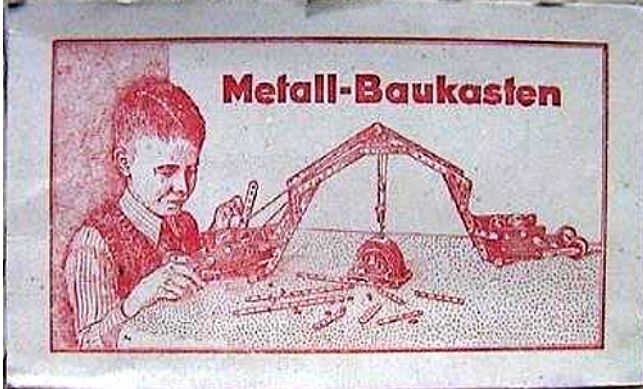


SNIPPET: New System METALL-BAUKASTEN [2]

The [3] after the 'AUKI' METALL-BAUKASTEN on the previous page is how it will appear in my Database, to distinguish it from two other systems that have only the M-B name. The first, M-B [1], is not yet in MCS, but as was explained in 23/662, it is very similar or identical to SCHEFFLERS.

M-B [2] is only known from small photos of two sets, one in *Baukästen*, p218, and the other from Ebay. The photos of the latter are shown here. The maker isn't known but in *BK* the mid-1920s is suggested as a date.

The size of the *BK* box is given as 21.5*12*3.5cm, and the Ebay box is probably the same. The lid in *BK* is identical to the one below except that it is printed blue on buff.



The only conventional parts in the Ebay box (right) that can be clearly seen are a 6h Strip and what may be a 13h A/G. The silver parts (Winding Drums?, Wheels?) might be painted wood, but nothing like them is in the *BK* set.

However the *BK* Set does though have a Plate which scales at 11*5½cm overall, and has only 6 holes at each end plus 2 large holes in the centre along the top. The latter might possibly take the ends of the silver Winding Drums, and with a little imagination it is possible to see the Plate carrying 2 Drums in the model on the lid. Also could those parts in the bottom left compartment of the Ebay box be tubular Cross Members to join the Plates?

The other parts in the *BK* box are a 7 or 8h Strip, the same dull, light grey as the Plate; a bright 11h Strip; and what may be Pulley Discs of about 3h Ø.

Scaling the various parts (in the very small photos) gives a hole spacing of between 12½ & 14mm.

Above the Ebay box is what looks to be part of a model sheet or manual, and in the Crane on the right there are 2

winding drums of some sort and the sideplates might again be the *BK* Plate.

Leading Particulars

Name METALL-BAUKASTEN

Country Germany

Maker

Period Perhaps mid-1920s.

Hole dia.

Hole pitch Scales at between 12½ & 14mm.

Sets Two similar incomplete sets known.

Colour Dark or light grey metal, with, if genuine, some silver, perhaps painted wood.

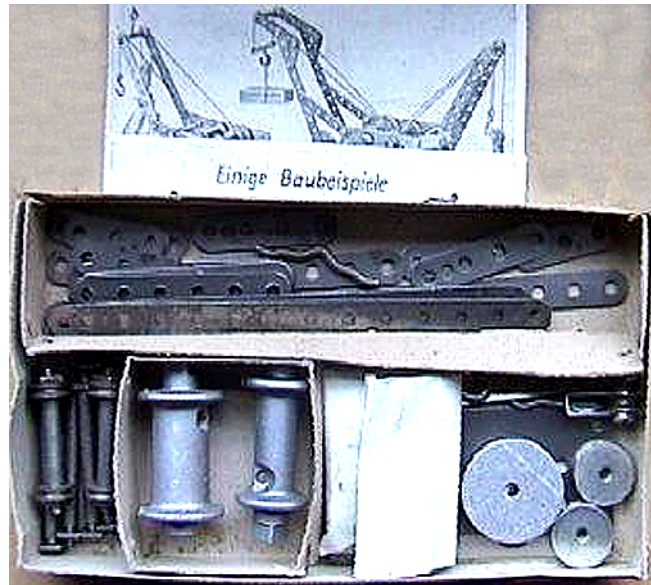
Boss

N&B

Axle

DP No Gears known.

Remarks



OSN 28/820

METALL-BAUKASTEN [2]: S1

A few HUSTLER BILDCRAFT Parts The colour & hole size of the handful of parts to hand, from 2 lots, do not agree with the details given in MCS. The new information is given below.

Colour The parts are painted as follows:

- Light brown: 5 & 7h Strips, 1*5*1h DAS, & the Trunnion.
- Fresh green: Curved Strip, & 2h long Strip Joiner (#12, called Splice Plate).
- Bright red: Double Bent Strip.

Hole Size The hole diameters in the different parts are:

- 3.8mm in the 5h Strips & Double Bent Strip.
- 3.9mm in the DAS & Trunnions.
- 4.0mm in the 7h Strips.
- 4.1mm in the 5h Strips & Double Bent Strip.

These **Changes** could be reflected in **MCS** as:

Hole dia. 4.2mm. 3.8-4.1mm also found in various parts.

Colour Black, red, & nickel plated. Light brown, green, & red parts also known.

OSN 28/820

HUSTLER BILDCRAFT: S1

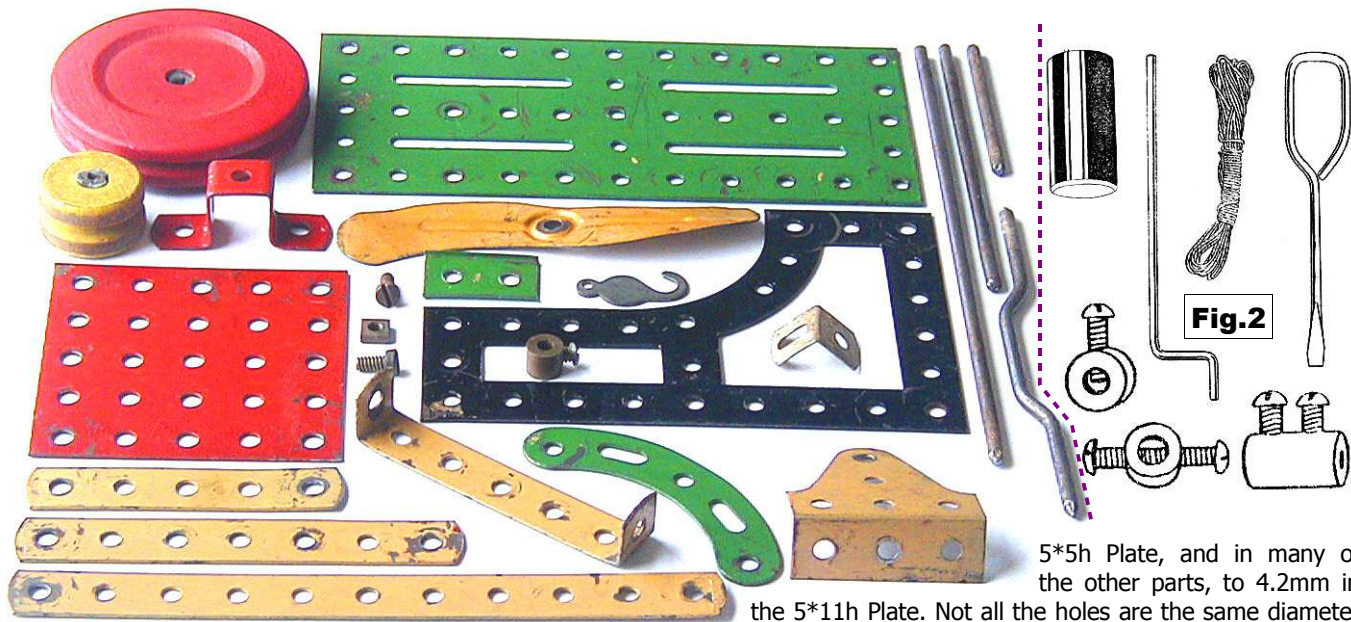


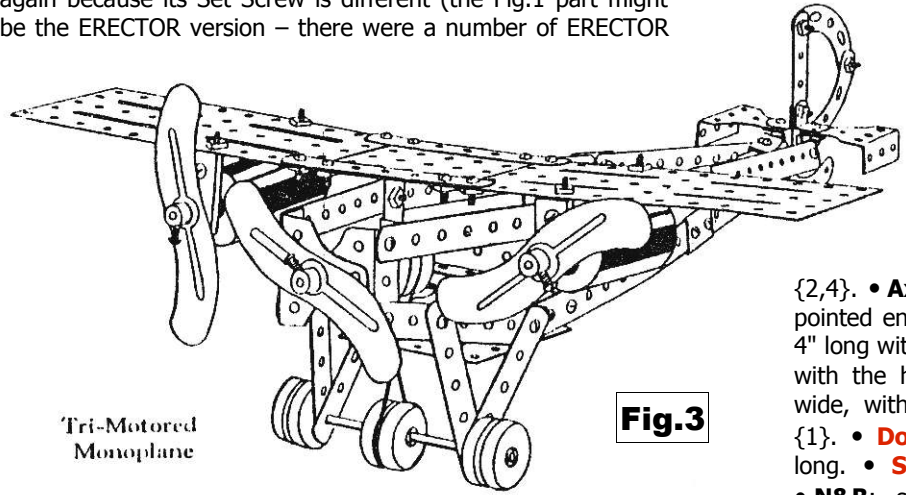
Fig.1

HUSTLER BILDKRAFT This is mainly about a some parts which have recently come to hand. An example of each is shown above and they include all those which are in the Illustrated Parts in *MCS* except the B&W ones on the right in Fig.2. These have been copied from *MCS* but the top 4 have been scaled so that vertically they roughly match in size the actual parts in Fig.1. The other 3 parts at the bottom of Fig.2 are as shown in *MCS* and are approximately full size (as are all the parts in *MCS*). The Collar is the part in Fig.1 but is shown again because its Set Screw is different (the Fig.1 part might be the ERECTOR version – there were a number of ERECTOR

5*5h Plate, and in many of the other parts, to 4.2mm in the 5*11h Plate. Not all the holes are the same diameter as those in the parts described in 28/820, though wear & the thick paint in some holes are often imponderables.

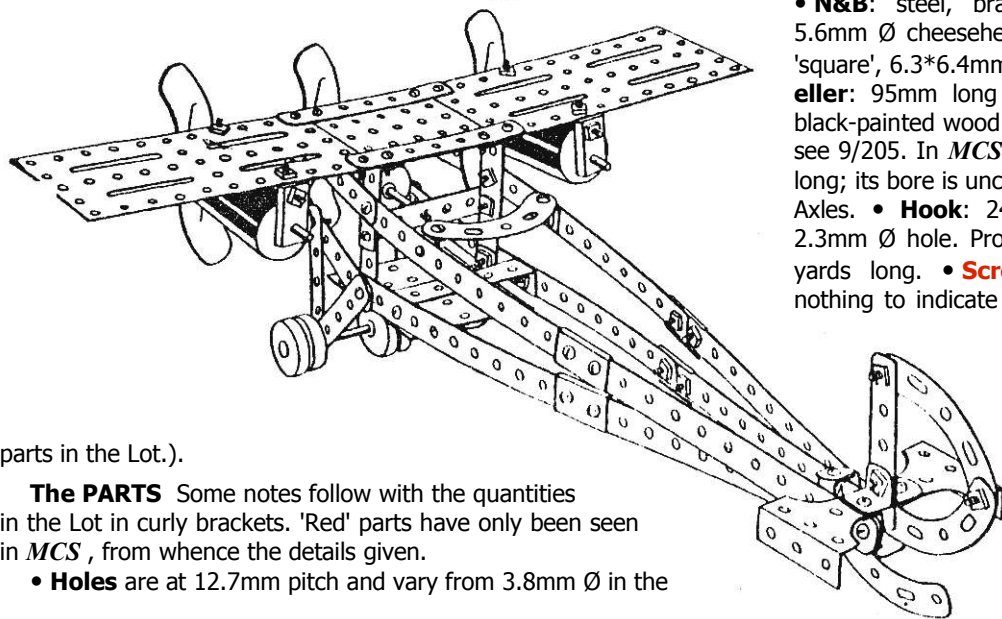
• **Quality.** Most of the parts are accurately made, and quite well painted though with some paint runs on one side around holes. • **Strips:** 11,7,5h, 12.7mm wide under the paint {10,6,6}. • **DAS:** {4}. • **Curved Strip:** it spans 2" & 4 make a 3" circle (pcd). The slots are 10.2mm long. {4}. • **2h Strip Joiner:** its width allows too much play to make it a particularly useful part {7}. • **A/B:** 13*13mm, and 13mm wide, with a 7/32mm slot {15}. • **Double Bent Strip:** {4}. • **Trunnion:** a rather attractive part {4}. • **Perforated Plates:** 5*5 & 5*11h. The pitch of the lengthways holes in the 5*11h is 12.6mm. {2,2}. • **Frame:** if two are abutted to make a square some holes are out of their expected position – only slightly but enough to matter {4}.

• **Pulleys:** .9 & 2.3" Ø with a rubber insert to grip an Axle. The hidden face of the 2.3" in Fig.1 is not recessed. {2,4}. • **Axles etc:** 3.41-3.45mm Ø with somewhat pointed ends. **Rods:** 6,3 1/2, 2" {1,2,1}. **Crankshaft:** 4" long with a 3/8" stroke {1}. **Crank Handle:** 5" o/a with the handle offset 7/8". • **Collar:** 5/16" Ø, 1/4" wide, with a 3.6mm bore, and single-tapped 6-32 {1}. • **Double-tapped Collar.** • **Coupling:** 15/32" long. • **Set Screw:** roundheaded and 5/16" u/h. • **N&B:** steel, brass plated, 6-32 thread. **Bolt:** 5.6mm Ø cheesehead, 1/4" u/h {25}. **Nut:** pressed, 'square', 6.3*6.4mm, and 2.2mm thick {39}. • **Propeller:** 95mm long o/a {2}. • **Cylinder:** probably black-painted wood as in the ACTION TOY BUILDER, see 9/205. In *MCS* it is shown as 27mm Ø & 55mm long; its bore is unclear but from Fig.3 it may suit the Axles. • **Hook:** 24mm o/a. .85mm thick, with a 2.3mm Ø hole. Probably tin plated. {1}. • **Cord:** 2 yards long. • **Screwdriver:** 4 1/2" o/a. There is nothing to indicate that there was a Spanner in the system. Many of the N&B would tighten without a spanner but certainly not all.



Tri-Motored Monoplane

Fig.3



parts in the Lot.)

The PARTS Some notes follow with the quantities in the Lot in curly brackets. 'Red' parts have only been seen in *MCS*, from whence the details given.

• **Holes** are at 12.7mm pitch and vary from 3.8mm Ø in the

The SETS BILDKRAFT parts are few and far between and sets seen to be unknown. A web search found only a flyer from about 1930 which advertised a number, possibly

all, of the then current Hustler toys (if all then the ACTION TOY BUILDER was not among them). Two BILDKRAFT sets were shown with a poor illustration of each, the No.1 (at \$1) in Fig.4 right and the No.3 (at \$2.50) below it. It is clear from the model page in *MCS* that the No.3 was not an add-on outfit and so it must have included another card of parts. There is no indication anywhere that there was ever a Set 2.

If the parts in the Lot were the bulk of a No.3 the missing parts would have included 2 of the 1" Pulleys, & 2 Cylinders. And judging from the Set 3 models shown in *MCS* a third propeller would have been included, 6 more 11h Strips, several additional Collars, and another Strip Joiner.

The MODELS The model page in *MCS* shows the Tri-Motor in Fig.3 plus the Hay Wain and Hammer below – all reproduced here at their original size. The three 'slogans' in Fig.8 were in the corners of the model page.

I used the parts in the Lot, plus a few Strips and Trunnions already to hand, plus a few substitute parts, and many extra N&B, to make the Goods Yard Crane in Fig.9. The only parts not in the system were some long Bolts to engage with the handles of the Crank Handles, and perhaps at a pinch Set Screws could have been used instead.

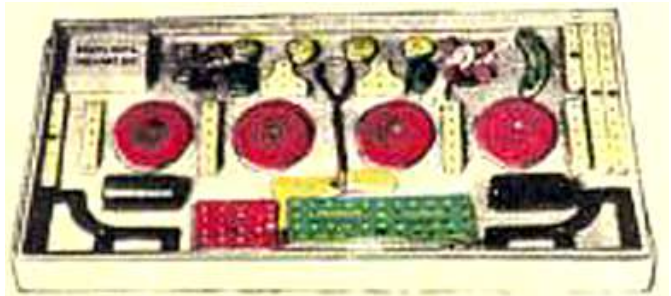


Fig.4

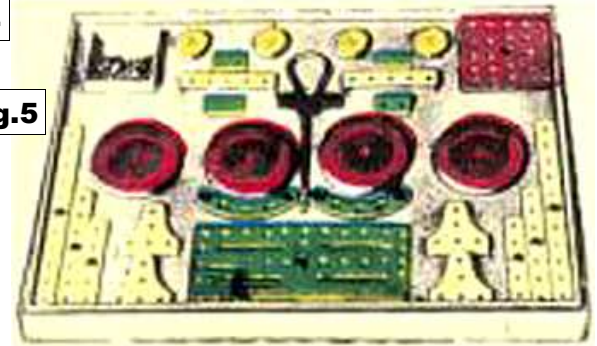
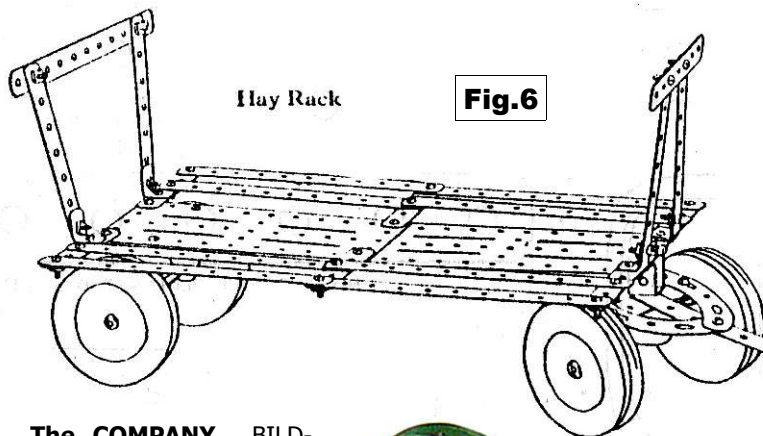


Fig.5



Hay Rack

Fig.6

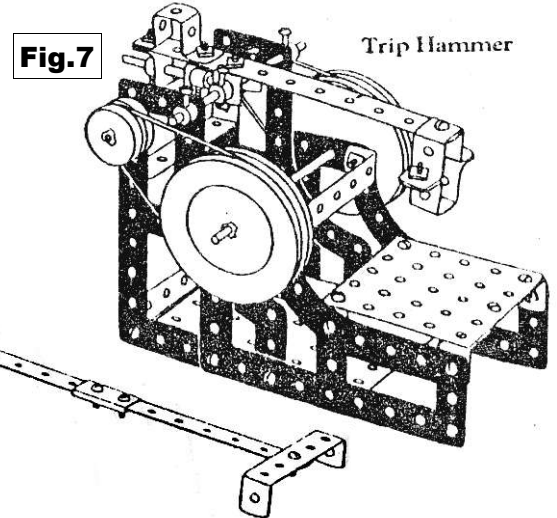


Fig.7

Trip Hammer

The COMPANY BILD-KRAFT was made by the Hustler Toy Co., a subsidiary of the Frantz Mfg. Co., both of Sterling, Illinois. Frantz started making wooden toys & games in 1919 and created the Hustler company in 1925. Production of these lines ceased in 1934 but roller skates were made until the early 1970s. Frantz is still in business producing steel balls and various bearings. This information, and the flyer mentioned earlier, came from http://www.oldwoodtoys.com/hustler_toys1.htm.

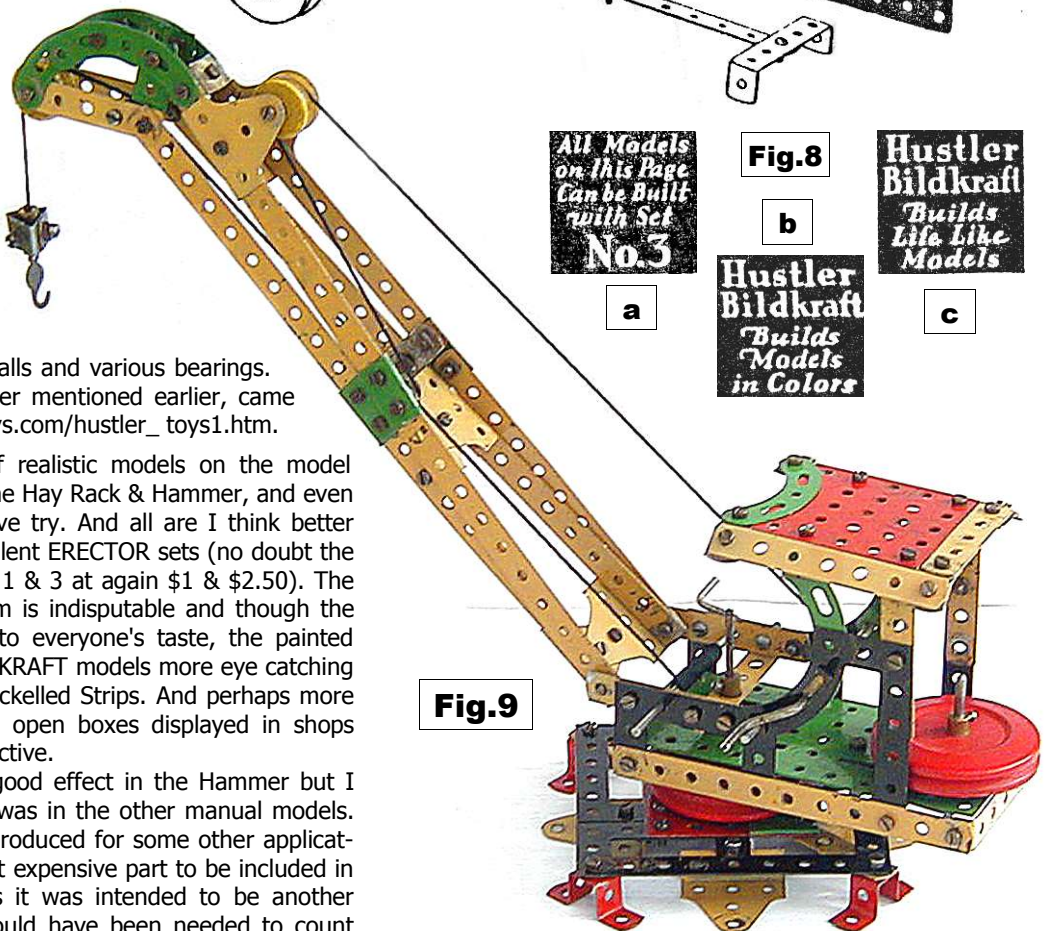


Fig.9

All Models on this Page Can be Built with Set No.3

Fig.8

Hustler Bildkraft Builds Like Like Models

b

Hustler Bildkraft Builds Models in Colors

a

c

REMARKS The claim of realistic models on the model page is perhaps justified by the Hay Rack & Hammer, and even the Tri-Motor must be a brave try. And all are I think better than those of the equivalent ERECTOR sets (no doubt the main competitor with its Nos.1 & 3 at again \$1 & \$2.50). The 'Builds Models in Colors' claim is indisputable and though the colour scheme may not be to everyone's taste, the painted Strips would have made BILDKRAFT models more eye catching than ERECTOR's with their nickelled Strips. And perhaps more important as a selling point, open boxes displayed in shops might have looked more attractive.

The Frames are used to good effect in the Hammer but I wonder how useful the part was in the other manual models. Unless it was already being produced for some other application it would have a somewhat expensive part to be included in a small system, but perhaps it was intended to be another selling point – something would have been needed to count against the 2 Gears in the ERECTOR No.3.