

**TRONICO** RCEE is a Bremen company which has produced various 'POLYLONG' set in the past, and since last autumn has added the TRONICO brand to its range. It currently consists of 8 one-model sets with more promised. All the models can be seen at [www.rcee.de](http://www.rcee.de) – look for 'Tronico' on the home page. There is an English language option. The company is now seeking new partners to distribute their products worldwide.

3 of the models are Tractors, all rather similar to the one below, but with changes of detail, paint scheme, and transfers to represent the Claas Axion 850, the Fendt Vario 939, & Massey Ferguson 8690. The next 3 are the same models but fitted with a bucket, as below.

The 7<sup>th</sup> is the Krampe 650 Trailer in Fig.3. A grey, simpler 2-Wheel Trailer has also been seen on Ebay but isn't listed on



FIG.1



FIG.2



FIG.3

Loader, as on the Set's lid in Fig.1 above. It is 44cm long and has 1345 parts.

the RCEE website.

All the models so far are 1/16 scale, with the Tractor about 30cm long and having 1012 to 1077 parts according to version. The Trailer has 1455 parts and is 45cm long.

The final model is the 1/20 scale Liebherr Front Wheel

All the parts have the square holes as in other RCEE outfits. The lids of all the sets are similar in style to the Liebherr but none of the others are in English as well as German.

None of the models are motorised and they look to be mechanically simple: from the website photos the Tractor's front wheels are linked to steer, the front & rear of the Liebherr are articulated, and I presume the bucket can be moved, but I suspect that none of these movements are linked to controls, even the steering.

**Postscript** The model left was also attributed to Tronico but has only been seen on the UK Ebay. It was described as a Unimog at 1/16-scale.

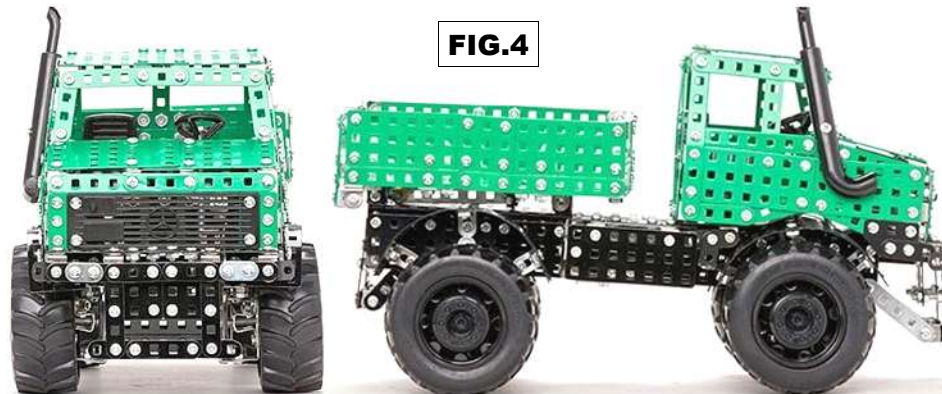


FIG.4

TRONICO: S1

OSN 46/1396



FIG.1

**TECHNICA: New Indian System** The set shown here (with the box plus manual below & the lid right) was seen on the U.S. Ebay. It was described as 'Anmal Technica' from Mumbai, with 342 parts, including a Motor & remote Controller. 60 models are claimed on the lid & manual. 'Anmal' is on the lid in small print above the 'T' in Technica. It is to the left of a Screwdriver/ Spanner/Gear logo, and an Anmal logo can be seen in the top right corner.

No clear connection can be seen between this system & TECNICA (see 22/624), also from Mumbai, or any other known Indian system. Except perhaps for the orange Hook (on top of the Controller) which looks like the MECHANIX part, and cutouts in the Trunnions which remind one of MR MECHANIC (both were made in Mumbai, see 15/409 & 22/625).

TECHNICA: S1

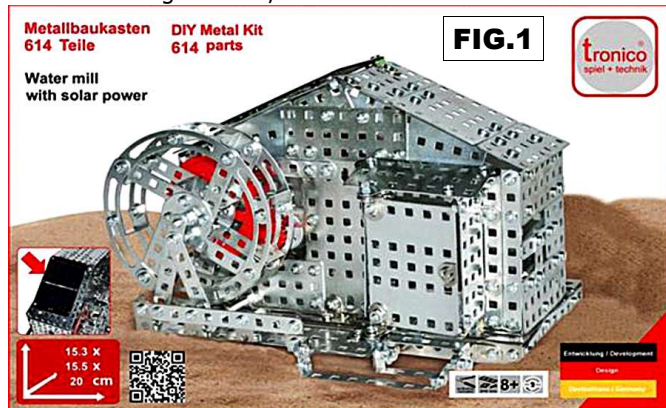
OSN 46/1396



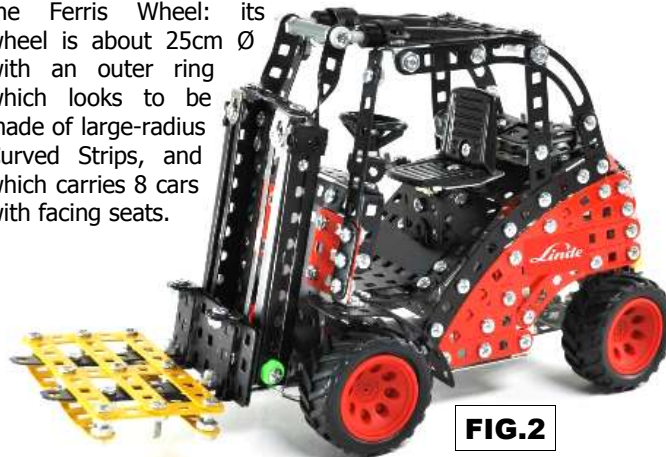
FIG.2



**TRONICO.** John Peach & Paul Goodman kindly sent items of interest. John had bought the Wind Turbine set (see Fig.4 of 46/1395) from a branch of a shop called Nauticalia. It is Art. No.10131, has 592 parts, was made in China, and bore the TRONICA name. 3 other Solar sets were shown on the box, a Ferris Wheel #10132, an Oil Drilling Station #10134, and, the least interesting of the 3, the Water Mill #10333 below. These

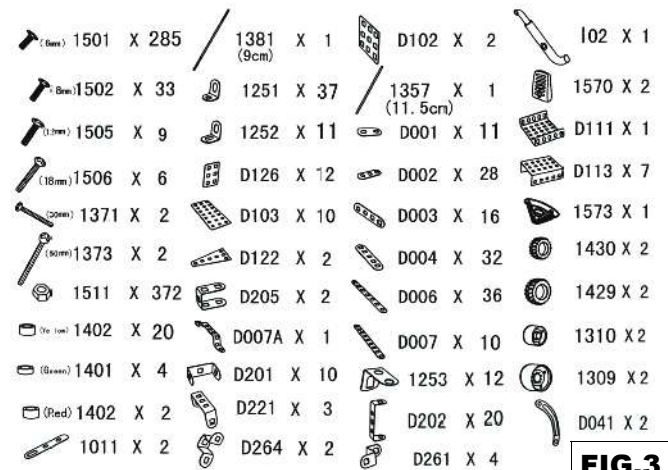


sets are no longer listed and a hunt for photos on the web (those on the box are very poor) yielded only the Water Mill above, from a shop in Australia. The best model is probably the Ferris Wheel: its wheel is about 25cm Ø with an outer ring which looks to be made of large-radius Curved Strips, and which carries 8 cars with facing seats.



John also bought one of the TRONICO Tractors that were described in 46/1396, and, see [www.tronico.de](http://www.tronico.de), other models have been added to the range since OSN 46. One is the Linde Forklift Truck H30 (#10092) in Fig.2, with 668 parts. It is to the usual 1/16-scale and is said to be steerable

Paul also bought a Tractor set but from a MECCANO enthusiast (it has originally also come from Nauticalia) with the model, the Massey Ferguson, ready made. It is 11" long, 6 1/2" wide, 7 1/2" high, and is all metal apart from the Wheels & a few trim items. The Instructions are in the form of 20 building steps in B&W over 7 A3 sides plus an A4 sheet with 6 colour photos of the finished model. The model isn't powered. As found the alignment of the front wheels looks doubtful and the Steering Wheel doesn't turn them. It's clear from the parts that an offset Pin at the bottom of the steering column is meant to operate the steering but just how is unclear from the Instructions. The parts in the Set are shown below. The Bolt lengths are 6, 8, 12, 18, 30, & 50mm, and the plastic Spacers #1402, 1401, 1402 are yellow, green, & red. Parts #1570 form the seat, and #1573 is the Steering Wheel. All the Strips are shown straight and the Instructions show them being formed where necessary by hand. But those in Paul's model look very free from any sign of kinking, and I wonder if the actual parts in the Set are ready formed.



TRONICO: S2

OSN 47/1440

### Snippet. 'New' System: another DER KLEINE INGENIEUR

With its dedicated parts for a fairground ride Car, and seeming emphasis on fairground models, the Ebay set right appears to be different in character to the other three known DKIs (DKI1-3), all probably small systems. DKI1 was mentioned in 17/476 & a small set with STABIL-style parts is shown on p220 of Baukästen. DKI2 looks akin to METALLIX and a small set with light-coloured, probably aluminium parts, was described in 43/1320. Finally DKI3, a small set was shown in 44/1324 with contents consisting of Strips, and small circular parts running on Screwed Rods.

The name on the lid of the present set is hard to read, and the words under it are indecipherable but the Ebay announcement mentioned 'BÖHAG Gera' – presumably the maker, situated in Gera, a city 60km south of Leipzig. '1940s' was also mentioned, and if correct, probably means that the system was East German.

Little can be seen of the parts in the present set beyond Strips, A/Gs, Pulleys with tapped bosses & Rubber Rings (or Tyres), and the parts for the Cars.



DER KLEINE INGENIEUR [4]: S1

OSN 47/1440



**TRONICO Update** In the 2 years since the last note on this German system in 47/1440, its range of sets has been greatly extended, to a degree that I'd not realised until Urs Flammer kindly sent me a copy of their 2015 catalogue. It now lists some 58 outfits, each with parts to build one model, usually of a particular full-size machine, often a Tractor or an agricultural implement, though now with a good selection of other models. But the 58 do include many of the same or similar machines at different scales; 12 are an option to have radio or IR control; and 3 an option to add a Trailer. The range is divided into four series: Profil; Junior; Mini; & Micro.

**The Profil Series** The 27 models include the original 1/16 scale Tractors (see 46/1396), now extended to include New Holland & Case machines, with a R/C option on some. They are about 30cm long with 1000+ parts (700+ with R/C).

Other 1/16 models include a Claas Combine Harvester (53cm long, 2356 parts); a Challenger Tracked Tractor which has rubber tracks with 3h Strips bolted across (36/2080); a Krone 'Chop Forage Harvester' (Fig.3) with a hinged cutter bar (44/1456); a Challenger Sprayer with 4-wheel steering (35/1577); & the Horsch InnoFalcon in Fig.1 (61cm span, 732 parts).

Other sets include a 1/25 Liebherr Crawler Excavator (25cm body, 1283 parts); the 1/100 Liebherr Tower Crane in Fig.4 (60+cm high, 25+cm jib, 1008 parts); a 1/50, 58cm span Ju 52 with 3 Motors driving the 3 Props (908 parts); a 1/32 Helicopter with a Motor driven 33cm Ø rotor, but a fixed tail rotor (757 parts); a 1/23 Submarine (38/606); & a 1/23 Tiger Tank (36/1423).

The parts have 4.15mm square holes at 10mm pitch; the thread is M4. As far as I can see the main parts of models which might be expected to move can usually be hand operated, and the steering, on the Tractors at least, works from the Steering Wheel. (I built a Tractor, a nice model, widely admired, but sadly I found it impossible to get the steering to work from the Steering Wheel, though finally 'steering' the Wheels by hand did make the Steering Wheel rotate.)

**The Junior Series** has 8 sets and 6 are for 3 Tractors, with or without R/C. They are similar to their Profi counterparts but of simpler design to make construction easier – mainly by having the underside of the body open and deleting the steering. There is also a Krone Bailer (42cm, 715); and a Garage set with 805 parts to make 3 different designs suitable to house a Junior or Mini model.

**The Mini Series** of 14 sets was intended to allow smaller, 1/32-scale, models with fewer parts, to sell at lower prices. Thus the parts are a mix of 8mm wide Strips with a normal row of holes, plus others, wider, with the TRIX pattern. All holes are 3.1mm at 9mm pitch, the thread M3.

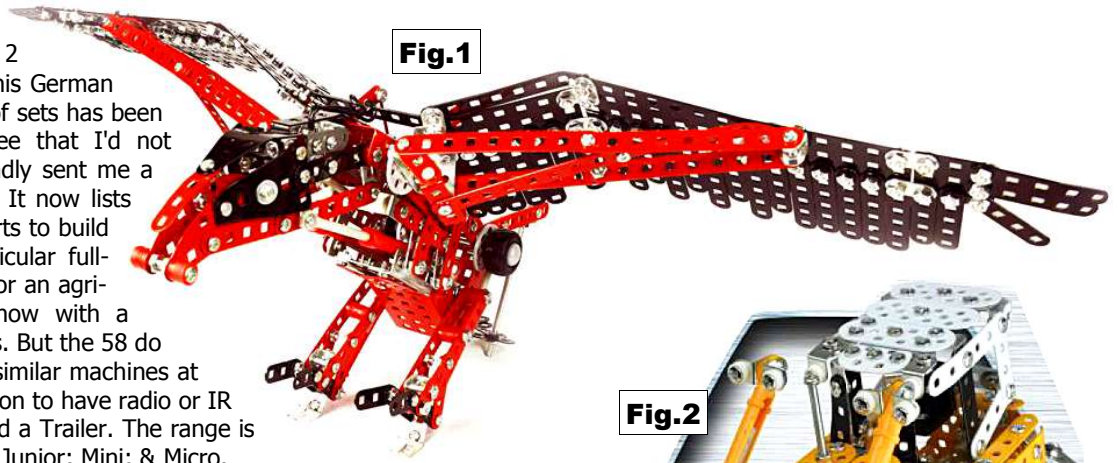
The sets are 5 Tractors & Trailer (31/700+); 3 of the Tractors alone (15/350+); the Fig.2 Bulldozer with engine sound & plain rubber Tracks (22/551); 3 Mercedes Sprinter Vans (Police (Fig.5), Fire, Ambulance) with lights & sound (17/508); a 'Chop Forage Harvester' like the Profi one; & a Bailer like the Junior model.

**The Micro Series** extends the range with 10 sets at 1/64 scale. My thanks to Jan Ringnald for data on the parts. Holes are 2.2mm Ø at 5mm pitch; the thread M2.

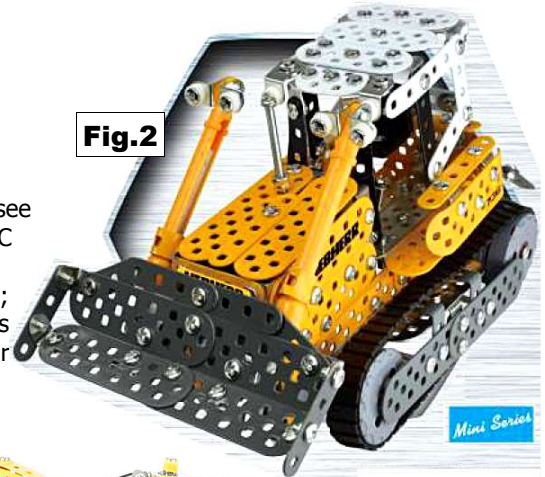
The sets are for the 5 usual makes of tractor, each with the same Trailer, 5 with, & 5 without IR control. Separate sets for the Tractors & Trailer may also be available. The IR Tractors have LED head & taillights. Tractors are 8.5mm long, likewise the Trailer; the parts count is around 450 & 570 for the IR & non-IR versions. Fig.6 shows the New Holland IR model (on a typical TRONICO lid).

**The Website** <http://www.modellbau-metallbaukasten.de/index.php/en/> is of interest with lots of information scattered within it and some manuals can be downloaded: the new easier to use ones in colour introduced in 2014. The range of sets doesn't always quite correspond to the catalogue but includes a few of the early 'Polylong' type outfits, and also the Dinosaur sets described on p1516.

**Fig.1**



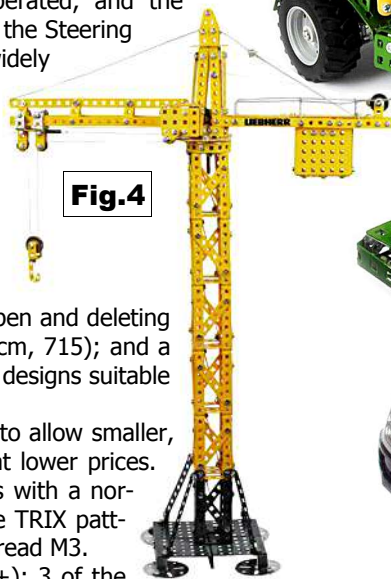
**Fig.2**



**Fig.3**



**Fig.4**



**Fig.5**



**Fig.6**