

'New' Dutch System:

STAAL-BOUW Thank you to Jan Ringnalda for sending details of his outfit. It was made by a company called Evers of Prinsenstraat 28, Dordrecht and is believed to date from around 1949-50.

The box measures 225*145*30mm and the lid is shown right. Staal of course means Steel; Bouw, Construction Set; and the slogan 'The construction set for every boy'. The parts are shown on the inside of the lid (Fig.2).

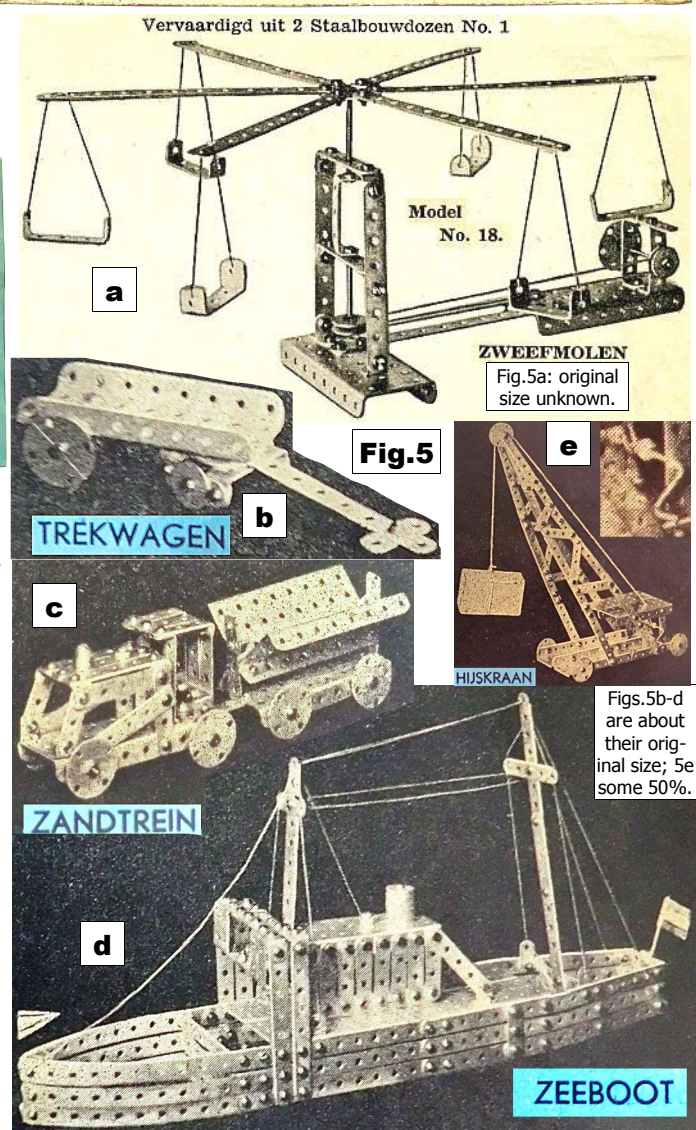
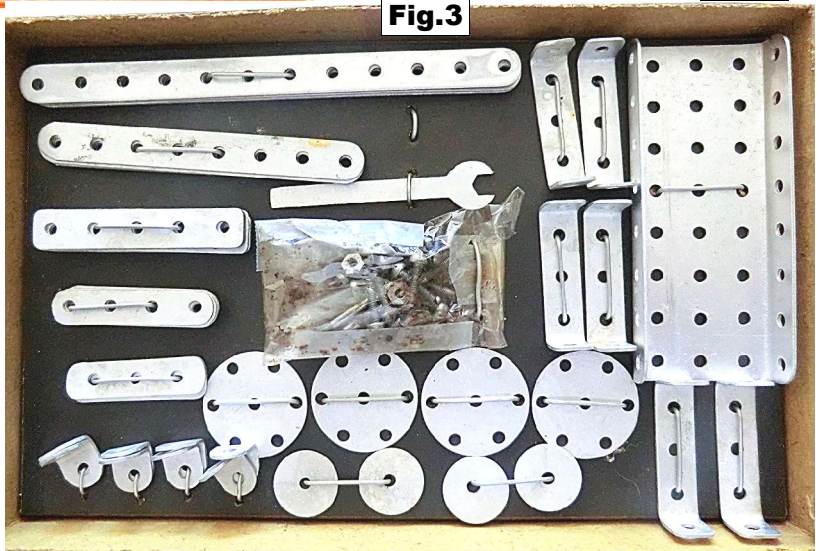
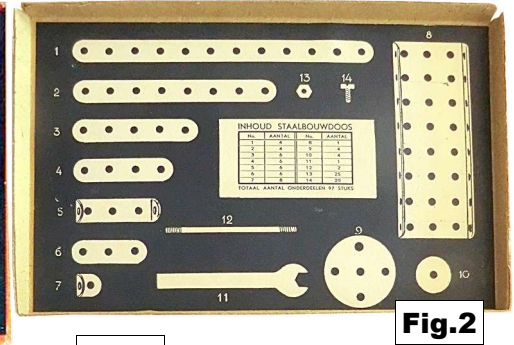
The actual parts are still strung in the open box right. Despite the 'Staal' name they are, save the threaded ones, aluminium. All the holes are round and are 3.4mm Ø at 12.0mm pitch. The thread is M2.5. The different parts are listed below with some notes, & quantities, from the table inside the lid, in curly brackets. #1-4,6 **Strips:** 12, 8,5,3h {4,4,6,6}. They vary in width from 9.6 to 10.7mm and while some lengths have near fully rounded ends, others are nearly square. #5, **DAS:** 1*3*1h {6}. #7 **A/B:** {8}. #8 **Flanged Plate:** 3*8h, 95*39mm {1}. #9 **Wheel Disc:** 6h, 30mm Ø {4}. #10 **Washer:** 18mm Ø {4}. #11 **Span'driver:** {1} (perhaps it was originally intended to include 2 because there is an empty loop below the right end of the 12h Strip which could have held the second). #12: **Rod with Screwed Ends:** 48mm o/a {2} #13 **Nut:** hexagonal {25}. #14, **Bolt:** roundheaded & 12.5mm long, though a shorter part with a large, flat cheesehead is shown in the lid {20}.

The manual is printed on blue paper with 12 pages 132*89mm, & the cover right. It contains 17 original looking models, each in a large black panel with a single photo & no instructions or Parts List. The first model is the TREKWAGEN (Fig.4), the last TUIBANKJE, Garden Seat. These plus 6 or so other simple or fairly simple models, a Swing, See-saw, Step Ladder, etc, could be made with one Set. The other models need, as mentioned in the Introduction, additional sets or extra parts, & many of them are much more ambitious. They include a Chair-O-Planes roundabout, a Lifting Bridge, a Locomotive, & the models in Figs.5c-e. Most are attractive but only the Crane appears to have any mechanical feature, and that only by virtue of a Crank Handle (see inset) which isn't one of the system's parts. The Wheel Discs in the models (& on the lid) are the 4h type.

Another manual is shown on the HONG website. Its cover is identical to the Fig.1 lid & the 2 inside pages shown are cream. One has an Intro that says that all the models in the manual can be made with 1 or 2 Sets. The other page has two models which need 2 No.1 Sets (the only mention of a Set No.1), each with a Parts List: a simple Fire Engine, but with a lever-operated ladder, & the Chair-O-Planes in Fig.5a, simpler than the one above but cord-driven. The Wheel Discs in the models are the 6h type and that together with the other differences already mentioned indicate that this manual may have been later than Jan's.

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Figs.5b-d are about their original size; 5e some 50%.