

**'New' System - PONTA** PONTA is a bridge construction system and Jacques Pitrat kindly send photos & details of his set, a Nr.1. Right the box lid, with the manual cover below it. Below again the open box, & 2 somewhat rearranged pages from the manual. The model page is about 3/4-scale; the other shows the parts (but omitting all but one length of the Strips & Girders) & the set contents. The maker's name does not appear anywhere and there is no indication of date, but most likely PONTA was made in Germany soon after WW2. There is nothing to suggest that there were other sets in the system.

The **BOX** is 32\*30 1/2\*2cm and the words at the bottom of the lid (and the manual cover) are PATENT ANGEDELDET (patent pending).

The **PARTS** are blackened steel, & of good quality. The hole diameter is 4.0mm and the pitch, 10.0mm. The Strips, Girders & Plates are 1.0 mm thick. The main parts in the Set were: 4,5,8,9h Strips; 8,9h Wide U-Girders; 5,7,8,9h Narrow U-Girders; and Plates F2 & F3.

The Narrow Girders can be bolted inside the Wide type and this allows longer U-girders to

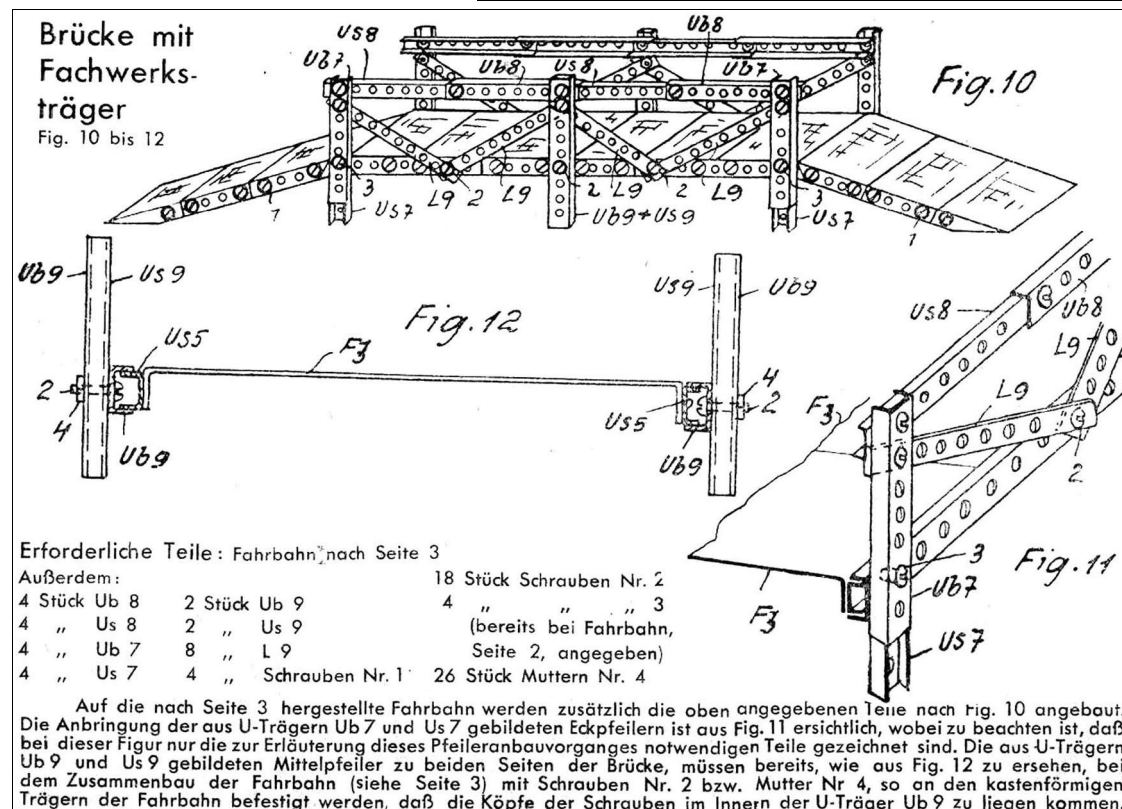
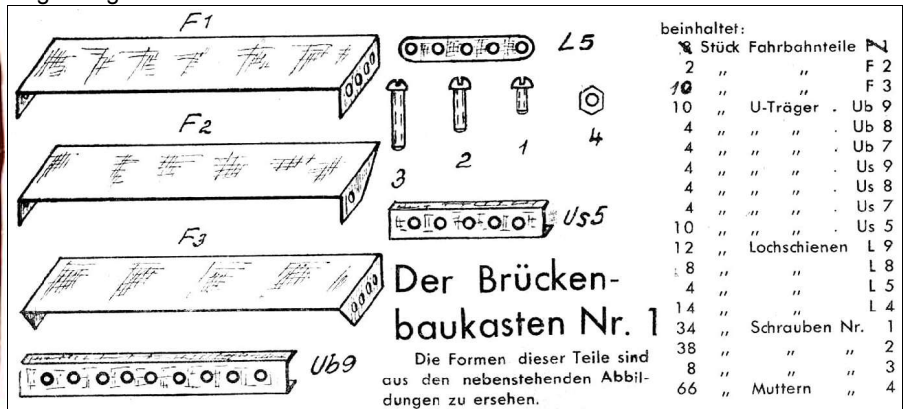


be easily made, as in the model's top members; or square girders are possible, as in the uprights.

The Plates are 12\*5cm, and are flanged on their shorter sides. As can be seen the flanges are trimmed on the F2 & F3 parts to give a neat joint at the top & bottom of the end ramps. In fact 2 holes remain in the F2 flange, and all 4, as shown, for F3. The 4 in the F3 explains why there are no F1's in the Set, F3's are used instead. No doubt it was originally intended to use F1, and the set contents & building instructions in the manual reflected this until changes were written in by hand. Perhaps not many copies of the manual were printed!

The Bolts have a countersunk head (not round as shown in the manual), and there are three lengths for the threaded part: 6mm, 13mm, & 22mm. The diameter of the thread is 3.8 mm. The hexagonal Nuts are 8mm A/F and 2.5 mm thick. No Tools are described in the manual, and none were found in the Set.

The **MANUAL** is in German, printed black on white, and is made from 2 sheets stapled together, giving 8 pages 20.7\*14.3cm. Apart from the page of illustrated parts & set contents, it contains 3 models, the 2 on the cover and the one



shown here. They differ only in their sides and there is a separate detailed description of the construction of the common decking. The last page is blank.

This is a very simple system but the use made of 2 widths of U-Girder is unusual and the models are a reasonable size - about 24" long and 5" wide. It would not be easy though to build Bridges that are very different from the three in the manual.