



FOUR ?? same price and contents of present United States made set catalogued and advertised in the States as Number Six. / The A. C. GILBERT MENZIES CO., Limited / Manufacturers of Erector and Gilbert Toys / TORONTO, CANADA'.

From Greenberg: (a) Menzies & Co., Ltd. became the official Canadian representative of the A. C. Gilbert company in 1917; (b) the manual cover in the lot (Part 1, pale green with the man/2 boys/bridge design, ERECTOR in a red panel, & about 10¾" wide) was the U.S. design in 1916. So this may give an indication of the Set's date, but the parts do include two of the first flanged Gear Box Side Plate which, from Al Sternagle's Erector Parts, appeared in about 1919 as #541. This could though be a red herring as it was said that some parts may have been added to the Set.

#### ERECTOR [2b]: S3

[36/1069]

6. **Snippet. 'New' System: STRAUSS** Below the German Ebay photo. The obvious parts are the green 5h Strips, the 4



Wheels, & the rather rough looking 5\*9h Flanged Plate. There are some other darker parts at the bottom of the main compartment, dark red or brown Strips & DAS perhaps. And in the small tray, a cast Loaded Hook & roundheaded Bolts. The manual is for Sets 1 & 2, with respectively 145 & 213 parts.

#### STRAUSS: S1

[36/1069]

7. **A SUNNY TOY Set** SUNNY TOY was mentioned in 19/542 as a small set with BUZ parts, shrink-wrapped onto a backing board. The set in the next column is properly boxed with the parts in a moulded plastic tray, and it is actually larger than the standard BUZ No.1 outfit. No maker's name can be seen but the Trunnions & Hook are characteristically BUZ, and some of the models shown in the Ebay photos of the manual are in the No.1 BUZ manual. The 5h Strips at centre top in the box look rather out-of-place but other rusty looking Strips,



including a 5h Curved Strip (2 are used in a Crane model), can be seen in another photo under the red 5\*11h Flanged Plate. One anomaly is the red Trunnion top right and the nickel one top left. The 4x 2½" Axles at bottom left are also suspect; 2 each of 2½ & 3½" would be more likely, as in the No.1.

Of the 25 models claimed on the lid, 10 were shown on Ebay, and 5 of them are in the No.1 BUZ manual. The others make use of the Flexible Plates & the 5\*11h Flanged Plate, neither of which are in the BUZ No.1. (There were very few Flexible Plates in the smaller BUZ sets, with none in the No.1 and only 3 in the No.4. A 5\*11h Flanged Plate wasn't included until the No.8 - the smaller sets had 1 or more of the 5\*5h size. So the SUNNY set moved back towards the well-tried MECCANO formula).

#### SUNNY TOY: S1

[36/1069]

4. **Snippet. 'New' System: SPLINTOFIX** The set shown in the next column was listed on German Ebay as SPLINTOFIX Metallbaukasten, and the photo also included a number of loose parts which looked to be a mix of 3 East German systems, MKA/MFC, THALE, & PIONIER. Not much can be seen of the parts in the box but those in the top centre bay look as if their holes might be widely spaced, & if so match the Strips used to form the frame on the box lid label. On the name SPLINTOFIX, one meaning of Splint in German is split

**OSN Subscription Rates** The price per Issue, including postage, at Printed Paper Rate where available, is £5.50 for UK; £6 by air to Europe & surface anywhere; £6.50 by air outside Europe. **Back Issues** For the zones above : OSN 1: £1/£1.30/£1.50; OSN 2,3: £2.30/£2.70/£2.90 each; OSN 4-27: £3.60/£4.10/£4.50 each; OSN 28 on (in colour): £6/£6.50/£7. (All colour & some B&W issues are on loose sheets.)

**Payments** Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances must be in Pounds Sterling (GBP) or, as cash, in Euros or US Dollars (at £1=€1.50=\$2). Payments from overseas may also be made using PayPal.

**Small Ads** Short ads are free to subscribers; insertion guaranteed in OSN 37 if received by the end of July (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask).

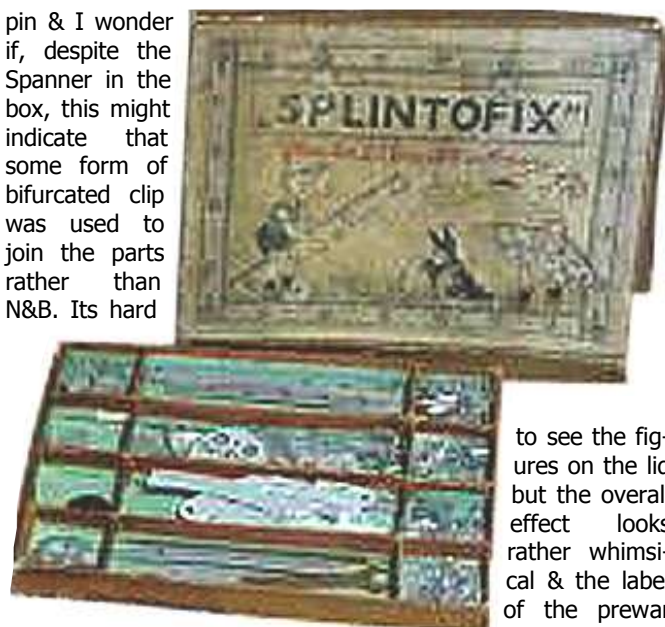
#### OSN – Your Credit Balance:

|     |                          |
|-----|--------------------------|
| was | after OSN 35             |
| was | after your remittance of |
| is  | after this Issue         |

Please send at least £ \_\_\_\_\_ if you wish to receive the next Issue.



pin & I wonder if, despite the Spanner in the box, this might indicate that some form of bifurcated clip was used to join the parts rather than N&B. Its hard



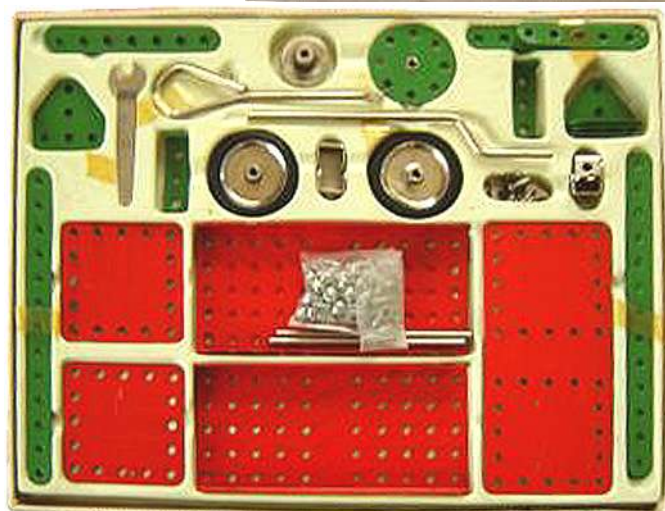
to see the figures on the lid but the overall effect looks rather whimsical & the label of the prewar ELECTRIC set

comes to mind (see 26/750).

#### SPLINTOFIX: S1

[36/1070]

4. **Snippet. 'New' System: MECA** The Ebay write up said that this set was made in Mexico by a company called Disa, and that the manual has 9 pages. As can be seen from the lid right the MECA·NO 2 could easily be read



as MECANO 2, and the 4 models shown above look to be taken directly from MECCANO manuals. The latest, the Milk Delivery Wagon, bottom left, was a No.2 model which first

appeared in 1954. Not all the parts that can be seen in the box match MECCANO exactly: the Trunnions have no cutouts; the 5\*11h Flanged Plate at bottom centre has no end flanges, and no holes in the centre '5 hole' row; the Plate above it looks similar but 2 such in a small set would be unusual; the 5\*11h (Flexible?) Plate to the right has a 5h square of holes at each end; and the green Strips at either side look to be 13h long.

#### MECA: S1

[36/1070]

4. **Snippet: LITTLE GIANT MODEL MAKER** The Tool from this American DIY system was shown in 21/603 and last year the set below was sold on Ebay. The words under 'Boys' on the lid are 'MAKE YOUR OWN CONSTRUCTION SETS', and the panels at the bottom are no doubt parts of a deep lid apron. The Tool is red and is mounted on a wooden base. The rod at right angles to the Tool's handle looks quite substantial and is perhaps a gauge bar rather than constructional material. I'm



not sure what the blue part between the Pulleys is.

#### LITTLE GIANT: S1

[36/1070]

6. **Snippet. 'New' System: METALL-BAUKASTEN** Below the lid, and in the Ebay photo it was surrounded by a large number of various parts. Most were shiny and probably MFA/MFC. Also several dull grey parts, probably TRIX. Finally a few rusty, ordinary looking parts, from the Set perhaps: 5, 7 & 11h Strips, 1\*5\*1h DAS, & two 2h Ø Fast Pulleys. Scaling from the Strips, the box would be a little longer than the 11h.



#### METALL-BAUKASTEN [5]: S1

[36/1070]

6. **Snippet. CORUS** The Window panel right (upside down) was in an Ebay lot of loose CORUS parts. It is a type of window not seen before as an actual part but it was used in the manual model House shown in 32/946. The parts were said to be the remains of a No.00 outfit, but the Window panel and some of the other pieces were probably from a larger set.



#### CORUS: S3

[36/1070]



**SPLINTOFIX** This East German system was noted in 36/1069 and now a set is to hand. Its PR indicates a date of 1948.

The Box measures 21½\*16½\*1¾cm. The lid right has Will-Halle in the top right corner, and at bottom left: N (29) Gebr. Bieler, Halle-S, Paul-Riebeck-Str. 3-6, presumably the maker. The PR bottom right is: (28922) 40516 18. 10. 48 5000. Fig.2 shows the open box.

The Parts (Figs.3,3a) are listed below with the quantities found in curly brackets. The 'red' parts are steel, otherwise all are aluminium. Holes in the Strips are 3.6mm at 18.0mm pitch; other holes are 3.5mm. The thread is 3.3mm Ø x .6mm pitch, and might be badly made M3.5. Otherwise, with a few minor exceptions, the parts are well made.

- Strips, 7,6,5h, 1.2mm thick {4,2,4}.
- Lozenge, .5mm thick {10}.
- Corner Bracket, .6mm thick {13}.
- Wheel Disc, 35mm Ø, .9mm thick {4}.
- Screwed Rod 10cm, threaded 4cm at each end {1}.
- Winding Handle {1}.
- Washer, 8.0mm Ø {4}.
- Nut, 8.1mm A/F, 1½mm thick {8}.
- Clips, types 1,2,3 (to join 2 thin parts; 1 thin, 1 thick part; 2 thick parts) {77, 56, 69}.
- Wedge, (mostly the two types on the right in Fig.3a) {73}.
- Pliers {1}.
- Spanner {1}.

No doubt various parts are missing and they include another 10cm Screwed Rod, a short Screwed Rod, the 2\*4h Plate at 'a' in Fig.4, and perhaps a short Strip or Bracket for axles to run in (see Fig.5) though a Corner bracket served in Fig.6.

The Model Sheet is an A4 page with the front above. The PR along the bottom is: H (25) Ostdeutsche Druckerel, Halle, Barfüßerstr. 14 [24213] 93827 23 11 48 2000.

There are 3 models on the back, a 2-Wheel Flat



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3a

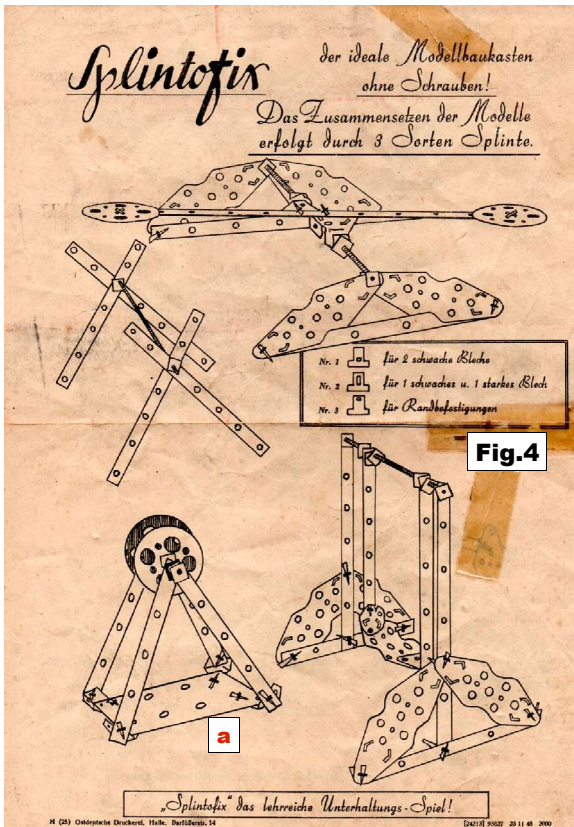


Fig.4



Fig.3

Truck, a reasonable looking Chemical Balance, & the Cart in Fig.5 (shown in B&W).

Using the Parts Inevitably the Clips & Wedges are fiddly to use and assembly certainly takes longer than it would with N&B. And though they grip quite well if the Pliers are used to push the Wedge fully home, anything less than that often leads to Wedges falling out as assembly proceeds or the model is played with. The Pliers in the Set would do the job but

suitable commercial ones with serrated lips were easier to use.

I couldn't think of a more interesting model so I built the Cart (Fig.6) from the Model Sheet, slightly modified with a pivoted front axle, albeit with only limited movement. Both

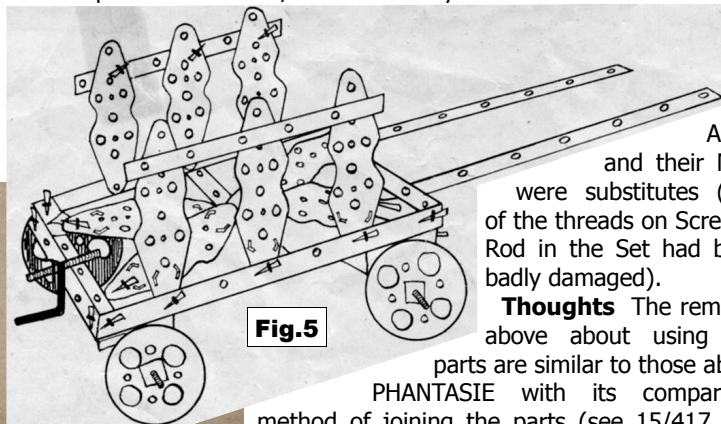


Fig.5

Axles and their Nuts were substitutes (one of the threads on Screwed Rod in the Set had been badly damaged).

Thoughts The remarks above about using the parts are similar to those about

PHANTASIE with its comparable method of joining the parts (see 15/417, 24/709, & 52/1610). But PHANTASIE had more conventional, and more useful, structural parts. I wonder who designed the Lozenge, with its small holes and vee cutouts. Or was it just an existing part for some other purpose and readily available at the time? But if so what could its original use have been?

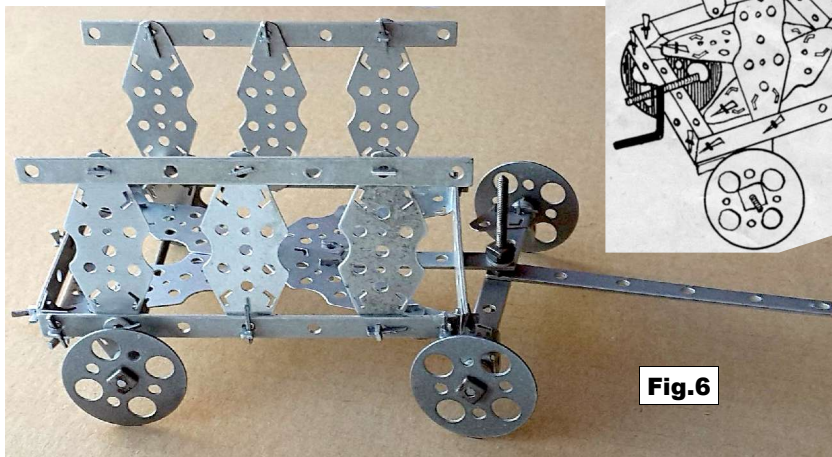


Fig.6