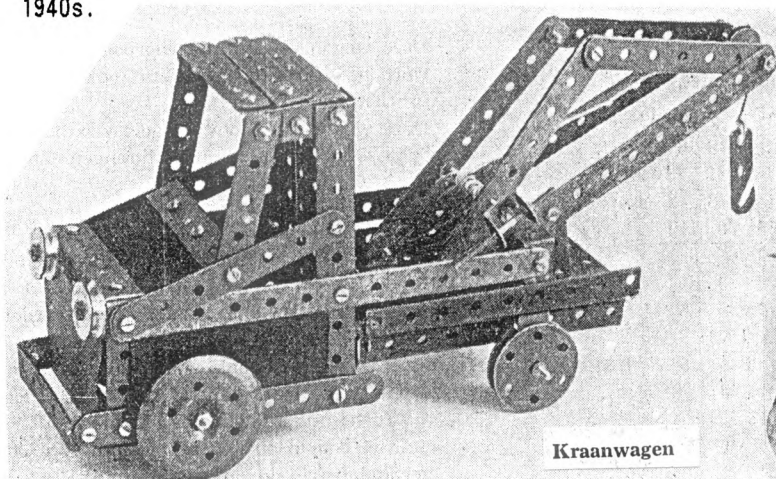
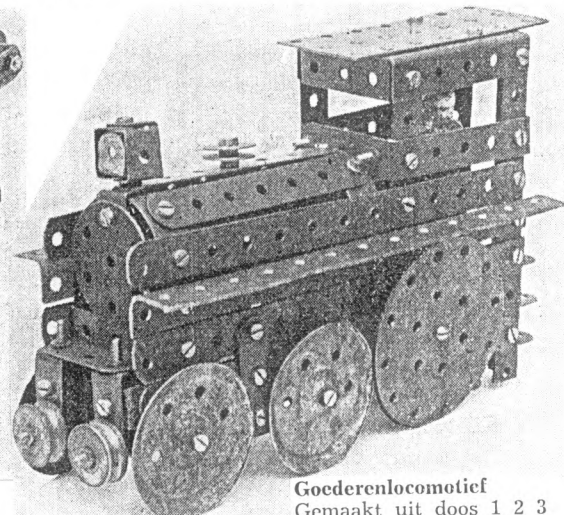


STRICON FROM HOLLAND. The name STRICON has been known as a possible OS name but now, thanks to René Mikkers, some details are available. He kindly sent me his Set 3 Manual to examine; as far as is known no-one has any STRICON parts. Sets 1 to 3 are mentioned in the Manual and they are not progressive, the larger sets are accessory outfits which introduce different parts and allow larger, more complicated models to be made. The largest model shown in the Manual, a 90cm long Swing Bridge, needs 8 No.1, 5 No.2 and 4 No.3 Sets. It's rather like TRIX in that respect and the range of 34 parts is comparable too, the main difference is that there are no Tyres, Gears or Electrical Parts; of course there may have been other STRICON parts/sets but none are mentioned in the Manual. Another similarity with TRIX is that Threaded Rods are used as axles. René thinks that STRICON was being sold in the late 1940s.



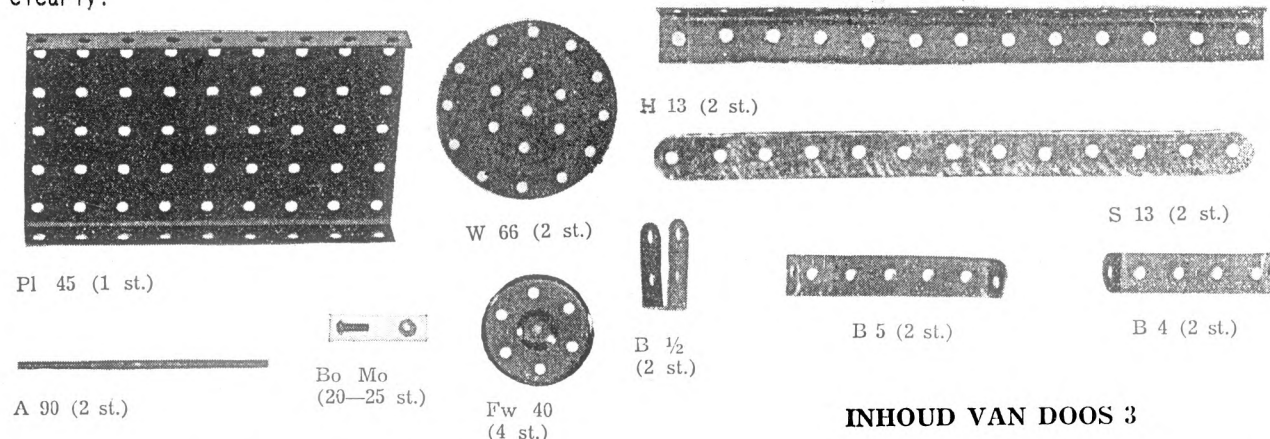
Kraanwagen

Goederenlocomotief
Gemaakt uit doos 1 2 3

The parts in Set 3 are shown in the Manual (see below) and from those and the Parts Lists for the models the full range of parts is as follows:

- Strips with 3,5,7,9,13 holes; 1,5,9,13 hole A/Gs, all have square corners except the 1-hole (Angle Bracket). DAS 1x1x1 (Double Brkt), 1x2x1, 1x3x1, 1x4x1, 1x5x1, and also the narrow 2x1x2 B $\frac{1}{2}$ shown below.
- Flat Discs of 10,16,38,66mm dia; W66 is shown below, W38 has only the 6 inner holes. 'Half Pulleys' of 20,30,40mm dia; see Fw40 below, the others have only the centre hole.
- The Pl45 Flanged Plate shown below and a 7x3 Perforated Flat Plates. Both have square corners.
- Threaded Rods 25,40,50,60,90mm long. Hex Nuts and roundheaded Bolts, though in some models they look cheeseheaded. A Hook which is a 3-hole Strip with a 45° slot into the last hole. There is also a TRIX style Spandriver but with 4 holes in the shank. Cord drives are shown and in one model there appears to be quite large diameter Spring Cord around two Pulleys.

There are no elongated holes in any of the parts though the holes in the Angle Bracket cannot be seen clearly.



INHOUD VAN DOOS 3

The hole pitch isn't stated but can be estimated by scaling from parts and models whose dimensions are given. This leads to figures that vary from 13.8 to 14.6mm and similarly the hole size is between 3.8 and 4.2mm. Scaling the Threaded Rod (see above) gives its diameter as about 3mm. That's much smaller than the size of the holes but it might be correct, it would make the Bolts about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and they look about that in the models shown. Another Dutch system of the same period, STRUC, has a quite similar style of parts and the hole pitch/size are 14.0/3.8mm; and the thread used is 1/8 BSW, near enough 3mm. The relatively large holes allow a little adjustment in the absence, as also in STRICON, of any elongated holes, but of course the axles are very slack.

The 19 models in the Manual range from a Sewing Machine to a 70cm long Loco and Tender; 11 of them can be made from the combined parts of Sets 1, 2 and 3, including the two shown above. Although all the models are fairly simple mechanically their appearance seems to me rather above average consid-

-ering the limited range of parts. Card is shown in a few of the models to fill open areas. As so often though the wheels of vehicles don't look very realistic. In a page of Basic Constructions two gear Wheels and a Rack are shown, made from the (long) Bolts in the 2 larger size Discs and a Strip, but I couldn't see any use of them in the models. The Swing Bridge though does have a small roller bearing using the 4 16mm Pulleys between the 66mm Discs. Two of the larger models are shown in the Extra MCS Sheets for STRICON.

ENDWORD After writing this account I remembered that a couple of years ago Frank Beadle had showed me some unidentified parts which contained a 3-hole Hook just like the STRICON one. It turned out that with two exceptions all his parts matched those in the Manual exactly: additional details of them are as follows:

- The hole pitch is 14.0mm and the holes are 3.9mm dia. Strips are 13.1mm wide and their end radii are 7mm. They, and the A/G are painted silver.
- There are two styles of Bolt, one is $\frac{1}{8}$ "BSW and is roundheaded, the other is M3 with a cheesehead. Both have hex Nuts and both are about 10mm long u/h.
- Brackets, DAS, Plates, the 20mm Half Pulley, and the Hook are blue. The Angle Bracket has 2 round holes. The 30mm Half Pulley and the 38mm Disc are dark red; the 16mm Disc and the Spanner are black.

The exceptions referred to above are the Spandriver which doesn't have any holes in it, and a 5x3h Flanged Plate with the flanges along the longer sides: this part matches the others but isn't mentioned in the Manual.

SUMMARY OF MANUAL. #Name: STRICON. #Details of maker: STRICON FABRIEK, POSTBUS 5039, AMSTERDAM. #Dates &/or Ref Nos: None. #Page size: 193x232mm wide. #No of pages: 24 plus covers. #Language: Dutch. #Printing: Models are halftone photos, cover is blue and grey, with blue, grey, red print. #Page Nos of Parts List & Set Contents, & highest PN: 3 (parts are not numbered in sequence). #Sets covered: No.3, but sets are not progressive and Sets 1& 2 are needed for models shown. #No of models: 19. #Name, Model No, Page No of first & last model: (no Model Nos.) Goederenlocomotief,3. LOCOMOTIEF MET TENDER,22. #Other notes: None.

AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6: NAME: STRICON. TYPE: MPLG. CY: HO. SPCE: 14.0 dST: 3.9. DAXL: --.

BAUKLÖTZE STAUNEN by Annette Nosschka and Günter Knerr This book from the Deutsches Museum in München, was generously sent by Toby Haffter and Peter Kessler: it's in German of course and the title means Amazing Building Elements. It is a hardback of 158 near A4 size pages, and there are sections on sets with wooden, stone, metal, and plastic parts, followed by an account of the use of building sets in schools. After that a catalogue of exhibits at the Museum with brief details of each, a list of references, and an extensive bibliography.

The authors trace the history of building sets largely I think in terms of the extensive collection held by the Museum, and this means that apart from major players like MECCANO, STOKYS and LEGO, most of material mentioned is German. My limited German doesn't allow me to properly judge the text but where I've dipped into it I've been pleased with the historical detail I've found, and I'm sure I'll be using this book regularly in the future. The illustrations help of course and there are good quality b&w photos etc on nearly every page, and 24 full pages in excellent colour.

I understand that the book can be obtained from the Deutsches Museum; there is no detailed address in the book but just München should be enough. In case it is of help the book was published in 1986 by Hirmer Verlag in association with the Museum, and the ISBN number is 3-7774-4180-5.

METAL CONSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS • PART 5 • compiled by Frank Beadle Many readers will already have this latest instalment in the series, but for those who haven't yet, a brief look at the 180+, mostly double sided, photocopied A4 pages. The first part consists of corrections to the existing 4 volumes, 45 new pages plus 6 sides of amendments to be added. Then comes over 40 new systems, from ALPHA (2) to WEMA, taking up over 100 pages. In addition there are 14 pages giving brief details of well over 100 of the more interesting wooden and plastic sets, with illustrations of some of the wooden ones. Finally there are lists of all the systems from Parts 1-5 arranged by country, by type, and by number of parts (50-100, 100+), and a list of systems thought to exist but for which there's no information yet. If you're interested Frank's address is 33 Yoredale Avenue, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 9AN. Tel: (0325)356097. Part 5 costs £20 plus £4 postage for the UK and £5 abroad.

QUERIES 17. From time to time a particular spanner turns in mixed lots of MECCANO/OS, but doesn't ever seem to relate exactly with the other parts. It's double ended with cranked jaws of .25" and .20", and is stamped J.&LR.LTD | MADE IN ENGLAND. Does anyone know who J&LR are or were?

MORE ON STRICON Following on from 10/256, René Mikkers has now obtained manuals for Set 1 and for Set 2, and he kindly lent them to me for this account. In the Set 1 manual there is an illustrated parts/contents list for Set 1 and for Set 2, and these will form an MCS Extra Sheet. The main points of interest are:

- The total list of parts is as given in OSN 10, but plus the 5x3h Flanged Plate (PL 15) which was found among Frank Beadles parts but which couldn't be identified from the #3 Manual. It was part of the #1 Outfit and it is strange that it is not used in any of the models in the #3 Manual, even though several Set 1's are needed for some of them.
- The illustration of the Spandriver shows it without any holes in the shank, like Frank's one: no doubt the 4-hole version shown in the #3 Manual came later.
- Both the holes in the Angle Bracket are round: it is shown below together with one or two of the other parts not illustrated in OSN 10.
- There is no mention of the Spring Cord which seemed to be used in one of the #3 models, so it must have been thick string. No cord is included in any of the Outfits.

Set 1 contains one of the small Flanged Plates, 12 Strips, four W38 Discs, four 20mm Half Pulleys, two 1x2x1 DAS, two Angle Brackets, four Threaded Rods of various lengths, and some Washers and N&B. 24 small models are shown that can be made with Set 1 on its own, and curiously none use the Flanged Plate.

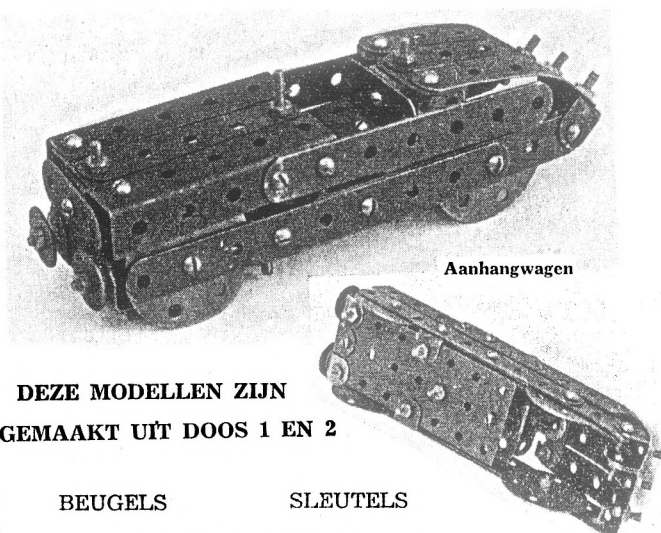
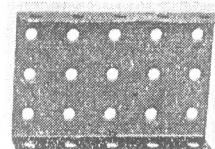
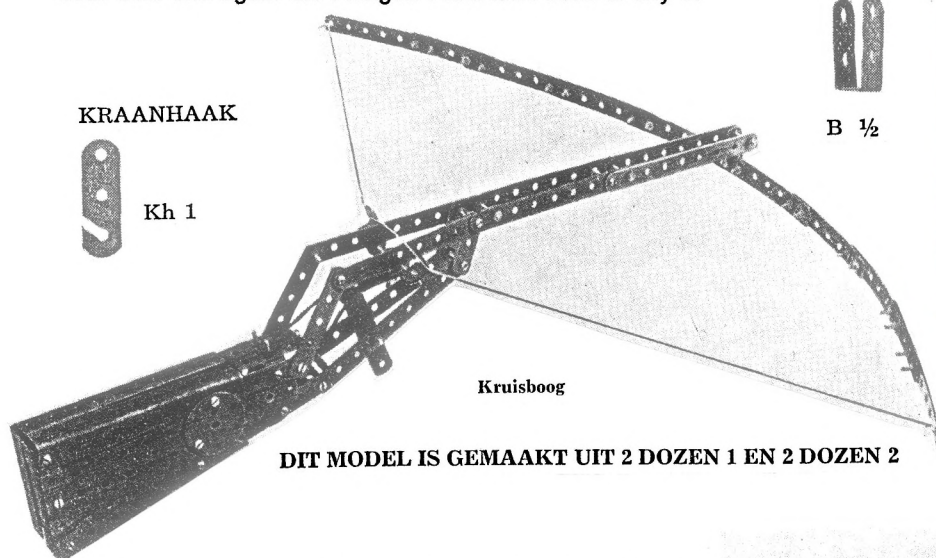
Next the contents of Set 2 are illustrated and the main parts are four 9-hole Strips, a 7x3h Flat Plate, four 30mm Half Pulleys, two each of 9 and 5h Angle girders, two 1x3x1 DAS, and a Hook. Then there are 11 models which need both Sets and again the Flanged Plate isn't used in any of

them. Finally photos of 8 models which need more Sets, the instructions for most of them are given in the other manuals.

The #2 Manual starts with 13 more models for Sets 1 and 2 combined, then 2 that need extra #1/2 Sets, and 5 photos only for models that need Set 3. None list the Flanged Plate among the parts required. Two of the 1/2 models are shown below. The illustrated parts for Set 3 are shown on the last page together with a photo of the #3 Manual. Its cover (below, left) shows a Gantry Crane and is completely different to the plain covers of the #2 and 3 Manuals described here, and that of the #3 described in OSN 10, all of which are identical apart from their colour and Book No.

SUMMARY OF MANUALS. (details which are the same as those given in 10/257 are not repeated) #No of pages: 20 plus covers. #Printing: cover is green and fawn with green, fawn and red lettering. #Page Nos of Parts List/ Set Contents: 2 for Set 1; 9 for Set 2. #Sets covered: 1 and 2. #No of models for each set: 24 for #1; 11 for #1+2. #Name, Page No of first & last model of each set: 1: Waarschuingsbord,3; Vliegtuig,8. 1+2: Torenkraan,11; Carousel,15. #Other notes: This is Modellenboek 1, the manual described in 10/257 was Modellenboek 3. Photos of 8 models that can be made with various combinations of Sets 1, 2 and 3 are shown on pp 16-20.

#No of pages: 12 plus covers. #Printing: cover is orange and fawn with orange, blue and fawn lettering. #Page No of Parts List/Set Contents: 12 for Set 3. #Sets covered: 1+2. #No of models for each set: 13 plus 2 for more than one each of Sets 1 and 2. #Name, Page No of first & last model: Briefweger,2. Kruisboog,9. #Other notes: This is Modellboek 2. Photos of 5 models that need Set 3 are shown on pp 10-11.



FLENSWIELEN
Fw 30



FLENSWIELEN
FW 20



HOEKEN
H 1



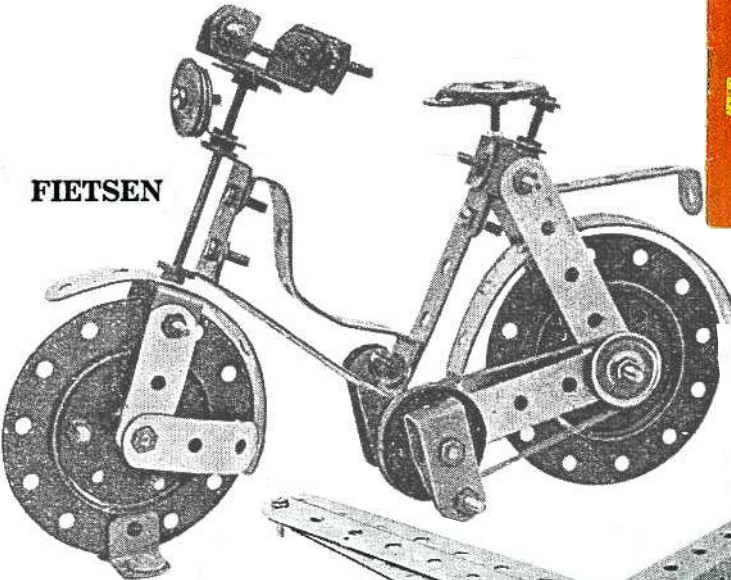
BEUGELS



SLEUTELS

A Different STRICON Manual Harry Mariën kindly sent a photocopy of a No.3 manual for this post-WW2 Dutch system (see 10/256 & 11/275). Compared with the previous No.3 in OSN 10 the contents of the outfit are the same but many new small models have been added, and some of the larger & less attractive ones dropped. One noticeable change is that for improved appearance more of the models use curved Strips & Plates.

The manual has 28 pages plus covers, of the same size as before. The front cover, right, is much more attractive though

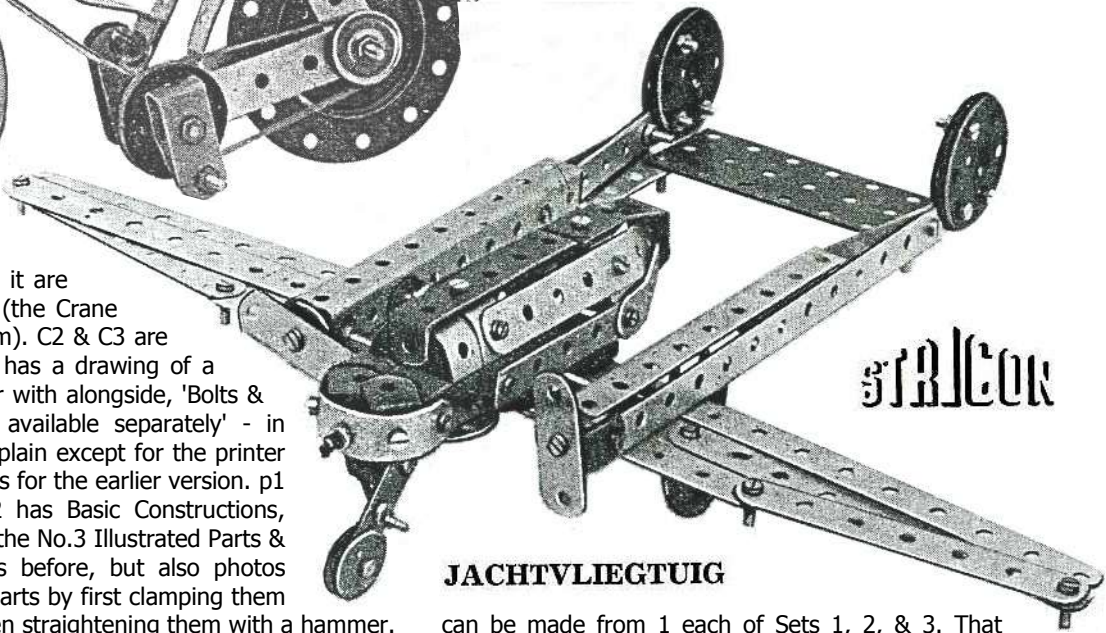


none of the models on it are actually in the manual (the Crane is similar to one of them). C2 & C3 are plain except that each has a drawing of a Bolt, Nut, & Span'driver with alongside, 'Bolts & Nuts + 1 Span'driver available separately' - in Dutch of course. C4 is plain except for the printer - Mercur, Hilversum, as for the earlier version. p1 is the title page & p2 has Basic Constructions, both as before. p3 has the No.3 Illustrated Parts & Set Contents, again as before, but also photos showing how to bend parts by first clamping them between Strips, and then straightening them with a hammer.

All the other pages have models, 27 in all, from VERKEERS+VLIEGTUIG (Twin-engined Monoplane) on p4 to LOCOMOTIEF MET TENDER on pp26-28. Their presentation is as in the earlier edition, and in all they are a good selection including Vehicles, Boats, Machine Tools, 3 Bicycles & a Tandem, Cranes



& Bridges. The 5*3h Flanged Plate, not seen in any of the earlier No.3 models, is used in several of the new ones. Only 8 of the models were in the OSN 10 manual, and 18



JACHTVLIEGTUIG

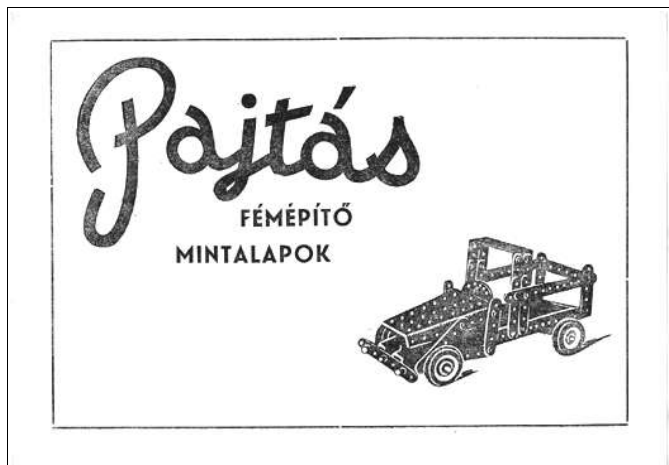
can be made from 1 each of Sets 1, 2, & 3. That compares with 11 out of 19 models before. The only large models retained are a Low Loader (7 sets in all), the Railway Carriage (12 sets), & the Loco with Tender (12 sets). Above two of the new models that took my eye, a Ladies Bicycle & Fighter Plane, both shown at their original size.

OSN 38/1145

STRICON: S1

A PAJTÁS Manual PAJTÁS (= pal or chum) is Hungarian and MCS includes details of an electrical outfit. It is said to date from the early 1960s, and was made in Kecskemét (a town some 75km SW of Budapest) by a company called Finommechanikai-Vállalat. Now to hand, thanks to Jim Gamble, the instructions for a conventional PAJTÁS set, with a PR which includes '66'. That the two sets are connected can be seen from the identical form of the name used for both (as on the manual cover right), from the look of parts common to both, & because the manuals for both were printed in Kecskemét. No company name is given in the present manual though.

The manual is for Sets I & II and consists of 5 loose sheets, 249*174mm, inside folded-over covers. C1: FÉMÉPÍTŐ probably means Metal Builder and MINTALAPOK, Model Sheets. C2: an unsigned Introduction. ppI/1 to I/4 are the 4 sides of the first two sheets and have 26 models from Villa (= Fork) to Székér (Farm Cart). ppII/1 to II/6 are the remaining 6 sides



and their 37 models go from Fúrógép (Drilling Machine) to

OSN 38/1145

PAJTÁS: S1

Snippet. 'New' German System: KNIRPS Thanks to Urs Flammer for sending the Ebay ad for the present set. The blurb claimed it to be the first after WW2 and that it was made from a scrap ammunition box. That is credible for the main part, a hinged catch (Figs.1 & 1a). And perhaps the other parts were made from the box itself, who knows? The name KNIRPS (meaning little fellow, urchin, etc) brings STABIL to mind but there is nothing to connect this set with the Walther company: the type face is not, as far as I know, one of theirs, and though some of the parts are similar most vary in detail, from a non-STABIL Road Wheel to square rather than hexagonal Nuts.

36 parts are claimed on the front of the model sheet (Fig.1 & 3) and the 24 remaining are shown in Fig.1. No indication was given of the size of the parts. The Seat (that's to say the catch) was said to be brass and it has the same black finish as the other parts. From the 24 parts, and those used in the models, the parts in the Set could be: 1 Seat; 1 each 3 & 5h Strips; 2 DAS; 1 A/B (though I can't see where it is used); 1 D/B, 2h high; 1 Reversed A/B, 2*1*2h; 2 Wheels; 2 Wheel Discs; 2 Screwed Rods (probably different lengths); 1 Long & 6 Short Bolts; 16 (or perhaps 18) Nuts; 1 Span'driver. But that makes at least 37 parts, even without the Span'driver.

The end of a cardboard box can be seen in Fig.1 and in the original Ebay photo it looks in plan to be little larger than the folded Sheet. The photo shows no printing on its top face and it's not clear if the set was packed in it.

The models are on a single sheet folded in two. Fig.3 shows the front and Fig.2 the reverse side.

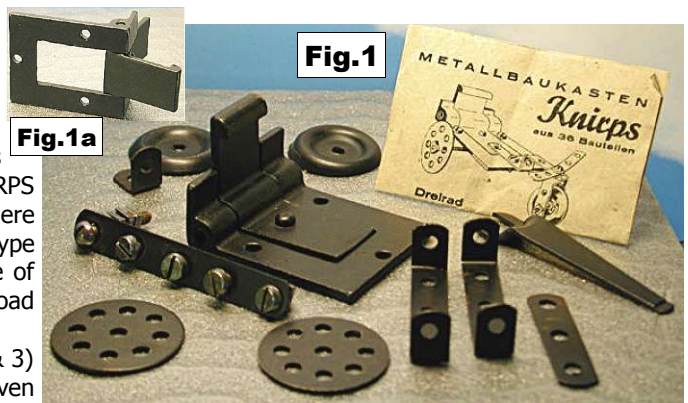


Fig.1a

Fig.1

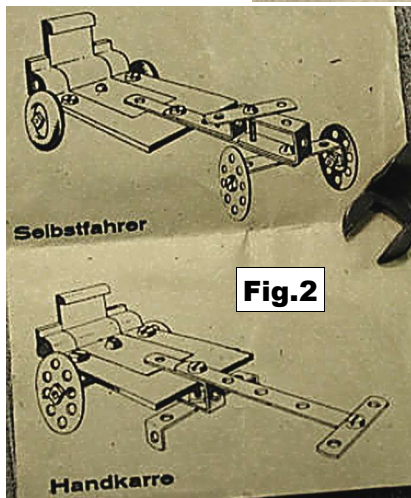


Fig.2

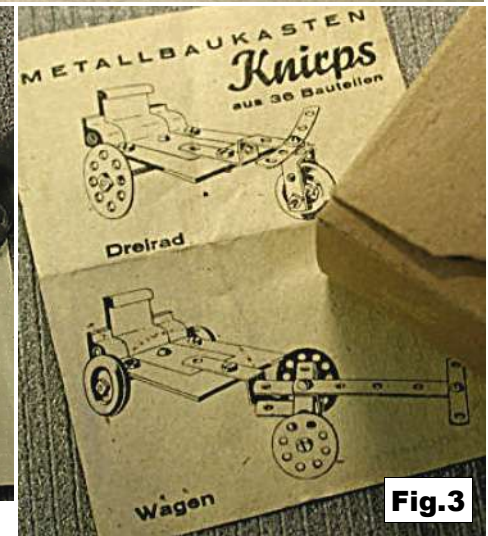


Fig.3

KNIRPS [2]: S1

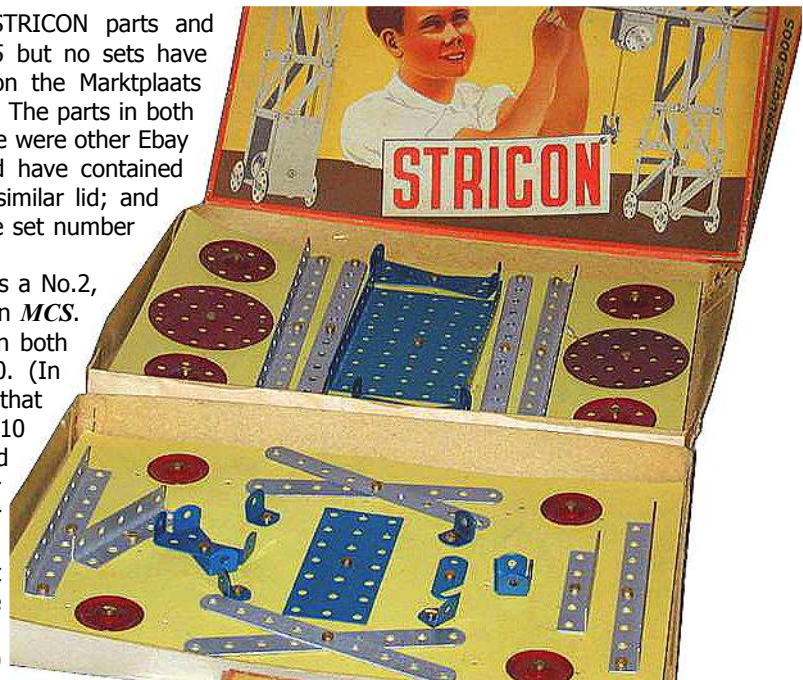
OSN 50/1526

Snippet. Two STRICON sets Notes on STRICON parts and manuals were given in 10/256, 11/275 & 38/1145 but no sets have been seen until now. The two right were seen on the Marktplaats auction site and were said to be a No.1 and a No.2. The parts in both Sets are held to the backing cards by N&B, and there were other Ebay photos showing small fawn envelopes which could have contained small parts & other N&B. Also photos of another similar lid; and manuals with the later cover, as in OSN 38, but the set number couldn't be seen on either the lids or the covers.

There is no reason to doubt that the lower set is a No.2, the parts that can be seen tally with those shown in MCS. The parts in the top set though are those shown in both the old- & new-style No.3 manuals, see OSN 10. (In passing it should have been noted in OSN 38 that compared with the older manual described in OSN 10 the contents of the No.3 in the 'new' manual had been increased from 2 to 4x 13h Strips. The earlier quantity was an error because several of the earlier manual models needed 4 of the 13h Strips.)

The top of the lid can't be seen in the photo right but apart from its blurry set number, it matches the one shown in OSN 11.

The invaluable HONGS website (www.hongs.nl) has photos of 2 sets almost identical to the present ones. The one that matches the lower set right is referred to as a No.2; the top one right is again called a No.1, and its lid and manual both have No.1 on them. Both HONGS boxes measure 30*21cm and if as is likely, all the boxes from Sets No.1-3 were the same size, I suppose it's possible that at some stage a No.3 backing card with parts got put into a No.1 box. It would though seem to be a coincidence too far for the Marktplaats set to have suffered the same misadventure – unless of course the Marktplaats set was actually the HONGS set.



Two ads for STRICON were shown in HONGS. One from February 1947 marked it as available but unlike the other items advertised, no price was given. So it seems likely that this would have been soon after STRICON was launched. The second was from December 1948 and gave the price as F 2.70 without mentioning a set number. Both the no doubt later HONGS sets were priced at F 4.35.

STRICON: S2

OSN 50/1526