

continued to be made until at least 1966. The hole pitch was 12.0mm and the Axles and N&B were 3mm Ø. All parts were nickel plated. As well as the sets mentioned in OSN 8, there were packs of parts Z1-Z14 available. In a photo of a 1955 F Outfit the only part that isn't in the MCS Extra Sheets is a Circular Plate of 45 or 50mm Ø (slightly larger than B31) with only a centre hole and 4 others on a pcd of 36mm (probably). To give an idea of size, the Pulley which takes the Tractor Tyre scales at 75-80mm diameter.

STRUCTATOR From EZ. This system was made by Bing between 1913 and c1917. Then, if I've understood correctly, from 1919 to 1921 it was produced by 'H.Huck, Inh. Adolf Huck' of Nürnberg as '**TECHNIKO/TECHNICO**'. A firm called J.Kleiner of Houndsditch advertised STRUCTATOR in G&T from May 1922 until April 1924, but I suppose it's possible that they were selling old stock. As shown in MCS, the original sets were advertised here in December 1913.

The German patent was Nr.282410 of 14 January 1913. The grooved Baseboards were wooden; the Plates (see 6/115) and some of the small parts were aluminium.

TECHNIK Another small set from the WW2-early 1950s period. The parts were made of steel and bare aluminium: some of the former were plated, nickel or brass, and others painted red. Holes were 3.9mm Ø but I don't have the spacing. In EZ the name TECHNIK-METALLBAUKASTEN WESTFALIA is mentioned in passing and it might be the WESTFALIA described later. There's also a small photo of a set in Pl.60 with TECHNIK on it but it's too small to see any of the other wording.

TECHNIKUS I couldn't find anything in EZ on the postwar East German system of that name that's in MCS; the one made by VEB Funkwerk, Leipzig with an 'RFT' logo, and parts that look just like STABIL. There is however mention of an earlier TECHNIKUS made by Menki Zimmer of Fürth from 1914 to ?. No other details are given.

TECHNOFIX From EZ. This was a system in which steel Rods were joined by being pushed into Connectors (rather like the MECCANO Rod and Strip Connector) which were then joined together in some way. No N&B were used and David Hobson has suggested that the method may be that shown in a UK patent from 1924. It is No.230975 in the name of B.Buxbaum, and toy bridges and awning frames are mentioned as possible applications. One Connector has a spigot 'd' which engages in the hole 'c' of the other Connector; and then sliding the Rod 'e' in the second Connector over the holes prevents the joint from falling apart. The ends of the Rods were to be tapered if necessary.

The system lasted from 1928 to at least 1935. The original maker (or agent?) was W.Keller & Co. of Stuttgart, followed in 1930 by Kosmos, also from Stuttgart, and then from 1931, Gebr. Einfeldt of Nürnberg. An ad from 1935 is headed KOSMOS-BAUKASTEN TECHNOFIX.

The ad shows 3 models, a small Trolley with Wheels that have 4 large holes in their faces, an Arch Bridge, and a Crane. The Pulleys in the latter look like the Trolley Wheels but small holes can be seen between the large ones. The Crane has a quite complicated braced structure but no indication of scale is given.

THALE STAHLBAU TECHNIK Some notes on this

East German system were given in 8/174. There are photos of 2 sets in EZ and it's interesting to see that the 5*5h Plates have elongated holes along 2 opposite edges, and not the larger holes in OSN 8. The only other difference is that the shade of the EZ red parts isn't at all orange.

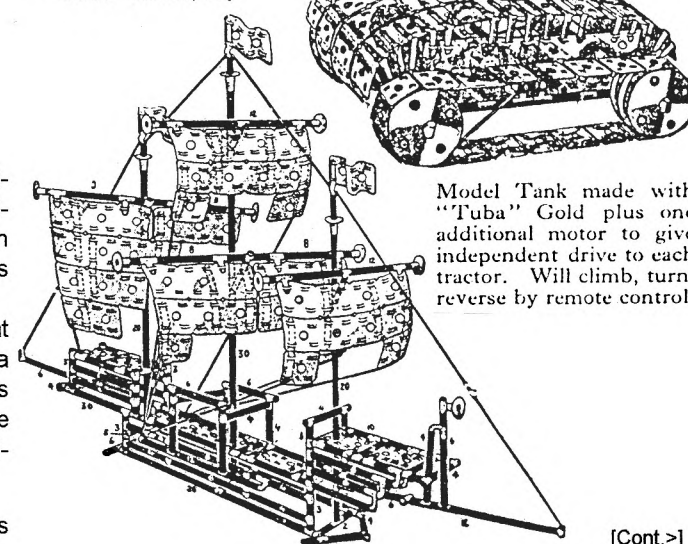
The dates given in EZ are from the 1950s to the 1970s; the maker, Krause & Co., later became VEB Metallspielwaren Thale/Harz.

TITAN EZ gives the period of this 10mm hole pitch system as c1948 to 1960. MCS/FB gives the hole diameter as 3.5mm. The manufacturer was originally Titan GmbH of Ludwigsburg/Württemberg, and later of Schwäbisch Hall, as in MCS/FB. A photo of a set from about 1950 shows the Strips and small parts black, A/Gs green, most Plates red, and most circular parts red, silver or green. The only parts in the rich blue are the 11*7h and 9*7h Plates, and the large Flanged Discs (PNs 64 & 65 can be seen). The model on the box lid is predominantly red and blue with silver wheels, the colour scheme given in MCS/FB. The parts were made from steel 1mm thick.

Jeannot mentioned a TITAN (2) with steel parts painted light grey but I don't know whether this was a colour variant of the above or a different system.

TUBA This is included as a UK system in MCS but the evidence now available indicates that it was German. The original Patent was German, applied for on 31 May 1933 by Josef Szapiro, and it was made in Berlin by the firm Die Tuba Spielwaren GmbH. David Hobson tells me that the UK Patent, 434838, of May 1934 (with a Convention Date of 31 May 1933), was in the name of J.F.Kennedy, a British subject but with a Berlin address of Joachimsthaler str. 38. In ads for TUBA in *Games & Toys* there is no mention of it being British made, and most likely it was imported from Germany. It was originally advertised in Sept 1934 by The Chad Valley Co. Ltd, Harborne, Birmingham 17, but in the last ad, in Oct 1935, Andrew Charles Ltd, 13-16 Wrothesly Street, Birmingham 5, announced that they had taken over sole distribution. Several models were shown in the different ads including the ones below. Under colours Jeannot listed steel, blued and nickel plated, and then later, gold, silver, red, green, blue, and yellow Plates. A photo of a German sets in EZ shows black Tubes, bright Plates, a red large Pulley and yellow small ones - similar colours to those given in MCS. An ad in German for the Motor is also similar to the one in MCS apart from using metric units, but it does show it running from a 4½v battery, and it gives the diameter as 30mm.

Model Galleon made from "Tuba" Silver, 15/-

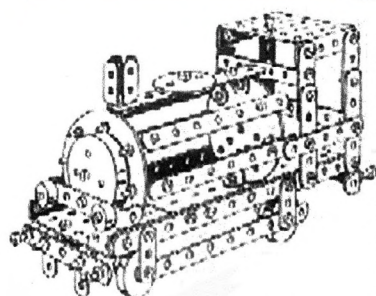
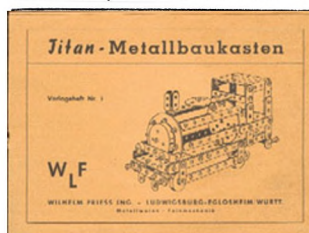


Model Tank made with "Tuba" Gold plus one additional motor to give independent drive to each tractor. Will climb, turn, reverse by remote control.

[Cont.>]

TITAN Some brief notes on this interesting German system with 10mm hole spacing, appeared in 15/419, and now thanks to Thomas Morzinck some more details can be given.

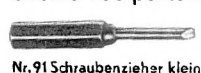
Phase 1 TITAN was introduced in 1948 or a little after, and was made by Wilhelm Friess of Ludwigsburg-Eglosheim (just north of Stuttgart). There were 5 outfits plus 4 linking sets, and the lid & manual cover from a No.1 are shown below. The lid, on the right, is fawn & black, printed in red & black; the cover is orange with black printing. A set from this time is shown on p222 of *Baukästen* and it can be seen that the parts are a dull grey colour. *Eisenzeit* speaks of well finished parts made from 1mm zinc coated steel.



A Piccolo outfit is also mentioned in *Baukästen*, from about 1950. The range of parts in this phase isn't known, but may have been comparatively limited. 4-figure PNs were used at the time. Some parts were modified later – in the Loco on the Cover for instance (left), the 2 face holes in the

3h Ø Pulley were increased to 8. Other parts seem to have been dropped, the Bracket used in the funnel for example.

Phase 2 The company moved to Schwäbisch Hall (50km N-E of Stuttgart) in 1952, and became Titan GmbH in 1956. Production ceased in 1960 (the 1970 in *Baukästen* may be a misprint), but the company produces model railway transformers to this day. Just when the coloured parts were introduced isn't clear, nor when the full range of parts became available, but a manual similar to the one used for the MCS entry is believed to date from after 1956. It shows 103 parts numbered from 1-103, 2 more than in MCS,



Nr.91 Schraubenzieher klein
Nr.84 Spring Cord

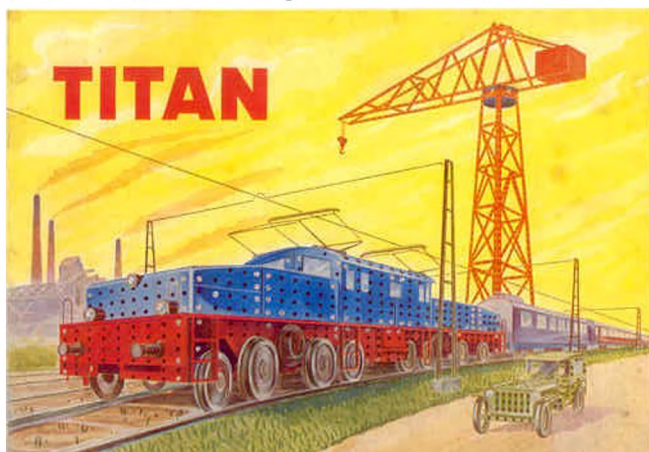
the extra ones being a Small Screwdriver #91 (left) and a 40cm long Spring Cord, #84. The 9 sets at the time were Nos.50-54, with linking sets 50A-53A. The introduction to the Manual also speaks of an electrical outfit in preparation, and mentions a TITAN Motor with transformer. The No.54 is quite large with 38 A/Gs, 27 Plates, 20 Gears, & about 340 N&B. A No.53A is shown below. The N&B box, top left, is red with TITAN in blue. Box lids labels were like the manual cover shown later.



The Strips & Brackets have a black metallic finish, while the Double Strips (bottom centre), A/Gs, & Faceplate (to right & left of the parts box, are painted green. The Flanged Disc Pulleys (a 77mm Ø one is under the large Sprocket), and, probably, the (118mm Ø) Flanged Circular Plate, are

blue. As seen in photos of sets the Flanged Plates are red & the Flat Plates blue, but it's possible that some at least may be red one side & blue the other. The Bush Wheel (37mm Ø) & Wheel Flange for it, #63, are red (2 of each are under the Plates top right). The 18mm Pulley, and all the Gears & Sprockets, look silver. The 32mm Pulley is red in one set and silver in another.

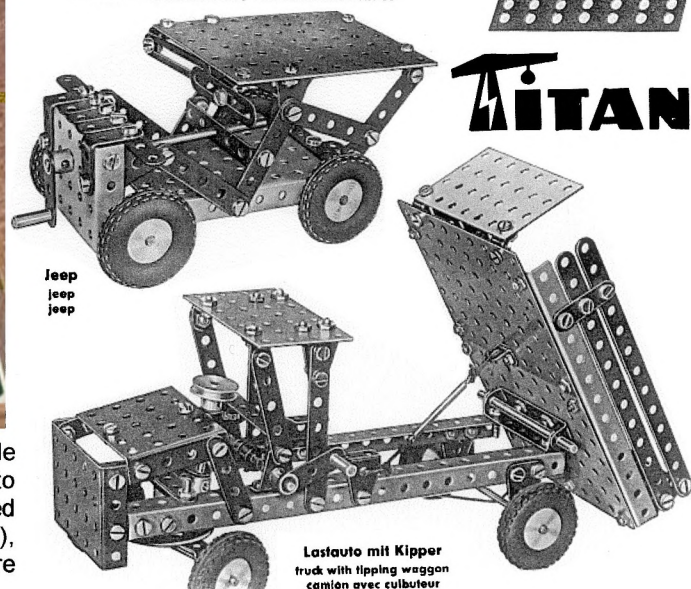
SUMMARY OF MANUAL •Name: TITAN. •Details of maker: Titan GmbH, Ludwigsburg/Wurt. •No dates or Ref Nos. •Page size: A4. •No. of pages: C1-4, 3-12+6a,6b, 2 unnumbered. •Language: German, + model names in English & French. •Printing: colour cover (below), ½-tone models in B&W. •Page Nos. of Illustrated Parts List & highest PN: 11-12,101. •Page Nos. of Set Contents & highest PN: 2 unnumbered pages,103. •Sets covered: 50,51. •No. of models for each set: 15,8. •Name, Page No. of first & last model of each set [no Model Nos.]: 50: Sackkarre,3; Bandsäge,6a. 51: Dreiradliefenwagen, 6b; Sportflugzeug,10. •Other notes: details from photocopy; it's possible that pp1-2 are missing. A No.52 Turmkran is shown on C3



The Loco on the cover above has red & blue parts, some of which involve a certain artistic licence. The sky is yellow with the name & Crane orange. The models in the Manual are nothing special, but they are of course for the two smallest sets. The two Cranes in MCS and the two models below are among the best. The 2 Sprockets in the No.51 are only used together once, in the Drehkran in MCS, where they mesh at right angles.

With its good range of structural & circular parts, plus 9 Gears & 5 Sprockets, TITAN can be regarded as a 'serious' system. But there are some flaws, the main one being that there are no elongated holes in any parts, apart from a 5cm Strip (right) slotted over its whole length. There are also the 3 parts below it, with holes at 5mm pitch in one direction, but useful as they may be, the lack of slots in the A/Gs & A/Bs is a big drawback. An unusual feature in a system of this size is the 4 Pinions with 12, 15, 17, & 18 teeth (to mesh with a Worm, and 38 & 45t Gears), but it isn't known how usefully these are employed in the models for the large sets.

Gebaut mit **TITAN** Metallbaukasten Nr. 50



Jeep
jeep
jeep

Lastauto mit Kipper
truck with tipping wagon
camion avec culbuteur

Snippets. Mainly about TITAN's First Phase

Something on Phase 1 was given in 26/760 but little was known at the time of the sets & parts. To recap the parts have a dull grey metallic finish (as opposed to the Phase 2 painted parts) and some were modified or dropped later on (there were many more parts in Phase 2, including a good selection of Gears & Sprockets). Since then Ebay photos have provided more information including the contents of Sets 0, 1 & 2. Except for a small possibility of a larger outfit, these, plus linking sets, were Ph.1 range, and the 5 plus 4 linking sets mentioned in OSN 26 was probably a confusion with the Ph.2 sets.

The PARTS The 55 known parts are listed right (there were over 100 in Ph.2) with my English names in brackets. Many of them are in the photos below – the Flat Trunnion can be seen right in Fig.1 partly hidden by



a Trunnion on top of it. The brass double pulley & the 'bolt' to its left are probably foreigners. It is evident that the number of holes given for the Flanged Plates include those in the flanges. I assumed at first that the 22mm Pulley #1035 (bottom right in Fig.2) was loose but it looks as if there was a radial tapping through the bottom of the 'V', and that would account for the matching quantities of Grub Screws #1038c in the Sets. The Slotted Strip #1070 hasn't been seen but an equivalent part of the same length in Ph.2 had a full length slot with no round holes.

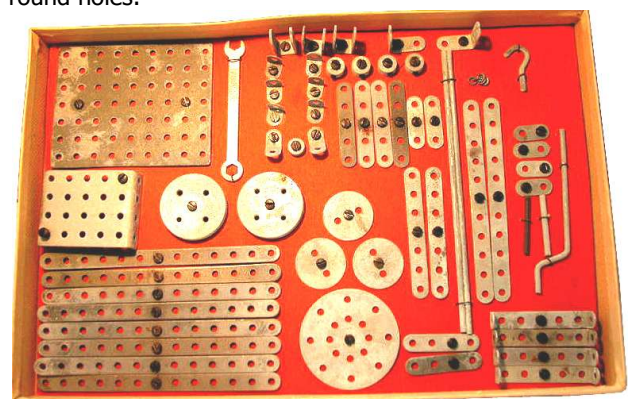


FIG.3

TITAN: contents of early sets

PN	PART (My English name)	SET No.	0	1	2	?
1021	Grundplatte 7x9-loch glatt (Perf. Flat Plate)		1	1	1	
1021a	Grundplatte 7x9-loch gewinkelt (Flgd. Plate)			1	2	
1021b	Grundplatte 4x7-loch gewinkelt (Flgd. Plate)		1	2	2	
1021c	Grundplatte 4x7-loch glatt (Perf. Flat Plate)				2	
1022	13-loch Stab (Strip)			12	22	
1023	11-loch Stab (Strip)		10	4	78	
1024	9-loch Stab (Strip)			2	4	
1025	7-loch Stab (Strip)		2	4	76	
1026	5-loch Stab (Strip)		4	8	12	
1027	4-loch Stab (Strip)		2	4	2	
1028	3-loch Stab (Strip)		2	6	12	
1029	2-loch Stab (Strip)		4	6	12	
1030	2-loch Winkel (A/B) 90°		6	12	24	
1030a	2-loch Winkel (A/B) 135° (earlier #1060)		2	2	4	
1031	4-loch Winkel (A/B)		2	4	2	
1032	5-loch Doppelwinkel (D/B, 2h high)		3	4	2	
1033	7-loch Doppelwinkel (1*5*1h DAS)		4	6	78	
1034	Lochscheibe 50mm (Perf. Disc)		1	2	4	
1035	Lauftrad 22mm (Pulley)			4	74	
1035a	Lauftrad 22mm (Pulley, ?with Tyre)				2	
1036	Spurkranscheibe 26mm (2h Wheel Disc)		3	4	4	
1037	Drehkranscheibe 35mm (Loose Pulley)		2	2	4	
1038	Stelling (Collar)		4	6	12	
1038b	Madenschraube für Stelling (Grub Screw)		4	6	12	
1038c	Madenschraube zu Nr.1035 (Grub Screw)			4	6	
1039	Schnurlaufrolle (small Pulley)		71	2	4	
1040	Achse 30mm (Axle)		1	2	4	
1040a	Achse 65mm (Axle)			2	4	
1040b	Achse 150mm (Axle)		2	2	2	
1041	Gewindestift 30mm (Screwed Rod)		1	2	4	
1041a	Gewindestift 65mm (Screwed Rod)			1	2	
1042	Kurbel (Crank Handle)		1	2	2	
1042a	Kurbel kleinn (ditto, short)				1	
1043	Schrauben 20mm (Bolt)		72	6	78	
1044	Schrauben 10mm (Bolt)		77	20	734	
1045	Schrauben 7mm (Bolt)		747	68	120	
1046	Sechskantmutter (Hex. Nut)		756	100	224	
1047	Schraubenschlüssel (Spanner)		1	2	2	
1048	Schraubenzieher 4mm (Screwdriver)			1	1	
1048a	Schraubenzieher 2mm (Screwdriver; Set 2:2.5mm)			1	1	
1049	Pappkarton (Cardboard Box)		?	1	1	
1050	Vorlageheft (Manual)		1	1	1	
1051	Unterlegscheiben (Washer)		74	4	4	
1057	Gummireifen zu Nr.1035 (Rubber Tyre)			4	4	
1058	Lasthaken (Hook)		1	1	2	
1059	Schrauben 4mm (Bolt)		?	5	712	
1060	3-loch Doppelwinkel (D/B)				2	
1061?	Dreieckslaschen (Flat Trunnion, 2h base*3h)				12	
????	Trunnion from #1061? above.					
1062?	Lagerböckchen (Bearing Block = ? Dble Bent Strip)				4	
1063	Winkelkaste 25-loch (A/G)				2	
1064	Winkelstabe 19-loch (A/G)				2	
1065	Winkelstabe 13?-loch (A/G)				2	
1066	Winkelstabe 7-loch (A/G)				2	
1070	Langlochstab 50mm (Slotted Strip)				2	

FIG.4

The SETS All the sets seen have the boy with Crane pattern lid shown in OSN 26. The contents of the 3 sizes of set known are listed above with question marks to indicate doubt, and a '2' where a numeral was too blurred to read. No set numbers can be seen in any of the Ebay photos and the existence of Set 1 is known from the Ebay descriptions of several sets plus a Nr.1 contents sheet with 2 of them; Set 2 by a similar contents sheet for Nr.2; and Set 0 by inference from a 0A contents sheet. The contents above are taken from the Contents Sheets for Sets 1 & 2, and from the photo left for Set 0 (only the heading of the 0A contents sheet was legible).

Set 0 The box measures 29½*19¼*2¾cm. In another photo taken obliquely the parts look to be attached individually to the

backing card and the part between the bottom pair of A/Bs is the Small Pulley #1039. Notice also the Hook in the top right corner, not seen elsewhere. No doubt all the N&B are used to attach the parts. The manual has the Loco cover shown in OSN 26.

Set 1 2 sets have the same partitioning as the example in Baukästen (p222) and the box size is given there as 30*21*2.5cm. The manual cover with these is similar to OSN 26 but is whitish, doesn't have the maker's details along the bottom, and the 'Vorlageheft Nr.1' is above the Loco. A third set is in a box of about the same size but possibly a little deeper, and has red topped partitioning to give only 5 compartments. It's just possible that this is a Nr.2 set. Its manual is as OSN 26 but with the bold lettering in red. Finally a set in a bigger box with the parts attached, probably singly, to a yellow card. Its 35mm Pulleys have only 2 face holes, so it might be thought to be an early set but the 50mm Disc #1034 is painted blue and the 7*9h Flat Plate #1021, red. Replacements from Ph. 2 perhaps except that the 50mm Disc in Ph. 2 had a boss. Below, the manual

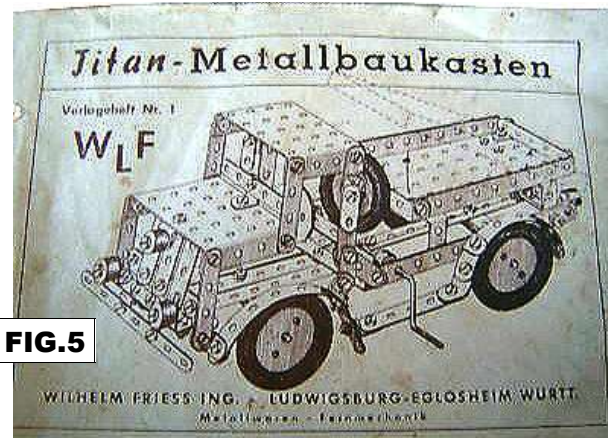


FIG.5

cover, completely different but still marked 'Vorlageheft Nr.1'.

Set 2 Set 2 is only known for sure from the Set Contents sheet.

Linking Sets Given the 0A Contents sheet mentioned above, it's likely that there was a 1A as well.

A Nr.3 Outfit? A parts price list has all the parts listed in Fig.4 except those in colour, and the red ones were needed for Set 2. Thus it seems that the system grew in terms of parts and sets. The part in blue, the Trunnion seen in Fig.1, is certainly not in Set 2 so perhaps there was a Nr.3 which included it, and possibly other, as yet unseen, parts.

Two Phase 2 Items

The Piccolo

Set The photo right looks to be both sides of the Set's packet. The text under the Bicycle speaks of 58 parts and 21 models.



FIG.6

An Electric Motor

The wording on the box includes 'Type 4', and, afterwards, translating, 20V AC/DC. One of the two coils in the Motor can be seen in Fig.8. Presumably the lever on the front panel gives forward & reverse.

FIG.7

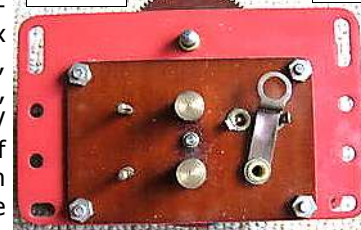
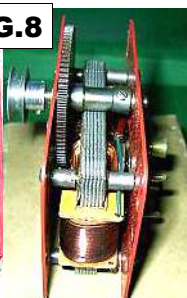


FIG.8



TITAN: S2

OSN 45/1382

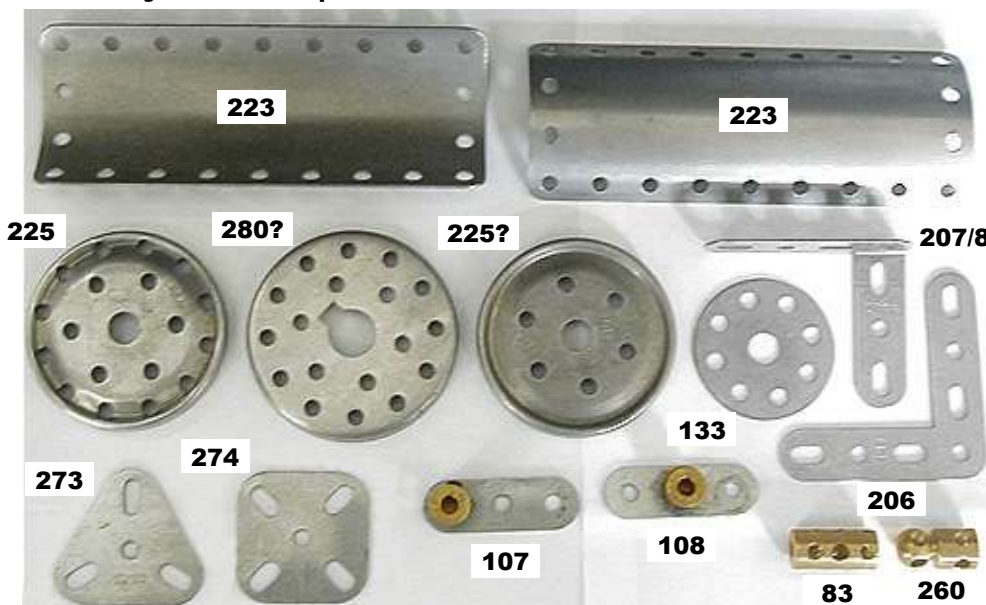
Some C.I.G.E.A. Parts Thanks to Paul Goodman I've been able to see his small collection of C.I.G.E.A. parts, and these notes add to those in 27/789.

All the parts are nicely made with a dull nickel sheen finish, and all are shown below except for a 5h-sided Triangular Plate #131 which is as illustrated in OSN 27. Each piece is labelled with its probably PN, and all are stamped CIGEA, with CIGEA-ITALIA on the end faces of the brass parts.

Holes are at 13.0mm pitch and are mostly 4.3mm Ø, but 4.1mm in the Cranks & 4.5 in the Wheel Disc. **Slots** are 8.4-8.8mm long. All the **brass parts** are 10.0mm Ø with a bore of

4.1mm, and are double-tapped. The **thread** in M4.

Other points of interest: **The circular parts:** their centre hole is about 8mm Ø but near 12mm in #280?. The 3 larger diameter parts have a flange 5-6mm deep. **#83 Coupling.** 21mm long o/a with the end holes at 13.0mm pitch, as they should be. **#107,108 Cranks.** No slotted holes. The strips are 13.1mm wide. **#133 Wheel Disc.** 36½mm o.d. **#206-8 Corner Brackets.** The basic part #206 is formed to give handed parts 207 & 208. **#223 Boiler Plate.** 4 lapped by 1 hole make a cylinder of 50mm Ø which will push into the Boiler End. **#225 & 225? Boiler Ends.** The part with the 2 rings of holes matches the drawing in the Illustrated Parts (see 23/656). Apart from the extra ring both parts are the same with an o.d. of 50½mm. The outer ring is so close to the edge that it would have limited usefulness. **#273 & 274 Small Plates.** Useful looking parts but they were not included in the later numbered sets. **#280? Wheel Flange.** It is 53mm Ø and the only likely part listed is #280 'Contropiastra circol. Ø 53mm'. It could be used with #134 Perforated Circular Plate of 60mm Ø (see 23/656) which looks to have a large centre hole, or with the 60mm Ø Plate with Boss, #154. **#260 Handrail Support.** It has a transverse bore through the ball part and the cylinder.



C.I.G.E.A.: S1

OSN 45/1382

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EDITORIAL This Issue has 28 pages instead of the usual 32. This change will also apply to any future issues and, in the face of repeated rises in postal charges, is to avoid having to increase the subscription rates for the printed version of OSN.

For anyone who hasn't come across them there are now two important sources of 'Other Systems' information. The first is that all of Jean-Pierre Guibert's Encyclopédie (see 52/1580) can now be seen at http://www.mecca-clocks.fr/accueil_autres_systemes_01.htm. Simply click on the initial letter of the system in question. Jean-Pierre's 'Database' can be downloaded from one of the small mauve panels below the initial letters – it is labelled 'Index de tri des jeux fichiers Excel'. The other mauve panels provide other useful information.

The second source is an extension of Timothy Edwards Meccano website to cover Other Systems. It contains all the information from MCS and my Database, plus scans of manuals, etc, and sometimes photos of sets. The scans can be downloaded. The address is <https://meccanoindex.co.uk/Other/index.php?id=1601635899#>. Access to a system is via its initial letter from the A-Z along the top. Other useful options under 'Other' Systems Home include downloading all the MCS pages, and a search facility of the Database for any combination of 12 parameters. Examples for 1, 2 & 3 parameters are 'Screw Thread'; 'Country' and 'System Type'; 'Material', 'Hole Pitch' & 'Hole Diameter'.

Finally on a sad note, Jacques Pitrat died unexpectedly in October 2019. Over the years he contributed many articles to OSN, often with details of rare or unusual systems. His last article will appear in the next Newsletter. For me Jacques was the ideal correspondent, always patient and helpful with my queries and questions. I'll miss you Jacques.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **FERMO**. A set of this German system from 1946-47 was described in 27/784. Its 3 main parts were Triangular Plates, the largest with a centre cutout the size of the smallest. The Manual though showed the largest with no cutout, and also the Pulley with boss was not illustrated (though it was listed as PN 18). Now Angel Rodriguez Palacios has provided details of his outfit dated March 1946. It is without doubt earlier than the OSN 27 set, its large Triangles have no cutout, it has no Pulleys, and there is no mention of the Pulley in its manual. Like the OSN 27 set it contained the 2 sizes of Disc that can be used to make pulleys.

FERMO: S4

[54/1644]

2. **Gilbert's MECCANO Products**. Kendrick Bisset showed a display of these recently and 24 photos of them can be seen at <http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-141249>. After the photos is a link to download notes on the various items. These include details of the relationship between the 1928 'Hornby' sets and the 1929 'Gilbert' outfits, as well as notes on all the later Gilbert ones, right through to the 1937-38 blue & gold sets. Also covered are the Liverpool made sets sold by Gilbert in the US, and oddball items such as Puzzles, a Foundry Set, and a model Greenhouse.

Also included, BOLTLESS BUILDER, the set below, said to



be from 1937. Kendrick wrote that it may have been a prototype, though a few examples of it are known to exist. Possibly it was intended to replace MECCANO MORECRAFT when that system left the Gilbert camp. The connections of the parts, using dimples and holes, did not make a secure joint and it is hard to imagine that BOLTLESS BUILDER would have been especially successful.

GILBERT MECCANO: S4
[54/1644]

BOLTLESS BUILDER: S1
[54/1644]

3. **TITAN Phases**. Details of two phases were given in 26/761 & 45/1381. The first had parts with a dull grey metallic finish, the second had nearly twice as many different types of part, and they were painted, with black Strips, green A/Gs, and red & blue Plates. Now Timothy Edwards has pointed out that there was also an in between phase similar to the first but with painted parts.

TITAN: S3

[54/1644]

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