

and p3 the Introduction. It says the Set is intended for 4-10 year olds,

The other pages show 50 unnamed models, from an 11h Strip with 3 DAS bolted to its top hole through their centre holes, and equispaced (a Flower?), to the Breakdown Lorry in Fig.5 (60% full-size). There is one line drawing for each, often rather crudely drawn with lengths of Strips etc that are not in the Set.

The first 45 models are very simple furniture & domestic items, simple cranes, trolleys, barrows, etc with a Letter Balance as a highlight (Fig.6, full-size – I wonder how many of the 4-10 year olds worked out how to make it work).

The last 5 models including the Trike in Fig.4 (70% f-s), are a little more ambitious but only the Breakdown Lorry uses most of the parts in the Set. (The Plastic Plates are not used in any of the manual models.) Some of the models seem to use parts which are not in the Set, the Double Bracket in the Trike for instance. But, except for those which need 4 of the 11h Strips, alternative parts could probably be used in most cases.

I made a version of the Breakdown Lorry (right) which needed all the parts in the Set, apart from the Plastic Plates, plus a few extra Nuts. The aim was to have a fixed, braced jib and to provide the driver with somewhere to sit. There was no Pulley for the jib head and as the original's Bush Wheel seemed pointless it was used as a steering wheel, even if a touch oversize.

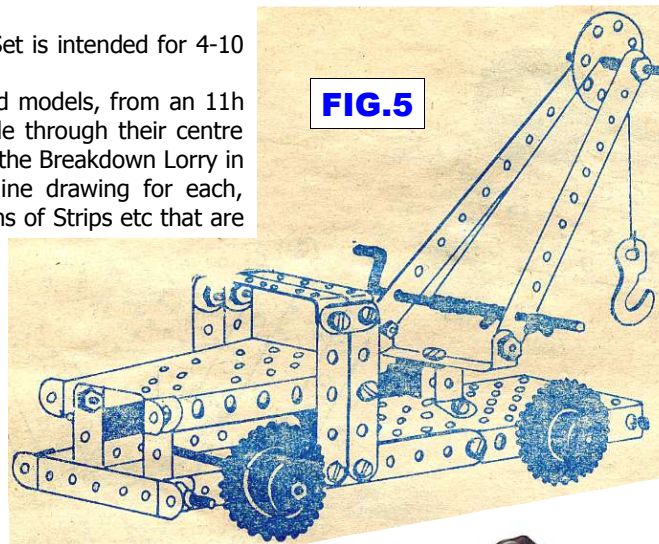


FIG.5

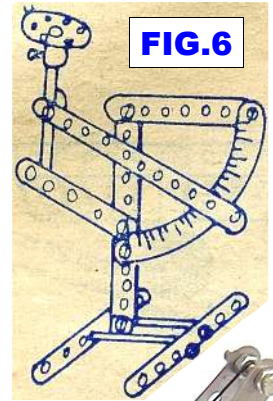


FIG.6

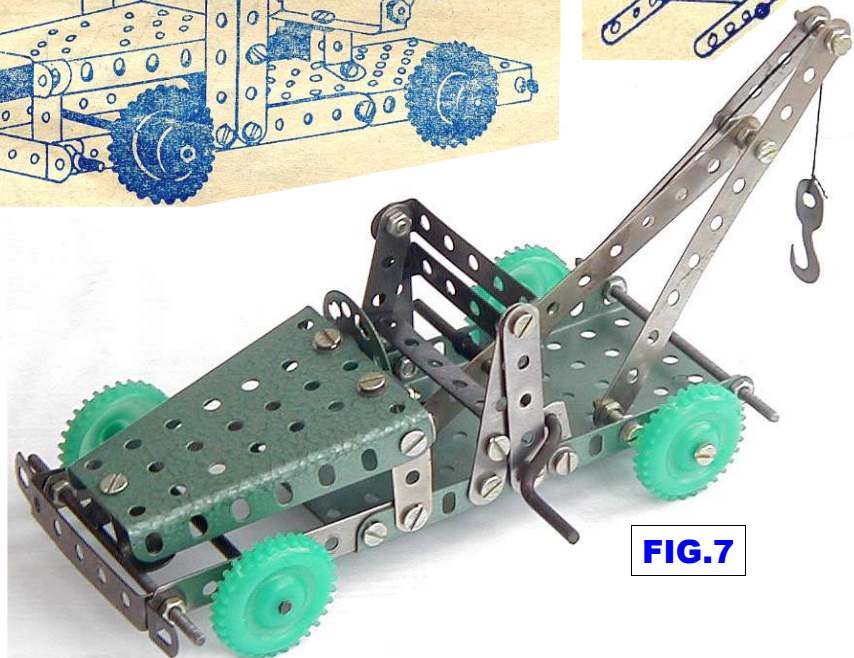


FIG.7

## PIONIERUL CONSTRUCTOR: S2

OSN 44/1336

### Snippet. 'New' German System: ERKO

The Ebay photo far right shows the manual cover and the parts offered, with another view of the Pulleys inset in the bottom left corner. And right, the Crane on the cover enlarged.

The main structural parts are A/Gs and they are unusual in having 2 rows of staggered hole in each arm, and in not being perforated over their whole length. The latter an uncommon OS feature which seems to have no advantages, and which in this case leaves the two shorter A/Gs without a centre hole.

There was nothing to indicate the size of the parts, or their maker, but the seller was from Dresden. I wonder in ERKO arose from the maker's name: ERik KO?..? perhaps.

The different parts that can be seen are:

- 4 lengths of A/G.
- A Perforated Plate, with 6 rows of staggered holes, and 8 holes long, like the shortest A/G, but plus the 2 smaller holes at one end.
- A Pulley with boss, and another, slightly larger with 4 face



holes, and perhaps without boss.

- An Axle & a Crank Handle.
- Then there is the Spoked Wheel, and the patterned Plate bottom centre with 2 holes at one end, both foreigners most likely.

The Crane's framework looks to be made of A/Gs plus perhaps a Plate or two, with 4h Pulleys used as wheels and at the jib head, and the other Pulley used to weight the Hook.

## ERKO: S1

OSN 44/1336