

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE. It appears that the company that makes CONSTRUCTION sets has been denationalised. Gaston Marette writes, "The CONSTRUCTION sets are now made by EITECH GmbH, 5631 PFAFFSCHWENDE; the range is 01 to 06 (without the initial C) but their contents have been modified. The set 06 is a theme set to build a 'Jeep and many other models'". Gaston sent photocopies of the front of the new 06 Instruction Leaflet and the Illustrated Parts and Set Contents pages, the latter in French. The front is identical to that of the old C10 set except for the 'Set No' block and the addition of 'eitech GmbH' in the bottom left corner. A different view of the model on the cover was shown on p36 of OSN 3. Also identical apart from the Set No, are the Illustrated Parts including the Part Nos, but the Set Contents shows two changes compared to that of the C10 given in OSN 3, p34; one less of #1004 (5h Strip) and one less of #1111 (5x5h Flanged Plate) are now included. The name Eitech, where does it come from I wonder. Ei is egg in German, pronounced like 'i' in English, and tech is tech the world over, more or less.

AMENDMENTS TO MCS

SETS: add 'From 1992 #01 to 06.'

MANUFACTURER: add 'From 1992 Eitech GmbH, 5631 Pfaffschwende. Germany.'

eitech
GmbH

UNIMETAL HOLE SPACING. In MCS the spacing is given as 12.7mm and it is said that the system was a copy of MÄRKLIN, and certainly the model on p5 of the NZ version is straight from a MÄRKLIN manual. However in the part of the Set Contents missing from the NZ MCS but included by FB, the diameters of some of the circular parts are given and two of those illustrated, HR70 and HR50, are 70 and 50mm. This means that the radial spacing of the holes in these parts is probably 10mm, or at least much less than 12.7. And from the drawings the spacing of the holes in the other parts seems to be the same.

THE CANADIAN MECCANOMAN'S NEWSLETTER. Good things are worth waiting for! Unavoidably the March issue has been delayed but you will probably have received it by the time you read this, and after that all should return to normal. I can still accept CMN subs in sterling for 1992, but please note that the rate is £13 and not the £11 quoted in OSN 5. That was a mistake but of course all subs already received at that rate will be honoured. The rate for 1993 has not been fixed as I type this, please check with me late in the year if you have not by then had details from Ed Barclay.

EXTRA MCS SHEETS. The sheets listed below are available at 15p each plus postage. The following relate to this issue, except that the article about JUNEERO will appear in OSN 8.

BILT-E-Z: X1.6,6a [1 Sheet]

BUCO-INGENIEUR: X1.1,2,4/6,5. [2 Sheets]

BRAL(C): X1.3/4g,3/4h. [1 Sheet]

CONSTRUCT: X1.1,2/5,3/4/6. [2 Sheets]

EZY-BILT: X1.3/4-3/4b,7. [2 Sheets]

JEP KIT: X1.1,2,2a,3/4/6-3/4/6d,5,7. [5 Sheets]

JUNEERO: X1.6. [1 Sheet]

MANUFAX: X1.6. [1 Sheet]

STOKYS: X1.3/4-3/4b. [2 sheets]

The remainder record material from OSN 6 with limited additional information in some cases.

EL INGENIERO MECANICO (2): X1.1,2,3,5. [2 Sheets]

ORSTA: X1.1,2,3/4/6-3/4/6b,7. [3 Sheets]

MEKANIK (3): X1.1,2,3/4/6,5. [2 Sheets]

SIMPLICIO: X1.1,7. [1 Sheet]

META BUILD: X1.1,2,3/6,4,5. [3 Sheets]

TECC: X1.1,2,3/6,4,4a,5,7. [4 Sheets]

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CONTRIBUTIONS. If possible please type these, single spaced, on one side of the page only, within a width of 6½" (165mm). If available please use letter spacing of 15cpi.

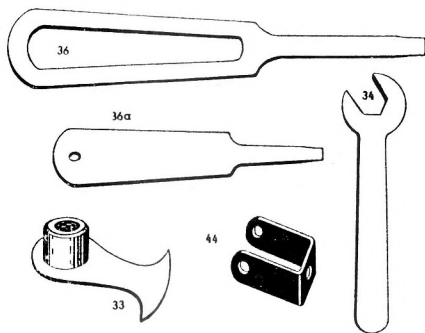
(Sword),1,3; Watervliegtuig (Hydravion),130,58. #Other notes: there are no manuals for Outfits X, Y, K,A.

TWO OLDER MANUALS. Let's start with the oldest. René Mikkers was good enough to lend me his TEMSI 0-2 Manual. The earliest one I had seen before probably predates the one in MCS and has boy and a blocksetting style crane on the cover in full colour; René's cover is similar but is in black and white. The illustrations of the models are not very clear photos; the ones in the later Manual are much better. The models are mostly the same but have been renumbered. There are several points of interest in the early Manual:

- In the introduction it says that TEMSI sets were first made in 1948 (cf 1946 from Mr. Beldhuis).
- Sets 0-4 and 0A-3A are listed, with no mention of the later Sets 00 and 5. Subsequently the set numbers were shown as Roman numerals, thus IV instead of 4, etc., but have recently reverted to Arabic again.
- The Parts List shows only the parts in MCS up to #63, so at that stage there were no Flexible Plates, Curved Strips, Trunnions or Sprockets. Illustrations of parts that look different to later ones, are shown below.

Returning to the manual with the coloured cover, it shows a couple of items of interest that are not in MCS:

- A red sideplate motor (below): it ran on 20v ac or 12v dc and took up to 3 amps of current. Two versions were available, with or without the reversing switch unit, which could also be bought separately. The nonreversing version was supplied too as a Kit (below, right), which included some standard parts such as DAS and Flanged Brackets, and a few Gears.
- Several sets are illustrated on the back cover and the parts are red and green as would be expected, except that the Flanged Plates and 5-hole wide Flexible Plates are a medium blue - the 3-hole wide Flexible Plates are red. The model on the front cover includes some Flanged Plates but they are shown in green.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE Some news of the revised range of CONSTRUCTION Sets from Don Bock. He sent a copy of a fax that was sent to him by Eitech, the manufacturer, last September; it contains a list of the current sets with the number of parts in the larger ones, and a picture of each but they haven't survived transmission too well. As noted in 7/171 the Set Nos. on the boxes are no longer prefixed by 'C', although in the list the C's are still there. In summary the

Set No.	Name	Parts	Old No. Parts
01	Metal Construction Set	154	C01 154
02	ditto	220	C02 275
03	ditto	415	C03 475
04	Gear Set with Motor	205	C04 205
05	Harbour Crane	447	C14 447
06	Jeep	256	C10 259
07	(Articulated) Truck	514	C07 514
08	Tractor with Trailer	452	C12 412
09	Helicopter	205	C20 321

SUMMARY OF MANUAL. #Name: TEMSI #Details of maker: N.V. TEMSI, Hengelo (O.) #Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. #Page size: 241x154mm deep. #No of pages: 24 inc covers, no page nos. #Language: Dutch. #Printing: Models are sepia halftone photos; cover similar with red/white lettering. #Page No of Parts



List & highest PN: 23,63 (illustrations on pp16-17). #[no Set Contents] #Sets covered: 0,1,2. #No of models for each set: 20,15,25. #Name, Model No, Page No of first & last model of each set: 0: Wagen,1,3; Perronwagen,20,5. 1: Draaibank,21,6; Schommel,35,8. 2: Draaibrug, 36,9; Lift,60,15. #Other notes: the parts for each model are given on pp18-22.

SUMMARY OF MANUAL. #Name: TEMSI #Details of maker: TEMSI N.V., Hengelo. #Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. #Page size: 243x156mm deep. #Number of pages: 16 inc covers. No page numbers. #Languages: Dutch, French. #Printing: models are B&W halftone photos. Coloured cover has green crane on yellow

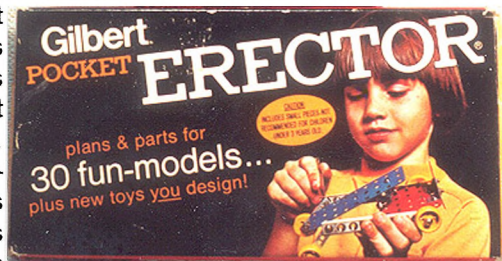


ground with black, white, red lettering. pp7-10 are on green paper. #Page Nos of Parts List & highest PN: 7 and 10; 99 (parts are illustrated on pp8-9). #[No Set Contents] #Sets covered: 00,0. #No of models for each set: 12,20. #Name, Model No, Page No of first & last model of each set: 00; Sabre/Sabel,1,3; Séchoir/Droogrek,12,4. 0: Chariot/Wagen, 13,5; Chariot de quai/Perronwagen, 32,12. #Other notes: a Motor, Transformers and various Sets are shown in colour on the back cover.

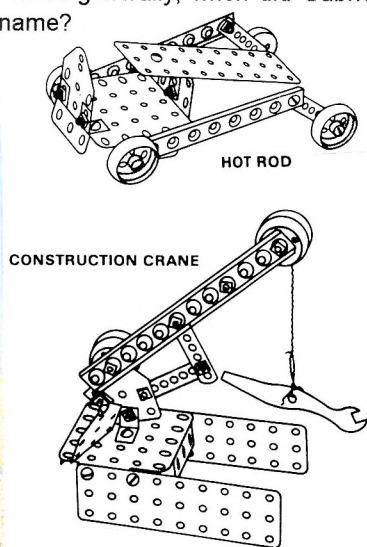
old basic sets C01 to C04 have survived though with fewer parts in 2 of them, and 5 of the earlier theme sets are still listed but their set nos. have changed and the part count has reduced by about a third for the Helicopter. There is no mention of the old C06 Accessory Set which contained Plastic Plates. New are 10 Sets, called Startboxes, each to make a single, small model. Details are given below.

Set No.	Startbox
81	Articulated Lorry? (LKW Sattelaufzieger)
82	Tanker Lorry
83	? Lorry? Pickup? (LKW Lader)
84	Low Loader
85	Helicopter
91	Racing Car
92	Mobile Crane
93	Lorry and Trailer
94	Recovery Truck
95	Roundabout

POCKET ERECTOR Early in the 1970s, after the Pocket MECCANO Set had been out for a while (since 1971), I happened to see a Pocket ERECTOR on sale in Washington and bought one as a souvenir, thinking that for once Liverpool had come up with a marketing idea first. I assumed at the time that the Pocket ERECTOR was a recent product but it now appears that it dates back to at least 1973. Richard Symonds has come across two Sets, one



box (above) is labelled **Gilbert Pocket ERECTOR** and is from 'Gilbert Industries Inc., a subsidiary of Gabriel Industries Inc.' and the copyright date is 1973. The other (below) is called **Gabriel Pocket ERECTOR**, and has the same company names; it's identical to the one I bought, both marked Copyright 1977. So was the 1973 version the first Pocket ERECTOR? And more generally, when did Gabriel cease to use the Gilbert name?



Both Sets were in the same size boxes, about 5*2½*1", but the boy and the model on the front were different. The Instruction Leaflet found in both boxes bore the Gabriel name with no mention of Gilbert, but it's not absolutely certain that the one in the Gilbert box was original. From the models on the boxes it is likely that the same 30 models could be made from both Sets. Two are shown above.

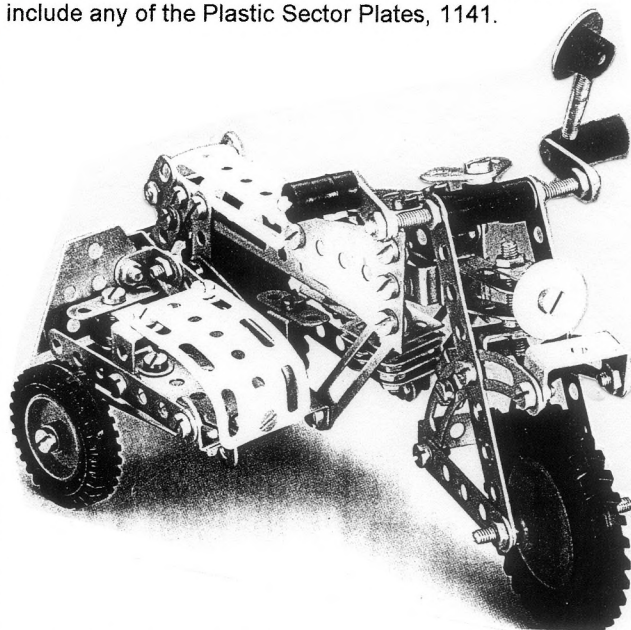
Below the contents of my set: all the parts except the Wheels are standard Gabriel and unless stated are BZP.

- 4 Wheels [#P-30382; yellow plastic; 1½" dia; the 4 peripheral holes won't take a standard Screw.]
- 2 off, 7 Hole Strips [#G; holes at ¼" pitch.]
- 2 off, 9 Hole Girders [#34; holes at ½" pitch.]
- 1 off, 5*5 Hole Flanged Plate [#45; red.]
- 2 off, 3*9 Hole Base Plate [#ME; one side blue, cream the other.]
- 2 Car Trucks, Flat [#49; red Flat Trunnions.]
- 1 Double 45° Strip [#24; 2*1*2 holes but length as #G]
- 4 Right Angles [#P-1; Angle Bracket, slots in both arms.]
- 1 Screw, 7/8" [#S-62]
- 4 Screws, ½" [#S-52]
- 14 Screws, ¼" [#S-51]
- 20 Nuts, 8-32 [#N-21]
- 1 Wrench [#PM491; combined spanner/screwdriver.]

The Right Angles have near fully radiused ends whereas those in a regular Gabriel Set bought in the early 1970s had the standard Gilbert square corners. The length of the arms and the slots in them are identical to the square pattern. Did Gabriel change over completely to rounded ends at some point, and if so, when?

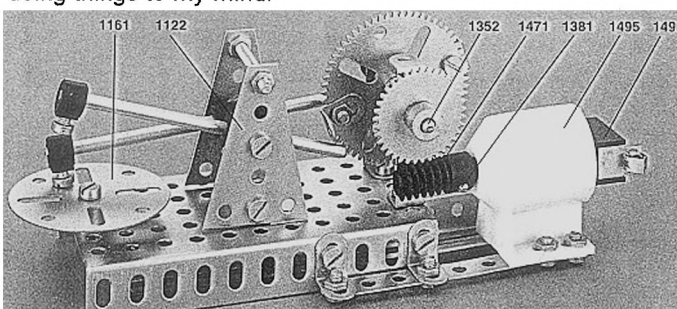
CONSTRUCTION: Sets 03, 04, 05 A list of the current CONSTRUCTION sets was given in 11/293 and now thanks to Josep Bernal and Chas. Shrubsole, I have details of the Instruction Leaflets from the above Outfits.

The 03 is the largest basic set and compared to the previous equivalent C03 outfit there are 60 fewer parts. Some have disappeared completely including all the Gears, the 20 and 25-hole Strips, the 30 and 50mm Disks, the Universal and Rod Couplings, the 60mm Pulley, and the large Pulley with Tyre (#1303). Otherwise there are small reductions across the board but a few extra N&B are included. The other plus is 19 Plastic Flexible Plates, although that's not as many as used to be in the C06 add-on set, and doesn't include any of the Plastic Sector Plates, 1141.



Instead of the 64 page Manual that used to be packed with the C03, there's now a 4 panel fold out A4 Leaflet, similar to those that are included in the 'theme' sets. Detailed step by step instructions are given for only one model, the rather nice Motorcycle and Sidecar (above) that used to be Model M22 in the old Manual. In addition there are photos of 3 other earlier models, one each of a Lorry and two types of Trailer, although the tipping mechanism and (I think) the steering have disappeared from the Lorry.

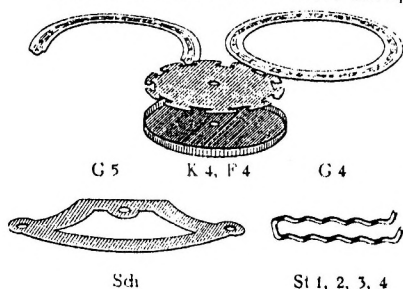
The 04, ex-C04, includes Gears and a Motor, and the contents haven't changed. It used to be an add-on outfit and a number of models and mechanisms for it, some needing a basic set as well, were shown in the Manual mentioned above. Now it stands on its own with a similar Leaflet to the 03 one, with instructions for one model, a rather simple Trip Hammer (below). Photos are also included of 5 drives, including the use of bevels in a reversing mechanism and a differential. Both the latter were in the earlier Manual but, as now, no application was shown for them. In a still earlier Manual, perhaps from the late 1950s, the diff is shown built into a chassis, a much better way of doing things to my mind.



The Crane Set, 05 used to be C14 and neither its con-

STABILA This set is mentioned in the history of STABIL elsewhere in this issue and these notes are based on material kindly sent by Jeannot Buteux, from the Construtorama archive, and help from Werner Sticht. The models mentioned are all shown on the front cover. Walther & Co., who of course made STABIL, came up with a number of innovations but STABILA must surely have been the most unusual - a construction toy intended solely for girls, with models consisting of frameworks of metal parts, filled in where necessary by brightly coloured strands of wool.

There were 43 different parts, of which 14 were standard Strips, DAS, Threaded Rods, N&B, etc. Many of the others were Bases and Frames like those shown opposite, and there were also square, oval and rectangular versions of them. The Frames had small holes in them at standard pitch to take the crinkly Wire Supports (below), that often formed the sides of models, and around which the wool was woven, rather like wickerwork. There were also special 6-hole Strips and A/Gs with normal holes at the ends but small ones in between. The Wire Supports were supplied in 4 sizes from 36 to 85mm long and their bent ends could be held by being clamped between the upper and lower parts of a Base. This can be seen in the Wheel Chair, which also shows a Wire Handle and the 36mm Wheels which were not the standard STABIL Wheel Discs. The Rockers, below, were used in the See-saw and as the sides of the under-frame of the Pram, with the axles going through the end holes, as well as for chairs. A 3.5v Bulb and Holder were included and used in a Table Lamp.

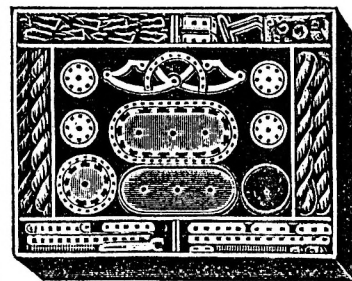


Apart from some copper wire and a few brass parts, the metal parts were all nickel plated.

Two outfits were listed, Nos.1 & 2, the latter with some 160 parts, including 24 Nuts and 14 Bolts. In the illustration of the No.1 above right, the hanks of

wool can be seen at the sides. Each set had a manual

nicely produced in colour, with a good selection of models ranging from the Cot to what looks like a wool covered Garden Shed. Some of the text is charming (or perhaps a touch sickly, at least in English) - for the Rocking Chair it translates as: 'A rocking chair gives a lot of fun and your dolly will also be happy if you make one. It's so easy to build that we need only show you a picture. Don't forget to lay a lace cover on it. The rockers are attached to the base using a 3*1 DAS.' There is much emphasis on dolls and their trappings.



STABILA Nr. 1 für Mädchen

By contrast the cover of the #1 manual (below) shows a yacht, seaplane and speedboat with, on the shore, an elegant looking young lady tinkering under the bonnet of a powerful car. At the bottom is the slogan 'Engineering for Girls in Sport and Work'. The image the cover conveys hardly seems to fit with the woolly prams and invalid carriages inside, ingenious though these may have been.



It is believed that the STABILA sets came onto the market in 1933, and as far as is known didn't reappear after WW2.

tents or Leaflet have changed at all, apart from the 'eitech' logo on the front of the latter.

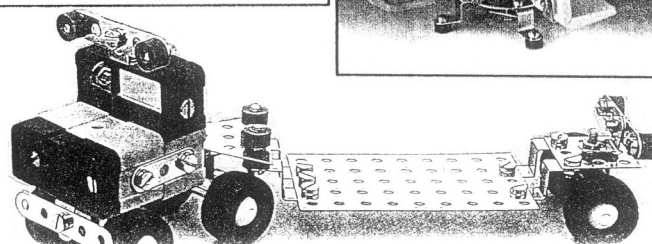
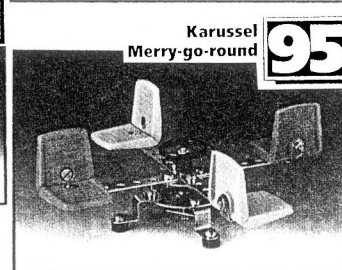
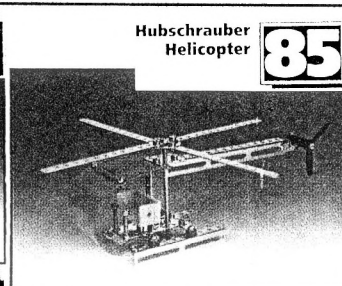
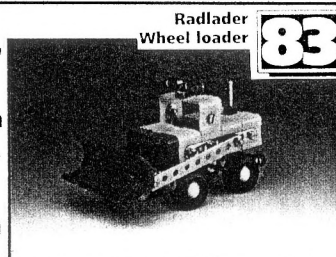
[In OSN 4 I advertised the 64-page Manual referred to above, and a few remain if anyone coming new to CONSTRUCTION is interested. Price £0.75 plus postage - they weigh about 250g each.]

And the START-BOX Range These were listed in 11/293 and Geoff Davison recently bought the Low Loader, No.84, in Germany, for the equivalent of £7. The shopkeeper said that Eitech were still in existence but that he hadn't sold many sets.

Geoff kindly send copies of both sides of the box and the Instruction Leaflet. The former shows small pictures of all the START-BOX models and to clarify the question marks in OSN 11, No.81 is an Articulated Lorry, and No.83 a wheeled Shovel Loader although the English name on the box is 'Wheel loader'. Four of the models are shown opposite. They may not be very clear - the Helicopter has plates curved around to form the nose, and the Racing Car looks as if it has working steering.

The models use a mix of metal and plastic parts, and most of them look like those in earlier sets, although I don't recognise the shovel in No.83, which is shown in blue. The Leaflet gives clear step by step illustrations but doesn't use, I'm glad to say, exploded diagrams. The finished Low Loader is shown above - the front ends of all the various trucks look rather similar.

Chas. also mentioned some special parts in a No.94



Startbox - a 45mm Axle, a 12mm Bolt, and 2-piece push-on Wheel, black with white hubs.

CONSTRUCTION Update Werner Sticht kindly sent copies of the pages from a 1998 German Conrad catalogue that show the CONSTRUCTION Sets they sell. The standard ones listed are C02, C03, C04, C07, C13, C15, C16, & C17, and the number of parts in them are the same as the corresponding sets listed in 11/293 & 14/383 (except that in OSN 11 the parts for 03 should have been 419 instead of 415). The descriptions of the sets correspond too, and for C17 the models include the Motorcycle & Sidecar mentioned in 16/442, as well as those given for it in OSN 14.

Also included is a new set to make the **Eiffel Tower** (right - the part between the top balcony and the flagpole is guesswork because it can't be seen on the original). The outfit is in a plastic box and has 996 parts. There looks to be a structure running up the centre but there's no mention of a lift

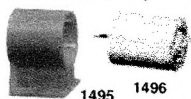
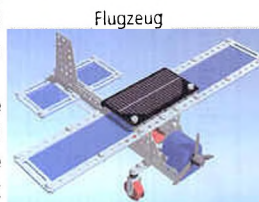
3 Eitech **Solar Sets** are shown though they are not credited to Eitech. The first is a Solar-Rotor (below the Tower), 115*26mm, 'which can be used for example with Eitech, Märklin, Lego.' It gives up to 350mA at .5V. The second looks like the No.71, Helicopter shown in 16/442. It has 84 parts and the rotor diameter is 222mm. The third has 210 parts and 3 examples of models that can be built with it are shown: a Rotating (swirly patterned, card) Disc; a simple Windmill using the standard CONSTRUCTION plastic Sails (the No.73 from OSN 16); and the OSN 16, No.74 Monoplane (right), with the cell on top of the centre of the wing.

I checked the Conrad web site (www.conrad.de) in **January 1999** and found the standard sets as above, but not the Tower or the Solar sets. Perhaps I couldn't find the right place - such sites should have a comprehensive index, as a catalogue would.

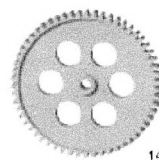
In **October 1999** the Eitech site (www.eitech.de) showed the main series sets as C03, C04, C11, C13, SOLAR Sets C71, C75 & C76, and STARTER Sets C61-C66. As well as showing the lid of each set, the parts list and step-by-step building instructions could be called up for one or two of the major models from each set.

The 2 featured models for **C03** are a previously known Lorry & Gantry Crane, so although at 418, it is said to have one fewer part than before, no doubt it hasn't changed much. **C04** though has 252 parts against 205 before, and a Bulb (1734) & Holder (1735) are now included; also a different Motor (1496) which pushes into a Casing (1495). The main model on the lid demonstrates turning rotary into linear motion with the Motor driving a crank through a gear train, and a connecting rod to an Axle sliding in 2 A/Bs. In another the Motor is turned by hand through 2 stages of step-up gearing and acts as a dynamo to light the Bulb. Sets **C11** & **C13** have the same number of parts as before, and the models on the lids are the same except that the main one on the #11 lid, a Trike, is a variant of an earlier model.

The Solar **C71** looks as before (though the claimed number of parts has increased from 84 to 418!). The yellow casing referred to in 16/442 is in fact a seat and the Rotor is a self-contained unit with the solar panels and motor built in to it. **C75** is the third (210 part) Conrad one. **C76** has 412 parts and the large model on the lid is a Radar Dish. 5 other models are shown including a larger Helicopter using the Blades from the old C20 Helicopter Set, a pedalling Cyclist and a rotating Wheel made up from 24 Curved Strips. 3



new push-on, plastic Gears are in the Set, a blue gear of about 60mm Ø (1457, right), a 13t Pinion, 1454, & a Worm, 1458. There is a good photo of this Set in *Baukästen*, p149. David Hobson found the C75 & C76 on sale in Bath last August.



All the **STARTER** sets are new to OSN and their lids show either 1, 2 or 3 small models, mostly built from metal parts. One is shown below and it is



typical of the Eitech boxes of the 1990s, with **CONSTRUCTION** in large red letters on the blue box, a large colour photo of the model(s) on a light blue ground, and the eitech name at the bottom. **C61** has a single model, a Motorcycle with the 20mm Pulley + 40mm o.d. Tyre (1421) as wheels. **C62** is a Racing Car with the 7*3h Plate as the rear wing and the 28mm Ø (1305 Tyre + 1307 Hub) wheels used in the START-BOX models shown in 13/343. Like the first two Sets, **C63** has 116 parts, and the 2 models on the lid are a Helicopter with a 4-bladed rotor made from crossed 15h Strips, and a Floatplane with a 15*3h wing made from Plates. **C64** also has 116 parts and the two models are a Jeep and an Excavator, both with the smaller wheels. **C65** is larger with 152 parts and the lid has 3 Dragster type vehicles on it, with the small wheels at the front and the 53mm (1304+1423) wheels as used on many of the earlier theme set models (see 3/35-36). One of them is called Propellerauto and has the 3-bladed Helicopter Tail Rotor, 1618, on the back, but as far as I can see it isn't linked to the wheels. **C66** (above) is larger again with 213 parts and the 3 models on the lid, all have the 20mm Pulley/Tyre at the front and the 52mm wheels aft. In case it's not clear, one is a Tractor, one a Trike, and the third a Snow Plough.

So eitech seem to have abandoned the START-BOX range with models containing a high proportion of plastic parts, and in fact the only plastic parts now used throughout the whole range are the original Flexible Plates, and a few parts like the Seat & Rotor Blades. None of the special plastic parts that were used in the (apparently very successful at the time) 'theme' sets, to make ultra realistic models, are now to be seen.

Werner sent Eitech's full address: eitech GmbH, Dorfstr. 17, D-37308 Pfaffschwende; phone/fax 036082 4320/42028 or 43236. He also sent a catalogue from Traudl Riess who supply CONSTRUCTION parts at reasonable prices (and many other useful bits & pieces). The parts come in packs, usually of 10 or 50, & carriage is free on foreign orders over DM600. They don't take credit cards but apart from that I bought some parts without difficulty. Note though that the N&B they sent were BZP & not the nickel which I suppose Eitech still use. Their address is St. Georgen-Straße 6, 95463 Bindlach, Germany; tel/fax: 09208 9119/ 1573.

Finally a note from *Baukästen*. In the 1980s sets labelled CONSTRUCTO were sold in the UK, Swedish boxes were called INGENIÖRSAET, and Quelle sold sets under their GOOD PLAY brand. I think that all manuals in the CONSTRUCTO sets bore the name CONSTRUCTION.

ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. On **STEELBUILDER** (20/562) David Lawrence has recently acquired a No.1 Set and wrote 'What I hadn't realized, because the manual doesn't mention it, is that the Strip's doubled edge has a pip on the inside at one end, so that you have to press it to snap it in.'

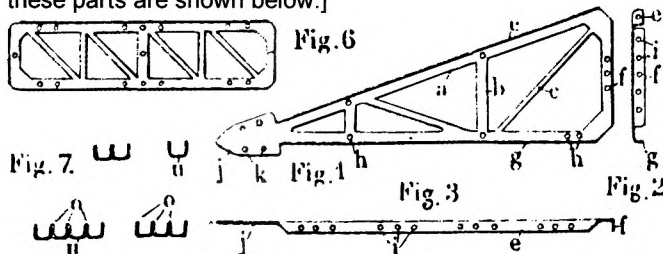
2. From Kendrick Bisset on the **Flanged Sector Plates in U.S. MECCANO** outfits, 'From what I have been able to gather the single row of holes version was used through at least 1927. I have seen two 1928 outfits with the three row variety, and they are shown clearly in contemporary illustrations. BUT later outfits reverted to the single row version. They are in my 1929 #20 & #30 outfits, and in the subsequent New Haven GILBERT-MECCANO outfits. [The history of the sets was given in 12/317.] Is it possible that Elizabeth was making the single row type, and had the tooling? Then when the new version came out [in the UK in 1927] perhaps they were made in England and shipped over until new tooling could be put in place - but this plan was interrupted when Gilbert bought U.S. Meccano?'

3. D. Courdoux wrote that production of **TEMSI** stopped for good in May 1999, and that in future no **MÄRKLIN** spares will be sold, only one or two 'theme' sets. Also that there is a question mark over **STOKYS** because letters to them remain unanswered.

4. Thomas Morzinck wrote that there was a good picture of a **STABA** set on the German ebay site. That's the STABA with the 'outline' Strips, see 8/194. The Set was a No.00 and the contents seem to correspond to those in MCS. The box is red and has 'STABA Constructor' on the lid; the manual doesn't seem to have a proper cover - the front page has just 'STABA' at the top, with '00' in the top right corner, and text underneath. The parts look like those described in OSN 8 except that the 21mm Pulleys are red instead of nickel.

On the **Korbuly patents** (see 22/623), the date of the Austrian one (with gearwheels, connecting rods, etc.) was 1st Nov. 1901 [thus predating Hornby's patent by nearly a month], & the German patent was granted on 14th Jan. '02.

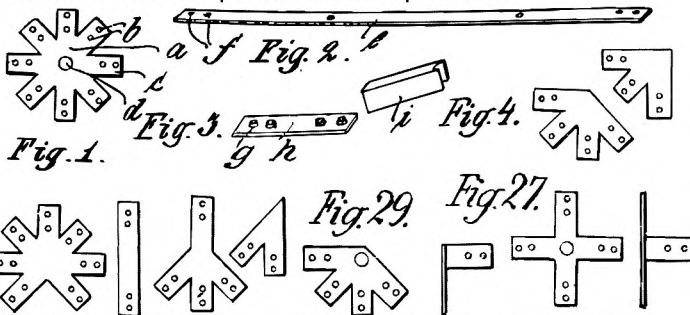
5. From Jeannot Buteux. • The French **CHARPENTO** patent (see 21/617) was No.589377 and a Roger Marie-Joseph Biard applied for it on 2 Feb. 1924. It was acquired by CIJ, who also produced a set for Citroën, and it bore the CITROËN name. Standard CHARPENTO parts were used but painted red & green, and various Garages could be made from the Set. It is extremely rare. [The Patent shows Trusses similar to CHARPENTO but an additional one with a spade end (Figs.1-3) is included, and the Beams have a different pattern of bracing (Fig.6). Various Wire Staples (Fig.7) were also proposed as an alternative to N&B. All these parts are shown below.]



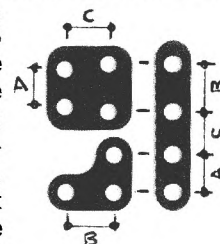
• **EIFFEL** parts (see 19/491) are red & green. • **CLIFFIX** (see 21/596) was patented in France in 1945. • On **STANDARD L.R.** (21/590), the French patent was not quite the same as the UK one. And the order in which the different coloured parts appeared still isn't known. • The name **PETIT GÉANT** (Little Giant, see 21/603) was used for a French system in the 1950s, but it had parts to make a variety of spring & electric motors. • On **MÉCANIC** (21/603), in each large set was a Plate in the bottom of the box, painted matt black, which could be used as a base for various models. It has now been established that its predecessor, **ÉCÉPÉ** (see 12/314) was marketed from 1913.

• The **Black Country Miniature** parts (21/619) really are small, a MECCA-MINI Strip will pass through a hole in a MECCANO Strip, and a BCM Strip will pass through a MECCA-MINI hole. • The contents of **Graham's patents** 125890 & 138824 (see 14/372) are all in one French patent, No. 520081, which was applied for in July, 1920.

Jeannot also sent a copy of a **Danish Richter Patent** Nr.20642, dated 1915. The original German version was from 1913. 28 parts are illustrated in the Danish one, including Figs.1-4, 27 & 29 below. The unlabeled 6 parts below are examples of the other 22 parts - they are like Fig.1 but without the centre hole and with various combinations of from 2 to 7 arms. I can't see how the parts hold together but the idea of hubs with strips attached is similar in principle to **IMPERATOR/ANCHOR ENGINEER** (see 17/486). As far as I know these parts were never produced.



6. From David Hobson. • Snooks's Toy Shop in Bath has a new stock of **CONSTRUCTION** sets: Nos 15, 20, 65, 67, & 77 (at £45,25,7,7,40). Nos.15 & 65 seem to be as described in 14/383 & 22/622 respectively. The others are: No.20 with 365 parts to make space models; No.67 with 214 parts for small space ships; and No.77 (460 parts) for various solar-powered models, and marked as 'new'. Another item is a Parts Pack '**C113 Adapterplatte**', price £3.99. It contains 8 each of the 3 parts right (50% full-size), and they are meant to allow 1/2" pitch parts to be used with those having the 10mm CONSTRUCTION spacing. The dimensions A, B, C are respectively 10, 12.7, & 11.5mm. The latter would be about half the width of 2 Strips, one 1/2" wide & one 10mm. On p151 of *Baukästen* it is said that these parts were introduced in 1998 'to put more pressure on the MECCANO system in the marketplace' [My free translation]. • On the 'Matchbox' set **CLOU** (see 6/130, 13/345), Werner Sticht kindly provided a translation of a note about it in a March 1932 German toy magazine. It was made by Gebr. Schmid and had recently been introduced. The Discs which push on the wooden Rods were made from pressed sawdust; and the Set sold for 25 Pfennigs.



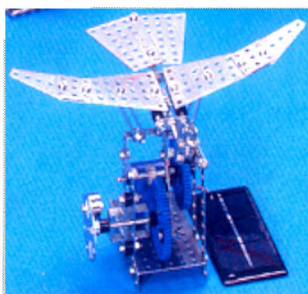
7. From Tony Press: • A copy of the front cover of a **MONTEX** model leaflet in Dutch, PR 7/632/12(IP), which Alex de Jong had put on the Spanner network. A Spanish system called MONTEX was described in 11/296, but in this case it is one of the names that was used for **BRITISH MODEL BUILDER**. The MONTEX cover of this type in MCS has the same layout as the Dutch one, with the 2 boys & Derrick Crane at the top, but it is in Spanish. MONTEX was no doubt a name that could be used in many different markets, and so perhaps leaflets in other languages were produced. Incidentally it may not be clear in all copies of MCS, but the MONTEX Leaflet there has a PR of 13/1035/2, and its price is in 'Argentina pts.'

• News of a 'new' system called **BIG-JOY**. It was a pre-war Australian made copy of **TRIX**. The parts seen seem to be nickel or chrome plated, but are rather inaccurately punched and have a somewhat ragged finish.

• 2 photos, courtesy Jack Little, of a made-up **GEOBRA** model (see 19/552, 22/631), and the set's box. The parts look to be as already described and are the same colours. The box is shown at the top of the next column, and is red with: *Geobra* in a circle top right; some parts in the panel

CONSTRUCTION in 2000 & 2001 First a catalogue with 'eitech' & 'DAS KREATIVE CONSTRUCTION SPIELZEUG 2000' on the cover. The lid of each set is shown and in most cases the style is similar to the No.66 set shown in 22/622, but 2 sets are packed in plastic cases with different labels. In the order of the catalogue the sets are:

SOLAR Nos. 71, 76 & 77 have **SOLAR** on their box tops, and **Nos.71 & 76** were described in 22/622. **No.77** was mentioned in 23/682 and the models include a Cyclist, and the



a small Chair-O-Planes, and the model left, an Ornithopter I suppose. Blue Gears for 2 stages of reduction can be seen and the linkage to the wings is a 6h Slotted Strips on either side. The wings are made from metal Plates & with the limited power of the Solar Motor, the flapping motion may not be very large.

METALL • All the other sets in the catalogue are under this heading, but unlike **SOLAR**, the name isn't on the box tops.

• Nos.61-67 are small sets featuring 1, 2 or 3 models each, and **Nos.61-66** are as described in 22/622. The 3 small Space Craft shown for **No.67** (mentioned in 23/682) use the 6*12h Flexible Plate rolled into a cylinder as the body or



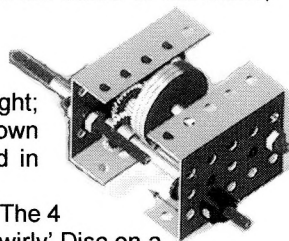
engine, and the largest has 7*5h Sector Plates as 'wings' & 5*3h Triangular Plates as fins. As usual the models are on the box lid but for this set (left) they are shown against a 'space' background rather

than the normal plain one.

• The numbers of parts in **Sets 01-05** remain the same (see 11/293) except that 04 has 252 parts instead of 205. Some of the (simple mechanical) models for it are new and one uses a pair of Universals which were not in the earlier set. The only other noticeable change is the colour of the Motor, blue now instead of yellow.

• **Nos.11, 13, 15, 17** are as described in 14/383. The built-up Friction Motor in No.13 is shown right; No.17 has a Geared Motor, shown black, and probably the type used in the P01 & C40 Sets (6/132-3).

• Next **ELEKTRO-Box 161 & 162**. The 4 models shown for the 161 are: a 'swirly' Disc on a Motor powered by a Solar Cell; a Bulb in a Holder, lit by a blue Motor acting as a generator, hand-driven through several stages of step-up metal gearing; a simple built-up Motor with a 2-pole Armature inside shaped Pole Pieces, mounted on a white 7*5h plastic Plate with unperforated flanges on the long sides; a 12*16h white Flanged Plate with a Bulb in Holder & 2 other small Parts mounted on it – one is probably a Sound Unit. I think it says that all 4 can be made at the same time. The Set is supplied in the red plastic case right (395*280*80mm), and the 4 models above are shown on the blue label. The name **ELEKTRO-Box** along the bottom is mostly obscured in the original by horizontal white lines.



The No.162 is probably in the same case, and has the same contents except that no Solar parts are included.

• Next the **Nos.156 & 157 Mini Sets**. No.156 makes a small Biplane with a 3h Strip as propeller, a 3*12h Plastic Plate as the top wing, a 3*6h Plastic Plate for the tail, and no fin. The 157 is a tiny Helicopter with the 3-bladed Tail Rotor of old as the main rotor, and crossed 3h Strips for the tail rotor. In both the fuselage is a pair of plastic Beams, #1020 (see 3/35), side by side. Perhaps these models look better in the

flesh than on paper.

• Then No.20 with 365 parts, and it features 5 Space Models with a flashing Light. They are simple models but rather larger than those in No.67, with 8 of the 7*5h Sector Plates used in one. As with Set 67 the models on the lid are set against a 'space' backdrop, in this case a 'lunar' landscape

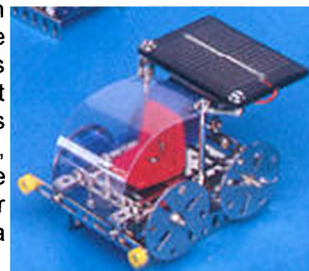
• Finally the Set to make the **Eifelturm** reported in 22/622. It is **No.155** and is in a blue plastic case similar to the 161 one but 325*290*70mm in size. The circular label on it has a boy looking up to the top of the model. The illustration doesn't show anything other than a structure with a Light at the top. One note by the model says that 3x R14 batteries are needed but not what for, and another recommends use of the Flashing Light Parts Pack C112, apparently as an extra.

PARTS PACKS These are numbered 101-113 and as before the parts are in a clear plastic bag with a card top, blue with a photo of various of parts, stapled to it. In order the Packs contain: A/Gs & 11-25h Strips; 2-9h Strips & metal Plates; DAS & Brackets; Face Plate, Discs, & Axles; Gears (not the 'blue' plastic ones) & mechanical parts; Pulleys & Tyres; Flanged Plates; N&B; 4 1/2v Motor in blue casing, & 3-cell Battery Box; Solar Rotor as used in the No.71 Helicopter; Solar Cell and blue-cased Solar Motor; Battery Box (as above), Flashing Lamps & Holders; the Adapter Parts (shown in 23/682).

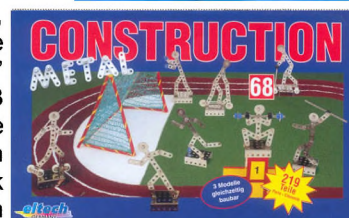
Werner Sticht kindly lent me the **eitech 2001** catalogue and it has the same front cover as the 2000, apart from the year. All the 2000 items are included plus another 4 outfits, making 29 in all, with 3 of them marked as being new.

• The reintroduced one is **No.75**, described in 22/622.

• The first **new set** is the **SOLAR No.78**, with 414 parts, and among the 6 small models shown are a Unicyclist and the nice little 'Buggy' right, with 4 Face Plates as wheels and a curved Transparent Plate over the red Seat. Blue Gears are used in several of the models, and as well as the one with 6 face holes, (see 22/622) there's another with 4, of perhaps 40mm Ø, and a Pinion of say 20mm Ø.



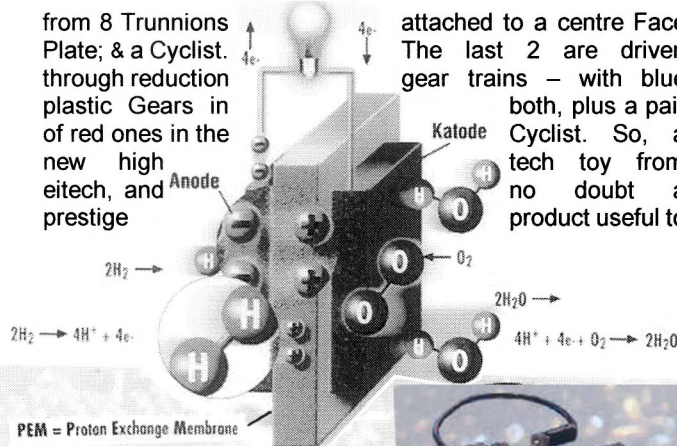
• The second **new set No.68**, right, has 219 parts. On the lid (right) is the word 'METAL' & 8 Sportsman Figures, any 3 of which can be made at the same time. They are shown against a brown running track with a green centre, and each stands on a 3*5h Flanged Plate. It isn't said if the red goal frame with blue netting at the left end is included in the outfit.



• **BRENNSTOFFZELLE** The third **new set, No.30**, has that name on the box & numerous times on the 2 pages of the catalogue devoted to it. My dictionary says it means Fuel Cell and it is shown on the next page at the right end of the Flanged Plates, with the 'chemistry' above it (the lamp at the top is shown lit by the current produced by the Cell). If I've got it right the Cylinder contains a metal hydride, which by some means gives up the hydrogen needed, while the oxygen presumably comes from the atmosphere. The pipe from the Cylinder seems to pass through something that looks like a microswitch, but is no doubt a valve, operated by pressing the red button above it. Water is produced as a by-product but there's no indication of how much or where it collects. The Cylinder charge is said to be enough to last for 200 hours running time, and may be rechargeable (nachfüllbarem). The Cell is shown powering a Motor in 3 models, wired directly to the Cell via a yellow Connection Block. The models are as on the box lid, shown below the unit: a Gear Train using the blue plastic Gears; a 'Roundabout' made

from 8 Trunnions Plate; & a Cyclist. through reduction plastic Gears in of red ones in the new high eitech, and prestige

attached to a centre Face The last 2 are driven gear trains – with blue both, plus a pair Cyclist. So, a tech toy from no doubt a product useful to



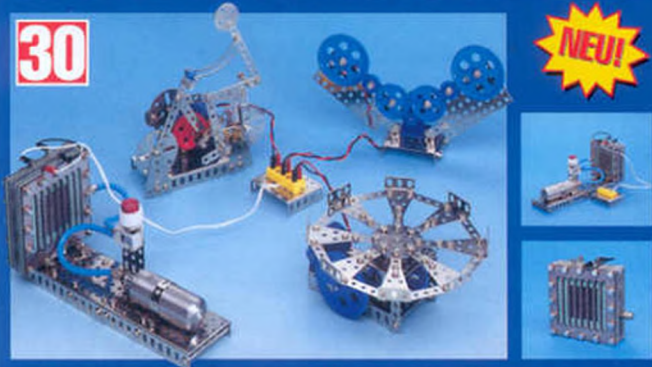
DIE BRENNSTOFFZELLE



CONSTRUCTION

30

NEU!



eitech BRENNSTOFFZELLE

the advertising department. But how far it will appeal to the 14+ year olds that it is said to be suitable for is perhaps questionable. Unlimited experiments are mentioned, but quite what can be done apart from powering up simple models by pressing the red button isn't clear. Perhaps schools might use it to demonstrate the principle. Kosmos also have a Brennstoffzelle set on sale and on the box is a simple 'car' made of transparent plastic and powered by the Cell. In a photo of the set there's something that might be a small multimeter, and if so it is no doubt for use in the 30 experiments that are claimed on the lid.

MANUALS None are shown in the 2000 catalogue; in the 2001 three are shown with the 03 Set (there used to be one with models for Sets 01 – 04) – the only cover visible has '03' on it, & the Lorry & Gantry Crane that are on the 03 box lid.

Contacts The address - eitech, 37308 Pfaffschwende, Germany - is unchanged; phone: 03 60 82 / 4 32-0, -22 (export), -24 (sales), -23 (dispatch); fax 03 60 82 / 4 20 28; email: eitech@t-online.de; web: www.eitech.de.

News of AMI-LAC The last update on this Italian system was in 1996 (15/401) and it's nice to hear that it is still being made. Werner Sticht came across their stand at the Nürnberg Toy Fair early this year and kindly lent me the leaflets he acquired.

The two showing the 6 'i kits' and the standard sets 2-6 are identical to those in 1996, but some other outfits are included in a price list. In the standard range are a **Set 5L**, a No.5 in a wooden box, and **Sets 7, 8, & 9**, also, along with the No.6, in wooden boxes. A No.6 box Werner saw was made of unvarnished plywood and the parts were fitted into blocks of styrofoam. The manual for it was exactly the same as one from the 1960s (with the type of cover shown in OSN 15), and even the prices of parts hadn't been changed. The No.9 is only available to special order. Prices (possibly trade) go from €8 for the No.2 to €27 for the No.5, and €40 for the 5L to €129 for the No.9.

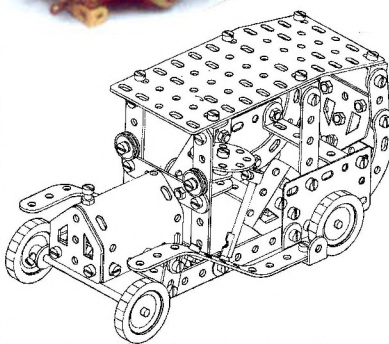
The i kits are called 'Set Kit Junior' on the price list, and run from €4 to €6 - there is one not on the Leaflet - **#106 Scooter**.

Also new since 1996 are 3 'Multi Kit' sets, and a leaflet shows the boxes and small photos of some of the models. Each box has 5 models on the lid and they are generally much better looking than the run of AMI LAC manual models. One outfit, **#2000/1**, price €24, is meant for 7+ year olds, and the rather elegant lid (below) has 5 models set against a flat B&W townscape, with a yellow band at the bottom. The models are a 3-Wheel Delivery Truck, a Tramcar (not so good), and the Loco, Motor Scooter & Motor Car below. They are all about 7" long with 1" Pulleys as



wheels, and Tyres where appropriate. The Car is taken from an A3 model sheet that shows 7 constructional steps in B&W, but whether this is the type of presentation used for all the models, or is just a publicity handout I don't know. The model looks well to me but has no mechanical features & requires bending several parts, including curving a Flat Trunnion at the back to match the Curved Strips.

The other two sets are listed as 'Multi Kit Senior' and the smaller one, **#200**, costs €38, and is for age 8+. The lid has the yellow band at the top and the models are against a red foreground blending into a blue background. '5 GRANDI MODELLI' are claimed on the box and they are a nice 9½" span Fokker Triplane, an 11" Aircraft Carrier & a Helicopter,



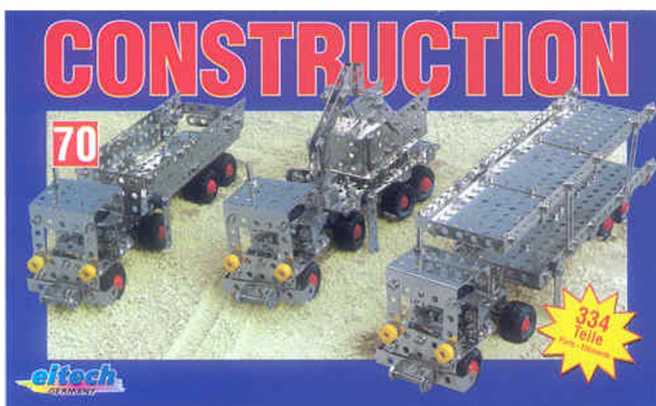
CONSTRUCTION in 2002 David Hobson kindly sent an Eitech 2002 catalogue. It's in English and apart from the language is the same as the German version on the Eitech web site (the very slow www.eitech.de). 7 of the 2001 sets (see 25/726) have disappeared, and 5 new ones have been added.

Those no longer listed are the Solar No.71, the 67 (small Space Craft), No.68 (Sportsmen), the Elektro-Box 161, No.20 (more Space Craft), and the 156 & 157 Mini (Aero) Sets.

There are two **changes** to the remaining outfits. The **No.30** Fuel Cell set has a different Cell, and a white plastic 12*16h Flanged Plate on which the Cell, the Hydrogen Cylinder, & the Motor are mounted. They are shown on the label below, on the blue plastic case, 45*34*10.5cm, that the set is now packed in. The other change is noted at the bottom of each page: 'New: includes **Philips screws** – DIN 7985'.

The **Elektro-Box 162** set is shown for the first time – it is in the same red case as No.161, and the label is similar but without the model with the swirly disc (see 25/726). The labelling of the other existing sets is as before, except that **No.155** (Eiffel Tower) has an oblong label with the same boy & model as on the previous round one.

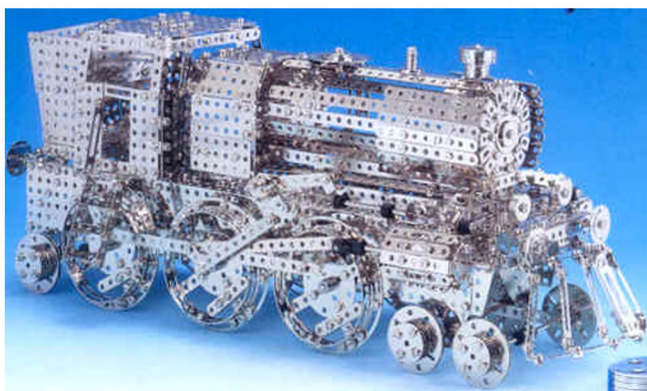
New Sets These are: • **No.69**, with one featured model a small Lorry-Mounted Crane, and the other a Snow Plough (possibly) with a 5*11h Flanged Plate as the load platform. • **No.70** (below) in similar vein but larger with 334



parts, and the 3 articulated Lorries shown are, though small, more attractive. One is an ordinary Truck, one carries a skip, with a crane behind the cab to move it, and the third is a 2-deck Car Transporter. • **No.08** is larger with 722 pieces and 'constructs a multitude of models'. Those shown are 2 types of Tractor, one with a Trailer, and a Grader. Again fair looking models, and larger, with the blade on the Grader about 15h wide. Like those in Sets 69 & 70 all the parts in the models are metal, apart from the Seat & the Wheels. • **No.32**. More Lorries, and considerably larger, some 50cm long. The set has 1482 parts and is packed in a blue plastic case, 32.5*29*7cm. 3 Trucks are shown: the basic one below, the second with a small crane behind the cab, and



the third with a blue box-shape canopy on the back, with 'eitech' in white on its sides. The Wheels of perhaps 7 or 8cm Ø look new. Leaf springs can be seen at the front, and a steering wheel in the cab, but no steering mechanism is visible. Again only one or two small parts are plastic, plus the canopy no doubt, but a less attractive feature of this approach is that the load platform of the models is only indicated by a few cross Strips, to keep cost down presumably. It might have been better to fill these in with Plastic Plates, provided they were a suitable (black or grey) colour. • **No. 31**, a set with 2566 parts in a blue plastic case, 45*34*10.5cm, to build the 60cm long Loco below. The small



wheels are made from a stack of 30mm Discs bolted to a 50mm one. The tread of the large wheels are 11h Slotted Strips suitably curved, with Curved Strips forming the flange. Both are joined to the central Face Plate by 4 Strips. The boiler is made from Strips, with appreciable gaps between them, bolted to more curved 11h Slotted Strips (it may appear from the illustration that the Strips are close together at the smoke box end but what can be seen is actually a smoke deflector, with the 'gappy' boiler behind it). There seems no reason why the boiler Strips should not be close to one another at 1cm spacing. There is no indication that the model is powered.

The **labels** on the outfits not illustrated here are in the same style as those shown.

Parts Packs. Nos.101-113 are as before. **No.114** is the Motor with Gearbox that was in the C40 set, see 6/133. I'm not sure if it has been in other sets since but its case is now blue instead of yellow. No.115 isn't mentioned. **No.116 & 117** are respectively, the 3-4.5v Motor, & the Battery Box, from Pack 109.

The Catalogue came from Snooks in Bath who last April had some of the sets in stock. They included Nos.63 & 69 at £6 each, No.03 at £30, No.13 at £24, Nos.15 & 32 at £48 each, No.75 at £35, and Nos.76 & 78 at £40 each. Also Tim Edwards wrote that in July The Secret Toy Shop, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, had a good stock of a number of sets, and could obtain any of the other sets.

MYSTERY PART No.12 That's the squiggly wire Screwdriver in 5/95. Orion DreamDancer has come across one in an AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER set, though there were other 'foreign' parts in it. Any other sightings?

MYSTERY PART No.45 More from Don about the 1½" Gear with the square centre hole for the boss (see 26/753). The disc is almost identical in diameter and has the same tooth form as a MECCANO 56t Gear with a similar, thin disc. Two of the 'square' ones have now been found in an American No.5X MECCANO set from c1920, and so it seems possible that the part was a wartime Meccano expedient, with the square hole for fear that a zinc boss would slip under load. As far as is known no 1½" Gears with any sort of zinc boss have ever been found in the UK, so how such parts got to be in an American set remains to be explained.

EDITORIAL First, my thanks to everyone who sent comments on the proposed changes to the N/L. I've tried to incorporate as many as possible of your suggestions but the result is inevitably something of a compromise, especially as it is often a question of trying to get a quart into a pint pot. Let me know your reactions.

On 'admin' matters - details of subscription rates, etc, and your credit balance, are now given overleaf. Please note that for simplicity all prices are now per Issue, and that in future the next N/L will not be sent unless the credit balance is sufficient to cover its cost. To make this clear the minimum you need to send to receive the next Issue is given, but as before you can send more to avoid having to make frequent payments.

With the experience gained from printing this Issue I can give an indication of the prices likely due to the use of colour, and printing single-sided. For the usual postal zones the price per Issue will probably be about £6.50/£7/£8. The final figures will be given in OSN 29. As explained in OSN 27 this Issue and the next (OSN 29) will be at the existing rates (given overleaf) for current subscribers, and the new rates will apply to OSN 30 and thereafter.

A note on the page numbering. As well as the normal page numbers each item has an 'S' number for those who want to file OSN material in MCS. For each system the first item about it will be 'S1', the second 'S2', and so on.

FROM READERS

1. **FERMO** (see 27/784) came from the British Zone of Germany rather than from East Germany, as stated in the Extra MCS Sheet. Thank you to Jacques Pitrat for this correction.

FERMO: S1

[28/813]

2. The **MERKUR M8** was mentioned as possibly the largest general purpose set now available, but Alan Blake & other readers have drawn attention to the **METALLUS** Berlin outfit. According to the Metallus web site (now much improved & much faster) it costs €599 and has 2462 parts (the old **MÄRKLIN** No.1015, see below, has 990 + 558 N&B). By my count the M8 has 1384 parts (652 + 366 N&B), plus a Motor.

In passing, Metallus has a range of 12 outfits including 5 Gear sets. The 7 constructional outfits are said to be equivalent to the old **MÄRKLIN** Sets 1009-1015, & each is named after a German town, from Berchtesgaden to Berlin. Details of the **MÄRKLIN** sets are in MCS (the 1015 is the 1014+1034), and they all seem to have slightly fewer parts than the **METALLUS** ones. From the web photos the latter still include a few **TEMSI** parts. A **TEMSI** manual is included but it is suggested that the old **MÄRKLIN** manuals be used.

At the time of writing, October 2002, Dave Taylor has the Berlin listed at £329.95. The Dutch site mentioned in 27/790 has the M8 at €140.50.

METALLUS: S1

[28/813]

3. Thomas Morzinck wrote that Karl Debik has opened his

building toy museum in Germany. The address is Baukasten-Museum, Hartmannstraße 4, Löbau/Saxonia.

[28/813]

4. From Alan Blake. The Maplin catalogue includes 17 **CONSTRUCTION** sets, from a set with 116 parts at £3.99 to a 1482 part outfit at £49.99. No Set Nos. are given. Maplin shops have very few, if any, of them, but one shop had two sets that weren't in the catalogue.

CONSTRUCTION: S1

[28/813]

5. From Jacques Pitrat. 'On **BUILD** (27/798) I have an unused #400 set and the lid is the one with 'Standard' under Buildo. The contents are almost the same than those of the #45 set, but there only 6x 5h Strips, 6 DAS, no 5*9h Plate, & 3x 98mm Shafts. The Flat Plates are not fully perforated. There is a plate Screwdriver with a centre cutout in the handle. The Eccentric Strap is anodised red, and the upper two Pulley Discs are anodised orange. The disposition of the parts is slightly different from the photo in the manual. On page 1 of the manual there is the address of the maker and the description and the price of the four sets: 400, 600, 900, 1500.' [Jacques also sent a photo of his open box, showing all the parts and their layout.]

BUILD (1): S1

[28/813]

6. Some notes from Don Redmond on **BUILD** following the article in 27/796. His No.45 includes Flat Brackets with one hole slotted, and A/Bs made from them. The Bolts in the set are steel, mostly mushroom head but with a few, 6 & 9mm, RH. The 6mm hex Nuts are chamfered on one side. The wire Screwdriver is distinctive with a narrow, 5mm, tip. The Strips are rather inaccurately stamped. The finish appears to be cadmium plate or similar, soft and susceptible to fingermarks, and easily polished with 0000 steel wool.

The glassine tube of N&B in a No.400 set contains chiefly truss head Bolts (very flat round heads tapering to a sharp edge), but with some fillister heads, chiefly on the longer ones. The Nuts are 7.5mm hex brass. The Screwdriver is the flat style, and likewise in a No.600 outfit.

The Gear Quadrants in the 600 are the 13-tooth type, and they mesh well with a 30cm bronze plated, steel Chain - pitch 4.65mm and 4mm wide.

BUILD (1): S2

[28/814]

7. From Jacques Pitrat. On **SPIROU** (27/783), the word is the name of a well known hero of a Belgian comic, who has the uniform of a page boy in a hotel. There is still a 'Journal de Spirou' published in Belgium and in France. Temsi chose this name for a metal construction system because many Belgian boys liked his adventures, the same reason that there is a Mickey Mouse set.

SPIROU: S1

[28/813]

8. Clive Weston has found a **VOGUE** catalogue dated January 1957. As would be expected, Sets 1, 2, 3, 5 are listed, with B&W photos, and named Junior, Standard, Major, & Super. This is the first positive date for the No.5

CONSTRUCTION in 2003 Paul Goodman kindly gave me Eitech's 2003 German language catalogue. The sets in it are listed below with the new ones underlined and an asterisk by those which have changed compared with 2002 (see 27/795). The total number of sets is considerably reduced but the larger ones remain unchanged, except that the basic outfit No.03 is replaced by a larger set 06, with a Geared Motor in it.

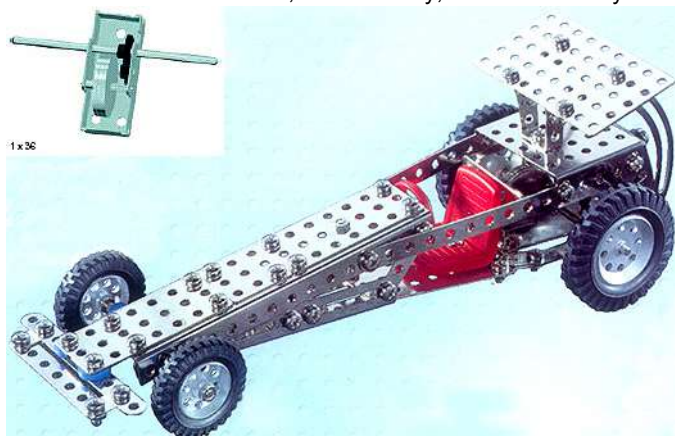
The **2003 range** is: Sets 02,04,06,07,08,10,11,15,30*,31,32,60,61-66,72,75,76,78,155; Packs of Parts 101-109,110*,111*,112-114,115,116,117,118,119,120.

The **discontinued sets** are: 01,03,05,13,17,69,77,70,162.

The **new/changed sets** are: • **06**. This is a 2 tray basic outfit, size 350*290*75mm. The trays shown look identical with those for 04 in 2002, however it has 582 parts (against 419 in the 04) and they include a Geared Motor. The models on the lid, below, look new, but the illustrations are too small to see



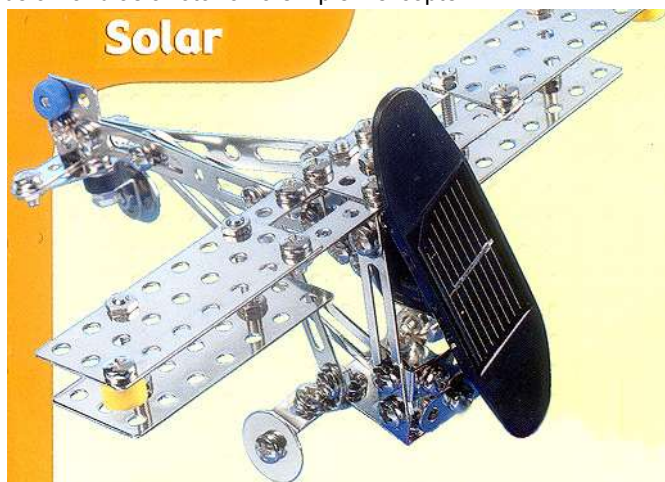
many details. • **07**. This set is not in the catalogue but was shown as new on the Eitech web site when I looked last October. It has 378 parts and the lid shows 3 lorries, all with similar, rather old-fashioned front ends. One is a Breakdown Truck with a crane made from standard parts, one is a Tanker with a yellow plastic tank on the chassis at the back, and the third has a blue container, or van body, instead of the yellow



tank. • **10**. This set, 350*290*30mm, has 319 parts and a Friction Motor; the lid shows a Buggy, the Dragster below (with the Motor inset), & a F1-style Racing Car. The Small & Large Pulleys/Tyres are PN 1031/1421 & 1032/1422. • **30** is shown in the catalogue packed in the blue plastic case shown at the top of the next column – it is as in 2002 (the picture should have been included in OSN 29). This set is not on the web site but instead, labelled as new, is a No.30 in an ordinary box with the earlier label (and the earlier parts on it) as shown in 25/727. However the instructions for the Set, which can be downloaded from the site, show the later parts. • **60**. A 253 part outfit, size 289*174*76mm, and the 3 models on the lid are a



Tower & a Windmill, both rudimentary, plus a simple but rather better Tower Crane, about 30cm high. • **72**, again 289*174*76mm, is a new 'Solar' set with 188 parts. On the lid an ungainly Solar Panel serves as a propeller on the Biplane below and as a rotor on a simple Helicopter.



The **new/changed packs** are: • **110**, which is now the Solar Panel used in Set 72, instead of the longer one used in No.71, see 16/442. • **111**. Plug & socket connectors are now fitted in the leads joining the Motor & Solar Panel. • **115**. A blue cylindrical Motor with Battery Box and a selection of parts including 25h A/Gs & blue plastic Gears. • **118**. A Geared Motor for 'Solarmodul'. The 'works' are in a small rectangular clear plastic housing. It isn't clear what it is to be used with but the leads look as if they could connect to models made from Eitech's plastic 'Experimentiersets'. Also included though are adaptors to allow connection to Solar Panels, etc. • **119**. Another Geared Motor in a clear rectangular plastic case, but larger and with output shafts on the top, bottom, & the 2 sides. The case looks 'knobbly' like Lego and may be primarily intended to fit to the Experimentiersets parts. • **120**. A Solar Panel which looks the same as the one in Pack 111.

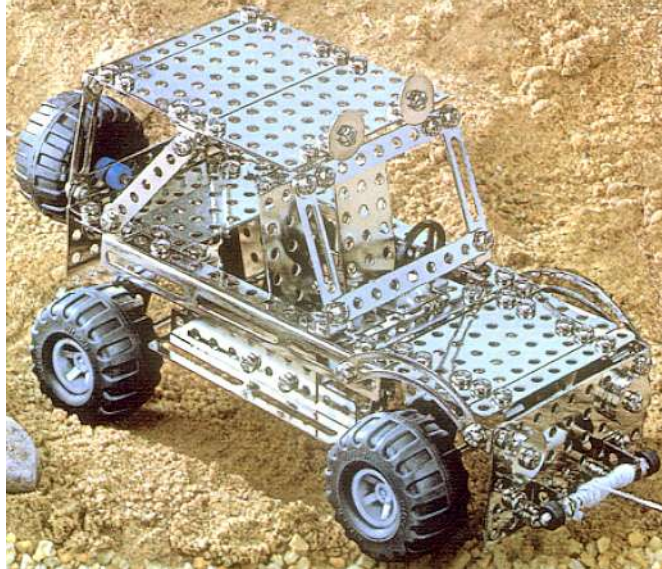
2004 UPDATE In mid-January the Eitech web site showed the following **sets**: 01,02,03,04,05,06,07,08,10,11,13,15,17,30,31,32,60-66,72,75,76,77,78,155. Apart from the new 2003 sets (Nos.07,10,60,72) and Sets 69,70,162, the range has reverted to what it was in 2002. The lids shown for the reintroduced sets are as in the 2002 catalogue.

The **parts packs** remain as in 2003 plus, under Solar, #1630 (the Rotor in #110 is shown, plus, not shown, 'Motor & Bushse'), and #1631 (which appears to be the same as #111 but only the Panel is illustrated).

The web site also shows the individual parts in the system though I couldn't find the Wheels used on the Dragster (left). Parts I'd not seen before included #1136, a 6*12h Transparent Plate with only the corner slots pierced; a Bulb Holder #1734; a 3.5v Clear Bulb #1735; & a Red Flashing Bulb #1736.

CONSTRUCTION in 2004 Josep Bernal & Paul Goodman have kindly sent me the 2004 Eitech catalogue. The sets listed are Nos.02,04,06,07*,08,09*,10,11,15,30,31,32,60,61,62,64,65,66,72,75,76,78,81*,86*,87*,88*,89*,90*.155. Those with asterisks are labelled as new. In August the Eitech web site showed all the above plus 01 & 77. Taking those into account the sets missing from the January, 2004 web site range given in 30/885, are 03,05,13,17,63.

The New Sets 07 was described in OSN 30. 09 has 446 parts and is said to build Jeep-Modellen. 3 are shown on the lid, the longest perhaps 30cm. All have the same front end &



chassis as the one above but the cab & back vary. No steering by the look of it. 81 is a small set for either of the simple models on its lid, a Bicycle & a Tricycle. Again no colour apart from the handlebar grips. 86 has 171 parts and the 3 lid models are a Motorcycle & 2 Motor Tricycles, all fairly small nickel/grey models with small Wheels and cylinder fins from Flat Brackets, or 2h Corner Brackets perhaps. 87 (248 parts) is for Digger top right & 2 similar tracked Machines. I don't remember the Track & Sprockets parts before. 88 & 89 each feature 3 little models which were previously sold as single models in the Startbox range (see 11/293 & 13/343). The 88's were 81, 84, & 93; and the 89's, 83, 92, & 94. The Sets have 168 & 167 parts respectively & those in plastic are shown blue & grey. The 90 has enough (185) parts to build the Loco, Tender, & Signal on the lid right. The rails look like string.



The Parts Packs are as in 2003 except that 117-119 have been replaced. 117 is still a Battery Box but instead of a switch it has a knob and 2 leads, each with a little cylinder half way along – possibly a plug & socket. It is described as 'stufenweise schaltbar' (continuous control?). 118 is a blue Geared Motor, with a body about 4cm long, for use with the Solarmodul. 119 contains 8 blue plastic Gears, a Worm Z1; 3 flat discs, Z20,40,60; and 4 which appear to have a metal boss: a Pinion Z14, and Gears also numbered Z20,40,60. The PNs probably denote the number of teeth. Z40 has 4 large face holes & Z60, 6. Z20-60 without boss look like the standard parts #1455-7.



CONSTRUCTION [1] S3

OSN 31/910

POLYLONG in 2004 Early in the year, when the account in 30/886 was written, there were numerous sets offered on Ebay, mostly from Germany. The numbers have gradually decreased and now in August there are just a few each day, and not the wide range of sets initially available. The only new sets seen were 3 of 5 on Ebay from a UK seller. The 2 already known were COMBINED EXCELLED Nos.522 & 525, see 31/887. The lids of the 3 new ones are shown below. The one

with the Biplane is COMBINED TOYS No.530A - only Nos.501, 502, 505, & 506 of the 500 series were known before. The second one is No.530B and is just labelled TANK KING OF THE LAND, with no other indication of its POLYLONG parentage to be seen. The third, just called RACING, does have the POLYLONG logo in the top right corner, and like the first has POWERFUL TOYS at bottom right – the TANK has BATTLE GAME there.



POLYLONG: S3

OSN 31/910

CONSTRUCTION in 2005 First thanks to all who sent me the Eitech 2005 catalogue. Compared with 2004 (see 31/910) all the large sets remain unchanged; of the others 3 have disappeared and 4 have been added. All the sets in the catalogue were listed on the firm's web site (www.eitech.de) when I looked in February.

The **sets deleted** are No.11 (described in 14/383), No.65 (see 22/622), and the Solar Set No.78 (see 25/726).

The **new sets** are: • **No.74** with 300 parts including the Solar Cell that acts as a propeller in the model below left. In addition the lid shows another, smaller, Flying Machine, and a Propeller-driven Sledge complete with a blue plastic 'Driver'.



• **No.12** with 300 parts. 4 models are shown on the lid including the Truck above right. The others are a Digger, a Crane, and a Dozer, all fitted with the rubber-looking Tracks.

• **No.14** has 500 parts for the models on the box lid below, and they include the Truck with Ladder alongside the lid. Two of the others look to be Crane Trucks. There seems to be no steering in the 'Ladder' model, and, in normal Eitech fashion, no mention is made of a Motor being included in either the No.12 or No.14 outfits.

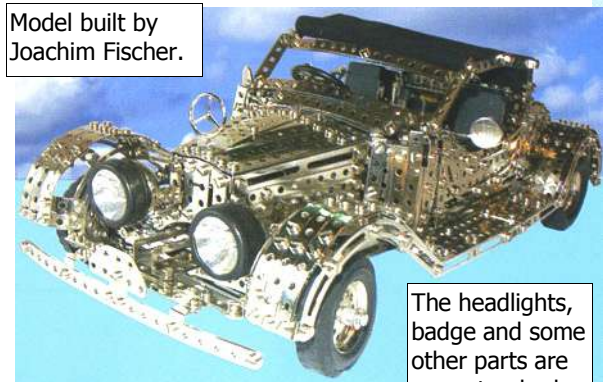


The **lids** of the new sets are similar to existing ones except that the background is a darker blue.

The **Parts Packs** are unchanged except that No. 109's Battery Box is now as in No.117 (see 31/910)

One new feature in the catalogue is 2 pages with photos of 5 attractive 'super' models: a Gantry Crane, a Flying Carpet fairground ride, & the 3 models on this page. All these and several others can be seen in the Galerie section of the Eitech web site.

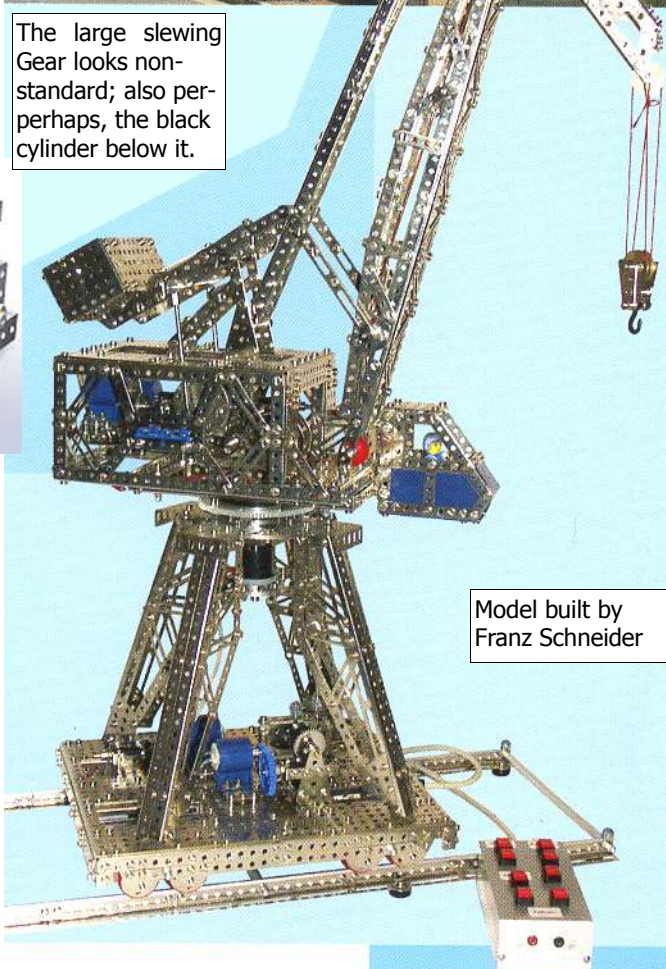
Model built by
Joachim Fischer.



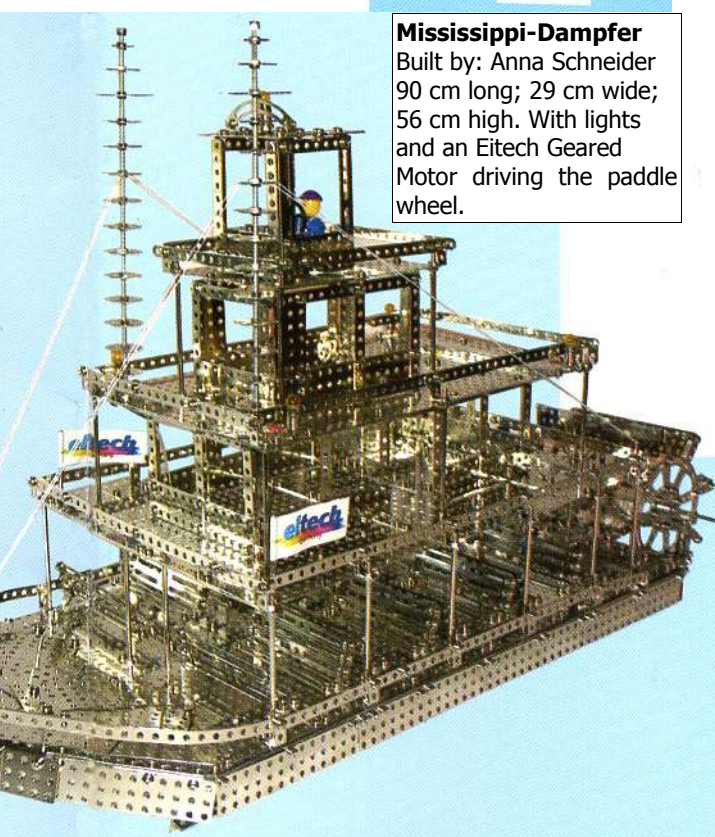
The headlights,
badge and some
other parts are
non-standard.



The large slewing
Gear looks non-
standard; also per-
haps, the black
cylinder below it.



Model built by
Franz Schneider



Mississippi-Dampfer

Built by: Anna Schneider
90 cm long; 29 cm wide;
56 cm high. With lights
and an Eitech Geared
Motor driving the paddle
wheel.

CONSTRUCTION in 2006 Compared with 2005 (see 34/1023) the 2006 brochure has 8 new sets & 2 have been dropped. The current range of sets, with the new ones asterisked, is 02,04,06,07,08,09,10,12,14,16*,18*,22*,30,31,32,51*,52*,53*,54*,60,61,62,64,66,72,74,75,76,81,84*,85,86,87,89,90,115,155. No.115 is one of the Parts Packs but since it appeared in 2003 it has also been listed as an add-on for the No.31 Loco outfit (see 27/795). It has a selection of parts including a small Motor, a Battery Box, Gears, & 4x 25h A/Gs; enough perhaps to make a length of track and make the wheels go round with the model raised above it. The new sets have the dark background style of box, as No.16 below right, & the boxes of Nos.61,62,75 have been changed to this type.

Sets deleted are **No.15**, a medium sized set with a Motor to make fairground models (see 14/383), and **No.88**, a small set for Lorries using the smallest Road Wheel (see 31/910).

New Sets Nos.51-54 are very small outfits with one model shown for each, a Helicopter, Biplane, Lorry, & Loco respectively. All run along on the smallest Road Wheels and are probably about the smallest models possible using them. **No.16** has 230 parts and uses same size Wheels but the 4 featured models are quite realistic looking. Said models can be seen on the box lid right, and the model below shows the new



(I think) plastic body parts. Notice on the lid the two Spanners on the left. The bottom one is the usual Eitech pattern; the one above it has the ring end encased in red plastic with a hex opening on one face and a circular one on the other - thus it

PS A new 'supermodel' has been added to those in the 2005 catalogue, a very large and detailed model of Tower Bridge, with all nickel parts.



can be used as a nut carrier. **No.84** has 200 parts and the lid shows 3 fairly simple Tractor/Loader models, all with the medium Road Wheels. **No.18** is a 500 part set for Cranes. As can be seen in the model below the innovations are a Cab with a little Figure in it, the long Tracks, and a Geared Ball Bearing. **No.22** is the main new addition, a set to make one of 3 radio controlled vehicles. An example is shown bottom left; the others have slightly different bodies. Like the current MECCANO product all look to be built up on a Unit which contains the motor plus the drive & steering mechanisms. The radio is 2-channel (27/40MHz) with on/off switches. In August new sets were being offered on German Ebay from €50 to €75.

Parts Packs These continue as before but with 2 additions. **No.121** has 2 LEDs in holders and a 2x AA Battery Holder; **No.122** has a 1m length of Ladder Chain, shown around a blue plastic Gear, with 1 link per 2 teeth probably - a very useful and long needed addition to the system.



CONSTRUCTION in 2007 Compared with 2006 (see 35/1062) the Eitech web site (www.eitech.de/english/index.html) in July showed 6 new sets and 12 that had been dropped. The **new range**, with the additions asterisked, is: 03*,06,07,10,12,14,16,17*,18,22,23*,30,31,51,52,53,54,60,61,62,64,67*,72,73*,74,75,82*,84,85,87,155. The boxes for the new sets have the same darkish style as the No.16 in OSN 35.

The sets deleted are as follows, with the date they were described in OSN in brackets. Except where stated they are outfits to make one of 2 or 3 small models. • **No.02**, a small general purpose set (11/293). • **No.04**, an add-on set with a Motor (3x R14), etc (13/342). • **No.08**, a 772 part set for earth moving models (27/795). • **No.09**, a 446 part set for Jeep-type models (31/910). • **No.32**, the large outfit for a 6-Wheel Lorry (27/795). • **No.66**, (22/622). • **No.76**, a Solar set for a variety of models (22/622). • **No.81**, (31/910). • **No.86**, (31/910). • **No.89**, (31/910). • **No.90**, for a little Loco & Tender (31/910). • **No.115**, an add-on set for the large Loco made from



Set 31 (35/1062).

The new sets.

• **No.03**, a 390+ parts set to make a Tractor & Trailer, the former with steering & 'air tires'. • **No.17**, 1200+ parts to make the 60cm high Big Wheel top right. A 4.5v (3x R14), 84:1 Geared Motor drives the centre axle though at least one stage of gearing. I wonder if there's an overrun freewheel. If the side rings of the wheel are made of large-radii Curved Strips they would be a welcome addition to the system. A Set from a Continental web site was priced at €85 plus shipping. • **No.23**, 350+ parts for 'various sports & racing cars' with 27/40mHZ radio control. Above, the example from the web site. • **No.67** is a small set for either a Monoplane with a parasol wing made from 2x 3*7h Perforated Plates, or a Helicopter, both very simple models. • **No.73** is a Solar set with 300+ parts

including a 1v Cell & Motor. The Helicopter bottom left is the main model but 4 other quite attractive smaller ones are shown on the box lid: a Wind Turbine, a Cyclist, a Racing car, & a twin beam 'Nodding Donkey' Pump. • **No.82** is a starter set with 3 simple Racers fitted with 'air tires' on the box lid.

Accessory packs A number of these have been dropped & some new ones added. Those unchanged are: • **No.101**, 11-25h Strips & A/Gs. • **No.102**, 2-9h parts. • **No.103**, DAS & Brackets. • **No.104**, Circular Discs & Axles. • **No.106**, Wheels & Tyres. • **No.107**, Flanged Plates. • **No.108**, N&B. • **No.112**, Battery Box, Lamp & Holder. • **No.113**, 1cm to 1/2" Adaptor Parts. The new packs are: • **No.130**, 43 parts including a small Motor, blue Gears, & a 3x R6 Battery Holder. • **No.131**, 41 parts including a Geared Motor, blue Gears, & a 3x R14 Battery Box with rheostat. • **No.132**, Gear Set with 10,14,20,26,30,40,60t blue Gears, a blue Worm, & 1m of Ladder Chain. • **No.133**, Solar Set with a 1v rectangular Cell & Motor, blue Gears, some N&B, and a few small parts. • **No.134**, below, with an 84:1 Geared Motor that needs 3x R14 batteries (or 4x R6 according to the English version of the Site). I'm not sure what the 3 knobs on the Battery box do.



on the 6 pages of Type 3? models in OSN 29. **Set 0:** 22 models from 0.6 Pantin (Puppet) on p3 to 0.27 Trapèze équilibriste (a wide See-saw with a bar at each end) on p8, plus 0.30 Patinette (Scooter) among the 'A' models on p9. **Set A:** 11 models plus those on the missing pages, from A.28 Dog-Car [sic] on p9 to A.52 Grue No.3 on p18. **Set B:** 8 models from B.53 Tourniquet (Turnstile) to B.60 Bobineuse (Spool Winder). There is also a **D model**, D.61 Eglise on p22 (IBC).

There is a one line drawing for each model, quite large for some, plus a parts list for most of them. The parts may be listed under their names or by a code letter, sometimes the initial letter of the name. The method isn't consistent and can be fairly confusing. The models in Figs.4-6 are shown full-size apart from the Dog-Car at 75%. The latter, an A model, is the only one in the manual in which the Circular Plate is used (the background colour is due to discolouration of the paper). The 64mm Pulley Disc is used in the Motorcycle and one other B model. The Tyres are not used elsewhere, nor are they referred to. The Winder is the most complicated 'mechanical' model.

Some parts are used in the models that have not been noted so far, as follows: 8,10,12,13,14,16h Strips; a Wire & a Loaded Hook; a Driving Band that looks like spring cord; and possibly a small Roller or Loose Pulley.

The Sets The introduction in the Manual has a paragraph about the sets available and it says that there are 13 in all, Sets 1-6 described as boîtes secondaires / kleine dozen, and Sets 0, A-F (the 0 is sometimes written as the letter O). Then it is said of these latter sets that each, starting from 0, can be converted to the next larger set by adding a Set 0, and thus if a Set 0 is added to a Set B, it becomes a Set C. That sounds clear enough but as Jacques Pitrat pointed out when I checked with him that I had understood the French correctly, it seems

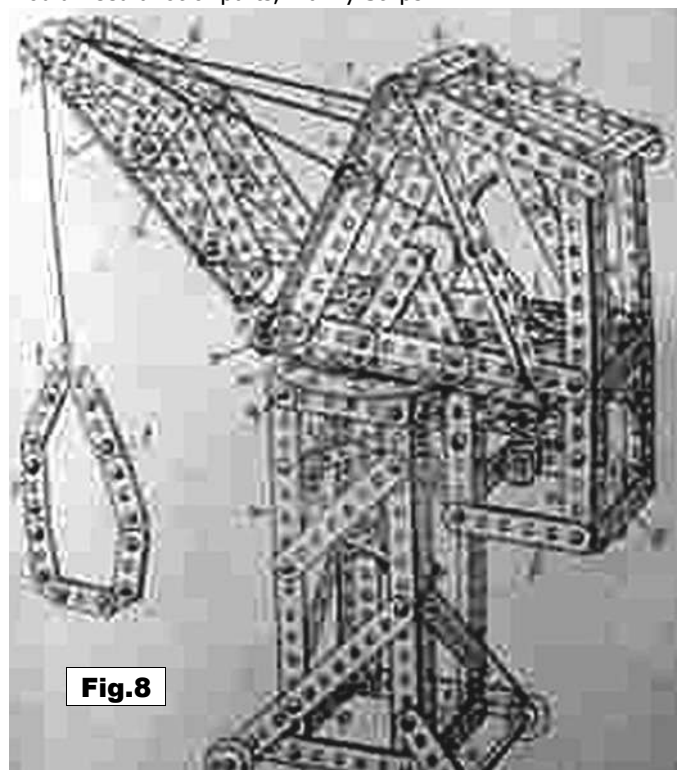
Fig.7



to mean that a Set F would simply consist of 7 of the Set 0. That sounds odd but if correct it would mean that to make the models in the present manual a Set 0 would need to contain for instance a Circular Plate (to give 2 for the Set A Dog-Car), 2x 64mm Pulley Discs (to give 4 for the Set B Motorcycle), and 2x 25mm Pulleys (to give 4 for a Set A Travelling Crane). A unique marketing idea, or did the writer of the Manual get it wrong? One possibility that has been suggested is that the Sets 1-6 were the 6 linking outfits needed to take a Set 0 to a Set F. In that case Sets 0 & 1 would still have to have, between them, the 2 Circular Plates for the Dog-Car - still unusual to have this part in small sets but more credible than Set 0 as the universal linking outfit.

Snippet: An Ebay Set, again from the UK. The lid and manual cover are as might be expected (see 29/851) but there appears to be no Set Number on the lid. Points of interest in the box (Fig.7) are the 10h Strips, the 2 sizes of Pulley top right, and the 2-colour Cord. The N&B are in a box top left with 2 A/Bs to its right, and an Axle, & a second Spanner, below it, under the cellophane. 5 pages from the manual were shown, 3 with models from the present manual, though at least one with a different page number. The other pages have a reasonable Chair-O-Planes model of about 12" diameter, and the Crane below, with the Wire Hook just visible. Either model would need a lot of parts, mainly Strips.

Fig.8



MERCATOR: S11

OSN 40/1224

CONSTRUCTION in 2008 from a catalogue in German and the Eitech web site. 6 new sets were added for 2008 and 11 dropped.

The new range, with the new sets asterisked, is: 03,05*, 08*,12,17,18,19*,20*,23,24*,30,31,51,52,53,54,61,62,64,67, 72,73,74,82,83*,84,85,87,155. **The lids** of the new sets, and some of the existing ones, are of a new design with emphasis on 'eitech', & with CONSTRUCTION in much smaller letters. The example in Fig.1 overleaf is typical.

The New Sets. • **No.05** with over 270 parts. The featured model is a small Crane in which the tower and integral horizontal jib slew. Alternative models shown are a Windmill & a Gantry Crane. • **No.08** has over 430 parts and the lid is shown in Fig.1. • **No.19** has the Lorry in Fig.2 on its lid and

has over 500 parts including hollow Tyres (Eitech: Luftreifen). Notice the one-piece Cab Side. • **No.20** with over 420 parts and features what is perhaps a Multi-Rocket Launcher on the lid, with smaller photos of a Tank & a Mobile Crane (on the Eitech web site the Crane is featured). All the models have tracks. • **No.24** is a 27/40 Mhz R/C set with over 250 parts and the 2 models shown have 'utility' bodies sitting above the R/C Unit and the large, fat Wheels. A battery charger is included. • **No.83** (over 170 parts) features a wheeled Bulldozer, and 2 variant models are claimed. The Wheels and Cab Sides are as in the No.19.

None of these sets have a Motor (apart from No.24 of course) but for all but No.08 there is an Accessory Pack with a Motor, blue plastic Gears, & the other parts needed for motor-

CONSTRUCTION [1]: S7

OSN 40/1224



Fig.1



Fig.2

ization, though which functions are powered isn't stated.

The Deleted Sets. These are listed below with a reference in brackets to when they were described in OSN.

- **No.06**, 582 part multi-model outfit with Geared Motor (30/885).
- **No.07**, 378 parts for 3 'old-fashioned' Lorries (30/885).
- **No.10**, 319 parts for 3 Racing Cars (30/885).
- **No.14**, 500 parts for a variety of small models (34/1023).
- **No.16**, 230 parts for various small Goods Vehicles (35/1062).
- **No.22**, the first R/C set (35/1062).
- **No.60**, 253 parts for 3 small 'framework' models (30/885).
- **No.75** was mentioned in 22/622 but later it had over 250 parts for a

variety of Solar models.

Accessory Packs Nos.112 (a Battery Box with Switch), 113 (centimetre to inch Brackets), & 134 (a Geared Motor and Controller, see 37/1107) have been dropped, and Nos.135 & 136 added. **No.135** has a blue Motor with blue plastic Gears and various other parts; **No.136** is the 3-channel Controller from No.134.

Postscript 2 sets have been added since the above was written, **No.55**, a 'simplicity' Loco, & **No.80**, a small Tractor & Trailer.

The Eitech Name. Browsing the eitech web site I came across the full company name: Eichsfelder Technik eitech GmbH. So that's where Eitech comes from. The address is Industriestraße 1, D-37308, Pfaffschwende. Pfaffschwende is in the district of Eichsfeld, and seems, on the map, to be a quite small town.

OSN 40/1225

CONSTRUCTION [1]: S8

A KIS TECHNIKUS Manual The Hungarian KIS TECHNIKUS, and its possible connection with TECHNOKID, was mentioned in 20/583. Now a manual has become available, and as will be seen, there is indeed a strong TECHNOKID connection.

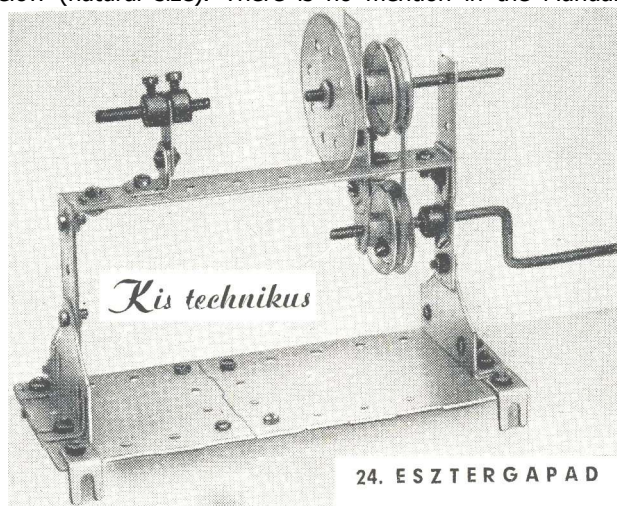
The manual is in Hungarian (the translations in what follows are not guaranteed) with 12 unnumbered pages plus covers, 228*158mm. The front cover, below, is the one described in



OSN 20 with the TECHNOKID model & manual on it. (In passing the parts in known TECHNOKID sets are all aluminium, none are red.) Kis Technikus means Young Technician and Fémépítőszekrény, metal construction set. C2 has an Introduction which in its last paragraph says that KIS TECHNIKUS consists of certain TECHNOKID parts. C4 has the name of the maker, MEJA (in a gear wheel logo), and 'Made by the

BUDAPESTI VT. MECHANIKAI JÁTEKGYÁRA' (=Budapest mechanical toy factory) with what is probably an address, Budapest XX, Ságvári Endre - U. 24 (Ságvári Endre was a resistance fighter killed in 1944). Exactly the same maker & address are on the back cover of the first TECHNOKID manual described in OSN 20, and the PR along the bottom is identical too except that it has '27263/LD05' in it against '27007/LD05' in the present one.

The other pages have 42 models from 1. ASZTAL (=Table) on p1, to 42. LÖKHAJTÁSOS REPÜLŐGÉP (=Jet Aircraft). There is the usual range of simple models except that the only ones with wheels are two 2-wheel Barrows. Each model has just a good low contrast halftone about the size of the Lathe below (natural size). There is no mention in the Manual of



24. ESZTERGAPAD

OSN 40/1225

KIS TECHNIKUS: S1

CONSTRUCTION in 2009, from a catalogue and the Eitech web site. 4 new sets were added for 2009 (not counting Nos.55 & 80 mentioned in 40/1225) and 2 dropped.

The new range, with the new sets asterisked, is: 03,05,08,17,18,19,20,21*,23,24,25*,30,31,33*,51,52,53,54,55,61,62,64,67,72,73,74,80,82,83,84,85,87,91*. The lids of nearly all the sets now have the design with emphasis on 'eitech', & with CONSTRUCTION in much smaller letters. And the large sets 30 & 31 are packed in new wooden boxes, like the one for the new No.33 in Fig.4.

The New Sets. • **No.21** has over 360 parts for the Digger on the lid and 2 other similar machines, all running on rubber tracks.

• **No.25** is a R/C set with over 690 parts, and is in the same vein as earlier R/C sets but the 2 models shown (Fig.3) are Off-Roaders. The web site mentions a battery charger but not the catalogue. • **No.33** (Figs.1,4), has over 2300 parts, and (not before time) replaces No.155. The model stands 1.25m high and in one view it is illuminated internally with a note by it: 'Extension with strand of lights length 5m'. • **No.91** (Fig.2) has over 180 parts & 2 models other than the slightly surreal featured Loco are claimed.

The Deleted Sets. • **No.155** already mentioned, was shown in 22/622. • **No.12** for various tracked vehicles, see 34/1023.

Accessory Packs & Add-on Sets

These continue unchanged and include Nos.140-142 which were introduced in 2008 but not mentioned in OSN 40. **No.140** replaced No.116 and is the standard blue 4.5v Motor; **No.141** replaced No.114 and is the blue 4.5v

Geared Motor; and **No.142** contains a black commercial open Battery Holder for 3x AA cells and a separate blue-cased Switch. Also not mentioned before is a Tool Kit, **No.650080** with 2 spanners, an adjustable spanner, a standard & a cross-head screwdriver, 6 Allen keys, 6 sockets & a spinner handle.

The EITECH No.17 BIG WHEEL SET The 60cm high model for this outfit was shown in 37/1107. The box is large, 44½*33½*11½cm, & contains an inner box with space around it for the larger parts. Said box contains 2 blue, formed plastic trays, one deeper than the other, & not all the recesses in the deeper one are used. Apart from the plastic parts for the cars, the contents include 133 Strips; 60 Curved Strips; 10 A/Gs; 16 Brackets; 13 Perforated Plates; 2 Face Plates; 3 blue plastic Bearing Strips; over 400 N&B; Tools including a Nut Spinner; Mod.1, blue plastic Gears with 20 & 60 teeth; a 4.5v Geared Motor; and a Battery Box fitted with a rheostat & reversing switch, and with mounting holes in its underside.

The Curved Strips are of course used for the rings in the side frames of the wheel and the 3 types are shown in Fig.6 at about half size. 6 of the shortest with a 1 hole overlap make a circle of 12cm pcd. With the same overlap 12 each of the longer ones make circles of 32 & 40cm pcd. The chordal length between the centres of the end holes are 60, 83 & 104mm, so



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

only the shortest can be bolted to a Perforated Strip. Nonetheless very useful and welcome parts. As far as I know they can't be bought separately but the Set is very good value if you need the other parts in it.

There were 2 other useful parts that I'd not seen before. One, the Face Plate, similar to the 50mm Ø Bossed Disc but with rings of 6 & 12 holes in the face. The other, the plastic Strip Bearing, which is made up of two parts (Fig.6) which clip together but could be used separately. The flat part is 1½mm thick; the other has a bore 6mm long.

The manual has 12 A4-size pages plus covers, with basic constructions on C2 followed by step-by-step instructions, good of their type, on pp1-11, and the Illustrated Parts with quantities on p12 & C3. C4 shows models from other sets.

There is a warning on the manual cover (but not on the box) that adult assistance may be required to build the model. I found that the only tricky part was aligning the main bearings, and for that (as usual) a little local distortion of the framework was needed. The main axle was driven by the Motor through the 3:1 reduction from the plastic Gears and this worked perfectly well though with no clutch or freewheel in the drive I chose, before taking the model to an exhibition, to fit a commercial motor and to use a few parts not in the Set to have a cord drive around the wheel's periphery.



Fig.4

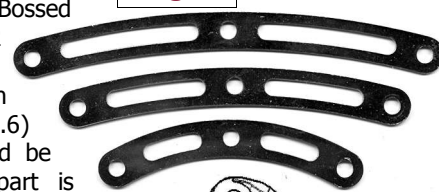


Fig.5

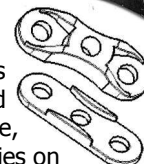


Fig.6

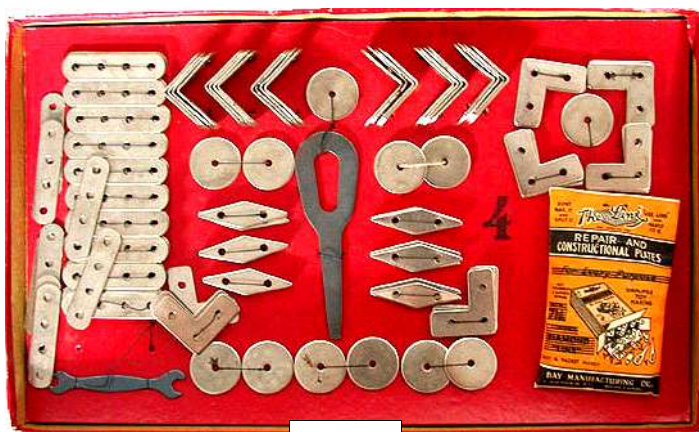


FIG.10

The parts look to match **FIG.10** the earlier ones except for the blackened Screwdriver. The manual cover and 4 of its model pages were shown and these match exactly the MB4 manual described in 16/437.

The No.1? This came from the Australian Ebay and the box right is 5*2". It is thought to be a possible No.1 because it is smaller than the No.2 described earlier. From its red side it probably has a lid and so matches the No.4. The 'Tank' label is as before except for the conflation of the name and the line of text under it.



FIG.11

MISCELLANEOUS

2 unconnected items. • Jack Little wrote that a company called Lincoln Industries Ltd. of Balm St. & Nuffield St., Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand was listed in a 1950 business directory as a manufacturer of Lynx toys. • 2 additional differences between the MB 6A & MB 6 manuals (see 16/438) are that in the MB 6 the address of the maker is 171 Great Portland Street, London W.1, and there is no note on p'16' about packing the Spring Clip with paper if it slips.

OSN 43/1323

LYNX: S4

CONSTRUCTION in 2010 from the Eitech web site. 9 new sets have been added, including a large Crane Set, and 5 dropped.

The new range, with the new sets asterisked, is: 03,05,08,09*,17,19,20,21,23,24,25,30,31,33,34*,35*,45*,46*,53,54,55,56*,57*,61,62,64,67,72,73,74,75*,80,83,84,87,91,92*.



FIG.2

Set 35



FIG.1

Set 09



FIG.3

The lids of all the sets now emphasise the 'eitech' name in the style of the sets shown here.

The New Sets. • **No.09** is a 440+ part set for 3 models, and the web picture is shown in Fig.1. Sets 135 & 142 are suggested to motorise the models. • **No.34** is the Eiffel Tower set No.133 but including a 6m long 'light rope' to illuminate it internally. • **No.35** has 960+ parts in a wooden box to make 3 Cranes 'up to 90cm high', as per Fig.2, though it's hard to see much detail. Features are listed as 3 Geared Motors with independent remote control, and the jib slewing on a Ball Bearing. • **Nos.45, 46, & 56** are nice 'simplicity' models of a 7cm span Biplane, a Rocking Horse, and a Tractor & Trailer (Fig.3) using 2 & 3cm Discs as wheels. • **No.57** is a slightly larger Buggy



(or perhaps it's an SUV model). • **No.75** is a Solar set with the Cell at the centre of a horizontal rotating arm mounted on top of a 10cm high pylon. The arm, some 25cm long, has a 1v Motor at one end, and is driven by a red plastic Propeller on the Motor's output shaft. At the other end is a small Monoplane – the No.45 model. 2 other models are possible. • **No.92** is a 180+ part set for 3 models, two of which are a Race Car & a ?Quad Bike. Their Road Wheels look like those in No.09. Accessory Sets 135 & 142 are again suggested to motorise them.

The Deleted Sets. • **No.18** was for Cranes, see 35/1062. • **Nos.51 & 52**, small sets for a Helicopter & a Biplane, see 35/1062. • **No.82** for small 'Racers' see 37/1107. • **No.85** to make 3 small models, either a Quad Bike, a Race Car, or a Sports Car. It was introduced in 2005 but I don't think it has been mentioned before.

Accessory Packs & Add-on Sets. These continue unchanged except that • **No.137**, the string of lights for the Eiffel Tower, is added; • **No.115**, the kit to motorise the Loco No.31, is listed again; and • **No.650080**, Tools, is no longer included.

OSN 43/1323

CONSTRUCTION [1]: S10

CONSTRUCTION in 2010 from a catalogue and the Eitech web site. 9 new sets were added for 2010 and 4 dropped.

The new range, with the new sets asterisked, is: 03,05, 08,09*,17,19,20,21,23,24,25,30,31,33,34*,35*,45*,46*,53,54,55, 56*,57*,61,62,64,67,72,73,74,75*,80,82,83,84,87,91,92*. All the new **lids** emphasise 'eitech' rather than CONSTRUCTION, and like the existing large 30-series sets, the new ones, 34 & 35, are packed in wooden boxes.

The New Sets. • **No.09** (Fig.3) has over 440 parts and any one of 3 models can be made. None are powered but the Motor/Gear Accessory Set 135 is suggested as an add-on – I wonder though how easy it would be to incorporate the necessary parts in the models. • **No.34** is the Eiffel Tower set No.33 but with the Strand of Light included to illuminate it inside.

• **No.35** is a set with 960+ parts for one of the 3 Cranes shown on the lid (Fig.2). The featured model (Fig.1) stands some 90cm high and the jib turns on a Geared Ball Bearing, probably the one shown in 35/1062. It is powered by 3 remotely controlled 6v Geared Motors. The 3 channel Controller is the one shown in the No.134 set in 37/1107. • **Nos.45 & 46** are simplicity models of a 7h span Biplane and a Rocking Horse respectively. • **No.56** is a larger, rather nice, simplicity model of a Tractor & Trailer running on 3 & 2cm Discs as wheels. • **No.57** is another small model, a Buggy of some sort using Eitech's smallest Road Wheels. • **No.75** is a Solar model with a 30cm arm rotating on top of a 9h high pylon. The Cell is at its centre, with the Motor at one end driving a large red plastic propeller, and the No.45 Biplane at the other. • **No.92** has 180+ parts & features a Racing Car on the lid, sized to match the standard Road Wheel. 2 other model are possible.

2 new sets are featured on the Eitech home page as coming soon. One is a small tracked Excavator; the other the Bridge in Fig.4 which combines metal parts with Eitech's TEIFOC bricks – shades of ANCHOR in the early 20th century except that the Bricks are cemented together. They can be soaked apart, like BRICKPLAYER years ago.

The Deleted Sets.

• **No.18** was a 500 part set for Cranes, see 35/1063.

• **Nos.51 & 52** were small sets for a Helicopter & a Bi-plane respectively, again see 35/1063. • **No.85** was introduced in 2005 & should



Fig.1

Fig.2

Fig.4

Fig.3

have been mentioned in 34/1023 – it had 180 parts for a small Buggy.

Accessory Packs & Add-on Sets

The range of sets with Gears, Motors, etc is Nos.130-133, 135, 136 & 140-143. No.143 is new and has 2 red flashing LED's powered by 2 AA cells in a switched Battery Box. Among the Parts Packs the 6m long Strand of Light is now included as No.137.

CONSTRUCTION [1]: S11

OSN 44/1330

An M'TEK Update The sets of that name, from the Indian Toy-Kraft brand, which were available in 2009 were described in 40/1226. They continue and 7 new ones were added later in that year. 6 are entry-level theme 'u CAN do it' outfits which are packed in canisters and each has instructions for 2 small models. The Mini Cars set is shown right; the others are for Bikes, Airplanes, Racer Cars, Trucks, and Helicopters. The M'TEK name can't be seen on them. The other introduction, far right, does have the name on the lid, though, as before, it is in tiny letters in one corner. The set has 146 parts and a 3v Motor. Its 24 page manual describes 'construction methodology' and more prosaically, 20 models of all manner of vehicles.



M'TEK: S2

OSN 44/1330

Eitech Update The 2011 range of sets has changed considerably with 6 additions & 12 deletions since 2010 (see 44/1330). The main new set is a R/C F1 Racing Car (Fig.1), the main losses, the slightly skeletal Loco No.31, & the No.30 Fuel Cell outfit. The add-on accessory sets remain unchanged.

The new range of sets are (with the additions asterisked) 05,08,09,11*,15*,17,19,20,21,23,25,28*,34,35,45,47*,55,56,57,58*,61,62,67,68*,72,73,74,75,80,83,84,92. The deletions: 03,24,30,31,46,53,54,82,87,91.

The New Sets **No.11** has 320 parts to make a small tracked Excavator with one piece Cab Sides (as in Fig.2), or 2 other models. The featured model is an improved version of the one from the superseded Set 87. **No.15** has 270 parts to make the model in Fig.3 or 2 others. The Spoked Wheels may be a new part. One of the other models can just be seen on the part of the box lid in the background, and also the featured model's (Double Bent Strip) centre stand in the down position. **No.47** is a simplicity-plus Helicopter with a 7h diameter rotor. **No.28**, the F1 set, has over 300 parts including a 9V battery & 6V pack with charger. The radio is 27/40 MHz, 2-channel for the usual steering & forward/reverse. **No.58** is the Lorry in Fig.2, with the one piece Cab Sides. **No.68** is a small outfit for either a Tipping Lorry or Excavator, and again both have the new (?) Cab Sides.

The Deleted Sets with, in brackets, the Issue in which they were described. **No.03**, a 390 part set for a Tractor & Trailer (37/1107). **No.24**, a R/C set for utility vehicles (40/1224). **No.30**, the Fuel Cell set (30/885). **No.31**, the large Loco (27/795). **No.33**, The Eiffel Tower with no lights (41/1231). **No.46**, a simplicity Rocking Horse (44/1330). **No.53**, a small Lorry (35/1062). **No.54**, a



FIG.1

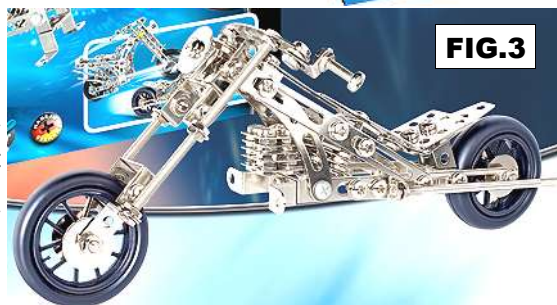


FIG.3

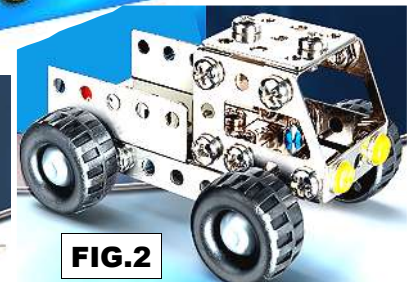


FIG.2

small Loco (35/1062). **No.82**, 3 simple Racers (37/1107). **No.87**, a set for a Digger & 2 other tracked models (31/910). **No.91**, a small 'interesting' Loco or 2 other models (41/1231).

CONSTRUCTION[12]: S12

OSN 45/1360

Snippet. 'New' Italian System: IL CARPENTIERE MODERNO

The set shown here was sold on the Australian Ebay and all that was said of it was that it dates from the 1950s or before, that the box measures 15.5*7.5", and that it is heavy. The lid includes the 'AFM' logo right, the maker presumably. (The 'M' could possibly stand for Milan, the printer's city as explained later).



FIG.1

The system's name, as might be imagined, means The Modern (or Up-to-date) Carpenter, and since the main parts look to be steel the choice of carpenter is perhaps meant to evoke images of frameworks. The text at the bottom of the lid's side panels claims that the simple & compatible parts allow the achievements of mechanics, carpentry & construction to be imitated perfectly.

It can't be seen whether the long parts are Rods or Tubes, but the latter probably because they scale at about 5½mm Ø. The small parts must include Connectors and as they do not seem to have any means by which they could be tightened, they may simply push onto, or clip over the Tubes. Other small parts probably include Bearings & Axle Stops.

The manual cover is as the centre section of the lid (but its



FIG.2



FIG.3

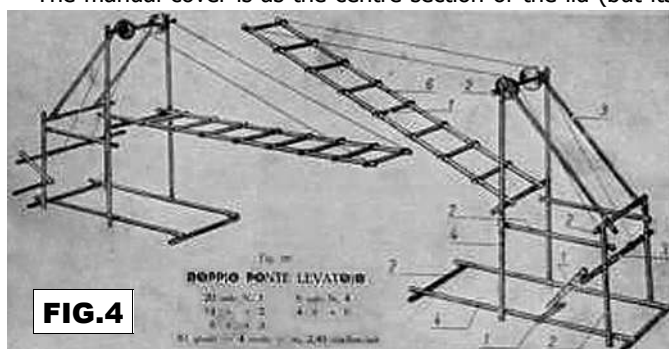


FIG.4

blue isn't faded) & is about the same size. In the model left it can be seen that Bearings are needed for the crank handles. I wonder if the Connectors can hold the Tubes tightly enough for the crank handle to function properly. The other model shown on Ebay was a Suspension Bridge on the page before the Lifting Bridge. Its ends & roadway are similar, but it has suspension 'chains' of Tubes running from the towers down to the centre of the span.

All that is on the back cover is 'S.I.?.?. - V GOLFIERO - MILANO' across its centre (the second '?' could be an 'I') - probably the name of the printer since the initials don't match the letters in the logo.

IL CARPENTIERE MODERNO: S1

OSN 45/1360

CONSTRUCTION in 2013, courtesy the Eitech website, & a catalogue downloaded in March. 17 new sets have been added since 2011 (see 45/1360) & 13 discontinued. The interesting or novel new outfits include several attractive Cars, some agricultural machinery, a Jet Airliner, & a Marble Run.

The **2013 range of sets** is 05,09,10,11,14,15,16,17,26,28,29,32,35,45,47,51,57,58,59,61,62,63,67,68,69,71,74,78,81,83,84,89,92,400,420,500,1000. The 'blue' sets are marked by Eitech as new for 2013; the 'red' ones were also not noted in 2011 and so were probably added in 2012.

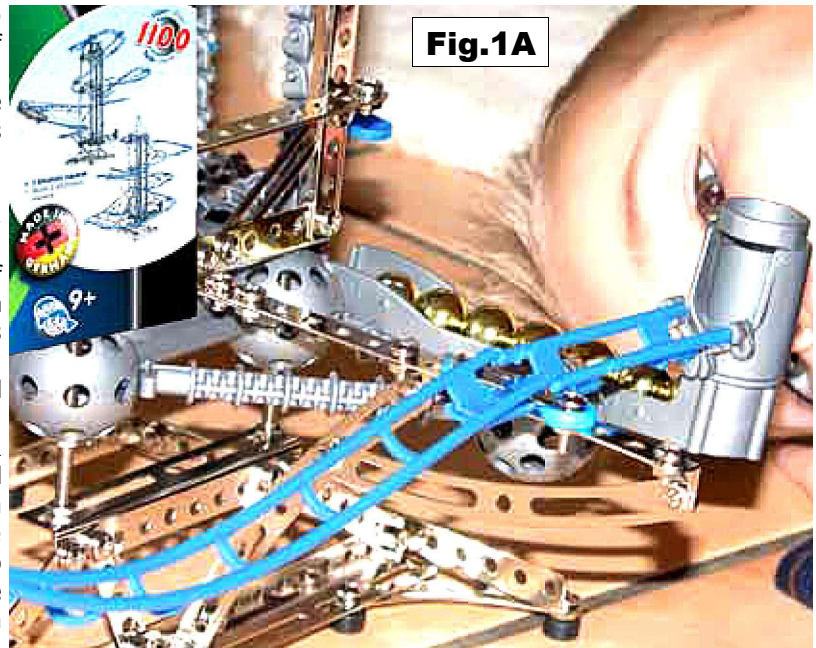
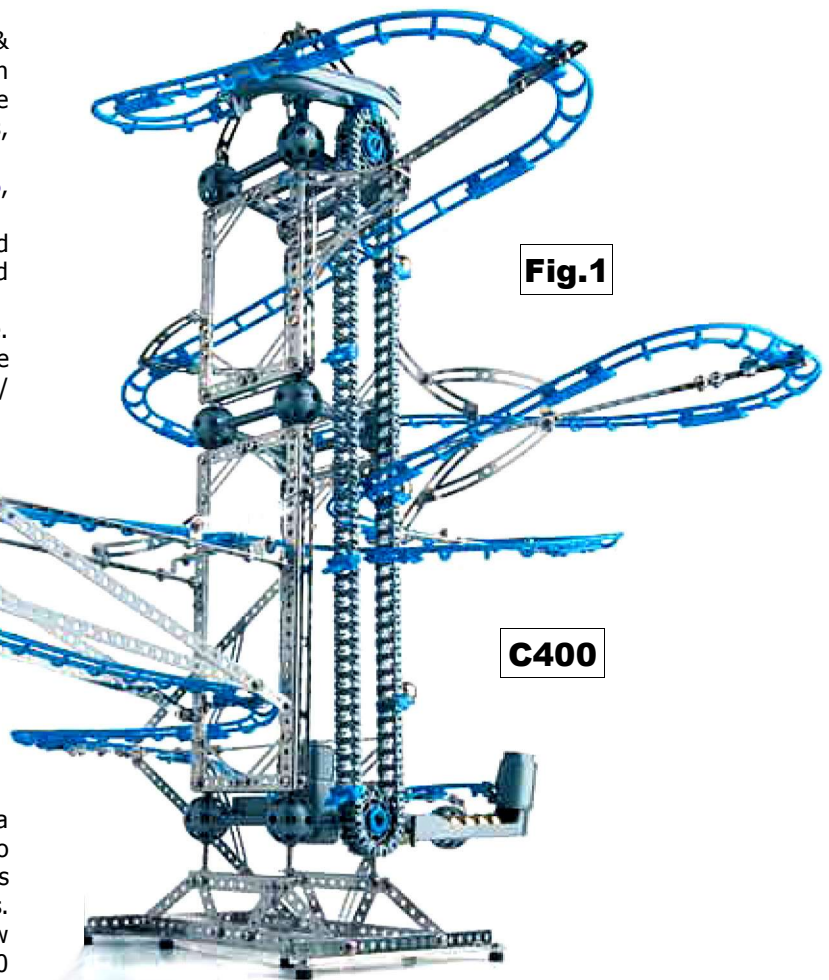
The New Sets Their packaging remains much as before. There are numerous special parts in the new models, and the Curved Strips which first appeared in the Big Wheel (see 41/1231) are used in a number of them. 1 or 2 alternative models can be made from many of the sets, and they are often quite similar for the Cars, open & closed versions for example. All the R/C models are 2-channel. As is the Eitech norm, none of the models, except the Marble Run, right, are motorised, though as before it is suggested that some can be powered using one of the Motors listed separately. Several of the sets include a small plastic Man to 'drive' the models. He is blue with a yellow face and may just be visible in the Combine's cab (Fig.7).

No.10 is the 46cm wingspan Airliner in Fig.4. It has a retractable undercarriage and its 570 parts include enough to make an optional stand. **No.14** (Fig.2), variously named as Hotrod & Classic, is for 2 models with steering from 370 parts. Its headlights are, as on several of the new models, yellow coloured Bolt heads. **No.16**, for young farmers, has 1000 parts for a Combine (Fig.7) or an attractive Tractor & Trailer. Both look to have steering though whether it is linked to the Combine's cab seems doubtful. And it's not clear if the Combine does anything other than look the part.

No.26 (Fig.3) offers 2 small, neat R/C models which are largely made from special parts. **No.29** named Jeep, has 400 parts including a Charger, for 2 unJeeplike, bulky, bruiser-style, R/C models. They have LED lighting. **Nos. 51, 59, 62, 69** are small sets for, respectively, a Forklift, a Motorcycle, a Quad-bike, & 2 Mobile Cranes. All run on the small Road Wheels or similar, and are respectable if rather unexciting models. **No.71** has 135 parts for a small Solar Helicopter with the Cell as the rotor. **No.78** is another Solar set. Its 210 parts include a rectangular Cell to power either a pretty Roundabout, or a 3-bladed Wind Turbine, or (what might be) a rotating Radar Dish.

No.81 has 150 parts for 3 variations of a small Tractor & Trailer. **No.89** has 250 parts for 3 small, tracked Bulldozers. **No.400** has 740 parts packed in a wooden box to make the 70cm high Space Needle in Fig.5. Little is said of it and it can't be seen if it has a lift or if the top deck rotates. **No.420** (Fig.6) is a nice mini Space Needle. **No.500** has 1100 parts for the Marble Run in Figs.1 & 1A, or for 2 similar models. It is 72cm high, with 10 Balls on its 4.9m of track. Fig.1A (including the corner of the box at top left) shows what looks to be an Archimedean screw to take Balls from the end of the track to the chain lift. 2x AA batteries power the Motor but is it a special unit? And what is the purpose of those Perforated Spheres? **No.1000** is called the Black Edition and has 550 parts for the R/C Car in Fig.9. The set's name comes from the parts specially finished in matt black. Only 3000 of these sets will be produced.

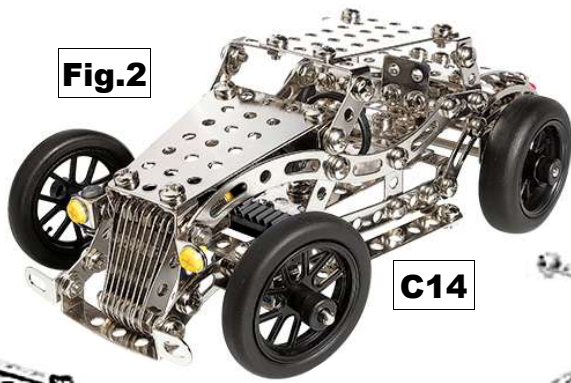
The Deleted Sets, 08,19-21,23,25,34,55,56,72,73,75,80, are as follows, with the Issue in which they were described in brackets. **08**, a largish Forklift (40/1224). **19**, a small Tipping Lorry. **20**, a 500-part tracked Mobile Crane (40/1224). **21**, a 360-part tracked Front Loader (41/1231). **23**, a 350-part R/C



Car (37/1107). **25**, a 690-part Car (41/1231). **34**, the large Eiffel Tower with illumination (44/1330). **55** (Fig.8), a small 'simplicity' Loco & Tender, new in 2009 (41/1231) but not noted as such at the time. **56**, a very small Tractor & Trailer (44/1330). **72** & **73**, Solar sets for 188/300-part Helicopters (30/885; 37/1107). **75**, another Solar set for 2 small aircraft at the ends of a rotating arm (43/1323). **80**, a small Tractor & Trailer (41/1231), again not noted there as new.

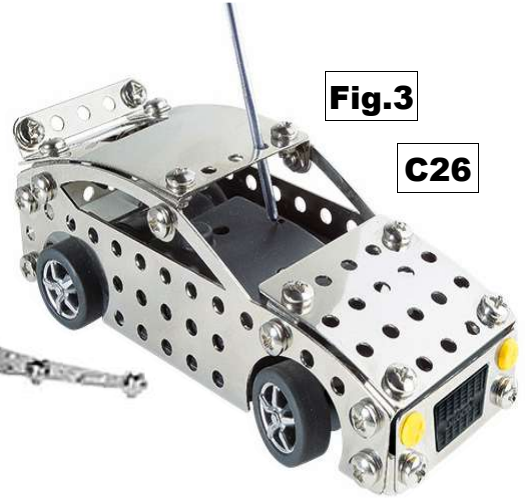
The Accessory Packs continue unchanged; **the Add-on Sets** too except that 130 (Motor & Gears) & 133 (Gears & Chain) have disappeared and 143 with flashing LEDs has been added.

Fig.2



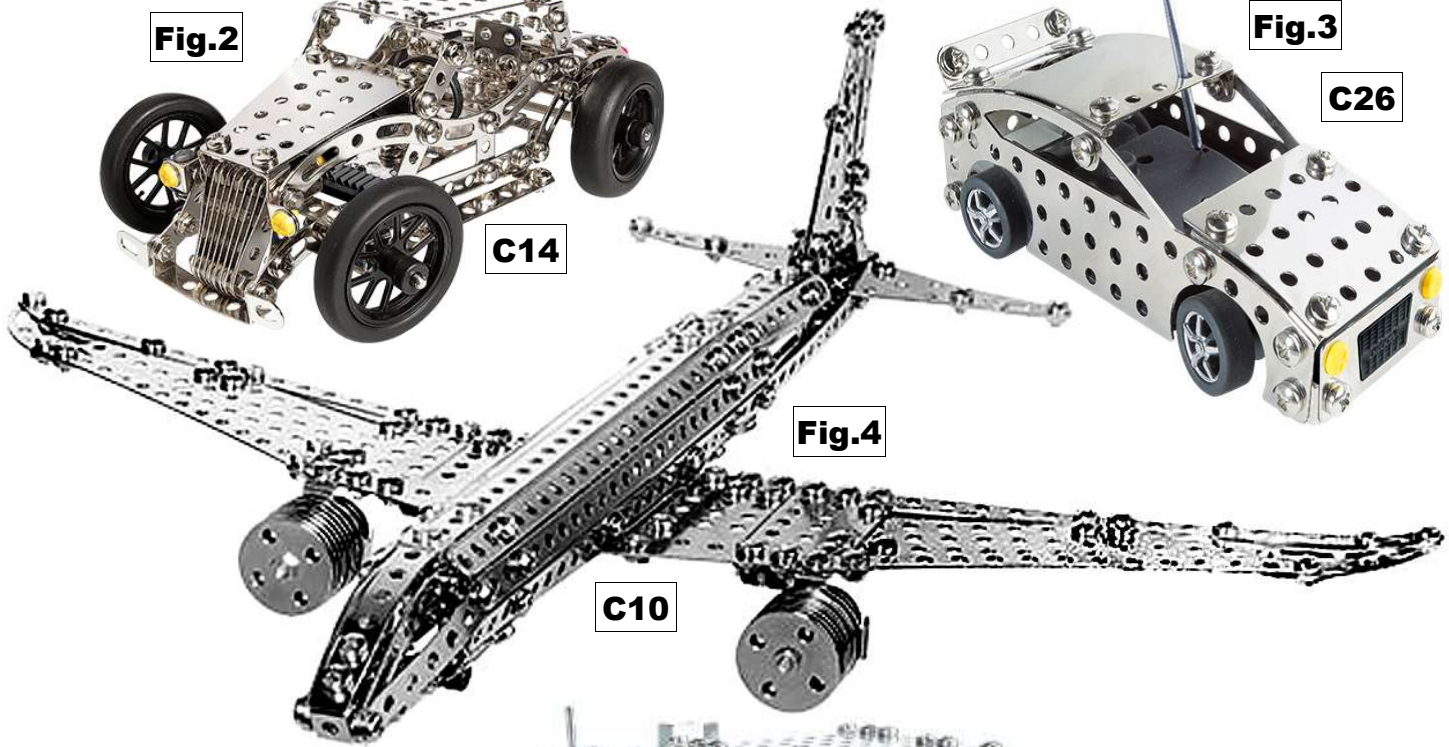
C14

Fig.3



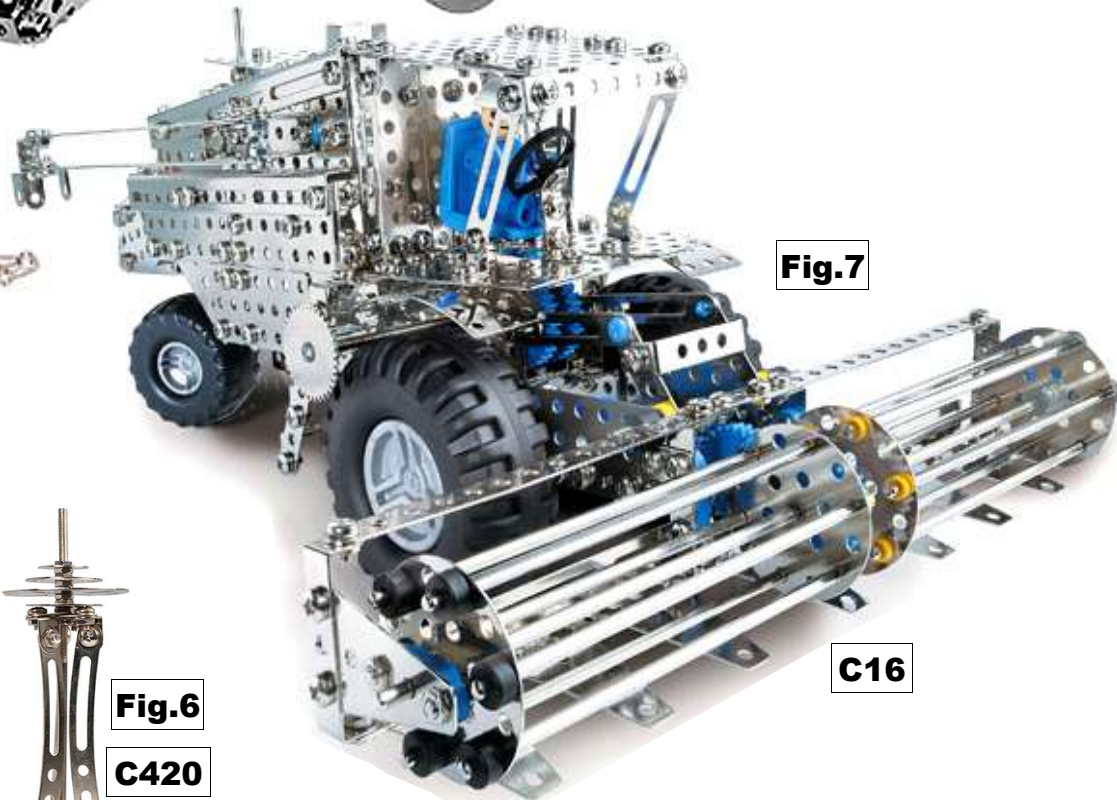
C26

Fig.4



C10

Fig.7



C16

Fig.5

C400



Fig.6

C420



Fig.8

C55



C55

Fig.9



C1000

CONSTRUCTION in 2014

What follows was gleaned from the Eitech website in April. 10 sets have been added since 2013 (see 48/1467), 4 have been deleted, and the range, with the new sets shown red, is now: 04,05,09-11,12,14-17,22,26,27,33,35,45,47,51,52,57-59,60,62,63,67-69,81,83,84,91,92,93,400,420,450,460,500,1000. Note that No.33, the Eiffel Tower without lights, should have been included as a current set in OSN 48.

The sets' style of packaging is unchanged. The new sets are perhaps not as exciting as in recent years, but one welcome feature in a number of new models is the use of Curved Strips of various radii.

The New Sets: No.04 (330 parts) is a Space Shuttle, a smaller version of the shuttle in Figs.1-3, 18cm long, but without the moving parts.

No.12 (Figs.1,3) is the only new, large model: it has over 1400 parts, and an alternative model (Fig.2) has a framework at the base of the rocket to allow it to stand vertically. In Fig.3 it isn't clear what detail is revealed in the shuttle's interior when the doors along the top are open, but presumably the arm with whatever it is carrying can then be folded out. Perhaps the structure underneath the shuttle is just a stand to display it. **No.22** (140 parts) is a R/C Buggy, some 20cm long. **No.27**, another R/C outfit, has 350+ parts and is called Jeep. The 2 models shown, about 25cm long, are rather similar and neither look at all like a WW2 Jeep. **No.52** is a small set to make a 10cm long unnamed, 4-wheel model with a cab and what is probably a dozer blade at the front. **No.60**'s model is the Trials Bike in Fig.5, a fair little model I thought though it could do with a saddle. **No.91**

appears to be identical to the little Loco introduced in 2009 and shown in 9/1231. **No.93** (120 parts) is a simple (unnamed) Robot, about 18cm high, with flashing blue LED eyes. **No.450** has over 100 part for the 40cm high Berlin TV-Tower (Fig.4). **No.460** is a simple, 40cm high model of the Eiffel Tower made with 250+ parts.

The Deleted Sets: These are as follows with the Issue in which they were noted in brackets: **No.28**, a 300-part, F.1 Racing Car with R/C (45/1360). **No.29**, a R/C Jeep similar in concept to the new No.27, but slightly larger (48/1467). **No.32**, a 50cm long 6-wheel Lorry (27/795). **No.61**, a small Motorcycle (22/622).

Add-on Sets & Accessory Packs: these remain as in 2013.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5

CONSTRUCTION in 2015 What follows was taken from the Eitech website in early May, and the German version of the 2015 catalogue. 15 sets have been added since 2014 (see 49/1485), 4 have been deleted, and the range, with the new sets in red, is now: 04,05,**06,07**,09-12,14-17,**20,26,27,33,35,43,44,45,47,51,52,57,58,60,62,63,64,65,67-69,71,74,78,81,83,84,89,91,92,93,94-97,420,450,460,470,600,610,1955**. Set 1955 is only in the Catalogue. No Set Nos. are given in said catalogue, only Article Nos. – they have 5 figures, with one or more zeros followed by the Set No.

Many of the sets are said to be approved for use in schools. The major additions are 2 new versions of the Marble Run models, 3 Dinosaur sets, and an outfit for 3 versions of the original VW Campervan. The main deletions are one of the larger Towers, the original Marble Run, and the 'Black Edition' No.1000 R/C Car.

The New Sets: **No.06** (270 parts) is a small set to make a number of small models such as 4-wheel Wagons or a Pair of Steps. **No.07** (250 parts) is a mechanisms set with Motor & Battery Box for a Differential, Trip Hammer, etc. **No.20** (290+ parts) makes 3 models based on a hull, some 30cm long, made from 'a plastic-wood-mix': a Yacht (Fig.3), an open boat, and one with some blurry superstructure. **Nos.43,44,64,65** are sets to make a Dog, Snail, Owl or Mosquito, Scorpion or Crocodile, all quite nice small simplicity or simplicity plus models. **No.94** (220 parts) is for a Stand to hold either a smartphone or a tablet. **No.95-97** (Fig.4) are 'Dinosaur' sets with 250, 250, 320 parts for a T-Rex, Triceratops, & Brachiosaurus, all with movable joints. **No.470** (815 parts) is a 50cm high Empire State Building set. **Nos.600, 610**, are Marble Runs called Fun'N'Roll with 1400+ & 340+ parts. They replace the No.500 set, and each has instructions for 2 models. **The 610 models** are 80cm high with 5 Balls running down 3.5m of Track. It looks as if the Balls are loaded by hand. **The 600 models** (the larger of them is shown on the box lid, Fig.2) are 100cm high with an electric chain lift. 10 Balls run on 9.5m of Track (red plastic, the 610 Track is blue). An improved rail system is claimed and sustained action from the electric ball lift is guaranteed.

No.1955 has 745+ parts for either the VW Campervan (Fig.1) with working steering & an opening tailgate, or a Van or Pickup version of it. VW isn't named anywhere but the set is labelled as a 60th Anniversary outfit.

The Deleted Sets: These

were all originally noted in 48/1467 and are as follows.

No.59, a small set for a Motorcycle. **No.400**, had 740 parts to build a 70cm high Space Needle. **No.500**, the 1100-part Marble Run set now replaced by Set 600. **No.1000**, the 'Black Edition' set for a 550-part black R/C Car. It was said that only 300 sets would be produced.

Add-on Sets & Accessory Packs: these remain as in 2013 except that 2 Battery Packs with switch, **Nos.1681 & 1682**, for 2, 3 AA cells, have been added.

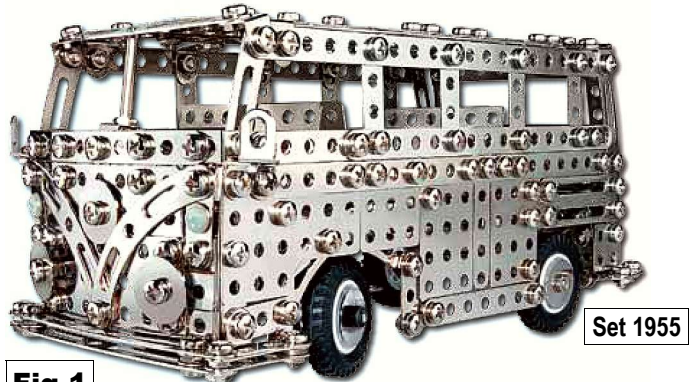


Fig.1



Fig.2 Set 600



Fig.3

Set 20

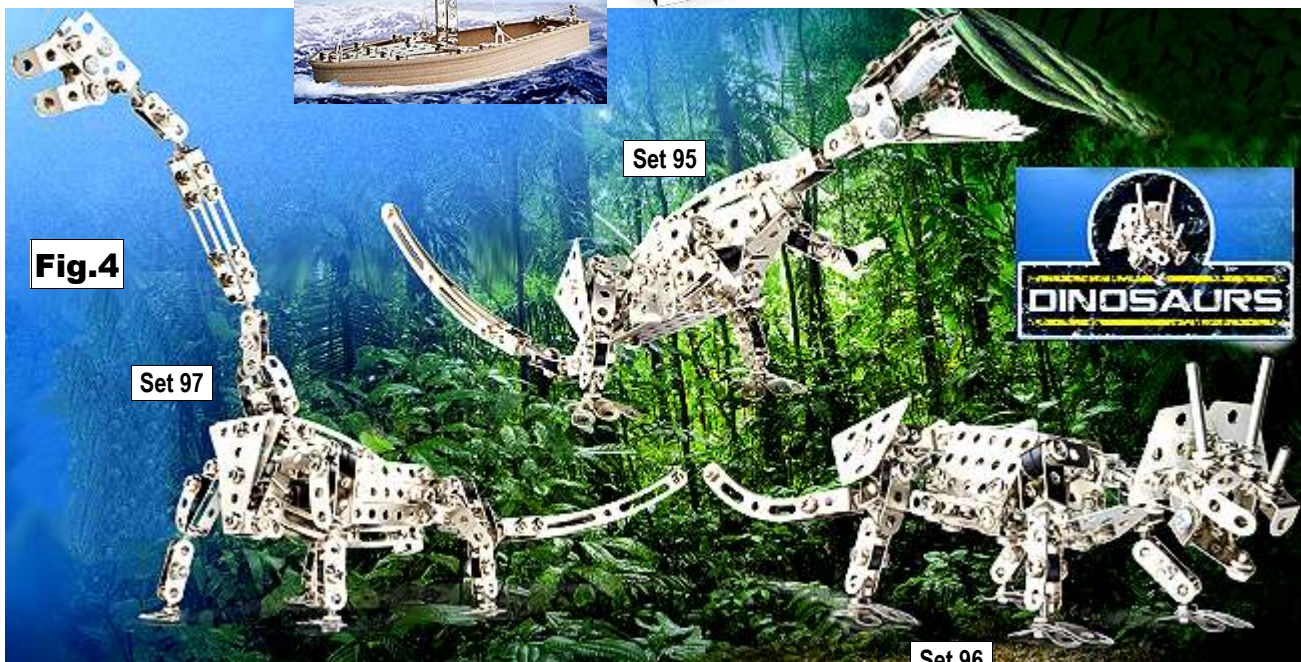


Fig.4

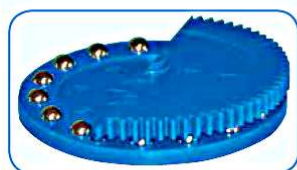
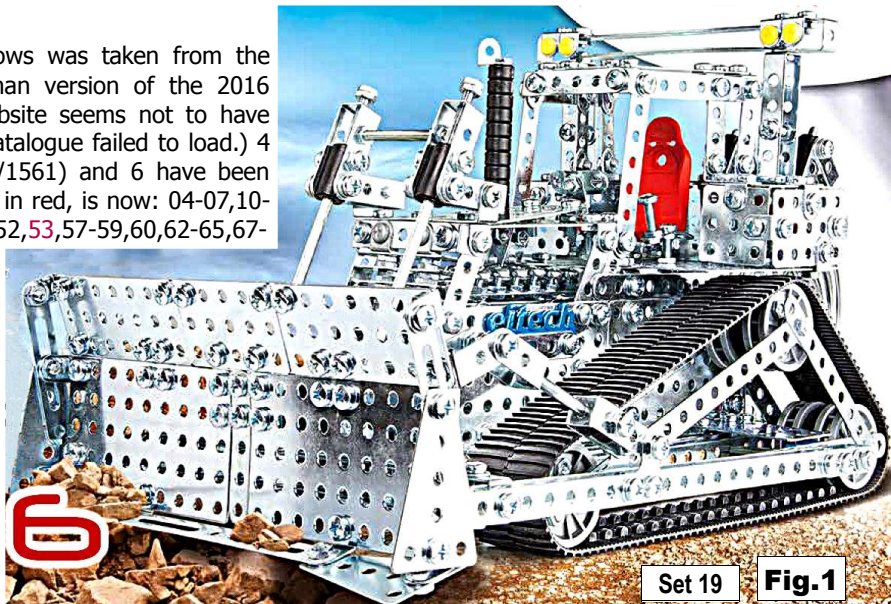
Set 97

Set 95

Set 96

CONSTRUCTION in 2016 What follows was taken from the Eitech website in late May, and the German version of the 2016 catalogue. (The English version of the website seems not to have been updated since 2015 and the English catalogue failed to load.) 4 sets have been added since 2015 (see 51/1561) and 6 have been deleted. The 2016 range, with the new sets in red, is now: 04-07,10-12,14-17,**19**,20,22,26,27,33,35,43-45,47,51,52,**53**,57-59,60,62-65,67-69,71,74,78,83,84,**85**,89,91-97,**98**,420,450,460,470,600,610,1955. Set 11 is only in the Catalogue. Note: Sets 22 & 59 should have been included in the 2015 range.

The New Sets: No.19 This is the only major addition and has 1470+ parts for one or other of the models in Figs.1 & 2. Neither model is powered but the Dozer's blade can be raised & rotated, and the Digger's top arm joint, & its bucket, rotated. It also slews on a Ball Race as shown. It is suggested that the flashing diode Set 143 would add to the models. **No.53** is a very simple, 11cm span Biplane with single Strips as flying surfaces. **No.85** has 170+



Kugelgelagerter Drehkranz

Set 19

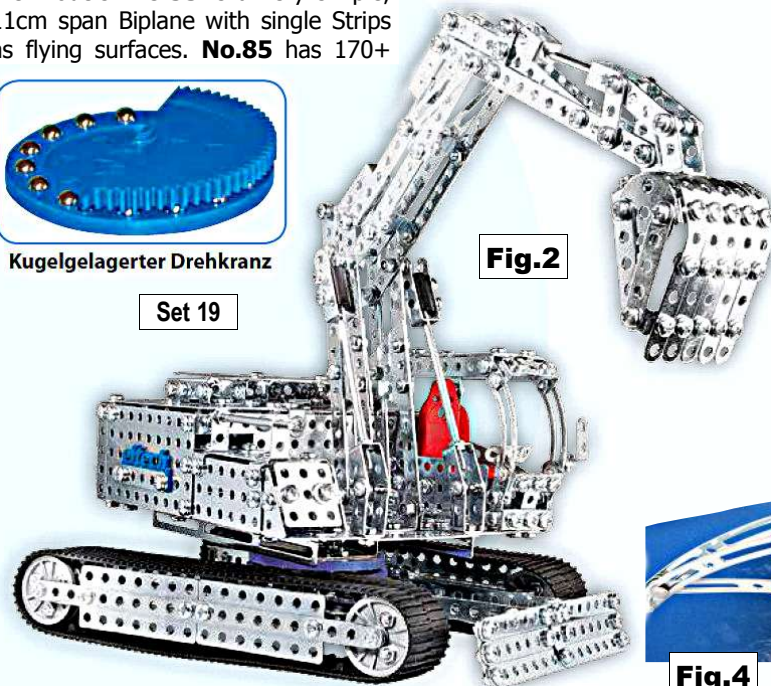


Fig.2

Fig.3



Set 85



Set 98

Fig.4

parts and Fig.3 shows the featured model. Alternatives are lesser models which look like a Racing M/C & a Scooter. **No.98**, 150+ parts, is a Pterodactyl (Fig.4), not perhaps quite as menacing as the earlier 3 'Dinosaur' models.

The Deleted Sets. No.09 (see 44/1330) had 440 parts for utility vehicles. **No.11** (probably) (45/1360) made a small tracked Excavator.

No.12 (49/1485) was for the large 1200 part Space Shuttle model. **No.16** (48/1467) had 1000 parts for a Combine or Tractor & Trailer. **No.17** (37/1107) was the 1200 part Big Wheel. **No.81** (48/1467) made a small Tractor & Trailer.

Add-on Sets & Accessory Packs: these remain as in 2015.

CONSTRUCTION [1]: S17

OSN 52/1598

'New' System: MATEX Another of those small German systems. Albrecht Heinisch kindly sent, via Urs Flammer, details of his set. My thanks to both. Nothing is known of the manufacturer, or of a manual.

The box measures 173*82*24mm. Its lid is shown below, and the parts in the base in Fig.2. The logo on the lid looks to be a boy riding on a large bird. The illustration on the N&B packet is identical to the lid label.

The threaded parts are steel, the rest aluminium, both untreated. Holes are 3.4mm at 10mm pitch

and the thread is M3. Notes on the parts follow with the quantities found in the Set in curly brackets. **Strips**, 5,4,3,2h, 10*1mm in section {12,10,3,3}. **A/B**, 1*1h {12}. **Wheel Disc**, 30mm Ø {2}. **Washers**, 20,8mm Ø {4,6}. **Screwed Rod**, 60mm {3}. **Bolt**, Fig.3, dome headed {25}. **Nut**, Fig.3, square, 6mm A/F {29}.

The parts and N&B packet show no signs of wear and so the set the Set may be quite complete.

Fig.2



Fig.3

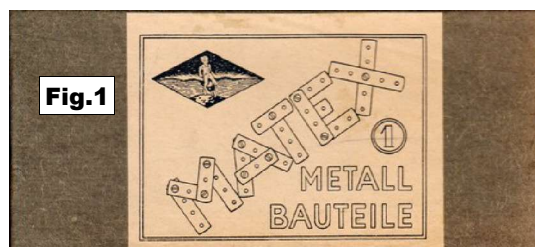


Fig.1

MATEX: S1

OSN 52/1598