

Snippet. 'New' Russian System:

FANTAZER Most Russian systems are small and of limited interest; but not this one – it has parts for child-size wheeled toys comparable to Gilbert's NEW WHEEL TOY for example (see elsewhere in this Issue), or the French AUKRI (see 44/1347). This account is based on a set which was offered on Argentinean Ebay. FANTAZER is the transliteration of ФАНТАЗЕР, its Russian name, as on the manual, right, and the lid below. The dictionary says ФАНТАЗЕР means Dreamer or Visionary. Alongside of the name on the lid is an English version but the end letters can't be seen. The words before the name on the Manual mean Large-scale Construction Outfit, and those below it,

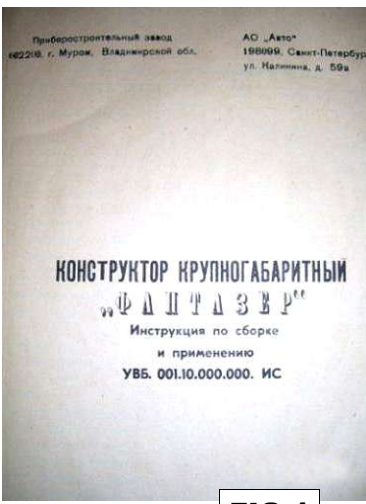


FIG.1

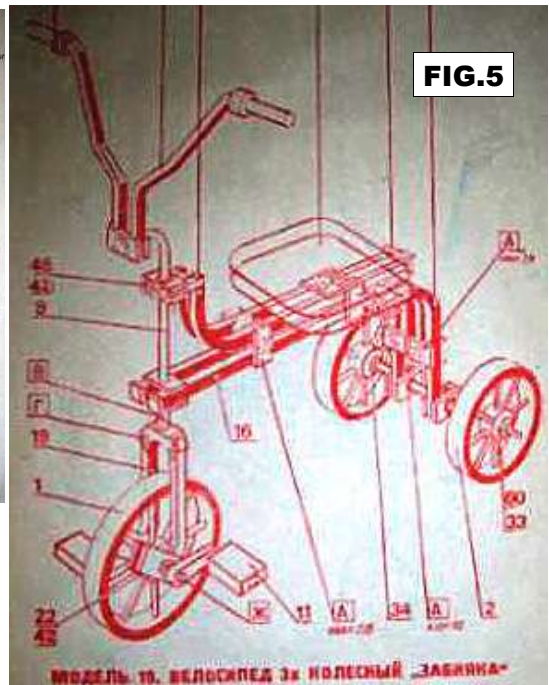


FIG.5



FIG.2

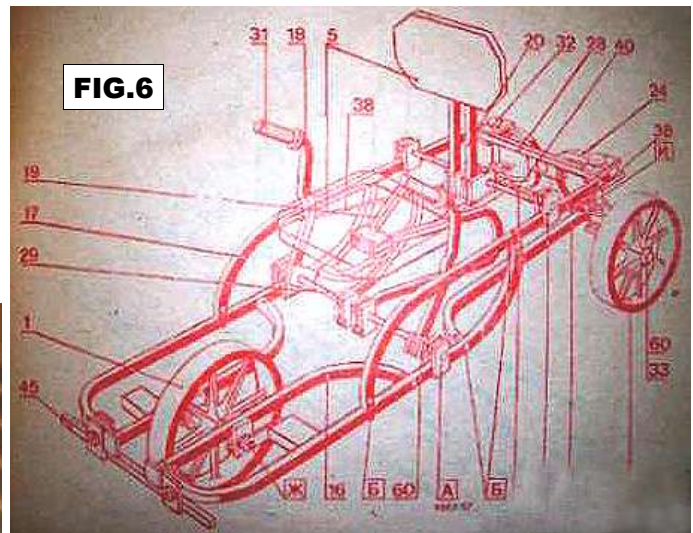


FIG.6



FIG.3

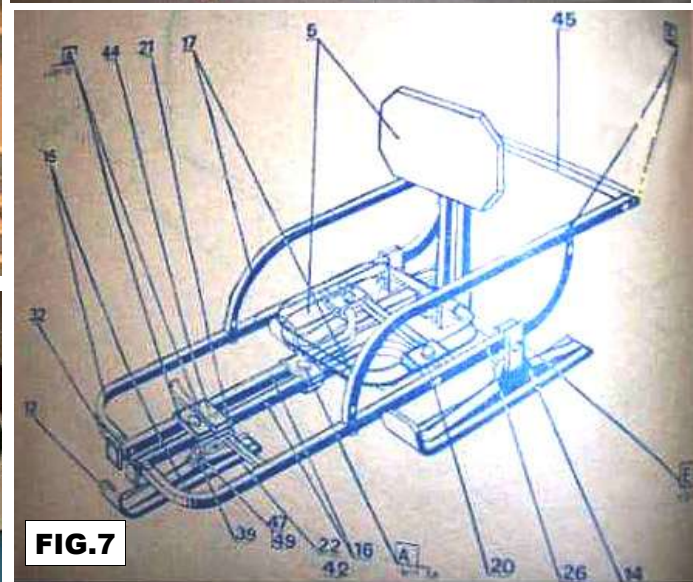


FIG.7



FIG.4

Instructions for Assembly and Use. A company's name and address is given along the top but is too blurred to decipher.

The set was said to measure 50*120*25cm and weigh 30kg. Also that it was unused, with 200 metal parts in 3 layers for 19 models.

The 3 models shown on Ebay (Figs.5-7 above) probably give a good idea of the system's scope. Frameworks are made

from Tubes, with Ski Runners for Sledges and Pedals on the single, large front Wheel to propel wheeled models.

Fig.2 shows the lid and a tray with the Tubes in it; Fig.3 the same tray plus one with the Wheels; and Fig.4 the Wheel tray and the third one for the remainder of the parts. The large Wheel scales at about 40cm Ø, and the 2 large blue parts on the Wheel tray are the Seat & Back Rest. Not much can be gleaned of the other parts. Where the ends of the Tubes can be seen, some look circular and some square. The silver Spanner in the 3rd tray has at least 3 different size openings. I wonder if the long orange parts in this tray are the Ski Runners. And what the long red parts are – just to hold or display the Bolts (or are they Nuts?) perhaps.

The various parts of the models have PNs and the highest that can be seen is '60'. No doubt there was an illustrated parts list in the manual. Each model was accompanied by fairly lengthy building instructions in Russian.

The Tubes in the models' frameworks look to be bolted or

clamped together, with the ends of at least some Tubes tapped or with a suitable end fitting. The Trike looks fairly straight forward except perhaps the reason for the rectangular plates fitted to the centre of the Front Wheel. The Sledge too – I suppose the cross bars where the Front Runner is attached to the frame are simply footrests – or could they turn the Runner to give steering? Steering is the puzzle in the Fig.6 'Cart' as clearly the Front Wheel can't turn. There is a hand lever on the starboard side and I think one on the left too, and no doubt they are linked to the Rear Wheels but just how isn't clear. Unless the rear axle pivots perhaps they brake the two Wheels independently to provide some steering.

At first sight it seems strange that a fairly serious set like this did not include 4 wheels, but perhaps it was thought that a single front wheel with pedals allowed mechanical propulsion in the simplest possible way.

No date was mentioned in the Ebay ad but the plastic packaging would indicate some years after WW2.

FANTAZER: S2

OSN 45/1378

'New' System: PEHL'S TECHNIK All that is known of this small, rather STABIL-like German system is a model leaflet folded to give 8 'sides'. It was discovered by Jürgen Kahlfeldt who sent a copy via Thomas Morzinck. Thank you to both.

Each of the Leaflet's pages has models inside two frames, each headed by the title box shown in Fig.1. There are 15 models altogether from Rungenwagen (Fig.1E) to a (railway) Signal. They are typical small models and apart from the Fig.1 models, a Crane, a Trip Hammer, and various domestic items are included. There is a line drawing and list of parts for each model but no key to the PNs. In its absence Jürgen has compiled the list below of the system's 21 parts from the models themselves, with my English names and the maximum number of parts called up for any of the models in curly brackets.

- #0 Flanged Plate {1}. • #1-6 Strips, 13,11,7,5,3,2h {2,4,4,6,6,4}. • #3a,4a DAS 5,3h long {4,4}. • #6a A/B {4}. #7,7a Small & Large Loose Pulleys {2,1}. • #8 Wheel Disc, 38mm Ø {4}. • #9,9a,9b Screwed Rods 120,90,50mm {3,2,1}. • #10

- Handle Crank {1}. • #11 Hook {1}. • #12 Bolt {20}. • #13 Nut {40}. • Cord.

The dimensions are approximate assuming the hole pitch is about the same as STABIL's 12.5mm. 2 of the 50mm Screwed Rods look to be needed in two of the models. All the parts can be seen in the models in Fig.1 except the A/B. It is used in only one model, the Table in Fig.1B, to attach each leg to the top, but is hidden from view.

There are two points of interest in the parts shown in the models. • The Wheel Disc is drawn with 8 face holes in one model, but only 6 in others. • The Flanged Plate, unlike the 11h long STABIL part, is shown with 10 more or less equispaced holes lengthways but with an extra centre hole in the flanges. This can be seen clearly in Fig.1B. Perhaps the part is as shown but conceivably 10 instead of 11 holes was the draughtsman's error and the centre hole was added as a way of avoiding considerable redrawing. The 10 holes along the edges of the top face wasn't a problem because none of those holes are used in any of the models.

