

in one the circular parts are red. Perhaps a late set, or an enthusiast's paint brush. Most of the small **RO 18 Pulleys** in the sets have an aluminium look to them, like 2 of the 6 in the parts (from 2 sets) in Fig.2. The other 4 look to be brass (and all seem to be fitted with Tyres). Some light grey **N&B** can be seen in one set: the roundheaded Bolts are at least 10mm u/h, and the hexagonal Nuts scale at about 8mm A/F, MÄRKLIN size. Some of the **other parts** in the system were mentioned in OSN 15 and others in the Eisenzeit Crane include a Ladder and a Hook.

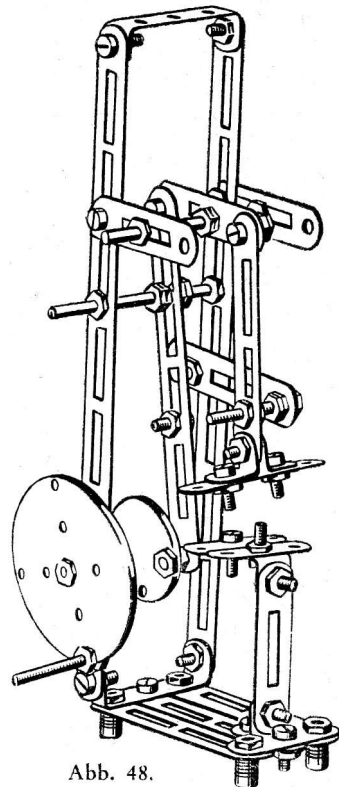


Abb. 48.

Two of the 5 **sets** seen are Mikros in 11 compartment boxes, 28*20cm (larger than 16*22cm in the manual inventory), one brown & one red. The Deuteron set in Baukästen is in a red, 13 compartment box, 36*26cm. One of the other 2 sets has a black/white mottled box which scales at 14*24cm, so it might be a Mikros. The second may be similar but only part of the base can be seen. All the lid labels are like the rectangle in the centre of the manual cover except that the frame is broken to take the name of the set in tiny letters.

Returning to **the Manual**, most of the wide selection of models are quite small and simple, but towards the end there 6 Machine Tools and one of the better ones is shown left (f-s). Then 6 or so larger models, about the size of the Tractor right (f-s). They are mainly simple vehicles and the Tractor is the only one fitted with steering - it looks highly geared though and with excessive free play, but the latter could be reduced using the remaining parts in the Set.

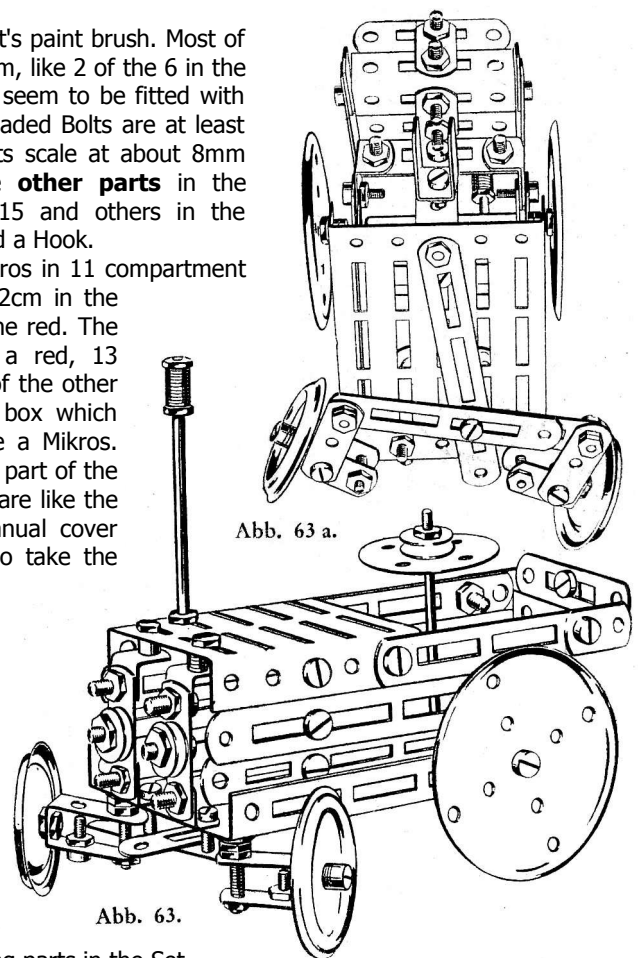


Abb. 63 a.

Abb. 63.

KONSTRUX: S2

OSN 38/1160

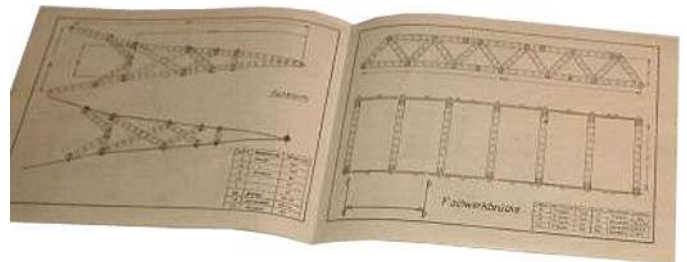
Snippet: 'New' System, STAHL-BAUKASTEN The main parts which can be seen in the Ebay photos of the Set below are a 10*6h Flanged Plate with what seem to be two

the manual below but no details can be seen except that there are 22 different parts.

Among the Ebay photos was part of the front of an old newspaper 'Vorwärts Berliner Zeitung' (published by the SPD - the Social Democratic Party), and a 1945 date for it was implied. However the paper was banned in Germany from 1933 to 1945 and publication did not resume until 1948.



larger holes along one of the long sides; 10h A/Gs; 4, 5, 6, & 10h Strips; Wheels or Discs; and N&B boxes with M3 on their labels. Also some long Bolts and a few Rods (most likely threaded). The contents of the Set are listed on the front of



Also the main story was 'Berlin's biggest black-marketeers to be charged' and that would fit with a 1948 date, or soon afterwards, rather than 1945.

Two other STAHL-BAUKASTENs have been mentioned previously in OSN. The one in 34/1004 (with no hyphen) looks quite different; the second, in 36/1068, could conceivably be a later version of this Set but the artwork looks very different between the two. Also the OSN 36 set was from an East German company and the newspaper, if it was associated with the Set, points to a West Berlin connection.

My thanks to Thomas Morzinck for the information about Vorwärts Berliner Zeitung.

5. **THALE** Graham Aldous is continuing to research the history of this East German system and I hope to be able to include his findings later on. One thing has emerged though, the summary chart in 38/1138 is incorrect for the early years because the parts & manual thought to be from 1957 are almost certainly earlier than 1955, and the change from the Motorcycle to the Jib Crane manual occurred in 1955-56.

Graham has also found that the pitch of the holes in some early THALE parts is 12.75mm, instead of the 12.5mm later. This led me to check the pitch of the parts described in 38/1138 and (to my shame, that I hadn't done so before) I found it to be 1/2" or very nearly (12.7±.02mm in the various different types of part).

THALE STAHLBAU TECHNIK: S4 [40/1197]

6. **FAC** Jacques Pitrat wrote that the FAC web site, www.facsystem.se, contains much of interest. As well as details of the current products there are photos of a number of models, old sets, and also pdf files of old manuals including 4 in English. The site has English, French & German language versions as well as Swedish.

FAC: S1 [40/1197]

7. **MERKUR in 2008**, from the English version of the Merkur web site. Little has changed since 2007 (see 37/1103) except that the American M-KUR Apache set has appeared as the MERKUR Helikopter Set (#3314) with 486 parts, and the same model on the lid.

Both the Classic C01 and C02 sets are listed with the same reference number, 3345, and the difference in weight between the two seems to be because the C02 is in a wooden box.

One correction to 33/991, the Set 030 has 310 parts.

MERKUR [1] S7 [40/1197]

8. **Snippet. FERROX** A No.2 set similar to the 'in between' one noted in 38/1134 was offered on Ebay. It was not so complete, the main parts missing being the Flanged Plate and the 1*5*1 DAS. Also the the tools were a wooden-handled Screwdriver, & a Spanner with one open end and a ring at the other – similar to the one in the Phase 3 set in Fig.3b of 36/1090.

The most notable difference though was that certain parts were painted a medium blue. These comprised the Large Flanged Disc, the longest DAS (1*9*1h in this set, a size not mentioned before, but the length of the long DAS in the OSN 38 No.2 couldn't be seen), and the 5 & 11h Strips (the latter the longest in, or remaining in, the set). The only other painted parts were the green 6*10h Perforated Plate and the red 1*3h SAS, the same shade as in the OSN 38 No.2.

The present set's box was said measure 35*21*2.8cm and the maker was Drösler as before.

FERROX S4 [40/1197]

9. **Snippet. THE THATCHER TIN CAN TOY** The picture inside the lid of the wooden box for this 'DIY' set was shown in 33/973. An Ebay set in the same box, 17*10*3 1/4", contained some tools and a booklet ©1920 entitled Gilbert Tin Can Toy Making. The set is pictured in it and the contents that can be seen include a mallet, scribe, pliers, snips, dividers, ruler, bending jig, forming block, soldering iron, & some smaller items.

THE THATCHER TIN CAN TOY: S2 [40/1197]

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Small Ads Short ads are free to subscribers; insertion guaranteed in OSN 41 if received by the end of July (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask).

10. **STAHL-BAUKASTEN** Since the Snippet on this early post-WW2 German system in 38/1160, Jürgen Kahlfeldt has kindly sent more details, via Thomas Morzinck.

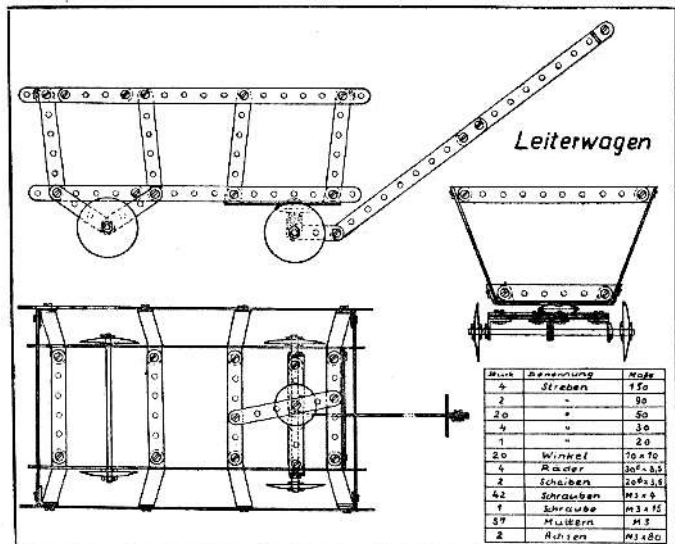
The parts are made of .7mm thick aluminium, and the holes are 3.3mm Ø at 10.0mm pitch. Below the set contents given

Inhalt des Kartons:

Stück	Bezeichnung	Beulänge	Stück	Bezeichnung	Abmessungen	Stück	Bezeichnung	Abmessungen
4	Blechstreifen	10mm	26	Winkel	10 x 10mm	1	Grundplatte	100 x 60 x 10
11	"	20	2	Winkelstücke	100 x 10 x 10	4	Schreiben	20 x 3,5 ^o
6	"	30	2	Schrauben	M3 x 15	4	"	30 x 3,5 ^o
2	"	40	51	"	M3 x 4	1	Schraubenzieher	
25	"	50	60	Muttern	M3	1	Schrauben -	
16	"	90	2	Gewindestifte	M3 x 80		schlüssel	
4	"	100	2	"	M3 x 30	1	Vorlageheft	
4	"	150	2	"	M3 x 20			

on the front of the manual. In order, the parts are 4,11,6,2,25,16,4,4 of 10,20,30,40,50,90,100,150mm Strips (those lengths are overall so perhaps the 10mm is a sort of washer); 26 10*10mm A/Bs; 2x 100mm A/Gs, 10*10mm in section; 2,51 M3 Bolts, 15,4mm long; 60 M3 Nuts; 2 each M3 Screwed Rods, 80,30,20mm long; 1 Flanged Plate 100*60mm; 4 each Discs, 20,30mm Ø, and (probably) dished by 3.5mm; 1 each Screwdriver, Spanner, Manual.

The manual has 8 pages including covers – the front as in OSN 38. 6 models are shown on pp2-7, one to a page, with a 2- or 3-view engineering drawing for each, plus a list of parts. The first model is the Leiterwagon below (slightly rearranged),



and the last is Treppe (a Stairway with Landing). The other models are the Slewing Crane, Radio Tower, & Electric Pylon on the lid, and a Girder Bridge. The back cover has the side elevation of 5 more models including a Lorry, another Crane, and a Guyed Pylon.

STAHL-BAUKASTEN [2] S2 [40/1197]

11. **PHILIPS** In 39/1187 the change from colourless to red Wheels was associated with the introduction of the new sets ME 1201 & 1250, which replaced the ME 1200 outfit. But the change seems not to have been so clear cut because Paul Goodman has found red Wheels in one of his three ME 1200 sets.

PHILIPS: S9 [40/1197]

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