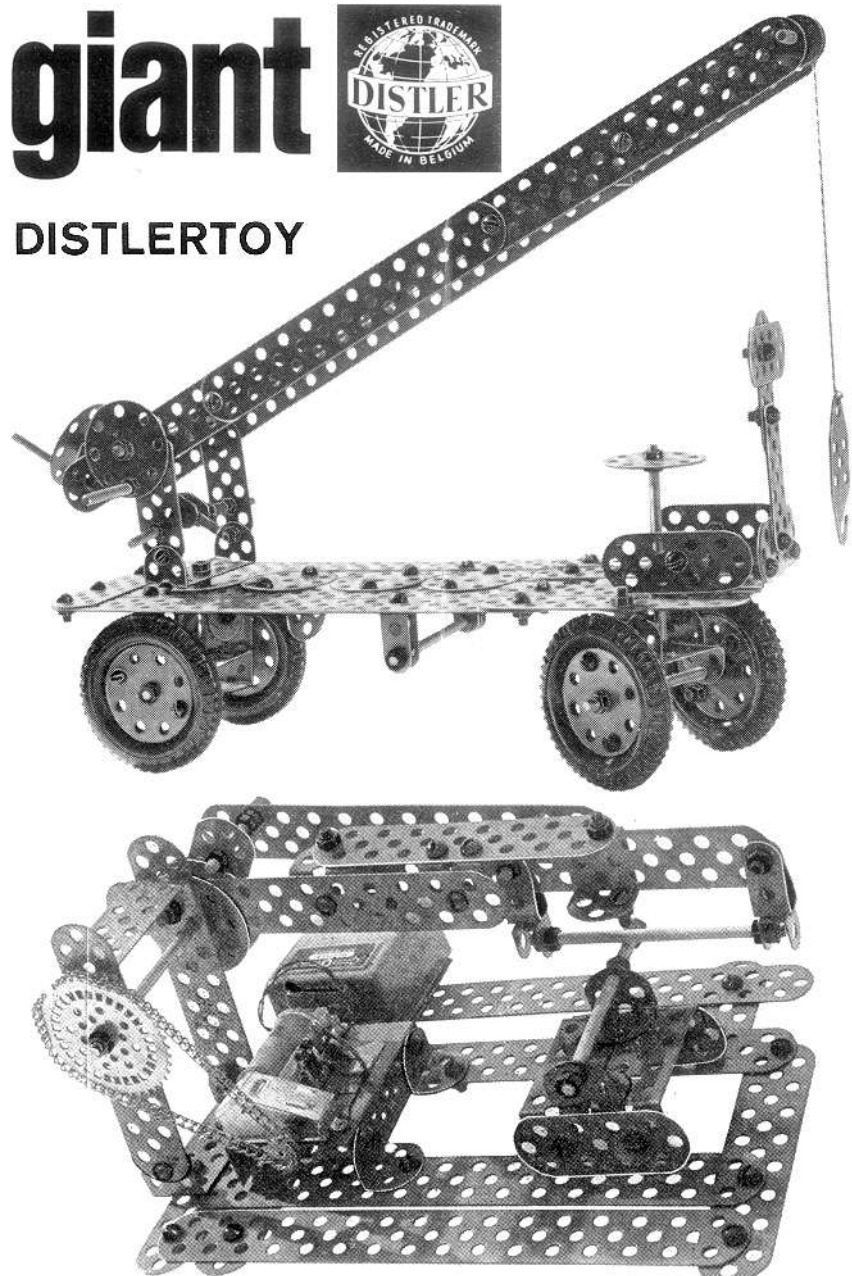
The **contents** are as in MCS except that it has 12 A/B, the quantity given in the manual with the Set. On the other hand the Manual gives 2 of the Perforated Spanners against one in MCS, and in the Set (plus a 'Black' Spanner, see below, in each case). The number of the Tyres, 4, isn't given in MCS. Essentially the 5000 is the 22511 plus: 12,4,4, of 17,19,25h Strips, 2,6 of 13,20h A/Gs, 4 Feet for the A/G, & the 'Black' Spanner.

The **parts** not seen before are: • The **A/G**, 33\*34mm o/a with corner radii of about 5½mm. • The **Foot** for the A/G, 44\*45\*13½mm o/a, pushes onto its end and is moulded in grey plastic with DISTLER on the bottom web. • The nicked **Screwdriver** is shown below, the wire is 4mm Ø & it is 117mm o/a. • The single-ended **Black Spanner** below it can be seen in MCS – it is a commercial drop-forged item, 115mm long, with a chemical black finish, and is marked WEST GERMANY, DIN 894, & 10 (the jaw width)



The **manual** is identical to the one in the 22511 Set except that GIANT replaces GIGANT throughout (though the text remains in German), and the appropriate illustrated parts/set contents are given on p3 (and stated to be for the 5000 outfit). None of the models use the A/Gs in the Set. However there was a **leaflet** with the Set which shows the parts/contents of all the sets except the 22511, and a small selection of unnamed models for each. (It isn't explained anywhere but the Giant 2 models shown need Sets 1+2 and the Giant 3 models Sets 1+2+3.) There are 17 models on one side from a Chair to a Double Swing, and 9 on the other from a Low-Loader Trailer to a Derrick Crane. There is one photo of each and though not spectacular, most are generally better than the

Manual models. The finer points of the larger ones can't be seen in the photos. The Mobile Crane & Mechanical Hacksaw below (full-size) are among the more interesting models. The screw-operated luffing in the Crane relies on the flats of a Nut fitting closely between the arms of a U-Bracket.



OSN 31/923

DISTLER GIANT: S1