Snippet – STAHLO-KLEMM

Bau-kästen and the lower one, with a rather faint large 'K' in the middle, can be seen on the lid & manual of the set below. According to Baukästen the first name of this Austrian system was STAHL-KLEMM and the 'O' was added in 1969 when the original

The logos right are from

firm of A. Theobald became Blanke & Theobald. In Baukästen that last name is preceded by 'BeEsA Mfg. & Supply Co. GmbH', and perhaps both should be. Only STAHL-KLEMM is in MCS and the entry consists of a list of the system's 28 parts in English & German, plus 2 models, a Pair of Scales & a Helicopter. (Despite the logos the hyphenated forms of the names are used in Baukästen, and the entry name in MCS is hyphenated too, but it's not clear if these forms were ever used in any of the firms' material.)
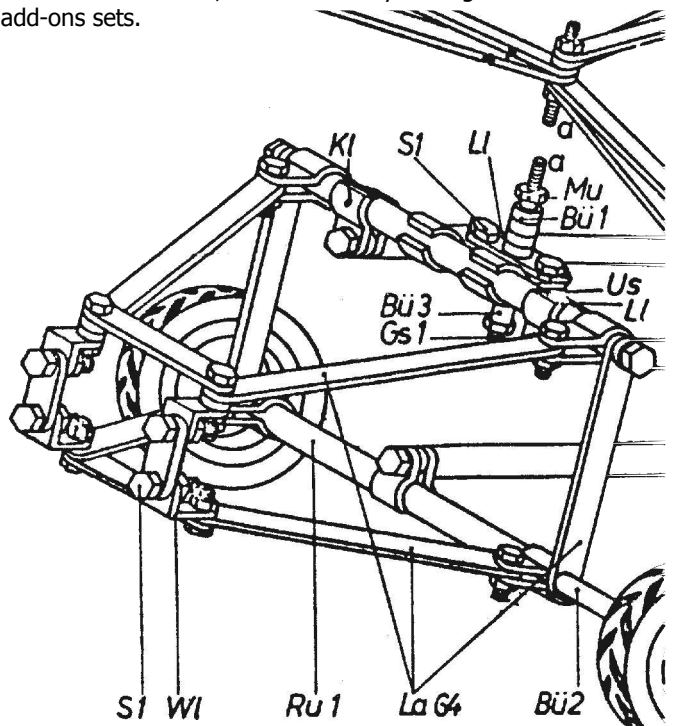

Stahl means steel of course and Klemm is nearly Klemme which can mean clamp. This and the 'K' in the logos gives a clue to the nature of the system. The main parts, per MCS, are 5 Narrow Strips with just a hole at each end (16 to 120mm centres), and 2 Rods, 98 & 196mm long, with internally threaded ends. These together with an A/B and Clamps used in pairs around the Rods, allow frameworks to be constructed, as shown right (part of the Helicopter in MCS). The Strips can be bolted to each other, or onto the end of a Rod, or attached to a Rod between a pair of Clamps. Rods can be joined to each other at right-angles using the Clamps with a Washer (or a Strip) between the bolted ends, or in-line using a 20mm

Screwed Rod (though this method isn't shown in the models). Other parts in the MCS models include 60 & 120mm Screwed Rods; 6 & 8mm Ø Bushes, Bü1-3, which seem to be used as spacers; a Bearing, L1, which looks like a short Strip with no doubt some form of bush in the centre - said bush can't be seen but the part could be like a Double Arm Crank; and a Wheel Hub, perhaps a pulley, with a Tyre to fit it. Parts which are not used in the models include a Wheel, a Drehscheibe (Turntable?), a Sitzkissen (Seat Cushion?), a Wrench, and a Socket Wrench.

That then is STAHL-KLEMM. Looking carefully at the parts in the original Ebay photo of the STAHLO-KLEMM set, the lighter long thin parts have square ends and are probably Rods, while the darker ones have rounded ends and are probably Strips. If so there are many more Rods than Strips, whereas in the MCS models many more Strips than Rods are used. The models on the lid would need a great many parts and most likely the bracing would be made of Strips. If the Rods are the length given in MCS their diameter scales at, very roughly, 8mm. The grey shiny part in the top left corner looks circular and so possibly it is the Turntable. What may be the Socket Wrench is in the bottom square compartment, second in from the right.

Baukästen mentions 4 basic and some add-on outfits, including one with a Motor & Gears. The Ebay ad described the item as a 'K.5 Set', so conceivably it might be one of the add-ons sets.
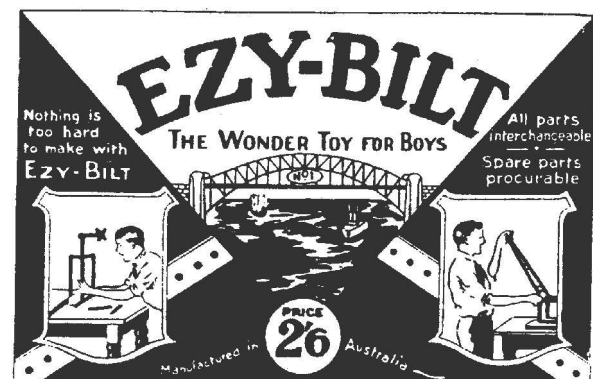
Australian Systems

Jack Little has kindly sent notes on his new discoveries about EZY-BILT, BILD-A-KIT, & MODEL-IT.

EZY-BILT   Early Days   That E-B dates from 1933 or earlier was mentioned in 31/911 and now the acceptance of a trade mark application dated 1st May 1931 has been found. It is in the name of Arthur Harry Cooper, trading as A.H.Cooper, of 326 Flinders-lane, Melbourne. This is an indication that Arthur Cooper started the company and ran it until George Irving joined him in about 1936. Apart from being in B&W, the illustration accompanying the application, right, is very similar to the lid in 22/636.

A mail order catalogue, date unknown but possibly before 1931, contains an advert for a set price 3/3 including postage, so quite likely the 2/6 basic outfit. It isn't illustrated but the logo used, left, is a form of the name that I don't think I've seen before.

Jack sent photos of a cardboard boxed No.4

set from the Melbourne period. It is very similar to the 1941 metal boxed No.4 described in 22/637 but the