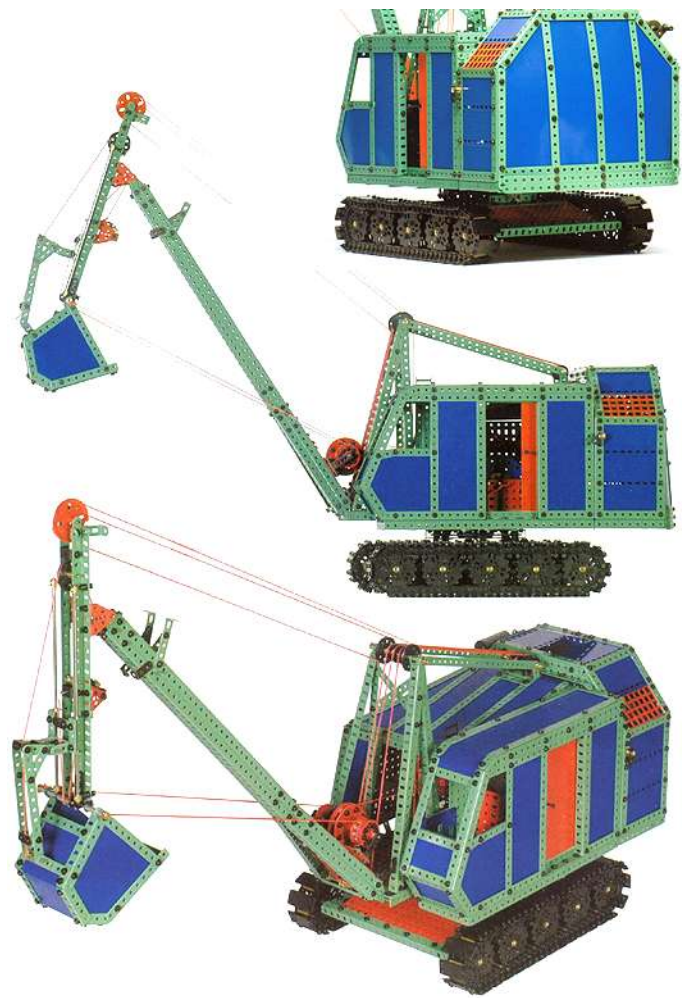


**MÄRKLIN Excavator Set** Paul Goodman has kindly sent some details of the MÄRKLIN METALL Seilbagger mit Tieföffel (Cable Bucket Excavator) Set, see 31/909, & pages from the manual showing the set contents & photos of the finished model. Some of the latter are shown opposite; the other side of the cab can be seen in 30/877, and the 11\*17h red Perforated Plate carries 7 crank handles to operate the model's movements. The Set, #10900, is packed in a wooden case, 72\*50\*10½cm, with a lift off lid, and weighs some 30kg. The parts, about 4850 in all, are in 2 layers with 3 inserts in each – these are Metallus-style fibre blocks machined out to take the parts, and they must be handled with care as they will easily split under the weight of the parts.

The parts include around 130 Strips, 150 A/Gs, and 1100 N&B; but only 4 Pinions & 3 Gear Wheels. The Strips range in length from 3-15h in steps of one hole, and 17-25h in 2 hole increments; likewise the A/Gs but plus 3, 27, & 35h. The Bolts are in 11 sizes from 5-45mm long. A number of the parts are Metallus creations and a fair few seem to have been specially made for this model. The latter include an 8t Ratchet Wheel & Pawl for it, 7 Flexible Plates for the cab, & a 165mm Ø Perforated Plate with a centre boss and an outer ring of holes very close to the edge, presumably for the slew bearing. Also brass Distance Sleeves in 12 lengths from 3-35mm long with an o.d. of 6 or 7mm, but some of them may be standard METALLUS. In passing according to their web site the METALLUS range now extends to 850 parts.

The manual has 56 A4 portrait pages in full colour with the illustrated set contents on pp54-56. The instructions are in 6 main stages, starting with the tracks and ending with the rear section of the main cab (quickly detachable to allow access to the 'works'). With the manual a loose A4 sheet with half a page of corrections in German, English, French & Dutch. And also in the Set, a copy of the 1989, 12 page History of the Märklin Metall System – it is in German and an account of it was given in 4/50 & 5/98. The 6-figure PNs used for the parts are not those of similar METALLUS parts, nor do they seem to



match the 6-figure numbers used by Märklin from the late 1990s.

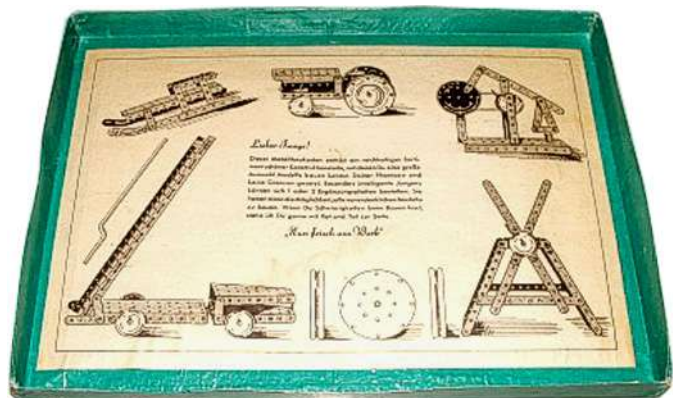
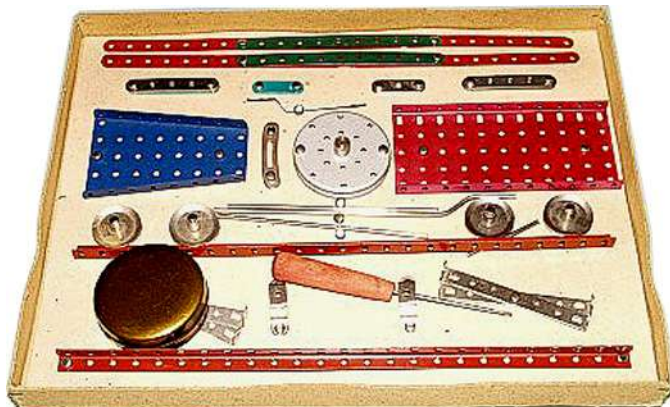
OSN 32/967

MÄRKLIN: S3

**Snippet – 'New' System: KNÖLL** Little can be added to the Ebay pictures of this (presumably) German set. There is nothing to indicate the size of the parts but generally they have a MÄRKLIN look to them. There seems to be only a single Flanged Disc Pulley in the box but two would be needed for the Tractor on the inside of the lid, and some of the other models there need more Strips than look to be present. So was there another layer of parts originally? The box doesn't really look deep enough for one.



One or two points about the parts. The turquoise Strip in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row down looks 3h long but has no centre hole. The Curved Slotted Strip doesn't look long enough to be the usual 5h length. The A/G has no slotted holes; the type of hole in the flanges of the Plates can't be seen clearly. The smaller Pulleys are a little larger than the usual 2h Ø. The 2 parts near the Screwdriver are Double Bent Strips.



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KNÖLL: S1