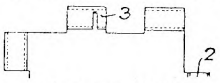
A MISCELLANY of SYSTEMS In OSN 15 I included some notes on various German systems, mostly based on information from Jeannot Buteux/*CONSTRUCTORAMA*, and now more from the same sources on various non-German systems. As before I'll also use material from *EISENZEIT* and other sources where appropriate.

ASSEMBLO This, as explained in 15/420, is the French original of the DINKY BUILDER type systems. A 1955 Price List shows 7 basic sets, 0-5 and LUXE, with the latter costing over twice as much as the No.5. There are also Sets A and B containing Wheels, and conversion sets 0 bis to 5 bis. The 5 bis cost only about a third of the difference in price between the No.5 and the LUXE, so most of the extra price of the LUXE probably went into better packaging.

Spare parts are also listed as follows: • Plates 1-27, but not the Nos. 28-40 that are shown in MCS. No.28 is a large rectangle and the others are the ones with tabs on both sides (see 15/420). • All the Rods shown in MCS including the 4 Angled Rods, H-L. • Of the Wheels in MCS the Pulley is listed, and one Flanged Wheel but its size isn't indicated, also the Wheel with Tyre, No.204, and the Axle Stops.

Fewer sets are shown in the 1955 List on p7 of MCS, but that was the range stocked by a particular shop.

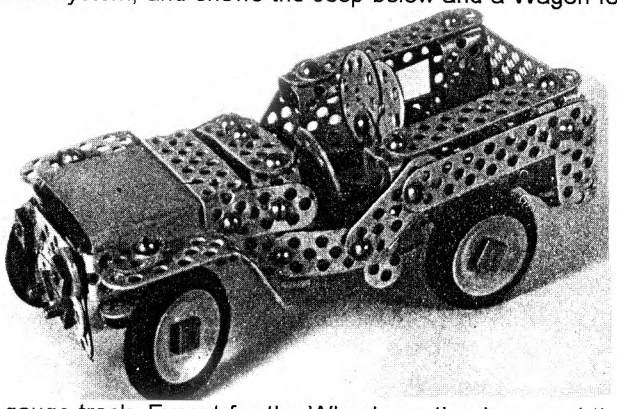
Since OSN 15 David Hobson has sent details of another, later ASSENBLO patent. Its Convention Date is March, 1932 and it's in the name of P.L.Montchanin of 5 Rue Baudin, Rueil, Seine-et-Oise; the French and UK numbers are 752439 and 408801. The claim was that the tabs would be formed to allow the Rod to be a sliding fit in them, except that one tab on each edge would be partly divided, as below, and the shorter part closed up to grip the Rod.



This made it much easier to insert the Rods. I haven't any ASSEMBLO parts to hand but I suppose they incorporate this feature. STANLO do, but not all DINKY BUILDER parts. Those in a 1953 set do, but I'm told that earlier postwar ones don't - I haven't checked any prewar ones.

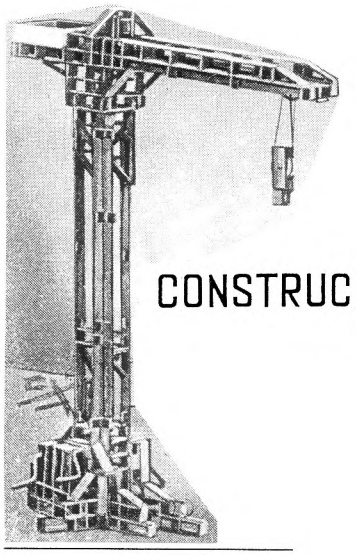
David also pointed out that the idea of plates edged with interlocking socket tabs that could be pinned together wasn't new, but was included in 2 earlier patents. No.140329 of 1919 (Edwards & Barker) used elements such as that below, for toy structures and making buckets and moulds for sand; No.166789 (Pierce, 1920) was also for sand moulds, and various shapes were to be made from formed or folded cardboard with just the outside edges pinned together, though how the sockets were to be made isn't clear.

BOY A leaflet introduces Rubber Tyres in a Box H for this Dutch system, and shows the Jeep below and a Wagon for

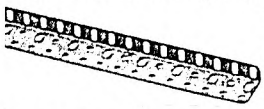


0-gauge track. Except for the Wheels on the Jeep, and the larger than usual square Nuts, the parts look like TRIX, though there is no positive indication of size. The boxes needed for the Jeep are 3 of No.1, 2 of No.1A, and 2 of H. There's no indication of date but at a guess the Leaflet might be from the early 1950s.

CONSTRUC The name of this French system was registered in 1948. The illustrations on a manual cover shows the Crane opposite and a boy working on the chassis of a 6-wheel Lorry. The structural parts - Strips and perhaps Angles and other sections - don't appear to have holes in them, and seem to be held together by push-on Clips.

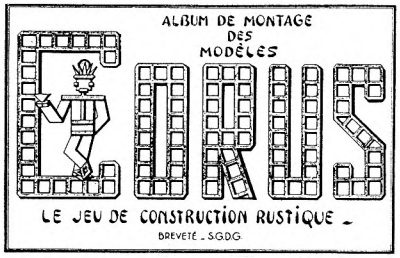


CONSTRUCTOR There is much to be said about the different phases of this French system and I hope to return to it in a future Issue when I have more details. One part that's shown in MCS but I hadn't noticed until I saw it in an illustration from Jeannot, is the 1*2h section A/G (below), with all the holes in the shorter flange and every other hole of the inner row of the other one, slotted.



MCS lists both these Girders and a flat Plate version, each 7,11 & 31 holes long. So with the hole pitch of 11mm, the length of the longest would be nearly 13½".

CORUS Another French system, this one patented in 1924. All that's available is the cover of the manual shown opposite. If the figure, or the letters of the name, are made from actual parts, how are they joined? And what are they made of? The word rustique may mean robust in this context.



D.V.s INGENIØR This Danish system was mentioned in 13/360 and again all I have on it is the manual cover. Under the name (opposite) is Nr.7200, and apart from that there's a smart looking boy in a collar and tie, holding 2 Strips that are joined together by a N&B, which also holds what may be an Angle Bracket.

DEN DANSKE INGENIØR Another Danish system which was mentioned in 10/266 as being prewar. A copy of the box lid from a No.1 set shows the medium sized Crane opposite, made from Strips, A/Gs, and a few Perforated Plates, including some that look 5*11h size, flanged on the long sides. The load on the Hook appears to be a Pulley of perhaps 6h diameter fitted with a MÄRKLIN-style Gear Ring.

EDISON A box lid of this Czech system shows a boy looking at the Grab on the next page, with a large High-Level Railway Bridge in the background, and a girl with a Swing containing a doll. In one corner is a shop window with sets and other models in it, and children and a young woman looking in. Her dress looks to me to date from the late 1920s or thereabouts.

As far as can be seen most of the parts in the models, Strips, A/Gs, and Flanged Plates, look like the ones shown in MCS, but a few don't. For instance the 8-spoke Wheel in

BOY This Dutch system, probably from soon after WW2, was mentioned in 16/444 and now Wim Vink has kindly sent details of the 3 sets that he owns, a No.1, a No.1A, and a No.H. Set D and an electrical Set E were advertised but nothing is known of them. Many of the parts look like TRIX, but some are original, and virtually all are made of aluminium. The hole size & pitch are slightly larger too, also the N&B. The maker was The Boother Company, van Loostraat 105, Den Haag (or sometimes Boy Metaalbouwdozenfabriek at the same address).

The PARTS The Strips are the same width as TRIX, 15mm, but the holes are 4.0mm Ø at 8.25mm pitch. The thread is M4.


FIG.1

The TRIX-like parts are: 9, 13, & 17h Strips; A/B; D/B; Small D/B; DAS, 3h (full holes along the base's centre line); Wheel Disc; Washers (the larger one is 15mm Ø); Screwed Rods, but 50 & (not seen) 30mm.

The new parts (see right and Fig.3) are: 3h Strip; 5h long DAS (the TRIX part is 7h); Pulley Discs, 14, 28, 47mm Ø; Rod with Screwed Ends, 73mm o/a; Hook, not seen but see Fig.2; Spanner; square Nut (≈7mm A/F); steel RH Bolt (≈10mm u/h).

The SETS All three boxes are 145*145*21mm, and have the lid below, with the set number in top right corner. The partitioning is the same too, as in Fig.3, and the contents of the 1 & 1A are given on a label inside the lid.

FIG.2


FIG.3

The SET CONTENTS **Set 1** The parts are: 2,4,4x 13,9,5h Strips; 2x 3h DAS; 4 Wheels Discs; 2 Large & 1 Small Washer; 2x 50mm Screwed Rods; 8 Bolts, 16 Nuts. No Spanner is listed. This set is similar to the TRIX Unit 1 (the UK Unit A after WW2) except that the BOY outfit has 2 Screwed Rods instead of 3, and 16 Nuts instead of 20.

Set 1A parts, as listed in the lid, are: 4x 17h Strips; 2 each of D/B & 5h DAS; 4 A/B; 2 Large & 1 Small Washer; 1x 50mm & 2x 30mm Screwed Rods; 8 Bolts; 16 Nuts; 1 Hook. No Spanner is listed. Fig.3 shows this set but the Wheel Discs, DAS, 73mm Rods, & Small D/B in the box are not included in the printed Contents. This Set differs from the TRIX Unit 1A (= UK 'B') in having the DAS, the Washers, and 8 fewer Bolts.

Set H The new parts in Set H are 2 each of the 3h Strip & 5h DAS, 4 of each of the Pulley Discs, and the Rod with Screwed Ends. Other parts include 17h Strips, a Spanner, N&B, and (probably) the Small D/B. The Tyres on the Jeep in OSN 16 were sold separately and were not in the H set.

The MODEL SHEETS These are folded to fit into the boxes. The No.1 is 250*255mm and the front is shown below.

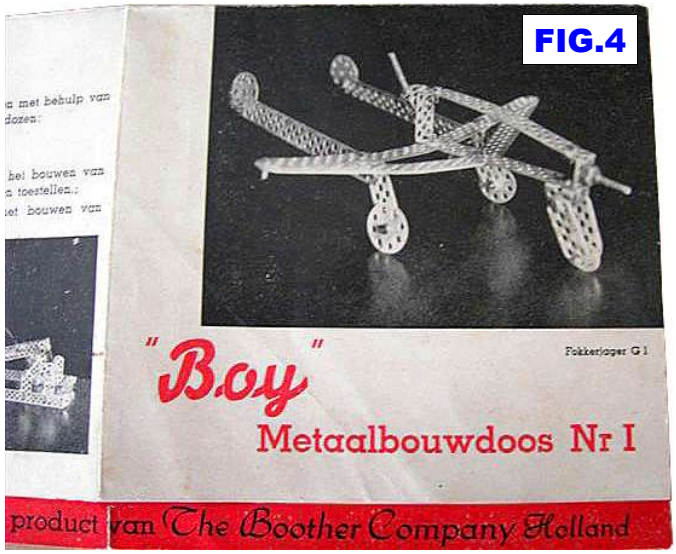


FIG.4

The model is a Fokker G1, a prewar twin-boom fighter & light bomber (the real machine had a tailplane). The 1A and H Sheets are 270*210 & 405*270mm respectively, and are printed entirely in B&W. When folded their fronts have text but no illustration.

There is one photo, white against a black ground, for each of the small models described in the Sheets, plus fairly full constructional notes. The models seen do not have any strong resemblance to any I recall from TRIX manuals. Some photos of 'supermodels' are shown with the number of sets needed – one is shown below and another is a Twin-Engined Monoplane which needs 5 No.1's & 4 No.1A's.

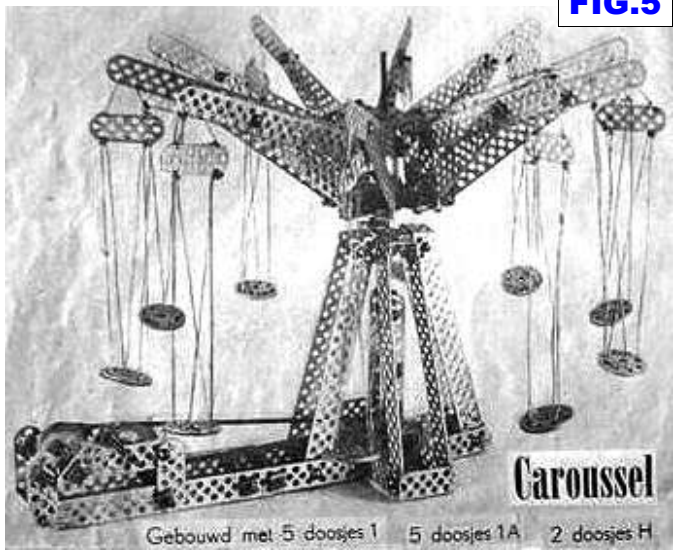


FIG.5