

'New' System BLEMA

v. FIFA A BLEMA Nr.1 set offered on Ebay led to Urs Flammer kindly sending details of his sets & some comments on a FIFA Nr.1 from Jürgen Kahlfeldt.

The BLEMA box layout, set contents, and, apart from the N&B, parts, are identical to FIFA (see 42/1265). Both were made in Zeulenroda (a town some 80km south of Leipzig, in what was East Germany), FIFA by Hans-Joachim Fischer and BLEMA by VEB Blechbearbeitungsmaschinenwerk. FIFA certainly came before the VEB-made BLEMA and it may have existed in 1939, BLEMA is known from the mid-1950s.

BOXES Figs.1,2 show the BLEMA & FIFA lid labels, and they cover most of their lids. The PR on the former is 3021-V77-1,0-1054-M657/54. No box number can be seen on either set but both have the Illustrated Parts for Set 1, with quantities, pasted inside the lid. Nothing is known of any larger sets. The BLEMA box, 300*187*23mm, is light blue (as in Fig.3): another is red, and another plain cardboard. BLEMA's base partitioning (Fig.3) is the same as FIFA's, and, incidentally, as on the lid labels.

PARTS Typical BLEMA parts are shown in Fig.4. Most parts are aluminium, but the Screwed Rods are steel and the N&B plastic (FIFA's look steel & roundheaded). Holes are 3.7mm at 8.0mm pitch, and the thread is M3. All 17 parts are listed below with quantities in curly brackets. **Strips** #Fst 3-17, 12mm wide, 3,5, 9,13,17h {8,12,12,8,8,8}. **A/B** #W 1, {8}. **D/B** #DW 1, {4}. **DAS** #DW 5,9: 1*5,9*1 clear holes with bends, as in the Brackets, across intermediate holes {4,4}. **Screwed Rods** #Gb 27,62,100: 27,62,100mm {4,4,2}. **Discs** #S 17,27: 17, 28mm Ø {4,8}. **Span'driver** #Sk, {4}. **Bolt** #Schb 1, cheese-headed, 8mm u/h {40}. **Nut** #M 1, hexagonal, 6mm A/F {54}.

MANUALS Both have 4 pages plus covers. The BLEMA measures 248*155mm, the FIFA is slightly larger but with the same size text & illustrations, albeit slightly rearranged. Also, with minor exceptions, the same font. Fig.3 in OSN 42 shows the FIFA cover; right the BLEMA. Apart from the change of name & maker both have the same content, except on C4.

C2 is blank, p1 has an Introduction, p2-C3 show 11 models from Rechen [Rake] to Bahnschranke mit Signal [Level Crossing with Signal] (Fig.7), with a photo & Parts List for each plus brief notes on some. Other models include some domestic items, a simple Windmill with a pulley drive (the pulleys made from the Discs), the 4-Wheel Farm Cart in Fig.8), a Fly Press (Fig.9), & a Crane (Fig.6, as built by Urs with substitute plastic N&B).

C4 is blank in both manuals except for the printers name followed by 3022, 20-V77-1,0-954-M657/54 for BLEMA and 539 for FIFA. '539' might be thought a date but this has been questioned, so it is uncertain whether FIFA was produced pre- or post-WW2.

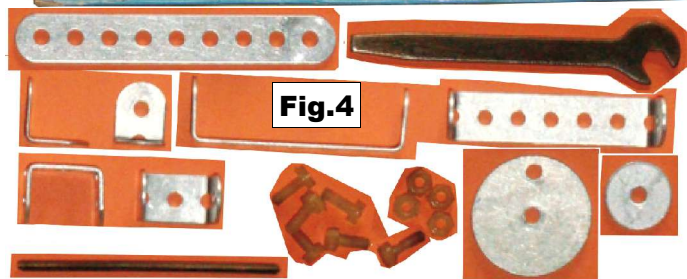


Fig.4

Fig.5



Fig.8



Fig.7

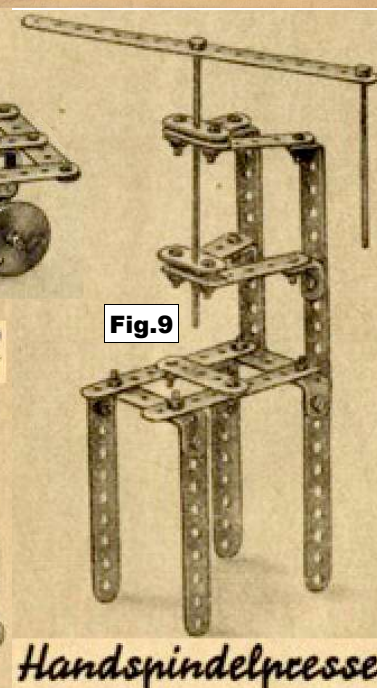


Fig.9

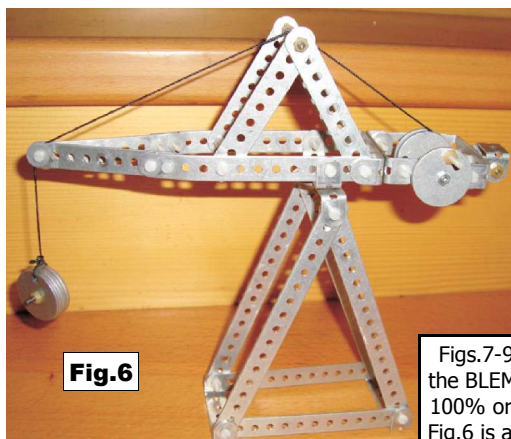


Fig.6

Figs.7-9 are from the BLEMA manual, 100% original size; Fig.6 is about 60%.