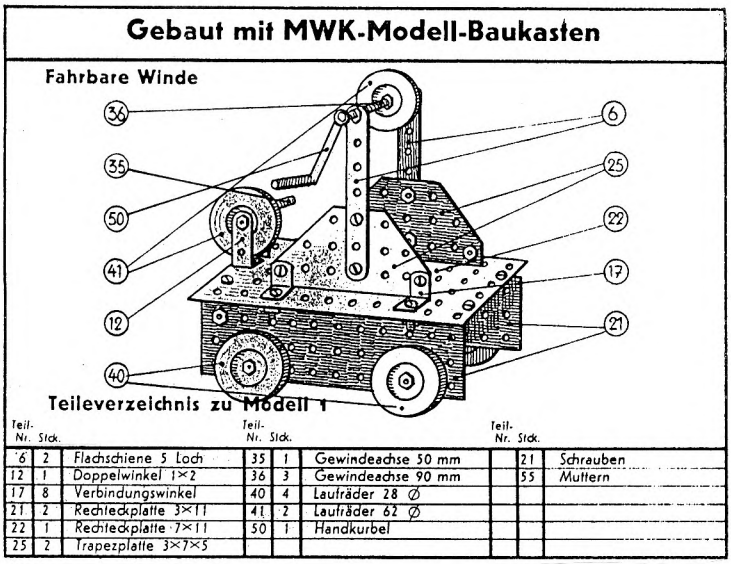
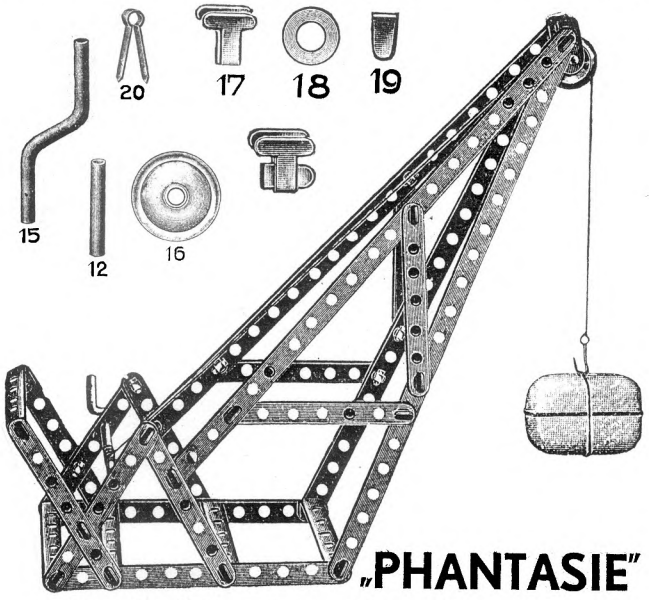


Teil-Nr.	Stck.		Teil-Nr.	Stck.		Teil-Nr.	Stck.	
6	2	Flachschiene 5 Loch	35	1	Gewindeachse 50 mm	21		Schrauben
12	1	Doppelwinkel 1×2	36	3	Gewindeachse 90 mm	55		Muttern
17	8	Verbindungswinkel	40	4	Laufräder 28 Ø			
21	2	Rechteckplatte 3×11	41	2	Laufräder 62 Ø			
22	1	Rechteckplatte 7×11	50	1	Handkurbel			
25	2	Trapezplatte 3×7×5						

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



Mod. 42 Kran crane Grue Grue grúa

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.

'New' System: PIONIER CONSTRUCTOR All that is known of this small Romanian system is a manual that David Hobson kindly lent me. The name is taken from the manual cover below but 'PIONIERUL CONSTRUCTOR' is used in the instructions on the back cover. There is already a PIONIERUL CONSTRUCTOR in MCS and from the very limited information given about it the two systems could be related, or even the same. MCS gives the hole pitch of PIONIERUL as 12.8mm and from the few dimensions given for PIONIER it is about ½", so it could be 12.8mm. However the makers' names are different with Metaloglobus in MCS and Bucuria-Copiilor on this manual. In both cases the only address given is Bucharest. Also the model shown in MCS isn't among the 62 in this manual.

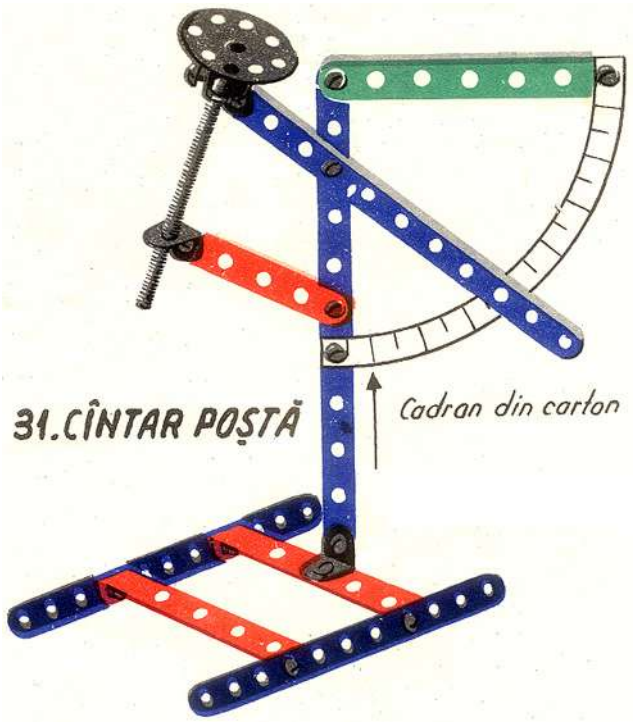
The manual is in fact 7 unnumbered loose sheets (pp1-13 - p14 is blank), 247*347mm, inside the covers (c1-c4). The full maker's name is given on c1 (see panel), and the circular logo has a loco pulling a letter 'B' (a larger copy is shown among the models opposite). The TIP II is the set number but both Sets 1 & 2 are covered. c4 is the same blue as the front with a white centre panel headed INSTRUCTIUNI DE FOLOSIRE (Instructions for Use – but probably of a very general nature). At the bottom are the name of the printer, Poligrafica "Luceafarul", and the reference 'MODEL 219-64 / N.I.I / LEI'. c2 has a table giving a list of the parts in Set 1 and those needed for each of the Set 1 models. Another table on c3 provides the same information about Set 2.

The 33 parts are listed below and most can be seen in the three models, and the parts of two others, shown here. The contents of Sets 1/2 are given in curly brackets.

- 2,3,5,7,11,21h **Strips** {2/8,2/6,6/10,4/6,4/6,-/6}. A 1*5*1h DAS {4/4}. A 5h **Curved Strip** like M90a {-/2}.
- 5*5h & 5*11h **Flanged Plates** with MÄRKLIN pattern slotted holes. {-/2,1/1}, and an 8h long **Flanged Sector Plate** shown with round holes in the flanges and only 3 holes across at the wide end {1/2}.
- An **A/B** {4/10}.
- An 8h **Bush Wheel** {1/2}. Fast & Loose 2h Ø **Pulleys** {2/2,2/2}. A 78mm Pulley (it looks like a larger version of the 60mm Ø MERKUR part) {-/1}. A Push-fit plastic **Road Wheel** {4/4}.
- 50, 100, & 200mm **Axles** {1/1,1/2,-1}. A **Crank Handle** {1/1}. 50, & 100mm **Screwed Rods**, used as axles with Loose Pulleys nutted on them {1/2,2/2}.
- A **Hook** {1/1}. A **Collar** {-/2}. **Cord** {1m/2m}. A 50mm long **Spring**, used to tension Cord driving bands {-/1}.
- 8 &12mm roundheaded M4 **Bolts** {30/70,-/2}. An M4 hexagonal **Nut** {30/70}. A **Washer** {10/20}. A **Screwdriver** & a **Spanner** {1/1,1/1}.
- The **colours** of the parts in the photo on the lid are as follows. Blue: 11 & 21h Strips; 5*5h Flanged Plate; Flanged Sector Plate; Road Wheel. Yellow: 5 & 7h Strips. Red: 5*11h Flanged Plate; 2h Strip; Curved Strip; DAS. Green: 78mm Pulley, 3h Strip. Bright A/B; small Pulleys; Bush Wheel.
- The Curved Strip, Hook, & Bush Wheel can be seen in the top of the Crane jib right; and the Fast & Loose 2h Ø Pulleys, and the Collar, in the scrap view from a Cable Car below it.

All the models are shown in full, solid colour, with a large illustration of each, and a scrap view or a few words of explanation in one or two cases. For Set 1 the models go from 1. FURCA (Fork) on p1 to 40. MORISCA (Windmill) on p6, and for Set 2 from 41. SCARA PE ROTI (Wheeled Step Ladder) on p7 to 62. MOARA DE VINT (Windmill) on p13.

The models are a fair selection, and are not obvious copies from other systems. As well as those reproduced



Leading Particulars

Name PIONIER CONSTRUCTOR

Country Romania

Maker Fabrica de Jucarii Mecanizate "Bucuria-Copiilor" – Bucuresti.

History Possibly 1960s (from PR '219-64').

Hole dia. To take M4 N&B.

Hole pitch Probably about ½", possibly 12.8mm, see Remarks below.

Sets Nos.1 & 2 known from a manual.

Material/Finish Model on manual cover has light blue, cream, orange-red, & green parts.

Boss As shown in the models; it is probably tapped M4.

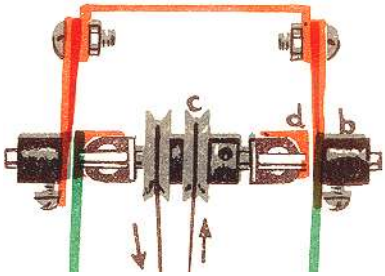
Fixing M4 N&B. 8 & 12mm RH Bolts; hex Nuts.

Axles Normal Axles & Screwed Rods.

DP No Gears.

Motors None.

Remarks This system may be related to the PIONIERUL CONSTRUCTOR in MCS - its hole pitch is given as 12.8mm.



here (all at about 70% full-size) the better ones include a Cable Car, an Eccentric Press, & a 4-Car Big Wheel. The detailed design of the models is not all it might be in a few cases, witness the jib head above right and the No.1 Set Letter Balance left.