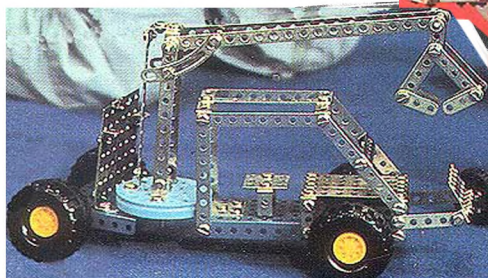
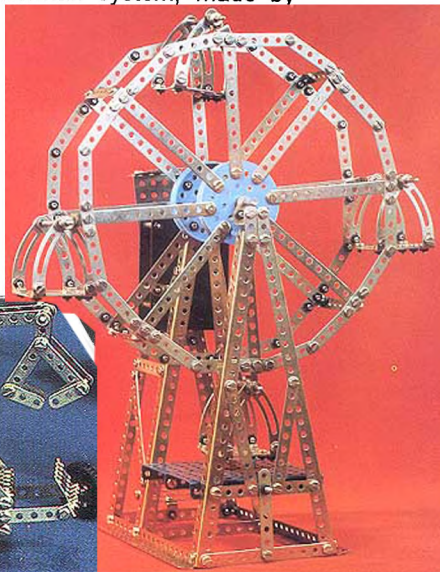


PITT EZ gives the dates as 1948 into the 1950s; MCS has the end point as 1965. The Flanged Plate was blue and the Pulleys red. The Spanner shown in MCS has 'Pitt' on it but one found in an unused set has DUX - both systems were made by Markes.

PLASTICON Another East German system, made by VEB Plasticart at Annaberg-Buchholz. The date it was introduced isn't known but the boy on the manual cover looks later than the 50s; it continued until around 1987. A B&W copy



of the manual cover is all that's available but it shows several models and is for Sets GB1, GB2, EMB3, & EMB4. VEB Plasticart also made BURGSTÄDTER (12/324) and nearly all the parts in the models look like BURGSTÄDTER ones, including the Slotted Curved Strip that can be seen in the Big Wheel above. Its hub is probably the large Flanged Disc Pulley that's used in the Grab model, and again it appears similar to the BURGSTÄDTER one. The large Road Wheels look rather like the plastic CONSTRUCTION type with the push-in hub.

RECORD Another small set from sometime in the period 1945 to the early 50s. A photo of a box lid is shown in EZ but with no details. The logo on the lid has a 'W' in it and perhaps an 'R'.

ROBO EZ says the maker of this little set isn't known but the logo is 'EFFEM'. The set was also known as BAUKERL ROBO and dates from the 1950s. The models (see MCS) are made from wooden Blocks and 4mm diameter Rods held together with 'J' Clamps. MCS also includes the Spanish system EL INGENIERO MECANICO which appears to be identical, and is said to date from 1940.

SACHSENMEISTER This East German system had small parts with 3.3mm Ø holes at 7.5mm spacing. Some were bare aluminium and some steel with a metallic black finish. There was also a theme set with special parts to make Tractors/Trailers. From EZ. The system was made from 1948 to at least 1955 by Sachsenmeister Metalbau Kurt Müller of Markneukirchen/Vogtland. The Nr.1 Outfit allowed various electric and steam powered models to be built, and the theme set models are described as attractive in red, green and silver.

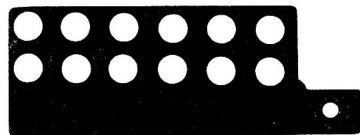
SATURN A system from the early 1950s with brown, nickel and bare aluminium parts. The pitch of the holes is 12.0mm, their diameter 4.1mm. The lid of a (quite small) No.2 Set is shown in EZ and I can see that the model on it has 4 wheels. No other details are available.

SCHEFFLERS This system was mentioned in the piece on BURGSTÄDTER in 12/324 and EZ confirms that BUR followed on from SCHEFFLERS. The start date was probably 1955 and the original maker, Artur Scheffler of Burg-

städt/Sachsen. The change of name occurred when the company became VEB Metallspielwaren Burgstädt around 1960. In a set the Strips and the like are black, small parts including Pulleys nickel, the 5h Ø MÄRKLIN-style Pulleys red, 5*11 Flanged Plates blue and Flanged Sector Plates green. The hole spacing is said to be 'ca. 12.8mm'.

SCHWERKA Another small system in EZ from the early post-WW2 years. It was packed in a small wooden box and the parts were bare aluminium. By chance I recently came across a very similar set to the one shown in EZ, in a box 11*8*1" with wooden sides and partitions, and the bottom and sliding lid made of cardboard. The latter is orange with a boy and a Crane on it, and METALL-BAUKASTEN NR.1 plus MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION BOX NO.1. Among the various parts in it were a few Strips that are probably original. They are bare aluminium and have 4.1mm holes at 12.7mm pitch. One is a MÄRKLIN-style 5h slotted Curved Strip and it can be seen in the Crane on the lid, along with some 20 other parts including Strips up to 15h long, a MÄRKLIN pattern 5*11h Flanged Plate, and a similar Plate but only 7 holes long. Among the other

parts found in the box were 3 black Windmill Sails which look just like the STRUCTOMODE ones in MCS except that the fillet in the inside corner is convex instead of concave. Their length overall is 95mm, width 35mm, and the large holes are about 7½mm Ø. If anyone has a Canadian one I'd be interested to know if it matches.



SICO EZ lists this as a set from Keim & Co. of Nürnberg, first made in 1932, but with no other details.

SIEMENS A system from 1933 with wooden and nicked steel pieces. The only information available is that there were about 78 different parts and the hole spacing was 50.0mm.

SONNEBERGER EZ fills in some of the details missing from MCS. This system was first made by Schoenfeld & Boetsch of Sonneberg in 1948. From 1955 it was produced by VEB Injecta Steinach, and then from 1971 by VEB (K) Metallwaren Schmerbach. The end date isn't known. The hole spacing is 10.0mm and the Axles and Threaded Rods are 4mm Ø. Apart from the pieces in MCS, Sprockets and Chain came later. The parts were made of anodised aluminium and in the sets shown most have their natural colour, but some Strips are red or yellow, A/Gs are light blue, and some Plates yellow. Jeannot mentioned white and gold coloured parts as well, and that the holes are generally 4.1mm Ø but some are larger with in one case, 4.1 and 5mm holes in the same Strip.

SPRANGER This was a system with 24 steel and 16 wooden parts. The former were plated with nickel or tin; Pulleys were of wood with brass plated steel bosses. The holes were 3.9mm Ø at 12.0mm pitch. EZ gives the manufacturer as Gustav Spranger of Klingenthal/Sachsen and the dates as from about 1933 to about 1955.

STABA This is the East German one described in 8/195 and EZ gives some more details. Production was started in 1948 by the Gebr. Ehrlicher of Erfurt; subsequently the company became successively, H.H.Ehrlicher in 1949, Otto Hörsejau (1953/54), and Karl Teuteberg in 1955. STABA