

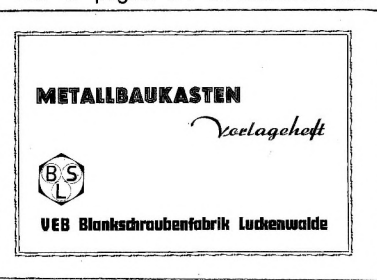
**'New' System – BSL METALLBAUKASTEN** Werner Sticht kindly lent me a photocopy of the manual for this East German system, sent to him by Jürgen Kahlfeldt. It was made by VEB Blankschraubenfabrik of Luckenwalde (100km north of Leipzig), probably in the 1950s, and its 43 parts seem to be an exact copy of STABIL. So the hole pitch may well be 12.5mm.

**The PARTS** Referring to pp3/4 of STABIL (C) in MCS, they are as follows: 2,3,5,7,9,11,15,25h Strips; 15 & 25h A/Gs; 5\*7 & 5\*11h Flanged, and 3\*3 & 3\*7h Perf. Plates; Angle, Flat, Double, Reversed Angle, & Corner Brackets; N&B, but the thread is M4 and the Bolt 8mm long; 50, 90 (not the STABIL 100mm), & 120mm Threaded Rods; 26mm Pulley; wire Handle Crank; Collar, Bearing for Threaded Rod (STABIL #17a); wooden-handled Screwdriver; Spanner, but it looks flat; 1\*5\*1 & 1\*3\*1h DAS; Flanged Sector Plate, but not the Triangular Plate from its centre cutout; 28 & 80mm Ø Patent Gears (the sizes correspond roughly to those of STABIL #25c & 25e but are shown, perhaps wrongly, with 12 & 22 teeth); Windmill Sail; 38 & 62mm Discs; 50,90,120, 150mm Smooth Axle Rods; and a rubber Tyre. The last 5 parts have no PNs, and the Smooth Rods are a puzzle because none of the parts as shown have tapped bosses.

**The SET** Every part is included in the only (undesigned) set mentioned. The main ones are 4 of each A/G, 4 to 8 of each Strip, 32 Brackets, 4 Flanged & 3 Perforated Plates, 80 N&B, 1 of each Gear & Disc, 6 Pulleys & 4 Tyres, 2 of each Rod, Smooth & Threaded, and 4 Windmill Sails. So, a decent size set but perhaps rather deficient in Plates, and certainly deficient in circular parts, particularly since each Gear has to be mounted on the appropriate Disc.

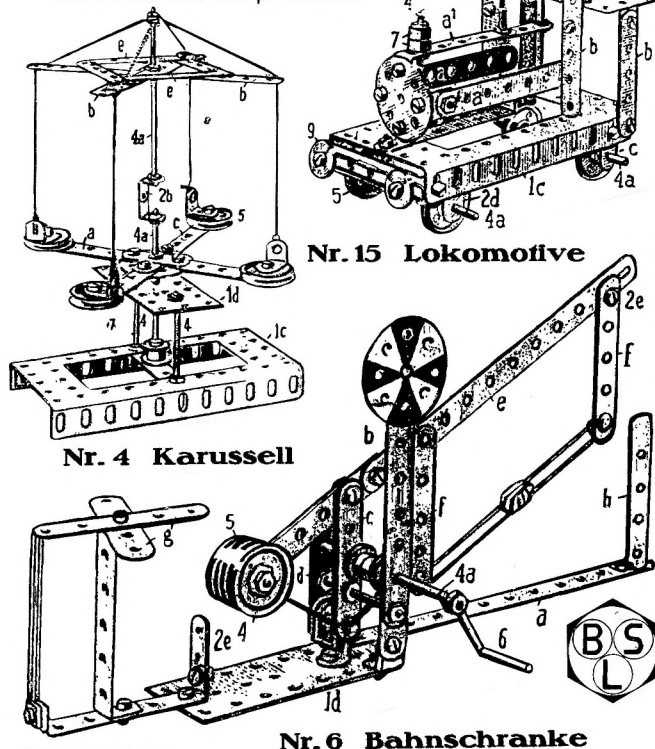
**The MODELS** SUMMARY OF MANUAL •Name: METALL+BAUKASTEN BSL •Details of maker: VEB Blankschraubenfabrik, Luckenwalde. •No Dates or Ref Nos. •Page size: 211\*147mm deep. •No. of pages: 24 unnumbered inc covers. •Language: German.

•Printing: black on light green with shaded line drgs of models. •Page Nos. of Illustrated Parts and highest PN: 6-7,15a. •Page No. of Set Contents & highest PN: 5,15a. •Sets covered: 1 (no number). •No. of models: 19. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model: Haspel-



rad,1,8; Kippwagen,19,23. •Other notes: details from photocopy; p2 (IFC) blank; p5 has 5 unnumbered parts after #15a; PR on BC: 1/10/3 F 759/55.

The 19 models are presented



OSN 25/736

in the distinctive STABIL manner – they are all quite simple and most, perhaps all, are STABIL models for the No.49 Outfit. The only main parts used in them are 11h & shorter Strips 11h, the 5\*11h Flanged & 3\*7h Perforated Plate, the 38mm Disc, and Pulleys - no smaller Plates, A/Gs, Tyres, Gears, etc. In the models in the previous column some of the parts, for example the buffers of the Loco (the STABIL Cheek Piece #9), and the Wire Stays (STABIL #40) in the Crossing Gate, are not in the BSL range.

**'New', SCHUCO JUNIOR TECHNIC** Older readers may remember owning, or coveting, one of the super little prewar Schuco clockwork cars which whizzed around and had features unheard of in the snail-speed Mimic range. The name now belongs to a company called Dickie-Schuco GmbH & Co. KG, of Werkstr. 1, 90765 Fürth, who sell a range of toys under the general name 'Junior Line'. Their 2001 catalogue has alas no clockwork cars but along with teddy bears, dull 'Dinkies', & electronic sets, are 10 JUNIOR TECHNIC constructional sets, introduced earlier this year. The sets are marked 'Made in China' but the parts and many of the models look exactly like MERKUR – most of the sets too judging from the numbers of parts quoted (none are illustrated). All but 3 of the outfits have known MERKUR equivalent and no doubt the Czech company has introduced new sets since those reviewed in 17/485 & 21/613.

The SCHUCO Sets are listed below with their English names (German & French ones are also given), and their probable MERKUR equivalents where known. 2 or 3 models are shown for 2 of the Sets but otherwise only one, with no mention of the possibility of being able to build others, even when the Set seems to correspond to a MERKUR standard outfit. In some cases the Schuco illustration shows small differences compared with the MERKUR model, and different photos are used even when the models appear to be identical. A few parts are in different colours too but all are in known MERKUR hues except for a couple of white Plates. The Schuco catalogue numbers all start with '378', followed by the numbers given below. Their last 2 digits correspond to the supposed MERKUR analogue, where known.



• **8103 Dump Truck, Small**, 218 parts. The same number as the MERKUR No.3, & the (unattractive) model is the one on the No.3 lid. • **8104 Pick-up Truck, Large**, 602 parts. Model (below) as MERKUR No.4, & the same number of parts.



378 8104 Pritschenlastwagen groß, 602 tlg.  
Pick-up truck large, 602 pcs.  
Grand camion à plateau, 602 pièces.

• **8106 Tractor**, 828 parts. The model is the No.6 TECC one shown in 20/569, and the parts correspond to the MERKUR No.6. • **8108 Caterpillar with Jeep and electric motor**, 1405 parts. The models are very similar to those on the No.8 lid (they also appeared on the No.6, see 17/485) except that the Jeep has a spare wheel on the back. The parts are as the MERKUR No.8. No sign of an electric motor can be seen in the photo I have of the No.8. • **8010 Formula Racing Car**, 206 parts. This is the model shown in OSN 17 from the 010 Set. • **8011 Motorcycle**, 230 parts. Again this model, from the 011 Set, was shown in OSN 17. • **8013 Plane**, &