

**TECHNICAL TRAINER** A TECHNICAL TRAINER Set was included in George Wetzel's Sale List mentioned in 6/136 but no details were given, except that it was made by Tucker Toys, N.Y., in the 1940s. Now Richard Symonds has come across a Set, far from complete and the manual is missing, but it's a start and he's sent photos of it and photocopies of the parts.

Starting with the box, it's wooden, about 14"x11", and has a large, colourful label on the lid. It's rather faded and most of it won't reproduce but one corner of it is shown opposite. You can see a framework made of Rods with threaded ends which screw into Threaded Couplings, and the frame is superimposed on a blueprint of what seems to be a 3-D framework with small Wheels at the four corners. The main scene on the label is a fairground with a Ferris Wheel, a Chair-O-Plane, what I take to be a Roundabout, one or two other small stalls, and, rather unusually, a larger building marked Tunnel of Love in large letters above a cupid. Only the facade is visible which is perhaps just as well because a small boy and a small girl are playing with the models; but no, it must be OK because Mum's there sewing and Dad too, smoking his pipe. All the models are basically frameworks but some of the walls and roofs appear to be filled in with unperforated sheeting, some with a striped finish and some plain. Over the entrance gate are the words 'MARY and JOEY'S ..... ACTS'.

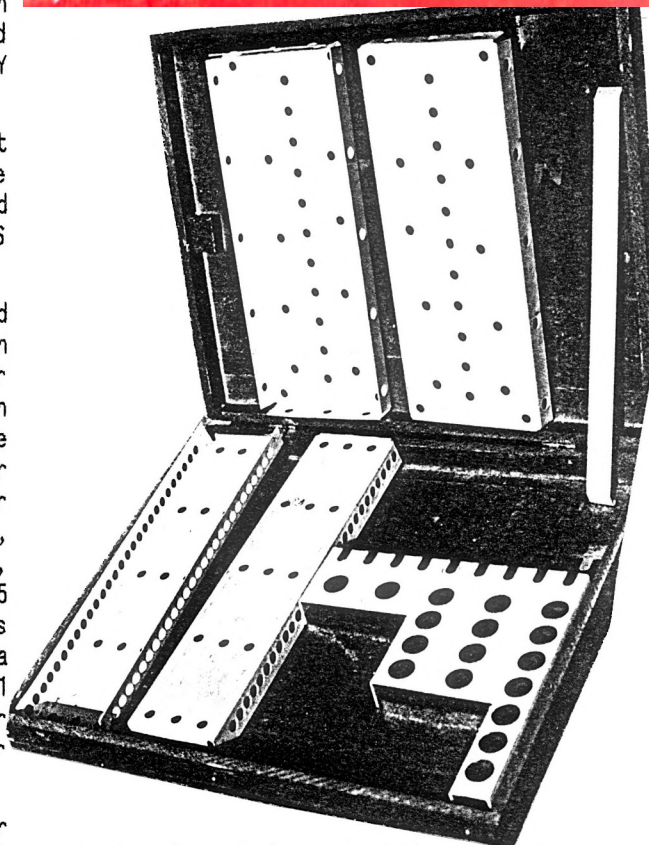
The whole scene is called the Family Carnival Project and it can be 'built with the basic set plus spare parts'. The Set is designated 'BASIC SET model A', and the full address of Tucker Toys Inc is given, 2496 Amsterdam Avenue, New York 33, N.Y.

Now for what's in the box. First, sadly, no Rods and no Couplings, just two types of Flanged Plates, an unperforated Strip with formed ends, and another Flanged Plate with  $\frac{5}{8}$ " holes in it. All are shown in the photo opposite and all are made of aluminium. The larger 'normal' Plate measures  $10 \times 3\frac{7}{8} \times \frac{11}{16}$ ", the other  $10\frac{3}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$ ". The smaller holes are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " dia; their spacing differs between the various rows of holes, 21.1mm along the centre holes in the large Plate, 60.0mm along the centre row of the small one, and 54.5 and 8.6 (average) for the holes in the longer flanges of the two Plates. None of those seem to have a fractional or decimal equivalent except that 21.1 could be  $\frac{5}{8}$ ". Also the pattern of holes in the outer rows of the large Plate are not regular in either direction.

I suppose there must be a little doubt as to whether the parts in the box are genuine, but assuming that they are, the Flanged Plates could have been bases for the rides although none are visible on the lid. The irregular hole spacing may have had a purpose, not best Liverpool practice perhaps but ERECTOR were never loathe to introduce a new part when it was expedient to do so, and then it's only a small step to putting holes just where they are needed. But what of the Plate with the large holes, Richard suggested that it might have been part of the packing and was meant to hold the Couplings. Possible, if the Rod was  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to fit the smaller holes, the Couplings could easily be  $\frac{5}{8}$ " dia.

End of story so far except that in his listing of some American Sets, Joseph E. Freed gives a date of 1936, and the manufacturer as Farmingdale Aircraftsmens Mfg. Co., Farmingdale, New York. He also mentions 4 Sets with aluminium parts intended to make carnival rides, but that other models were also possible. I'll prepare some Extra MCS Sheets in due course but I'll delay them until the OSN 11 batch in case anyone can shed more light on TECHNICAL TRAINER in the meantime.

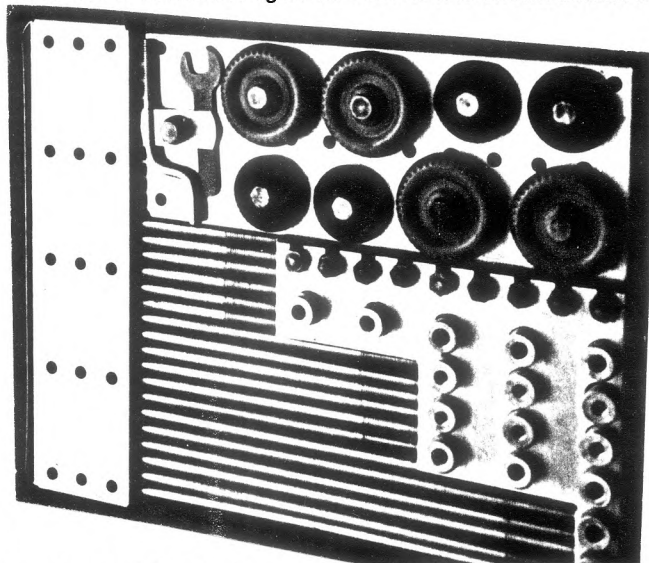
AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6: NAME: TECHNICAL TRAINER. TYPE: RT. CY: U.S.A.





**TECHNICAL TRAINER** Some brief notes on this system appeared in 10/264 based on Richard Symond's set, which contained only a few parts and no manual. Kendrick Bisset has now acquired the same 'Basic Set model A', but complete with most of the parts & the manual. With a few parts from Richard, he's been able to reconstruct a near complete set, and has kindly sent the following account of it:

"The box is about 10\*14\*2 1/8", and is as shown in OSN 10, with 'edges' around both the bottom & the lid. The label on the lid is identical. A general view of it is shown below. It



appears that the duplicate plates in Richard's set probably came from a second outfit, as there would be no room to fit them in the box, and the manual shows only one of each. Two of the Plates are simply packaging: the one with the large holes is for the couplings, called Terminals, and is fastened to the box; the one with closely spaced holes in the flanges is to hold the Rods. The unperforated Strip shown in OSN 10 clips over a long edge of this Plate to prevent the Rods falling through when the plate is tilted up to put Rods in or take them out. The third is called a Basestand and is held in place by a small wooden block - in the box it has the Wheels, Washers, Crank Handle and the Wrench bolted to it; but it is also used as a base in some of the models.

The parts, including the packing Plates, are aluminum unless noted otherwise, and consist of 1/4" Rods, threaded for 1 1/4" at each end or, in the case of the 3" & 1" (the latter plated steel), along their whole length. Other lengths are 12", 9", & 6". The Crank is about 3 3/4" long overall & has a transverse hole for a string. The Basestand is 4\*10\*3/4", and is made of .040" sheet. The peculiar hole arrangement in it, mentioned in OSN 10, is to allow the Wheels to be mounted for storage; the evenly spaced row along the center of the plate are on .825" centers, (why such a strange dimension?), and the other holes are at different spacings, all seemingly arbitrary. Wheels are painted black plastic, the 2" diameter red & the 1 1/2" diameter blue. Terminals are of 3 varieties: using the terminology in the manual, they are an 8 Hole with a smooth longitudinal bore and 3 tapped cross bores, and two types of 6 Hole, one with a smooth and one with a tapped longitudinal bore. Both have one smooth and one tapped cross bore. All the cross bores are in one plane so the 3 in the 8 Hole are at 60° to each other, and the 6 Hole ones are at right angles. All Terminals are .625" Ø & .875" long (5/8" x 7/8"); smooth holes are .26" Ø. The Bolts (1" long) & hexagonal Nuts are plated steel. All threads are 1/4"-20.

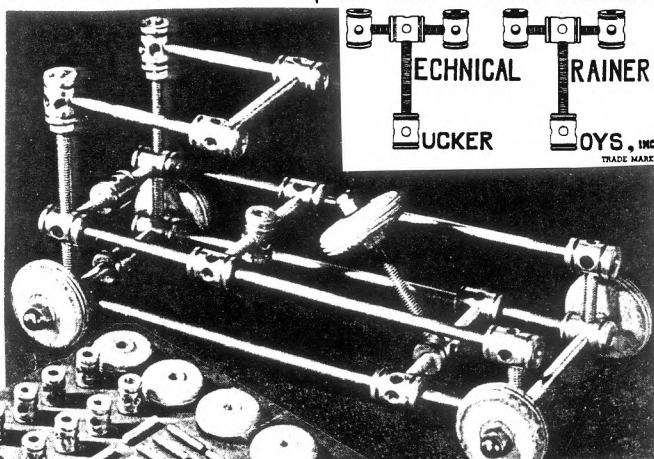
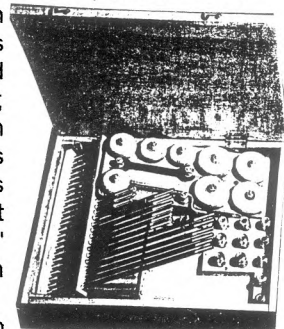
No quantities are given anywhere but as found the set contained a Basestand, 4 of each Wheel, 6 each of the 12", 9" & 6" Rods, 10 & 5

of the 3" & 1" Rods, 5x 8 Hole & 6 each of the 6 Hole Terminals, 13 Bolts, 32 Nuts, and 4 Washers.

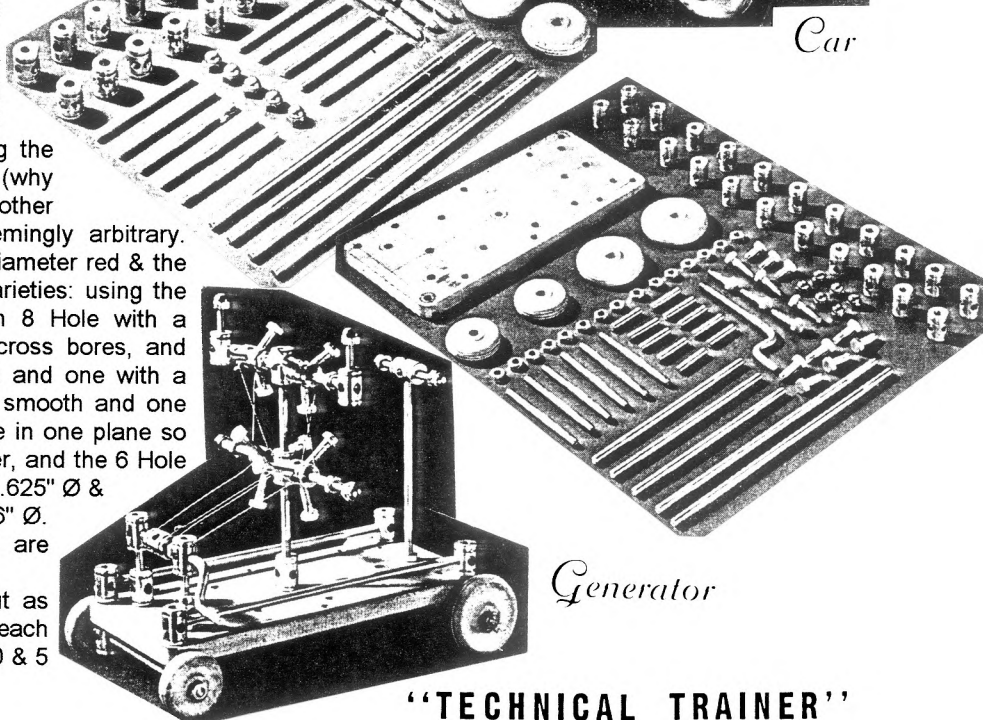
The manual seems to be quite a find - no one I know who has a set has seen a manual. It has 20 pages a little less than 7\*10", printed in black and white, with photographs of the set and of 12 models. At the back is a price list of the individual parts but the quantities in the set aren't given. No mention is made (there or elsewhere) of the 2 types of 6 Hole Terminal, or of the Crank Handle, although it is used in several models.

The outfit shown seems to be an earlier or pre-production set with a plain box lid without a 'lip', and with no sheet metal parts. A photo of it from the back cover of the manual is shown opposite. The Basestand and Wheels seem to be made of wood; the Terminals are housed in holes in a thick block of wood; and the Rods locate in strips of wood. The Wheels are arranged differently, and my set contains more Terminals, Bolts or 1" Rods, and 6" Rods than are shown in the manual pictures.

Each model in the manual also has a photograph of the required parts all nicely arranged. The Car and Generator below are among the more complex models, and among the parts for the Generator can be seen the wooden Base, and some Acorn Nuts. The latter, along with ordinary ones, are used in several models but are neither listed in the parts list nor included in my set. One of the models, the 'Traveling Rotator', uses 27 Terminals, against the 14 in the set illustration in the manual, or the 17 in my outfit. The same model requires more 3" Rods than are



*Car*



*Generator*

available, too. Other models are similarly overly ambitious for the set. There may have been larger sets, but no mention of any others is made in this manual. All of the models seem very skeletal, possibly natural for a rod system. Perhaps TECHNICAL TRAINER might best be characterized as a metal Tinkertoy set although the Basestand is the major departure from the Tinkertoy concept, and triangular constructions would be more difficult. Set quantities are not given in the parts listing.

The name in the manual is Tucker Toys Inc., 2496 Amsterdam Avenue, New York 33, N.Y., but a slip headed

'Announcement' has been stuck on the front cover, saying that 'Effective May 27, 1946 Tucker Toys Inc. has no further interest in this item'. It goes on 'M'd By Farmingdale Aircraftsmen Mfg. Corp., Farmingdale, New York, Distributed By Herman M. Kruse & Associates, St. Louis, Missouri'. Farmingdale is on Long Island about 30 miles from downtown New York City, and St. Louis is perhaps 900 miles away! Farmingdale Aircraftsmen are listed in the 1946 & 1949 editions of the Industrial Directory of New York State as manufacturers of pumps, compressors, etc.'

**MEK-STRUCT Sets in the UK** Early this year Bill Charleston bought an Emergency Vehicle 300 Set reduced to £10.99 from an Index catalogue shop. He was sufficiently impressed by the price, and the quality of the parts, to ask the distributors, Red Robin Toys Ltd., about other outfits. In a reply from the Customer Services department the following sets were said to be available:

- **Mek-Bots** (Robotic Warriors). 4 sets - Defender, Attacker, Protector, & Destroyer (600 parts).
- **Mek-Trax** (Construction Movers); 550 or 388 parts.
- **Space Vehicle Sets** with 560 or 300 parts.
- **Emergency Vehicles Sets** with 560 or 300 parts.
- **General Construction Sets**; 210, 270, 370 or 450 parts.

They also said that spare parts could be supplied but no price list was as yet available. Red Robin's address is Robin House, Tresam Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough, PE2 6SG; phone/fax 01733 371170/370818. Bill also asked where he could buy the sets but the only outlet Red Robin named was Index.

Index have had various sets in the past but none are included in their Spring 1998 catalogue. Gordon Finch wrote that the Autumn 1996 Index catalogue showed the 300 part Emergency Vehicle Set at £24.99, a £14.99 210 part General Outfit, & a £4.99 169 part Set to make a Go-Cart, not mentioned by Red Robin. In the Spring 1997 edition the price of the 300 had been reduced to £17.99, and only the 210 & 169 were in the Autumn 1997 issue.

Most of the sets above have been mentioned already in OSN, with accounts of some of them, see 12/310, 14/392, 15/426, 16/443. But the MEK-BOTS - does anyone know anything of them?

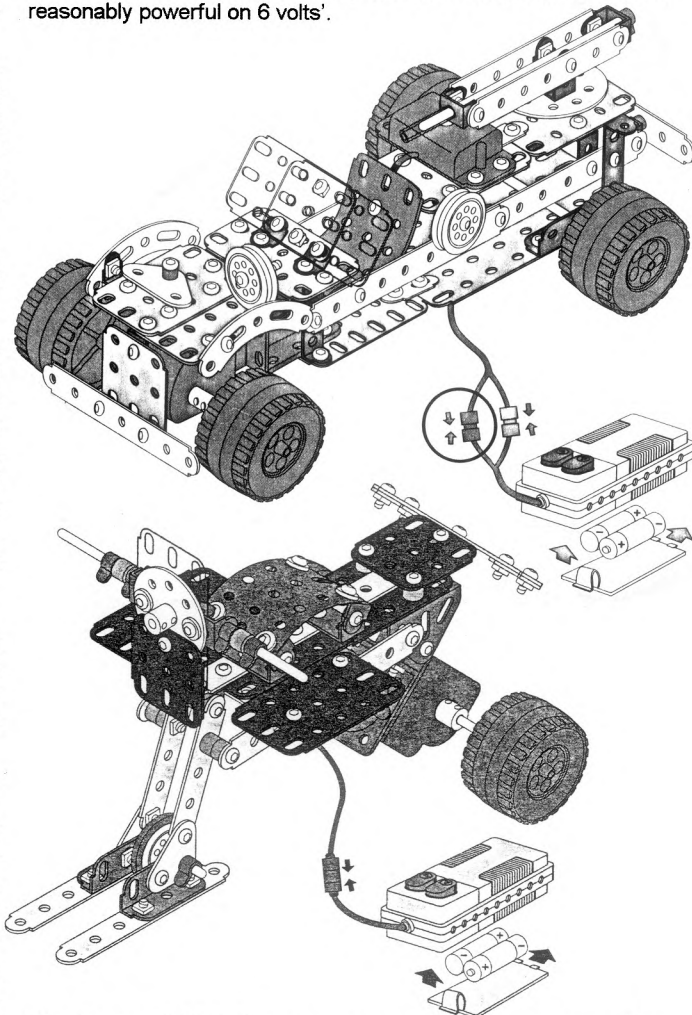
**The Emergency Vehicles Set 300** At my local Index the only way to know that the 300 was still available was to ask, and I bought one for £10.99 (Stock No. 420-231). The (over) large box (16½"×11½"×2½") is basically orange with photos of the models on top and bottom. Also on it: Item No.3630; the Hong Kong address of Artin; and on a stick on label, Toytime Limited, Cams Lane, Off Harper Fold Road, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 05W. This address is also on a slip in the box as that of Artin's UK Service Centre, with a phone/fax: 0161 7234451/7246808. Presumably they were Red Robin's predecessors.

The top of the box is transparent, covered by a hinged flap, and the parts are in recesses in a foam block which is inserted through the end of the box. Many parts are in a black plastic box (9"×4½"×¾") with a clear cover. The packaging isn't very convenient because the transparent top is an integral part of the box, and the foam block has to be taken out to get at the parts.

A little over half of the 311 parts in the Set are N&B, and the rest include the Motor/Gearbox with Light Unit (GBE), Battery Box, and a good selection of 32 Strips/DAS, 36 Brackets, and 17 Plates. The parts are as described in OSN 12 & 14 with the following amplifications/differences. • The **Coupling**, and the boss of the **Bush Wheel**, the only bossed part, are brass, 9.0mm Ø, and single-tapped M3. The Coupling's dimensions are as in 16/459. The bore of both parts is 4.06 mm and they are thus a nice fit on the Axles. • 1 lug of the **Reversed Angle Bracket** has a slotted hole. • All the metal **Plates** are red. • The 'Tyre', W3 is a black **Plastic Ring**. • The **Bush Wheel** is nickel plated. • The thread of some N&B is still poor but 9 extra of each were found in the Set. The **Spanner** now fits the Nuts properly. • The black **Light/Sound Unit** is permanently wired to the Motor: its red light shines steadily only while the Motor is running but the wailing noise continues for a few seconds after it is turned off. • The **Spring Clip** is thick black plastic with adequate grip. • The **Hook** is of black plastic too and isn't heavy enough. • The short length of **Cord** is black and rather thin.

**The manual** (P/N 3205170 on the back cover) is the usual small format style with 16 pages plus covers. Most of the text on

the front cover, there's none inside, is, like that on the box, in English, French, German, Dutch & Spanish. The 3 models in it are the typical, rather characterless, small M-K & STEEL TEC type. The best one is shown below (under the Ski-Runner), and, from a Leaflet that Chas. Shrubsole kindly contributed, it's a motorised version of the #3213 Foam Injector (224) mentioned in 14/392. The featured model is a Fire Engine and it's badly designed - the front Wheels run in 2 Strips ½" apart, the whole of the back with the ladder on it is attached to the main structure by 1 N&B on each side, and said ladder is at a fixed angle, neither up nor down, though it does rotate in plan. The heavy cable linking the Motor/Sound Unit is difficult to hide away on all the models, and doesn't improve their appearance. However the 3v Motor is powerful enough, with the 69:1 reduction in the gearbox, to make them move along smartly, even on carpet, and Bill wrote that it 'seems reasonably powerful on 6 volts'.



**The General 270 Set** Josep Bernal kindly sent a copy of an identical 300 manual from Spain, and also one from the General 270 Set. The contents of this set are probably similar to the one described in 12/311 but are not identical. And they aren't very different to those of the 300 above except that there's no Sound/Light Unit and no large Plates. The manual (in English only with no Ref. No.) is markedly different to the earlier 270, with only 16 of the small size pages and 5 models. 3 of them are similar to ones in the earlier manual but the other two are more interesting - a Biplane and the Ski-Runner above. It won't be clear but the handle-bars/skis are free to turn.



**Corrections** Under KONSTRUKTOR-MEKHANIK in 21/618, '18/566' in the 2<sup>nd</sup> line should be '18/499'.

## ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. From Werner Sticht. A complete list of all the **Walther** (of STABIL, etc. fame) **patents & DRGMs**, from 1898 through 1933, that he has compiled. In fact he was able to search to 1943 but there weren't any after 1933. Some of the points of interest: • Walther's first metal system was the **INGENIEUR** sets (see 7/164, 19/550), and a DRGM application (#253288) for the **Bifurcated Clips** that were used to fasten the parts together was made on June 16<sup>th</sup> 1904. On the same date application was made for the 5 DRGMs quoted in 13/348 but their numbers are 248034 to 248038, and not 249934-38 as given in OSN 13. • The DRGM application, #289896, for the wooden **RECORD** parts, (mentioned in 13/348) was made in July 1906. • DRGM 473572, for the use of **Threaded Rods** as axles or connecting rods in a constructional toy with Strips & A/Gs having equi-spaced holes, was made in June 1911. STABIL, which used such Threaded Rods, with Wheels, etc held on them by Nuts, had been launched some time before that, and they were used in the earlier INGENIEUR, so it is surmised that something must have alerted Walther to the need to protect his use of them. Had he become aware of MECCANO, with its less satisfactory tongued Clip method of fixing Wheels to Rods that was still being used in 1911? • March 1913 saw the application for DRGM 548483, subject a **Flanged Plate** with the centre punched out. This suggests that the transition from Period 1a to 1b (see 19/548) was in 1913.

• The date of **introduction of STABIL** is further confused by a wholesaler's catalogue, believed to be from 1911, (courtesy Tobias Mey, via Thomas Morzinck) for the 'Neu! Ingenieur-Bauspiel STABIL' with metal parts. What was new if STABIL had already been on sale for some years isn't clear - new to the wholesaler perhaps. At any rate 5 sets were advertised, with no set numbers, only the sizes of the boxes. The smallest was cardboard, and the others wood, with the largest measuring 46\*29\*4½cm. Also listed are 2 sets (Stabil - Spezialspiele) to build Railway Wagons. From the details given it is likely that the range was Sets 49 to 53, plus the Railway Sets 60 & 61 (Railway Sets 59-63, from 1914, were mentioned in 13/348).

• On the date of **MINIATUR** (see 17/468), it was not in a dealers' catalogue printed for the toy fair in the Spring of 1914, but it was very probably introduced before Xmas of that year, under the name STABIL MINIATUR. Thomas Morzinck has seen a box and a manual belonging to Tobias Mey, both with this name on them, and though the contents of the Set are as later, the Manual has fewer models for both Sets 20 & 21, than the © 1915 one. It is supposed that the name was changed because customers thought that, particularly because of its low price, STABIL MINIATUR meant a small STABIL set, and then found that they had bought a different system with parts that were not compatible with STABIL.

A pointer to when MINIATUR was being developed is that the DRGM for the Flanged Sector Plate was applied for on May 14<sup>th</sup> 1914. This part was not introduced into STABIL proper until 1921.

Probably production of MINIATUR ceased in the 1920s but it may have resumed in the mid-1930s. It was advertised in a 1936 brochure, possibly as a reaction to Märklin's MARBI (see 10/246). No changes were ever made to the models in the 1915 version of the manual.

2. From David Hobson. • A reply from **Trix** to an enquiry last October said that their constructional set programme had ceased but that some parts were still available.

3. Clive Weston wrote that he had obtained a copy of **Baukästen** (see 21/601) from www.Amazon.de at a total cost of about £21.

4. Kendrick Bisset wrote that he now has another **TECHNICAL TRAINER** set (see 19/528), and the label on the lid has 'F. A. M.' instead of 'TUCKER TOYS' in the white 'T' (see 10/264) with a small 'CO' underneath instead of 'INC'. And the address on the lower edge of the label is for Farmingdale Aircraftsmen instead of Tucker Toys. The corners & top edges of the FAM box are rounded, but otherwise it is similar in construction to the TUCKER one.

5. From Peter Kessler. Apart from the La Manche Set (see 21/595) **Märklin** have 10 other '**specials**' currently listed. Most are railway items but of possible interest are a 60cm long metal Zeppelin from the 1930s (#11400), and a Fire Engine with Tender (#19035). [The Zep is probably non-constructional; the Fire Engine looks like a long van with a ladder on its roof, and is said to be 'auf Basis des Auto-Baukastens'.] Peter said that delivery of these items was uncertain, and that he hadn't yet been able to order any of the cheap parts mentioned in 21/595.

6. An interesting **MECCANO X** item from Tony Press, copies of the front & back of a Liverpool X2 Model Leaflet, 13/1037/5, with the text in both English & French. On the front the top panel is the same as the LIF one in 16/446, and the text (English in the LH column, French in the right) is the same as that of a 1932 'X' one. The back shows 6 'Super Models' as on the 1932 'X' Leaflet except that the 2 additional centre models of the latter are omitted to make room for the Lists of 'X' parts in the 2 languages. [Despite Tony sending it from Australia, I suppose this Leaflet might have been for the Canadian market.]

7. Ron Michalowski wrote that the 6 page **ERECTOR Booklet** described in 21/593, did bear the reference M 973.

8. Jacques Pitrat sent a picture from ebay of a 'new' system, **PERFECTOR**.

The models above the name on the manual cover (right) are a Loco, a Lorry, a Marine Engine, and a Railway Signal, but nothing can be seen of the individual parts. The box

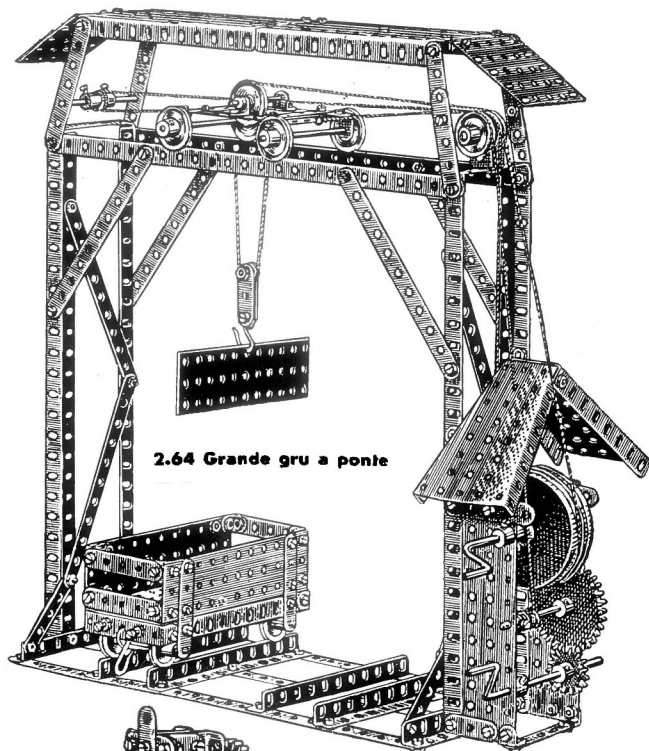


has a similar label on the lid. It was described as being German but *Baukästen* says that it was Austrian, made in Vienna by Kappl & Trubrig in 1948. How long it lasted isn't stated but the firm stopped making toys in the 1950s. No other details are given. [Since the above was written Kendrick Bisset has sent more details which will be included in OSN 22.]

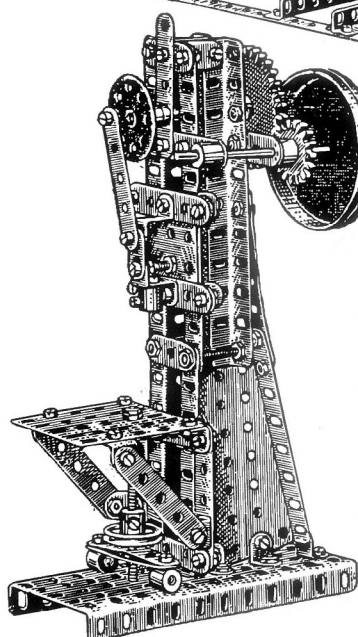
9. From Don Redmond. • A brass Flanged & Grooved Wheel with a tread almost conical, and a very smooth curve from flange to tread, is believed to be early **AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER**. Can anyone confirm?

• After removing the nickel MECCANO & AMB parts from a **STRUCTOMODE** No.3 box, the remainder are believed to be original, and include the following. ½ & ¾" tinplate Pulleys without Boss, the ¾" with 4 peened over tabs in the centre hole, the ½" with 3. Strips erratic in their punching and in the form of the ends, with punching burrs on almost every hole. One of 4 Windmill Sail with the holes too close to the outer end. Double Brackets of heavy strip and noticeable higher than MECCANO. A bright nickel 5\*11h Flanged Plate, out of square in both sheet & hole punching, with the flange holes on one side distinctly above the midline of the flange, (as in the MCS illustration). 2 bright, and one dull nickel Flanged Sector Plates, with 'slanted' or irregularly punched flange holes. However there is a possibility that the bright Flanged Plates are from a different set/system. These parts are of a much poorer standard than some other parts known to be STRUCTOMODE.





2.64 Grande gru a ponte



2.47 Pressa ad eccentrico

**FAI Meccanica**

In all there is a good selection of reasonable to good models and each has a clear line drawing and Parts List. Many, probably most, are adapted copies of models from other systems, and in some cases the original illustrations have been used. In these, and in some of the 'adaptations', parts are shown that are not in the Sets, but the Parts Lists include substitutes that would allow the model to be built successfully, albeit with a little difficulty. Two of the MECCANO models that

haven't been altered at all are a Tower Wagon and an Inclined Delivery Chute, and they didn't appear in MECCANO manuals after 1929 & 1922 respectively.

2 of the better models are shown above & a number of 'foreign' parts can be seen in them. It's possible of course that some could be FAI parts from the larger sets - the PNs listed in the Manual are 13-60 with Nos.20,35,36 unused.

**SUMMARY OF MANUAL** •Name: FAI Meccanica. •No details of maker/dates/Ref Nos. •Page size: 205\*152mm deep. •No. of pages: 48 inc covers. •Language: Italian. •Printing: line drgs of models; cover as lid label. •Page Nos. of Ill. Parts List/Set Contents & highest PN: 4-6, 60. •Sets covered: 0,1,2. •No. of models for each set: 22,37,28. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 0: letter E, not named, 0,1,7; Agitatore d'aria,0,80,42. 1: Pinza da meccanico, 1,6,8; Scala pieghevole su carro,1,85,45. 2: Accoppiamenti di ingranaggi,36,19; Carro a torre ripieghevole,2,87,46. •Other notes: •Details from photocopy. •No 00 models are shown though the IFC has 'LIBRETTO D'ISTRUZIONE (per le scatole nn. 00 - 0 - 1 - 2)' •The models aren't in numerical order. •The first No.2 model is labelled .36. •PR on IFC: Organizzazione Stab. Umbria - mod. 170 - UNI A4 - Nova Tipografia.

**And More To Come** Umberto hopes to sent some details of certain other Italian systems - STAR and ITALMECC (both 'new'), VULCANO (as in MCS), FALCO (with DINKY BUILDER type parts, mentioned in 5/83), and LETRIXMEC (the name was given in 9/227). He also has more on the ALPHA KANONEN Set (see 17/476).

OSN 23/658

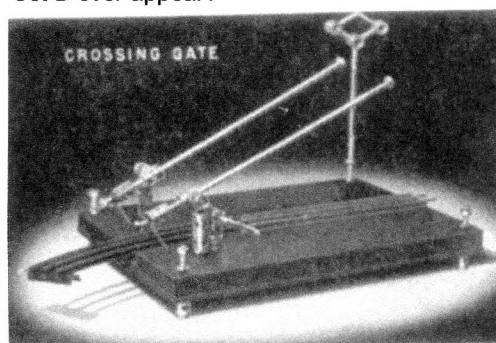
**TECHNICAL TRAINER** As mentioned in 22/650, a set with a Farmingdale Aircraftmen label has now been found, and Kendrick has kindly sent copies of the literature that was with it. The main item is a Model Leaflet, 8½\*22" folded in half, which was stapled to the inside of the box lid. The top of the front page (below) is a photo similar to the lid label, see 10/264, with the fairground photo, and the logo with 'T' on the blueprint, (with F.A.M. on it as explained in OSN 22). The missing word over the entrance is 'Carnival'. Above the photo is 'PAT. PENDING', which wasn't on the Tucker label. Under it is 'BASIC SET - Model "A"'. Under the photo is text extolling the virtues of the system. More of that on the next page, under, in large letters, 'Ask about the DE LUXE ADVANCED TRAINER SET "B" for 1947 / POWERFUL ELECTRIC MOTOR WILL BRING LIFE TO YOUR CREATIONS / NEW PULLEYS AND BELTS - MANY ADDED PARTS'. Nothing is known of this development.

The third page has small photos of 11 small models, all new and generally much simpler than those in the Tucker manual. Some are more realistic and others are more utilitarian, including a Picture Frame, a Step Ladder, & a Spinning Top. A Crossing Gate & a Dancing Man are shown below. Under the models are the names of the maker and distributor, as in 19/529; the Kruse address is given as 301 Forest Av., St. Louis (19). The back page is blank. No indication of the set contents is given except that above the models is '113 Individual Parts - 17 Different Parts'.

Stapled to the bottom of the box inside was a price list of spare parts. All the Tucker List parts are there, plus the 3<sup>rd</sup> type of Terminal & the Crank Handle. Another part not in the Tucker list is a Hook (though it isn't used in any of the models), and that makes the 17 referred to in the Model Leaflet. Also in the List are 3 parts that are probably used to hold the rest of the parts in the box: Rack, Rod; Strip, Rod Retainer; & Clamp. There's also a 'Box Assembly', perhaps the box itself: at \$3.38 it costs some 5 times as much as all the preceding 3 'packaging parts' together.

The prices of the parts are much less than in the Tucker list, with the Terminals reduced from 50¢ to 19¢, the 12" Rod from 25 to 16¢, and the Large Wheel from 20 to 6¢.

How long did TECHNICAL TRAINER survive, and did Set B ever appear?



DANCING MAN



**EDITORIAL** The Index for OSN 1-30 & the revised Database are both now available. The Database has 56 pages, too many to staple together easily, so it is in two parts, with the basic alphabetical sort in one and every thing else in the other. For prices please see the Small Ads overleaf (the Database is cheaper than forecast because of an arithmetic misfortune on my part). The basic alphabetical sort of the Database is also now on the web site but I've yet to find a way of printing off the righthand side of the landscape A3 pages on an A4 printer. Expert advice welcome. Still on the Database, if you ordered a copy and haven't received it, please let me know (this time it was a spilt tea misfortune which made part of my list illegible).

My stock of some OSN back numbers has run out, and their replacements will be in the form of loose, double-sided A4 sheets made by scanning the original masters. As explained in 31/939 it is easy to make such sheets into the stapled, folded A3 style, and the quality of the scanned photos is nearly always better than the original photocopies.

I am now using the OpenOffice word processor for OSN, with .sxw ending files. There is no problem about opening WORD files in OpenOffice but OpenOffice users sending me files need no longer save them in WORD format. In passing, for anyone not familiar with OpenOffice, it is a free download suite including a spreadsheet, a drawing tool, etc. My experience of the word processor in producing this Issue is that although not perfect it is overall rather better & easier to use than WORD, especially with regard to graphics.

## Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. Don Redmond noted a Crank Handle, apparently **VOGUE**, with a diameter of 3.48mm, against the normal  $3.66 \pm 0.01$ . 1 of the 6 to hand here was anomalous at 3.57, and 1 of 6 Axles at 3.76, but I can't guarantee that they are actually genuine VOGUE parts.

### VOGUE: S2

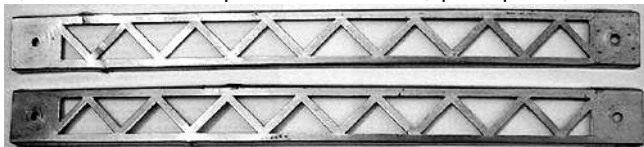
[32/940]

2. Don also wrote of some **MASTER BUILDER** parts, see 16/450. The 25h Angle Girder has 4.3mm holes in each, 15mm wide, arm, and square corners. The 5 & 25h Strips have large-radius ends. The 4h Disc, #19, is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Ø. All these parts, and a 5\*11h Flanged Plate are tinplate, grey with age, but the Road Wheel, #30 ( $2\frac{3}{4}$ " Ø, not the 3" in the Parts List), is black enamelled, and its 8 face holes are at  $\frac{3}{4}$ " radius.

### MASTER BUILDER: S3

[32/940]

3. Jacques Pitrat sent notes on early 12" **ERECTOR** Girders. The first ones in 1913 (they had edges with narrow flanges rather than the V-formed type introduced in 1914) were handed, as shown in the photo below. Most, perhaps all, handed



ERECTOR parts had separate PNs, but not in this case, and it may be that the handing was not deliberate but depended on how the part was handled in the production process. This could explain why the number of each hand found in lots/sets is never equal. Handed Girders with the new type of edge also

exist, witness those in the 1914 No.1 set on p51 in *Greenberg*, but this is the only example known and those in the 1914 No.7 on p52 are all of the hand seen in all later sets. No doubt a change in the production method eliminated the possibility of handed parts. However this meant that it was not possible to get 'double-bracing' by laying one Girder on top of another of opposite hand (see 15/400). It also meant that 2 sides of a model could not be made to match, in a Bridge for instance, although in most cases this would not matter. Going back to the 1913 parts, double-bracing could be obtained by placing 2 Girders of the same hand with their flat faces together.

### ERECTOR [1 & 2]: S1

[32/940]

4. From John Wapshott. In addition to the parts mentioned in 31/909, John has a Canadian 'Eagle' **LIL'N'GINEER** set (see 27/782). The box measures  $12\frac{1}{4} \times 14\frac{5}{8} \times 2$ " and its lid & model leaflet are as described in OSN 27.

### LIL'N'GINEER: S2

[32/940]

5. Orion DreamDancer wrote that there are two types of 1" x  $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 Bolt in both of his Farmingdale Aircraftmen Mfg. Co. **TECHNICAL TRAINER** sets (see 19/528 & 23/658). They are similar but one has 'STRONGHOLD' across the top of the head in slightly raised letters, and is threaded all the way to the head, while the other head is unmarked and has about  $\frac{3}{16}$ " of the plain shank under it.

Orion also kindly sent an example of the Hook mentioned in 23/658. It is a flat 'S' type, made of 2.7mm Ø dull plated wire, and is 30mm long o/a.

### TECHNICAL TRAINER: S1

[32/940]

6. Werner Sticht has added to his web site about **STABIL**, [www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu](http://www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu), with more on the parts, the Motors, the period 1921-28, the Inventor sets, prices of sets etc in many years to allow precise dating, etc, etc. Werner hopes to add an English version one day.

### STABIL: S2

[32/940]

7. From Don Redmond, about two manuals for the Canadian **YOUNG ENGINEER** system. This system hasn't been mentioned in OSN before but like CONSTRUCTO (see 30/876A, 22/651 & earlier) which succeeded it in 1980, it consisted of 6 sets made up in Canada by Paramount Industries from 1978 to 1980, using MERKUR parts. (Another similar system not previously mentioned is BUILD-O which succeeded or ran alongside CONSTRUCTO in 1981-82.)

The Y E manual covers seen are all like the No.3 shown in MCS (with a Lathe on the front, YOUNG ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTION SET MANUAL above it and MANUEL DE CONSTRUCTION DU JEUNE INGÉNIEUR below— all in B&W but with the outfit number in red). All the models are shown as line drawings with names & numbers. Although the covers are bilingual the model names & notes inside are in English only.

The No.1 has a single sheet inside the covers, 9\*13" in vertical format, folded once to give 4 landscape pages and stapled on the top long side to the matching covers. 37 models are shown but the model numbers are not in sequence, with Nos.1-7 & 12 on the last page.

The No.6 has 11 similarly folded sheets inside the covers with the No.1 sheet the outermost one. Model numbers on the

**EDITORIAL** Some years ago I wrote a short, outline history of metal constructional systems from the early days up to about the end of WW1. At the time it was for my own benefit but rereading it recently it occurred to me that an updated version might interest newcomers to the 'Other System' scene. I hope therefore to put it on the OSN web site in due course and if it proves useful I could perhaps gradually extend it to cover the later years. Comments on it and suggestions for improvements would be welcome.

### Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. Werner Sticht wrote that he made some major additions to his **STABIL website** ([www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu](http://www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu)) last November. These include: • A detailed description of Flat Strips & the Money Box (Sparbüchse). • More on brochures & ads since 1927. • Full details of Walther's INGENIEUR BAU-SPIEL (the first Walther metal system); STABILA (the metal sets for girls); STABIL from 1930-31 (Franz Walther's death), from 1932-43 (the period of the small sets), & from 1950-70 (from the restart after WW2 to the end). • More on the history, & the Knirps Motor. There are still some areas to be completed: ads, notes on some of the parts, more on the period 1911-19, the box sizes, and a new list of the manuals, etc.

Werner also wrote that he would like to get more information for his web site about a STABIL Nr.60 Eisenbahnwagen Baukasten which 'allsystems21' bought on Ebay last year. So if allsystems21 reads this and is willing to help please contact Werner at [werner.sticht@gmx.de](mailto:werner.sticht@gmx.de). Equally if anyone else knows allsystems21 please pass this request on to him.

### STABIL: S4

[36/1068]

2. **Snippet. 'New' System: STAHL-BAUKASTEN** Below the manual cover from this East German outfit. The line below the title has the makers name, VEB Kranbau Köthen. Köthen is



a town about halfway between Leipzig & Magdeburg and the company, founded in 1934, made, witness the man at the drawing board, cranes, and still does so. All that is known of the set itself can be seen in the model Crane the boys are making.

### STAHL-BAUKASTEN: S1

[36/1068]

3. Don Redmond has deciphered more of the words on the **MASTER MECHANIC** model page in 34/1034. The bottom lines read 'This is Gilbert's last effort to out-rival John in the construction of aeroplanes. Note super-structure on which is mounted a rapid-fire ....' (line not finished).

### MASTER MECHANIC: S2

[36/1068]

4. **Snippet: An Early TECHNICAL TRAINER Set** In 19/528 Kendrick Bisset noted that the photo of the set in the Tucker manual was in some ways unlike his set and might be an early or preproduction example. Its lid had no lip and the Wheels & internal fittings looked wooden. Since then two of these early sets have been seen on Ebay and one is shown



below. Its box is 11\*13¾", slightly larger than later. The Wheels don't have the tread of the later red & blue painted plastic ones and look more like painted wood than metal. The black marking inside the lid is the Tucker logo upside down; the top of the lid wasn't shown. Two model pages from the manual described in OSN 19 were shown with the Set. The second set is similar to the first but the Wheels are arranged exactly as the manual set, see OSN 19, and its lid seems not to be hinged. A manual cover identical to the OSN 19 one is shown over the centre of the lid and would hide the logo if there were one.

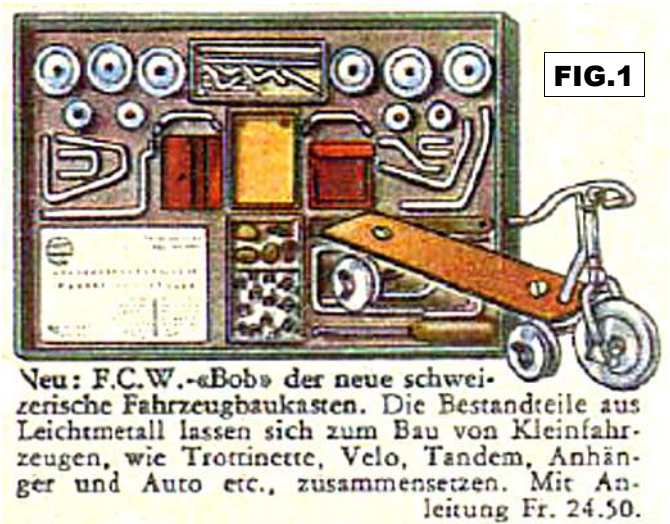
### TECHNICAL TRAINER: S2

[OSN 36/1068]

5. **Snippet. An Early Canadian ERECTOR Set** The Ebay photos were of an open wooden box with 2 layers of pre-1924 type parts loose on light green backing cards, a manual cover, and the label overleaf which reads 'This Canadian NUMBER

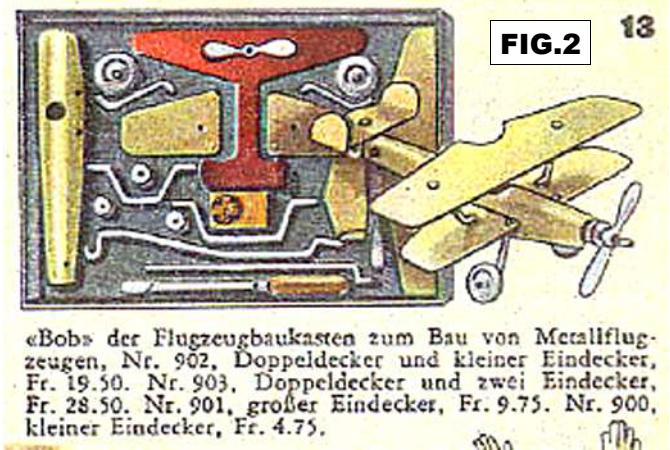


4. **Snippets. The Swiss BOB Theme Sets.** Details from Urs Flammer of the Fahrzeug-Baukasten were given in 41/1234 and now Urs has found the illustration below of the Set in a



1944/45 Franz Carl Weber catalogue. It is described there as being a new Swiss set, and it cost Fr.24.50. Its set number isn't given but the OSN 41 set was No.905. The standard Swiss BOB sets were introduced in 1943.

Also in the catalogue the previously unrecorded Flugzeugbaukasten below, again said to be newly introduced. In fact 4



sets 900-903 are listed for: a Small Monoplane; a Large Monoplane; a Biplane & a Small Monoplane; &, at Fr.28.50, a Biplane & 2 Monoplanes. Perhaps the illustration is of the No.902 & if so it seems that with the 2 wire Undercarriage Legs, & the 2 long Formed Rods under said Legs, both models could be made at the same time. That assumes that the basis of the Small Monoplane is the brown wing cum fuselage cum tail part top centre. The long Formed Rods would run the length of the fuselage with the Prop at the right end and the curly part of the longer one as a tail skid of the Biplane. More information on these sets very welcome. And was there ever a Set No.904?

**BOB [3]: S2** [41/1421]

5. **Snippet. TECHNICAL TRAINER.** It was said in 19/529 that from May 27, 1946 the maker was Farmingdale Aircraftsmen Mfg. Corp. & that distribution was by Herman M. Kruse & Associates, St. Louis. An 11/46 Popular Mechanics ad on Ebay recently had a photo which looked like a Set A and was offered at \$8.95. The ad was from Dynamic Electronics, New York,

Inc., 37W. 57th Street, N.Y. | 2 Park Avenue, N.Y. | Broadway at 65th ST. The mail order address was 1976 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y., though the '1976' is blurry.

**TECHNICAL TRAINER: S3** [47/1421]

6. **Snippet. 'New' System, BURSCHI.** Below the Ebay photo of the set which it was said was made in the DDR by a company called Burschi in the period 1945-50. Under the name on the lid is 'der bunte (the colourful) METALLBAUKASTEN'.

The parts have a MÄRKLIN look to them, though with only round holes in what



Flanged Disc Pulley (if indeed that part has a pulley groove). The Flanged Sector Plate is probably 8h long, as would be expected, and the long Strips & A/Gs probably 25h. Nothing really can be seen of the Brackets but some of the parts in the bottom right compartment are a puzzle. One looks to be a 1\*6\*1h DAS, and another a 1\*7h SAS, but neither are clear enough to be sure. There is a double-ended Spanner in the bottom centre bay.

Of the 4 models that can be seen I spotted 3 in a late 1930s MÄRKLIN manual. The one on the lid is the Set 2 Dieselmotor mit Schnellbohrmaschine, and the first 2 of the 3 on the tattered manual page are both No.1 models: Lastaufzug (Goods Lift) & Hauptsignal (Railway Signal).

**BURSCHI: S1** [47/1421]

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