

'New' System: TECO These notes are based on a No.IV set which was sold on Ebay from Uruguay, but was said to be Argentinian, and on a manual to hand, this time from Argentina. It will be seen that most of the parts have a resemblance to STABIL, & some look identical. (See 13/352-6 & 14/370 for details of the STABIL parts referred to below.

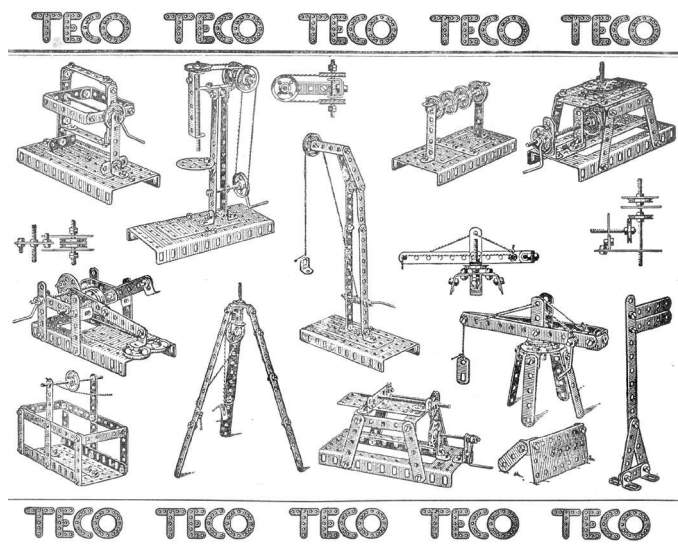
To start with **the MANUAL**. It is 264*187mm, and is for a small set but which one isn't stated anywhere. Nor is there an Introduction or any reference to a maker, just the cover below,



some constructional tips on C2 & C3, and 8 single-sided pages of models, 113 in all, from a 2-Prong Fork to a Porter's Barrow. p5 is shown right and the models are identical to those on a page in a STABIL manual for Set 48, except that the model names, numbers, & the explanatory text that was

The SET Below a general view and on the next page a close-up of some of the parts. The No.IV could have been based on a Nr.51 STABIL outfit but there are no Flanged Plates, or their pressed out middle Plates, and no 11h Strips can be seen. There seem too few of other Strips too, so perhaps there was another card of parts

with the auxiliary views have been omitted. The other 7 pages are also from the original 13 in the German manual. The Crane & Loco on the cover are STABIL models too but the Digger isn't, and some of the parts in it don't look like STABIL, particularly the 7h Flat Trunnion used to attach the bucket arm to the main jib, as in the enlarged view right. This model is similar in some ways to one in post-WW2 MÄRKLIN manuals.

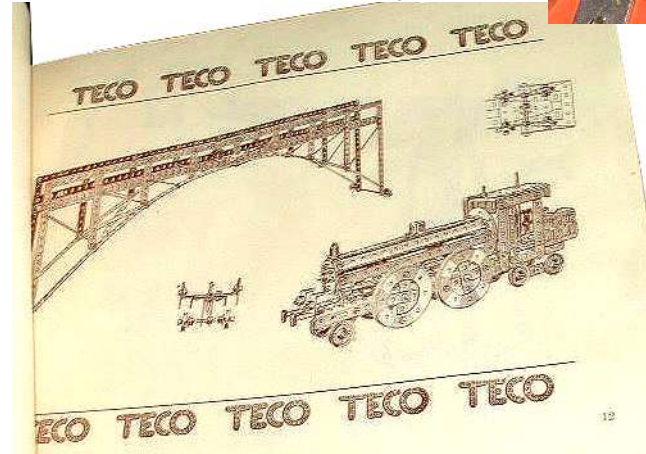


once. The box was said to be 16*19", and apart from the colour the lid label is identical to the manual cover above except that it has Marca Registrada in the bottom right corner.

A list of **the parts** that can be seen follows with comments where they differ from STABIL: ●2,4,2x 3,5,25h **Strips**. ●4x DAS. ●2x 5h **Curved Strips**, with 2x **Semi-Circular Strips**



under them (perhaps like the 'C' in TECO). They may be simplified versions of STABIL Inventor Set parts. ●2x 25h **A/G**. ●2 **Double Brackets**. ●A **Double Bent Strip**. ●2 **Corner Brackets**. ●4x 5h Ø **Flanged Rings**. ●2x 8h **Wheel Discs**. ●2 **Circular Plates or Rings** (under the Wheel Discs). They have extra holes in the outer ring as in the 'O' in TECO. ●4 **Flanged & Grooved Wheels** (inside the Flanged Rings). ●4x 2h Ø **Pulleys** (with no face holes) fitted with **Tyres**. ●2x 5h & 1x 11h **Slotted Plates**. ●1 each of 14 & 28t **Gears**, similar to the Bakelite version but they look like metal painted gold. ●4 **Collars**. ●The non-STABIL **Screwdriver & 2 Spanners**. ●The light blue **Flexible** (presumably) **Plates** on the separate card: 2 each of 5h*3,5,11h. Only the inner end holes are slotted. ●In the **N&B box**: Hex **Nuts & RH Bolts** of various lengths up to an



estimated 3cm. **A/Bs**. 2 **Reversed A/Bs** with a longer than usual centre section. 2 of the little **Grooved Cylinders** (the later STABIL type). A **Wire Crank**. ●No **Axles** or **Screwed Rods** can be seen anywhere.

The manual cover is like the '48' and the one inside page shown (p12 left) has 2 STABIL Nr.51 models on it, the Loco on the cover & a Bridge. The pages are again single-sided.

DATES None have been found but most of the 'imitation' Argentinian sets appeared in the decade after WW2. STABIL Flexible Plates were introduced in 1953 so that may be a pointer. The TECO/STABIL models shown are in both pre- & postwar STABIL manuals, but the Loco & Crane are the prewar versions - Flexible Plates were used in them later. The MÄRKLIN Digger mentioned earlier was probably introduced in 1957 but I've not seen earlier post-WW2 editions.

TECO: S2

OSN 34/1028

Snippet – The EDUCATIONAL METAL BUILDING SET

All the Ebay photos are shown here and the parts in the box are immediately recognisable as being similar to THE CONSTRUCTIONEER (see 9/206 & 26/779), a system made by the Urbana Manufacturing Company, Urbana, Ohio. No more detailed address is given in any of the the material to hand. The company on the envelope below is the Urbana



No.4 had only one Large Flanged Plate (the No.6 had 2 but more Pulleys & Tyres). Photos of later No.4 & 6 sets show them to contain two 11h A/Gs, and it's possible that these are hidden from view at the bottom of the box.

The 2 top photos on the sheet below the Set appear to be the lid (on the left) and the open box. (It's possible that the darker line along the bottom centre of the box are the pair of A/Gs - they were usually painted yellow.) The models below could well be made from THE CONSTRUCTIONEER parts but I've not found any that look similar in the two manuals to hand: an early edition, ©1946, with a boy playing with a Mobile Crane on the cover, and one, ©1948, with a boy, a girl, & a Chair-O-Planes model, as in OSN 9. So perhaps the



Engineering Co., 631 (or similar) Carwin Street, Urbana, Ohio. So an allied enterprise no doubt. From the parts that can be seen in the box it looks to have a similar content to a No.4 THE CONSTRUCTIONEER, except that the

models on the Sheet were created especially for the EDUCATIONAL METAL BUILDING SET.

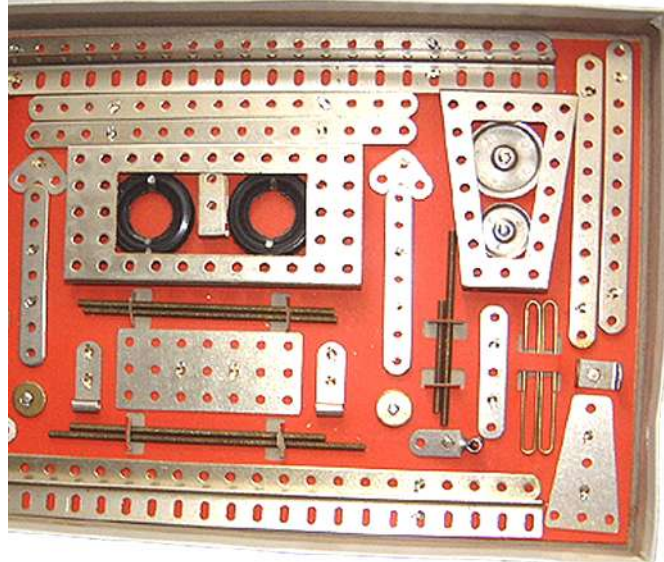
THE CONSTRUCTIONEER: S2

OSN 34/1028

EDITORIAL Apologies if this issue is a little later than usual getting to you, and for any slippages in future Newsletters which may occur. My enthusiasm remains undimmed, but less gets done each day as the years roll on, and I am finding some difficulty in producing an issue every six months. No need to make any decisions at the moment but perhaps one day it may be necessary to increase the interval between issues, or change to OSN appearing irregularly as each issue is completed. I'll give details on the OSN web site if significant delays in future issues are likely to occur.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. On **TECO**, see 34/1027, Jacques Pitrat has the No.IV Ebay set and confirmed that it is very similar in content to a STABIL Nr.51, with a second main card of parts, as below (symmetrical left & right). All the parts on it look like STABIL except that the Pulleys have no face holes. There are 4 of each size of



Flexible Plastic Plates on the small card. The parts are well made except that the gold paint is flaking off the 14 & 28t metal Gears. As might be expected from a STABIL inspired system the holes are 4.2mm Ø at 12.5mm pitch, and the thread is 5/32" BSW. The hex Nuts though are a little larger than STABIL. No Trunnion of any sort was in the Set.

TECO: S3 [35/1036]

2. Jacques also sent a reference to an excellent web site about **MIGNON**: www.mignonbaukasten.de/. It has pictures of all the sets, manual pages, leaflets, etc, as well as a history of the system, and photos of many attractive non-manual models. I hope to include a brief summary of the history at a later date.

MIGNON: S1 [35/1036]

3. Another web site worth mentioning, www.merkur.co.uk. The M8 set (see 21/613 & 27/790) is on sale there and full details of the set are shown, with excellent photos of the trays of parts, and all the pages of the manual including the illustrated set contents.

MERKUR[1]: S4 [35/1036]

4. **Snippet. 'New' System: WIMA.** Below the Ebay photos



of this small German system, said to be incomplete. I'm not sure if the red mark on the boy's sleeve is a tear in the label or a 'blot'. Most of the parts look conventional: 5 & 11h Strips, DAS, Angle & Flat Brackets, a 5*11h Flgd Plate, 2h Ø Pulleys, Axles, small hex Nuts, fillister Bolts, and a Spanner. There are 2 possible 'foreigners'. One, the two circular parts that look like ballraces, even if the Wheels of the Crane on the lid do seem to have some face holes. The other is the 'strip' whose end can be seen poking out aslant from below the end of the top 11h Strip in the photo. It looks to be flat on the bottom of the box and if so its holes are much nearer the edge than in the other Strips. Also 6 & 10h Strips can be seen on the lid but that may be artistic licence.

WIMA: S1 [35/1036]

5. Don Redmond wrote that he has seen **MEKANIX** sets (see 34/1009) in Canada with the name DOLLARAMA (a chain of 'dollar stores') on them and a Montreal postcode H4P 1M2. Also China as the country of origin. The boxes are 16½*11½*2½cm and the inside packaging is similar to that of the OSN 34 sets.

POLYLONG (MEKANIX): S8 [35/1036]

6. Also from Don, after a discussion with Kendrick Bisset. Tinplated Strips & Brackets, instead of nickel parts, may be found in **U.S. MECCANO** sets prior to the Elizabeth Meccano factory opening (and making tinplated parts) in 1922. They

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EDITORIAL I'm pleased that OSN has survived 25 years to reach No.50 and that it is still in good heart. Much ground has been covered and much remains to be explored, but for me at least it has been a fascinating journey, and I look forward to producing more Issues. None of this would have been possible without the support of both contributors & subscribers, and I would like to thank them all, not least for their patience now that it takes so much longer to produce each Issue.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **Snippet. TRONICO Dinosaurier Sets.** There are 3 of these outfits, all in the same vein. They are Tyrannosaurus



FIG.1

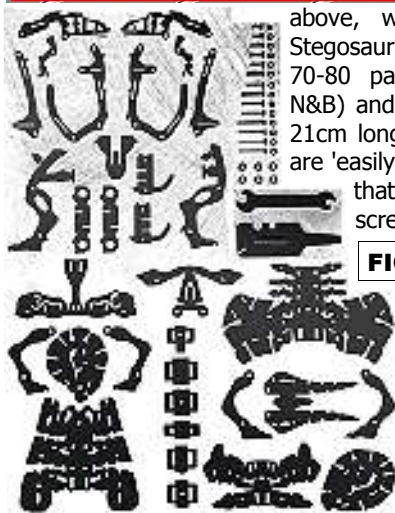


FIG.2

above, with its parts below it; Stegosaurus; & Triceratops. All have 70-80 parts (including 30 or so N&B) and all the models are about 21cm long. It is said that the parts are 'easily bendable' aluminium' and that 'the kits are only bent not screwed together'. So presumably the parts interlock after having been suitably bent, with the N&B at critical points. I wondered if the parts were ready formed but in an Ebay set they look flat, and the diagonal slot in the corner of the Screwdriver's handle

is probably an aid to bending.

These sets are sold (at €9 each) only by the shop attached to the TRONICO website, but sets to make identical models called METAL DINO, as below, have been seen on American Ebay. As can be seen the lids have OWIKIT in small letters in the bottom left corner. A Parts List sheet with one set is headed ROBOTIKITS & below it is 'This aluminum kit includes soft and hard aluminum plates. To give this kit your own



FIG.3

shape, bend the soft plates to a different position and/or angle according to your own ideas.' And the undersides of all the boxes, OWIKIT and TRONICO show the animal in several different postures.

TRONICO: S4

[50/1516]

2. **AUTOMAT.** Paul Goodman wrote (some time ago I'm sorry to say) that AUTOMAT had changed hands, and since June 2012 its new owner has been Knotech GmbH, Selitstraße 10, D-55234 Erbes-Büdesheim, a town about 50km away from the previous address.

The website [//www.compact-technik.de](http://www.compact-technik.de) gives details of the current range of sets & parts and I hope one day to update the review of AUTOMAT in 21/604 (that was in 1999) to include an outline of all the changes since then.

AUTOMAT: S2

[50/1516]

3. **METALLUS.** Paul Goodman also mentioned that this German system might be 'running down', and when I checked its website the only sets I could find were 3 of the earlier 7 basic sets, and one theme set, the Ploughing Engine. It was only practical to check on a few parts: all of the 3 categories of common parts I looked at were as before, but in more specialized areas no parts were listed in 2 of 3 of them.

METALLUS: S6

[50/1516]

4. **The TECO Manual.** Jürgen Kahlfeldt wrote that the 8 model pages in the TECO manual described in 34/1027 are identical to 8 of the 13 model pages in the 31st Edition of the STABIL manual for Set 48, although said pages are not in the same order.

TECO: S4

[50/1516]

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