

Snippet. 'New' System: LINEOL

PIONIER-BRÜCKE This pre-WW2 bridge system is new to me but would no doubt be known to collectors of Elastolin/Lineol figures (both companies made figures in the same way, see 37/1115, and often had comparable ranges of figures & other models). The Lineol bridge constructional models are of a size to suit their 7.5cm series of figures & accessories.

These notes are mainly about the set most commonly seen – it has enough parts to make the 95cm long Girder Bridge in Fig.5. To hand are photos etc of 5 sets seen on Ebay & other websites, and various other Ebay lots of parts. Also a few pages from catalogues seen on the web.

The PARTS There are just 6 of them: a Slotted Strip for the side frames, a Cross Beam to space them apart, a Washer & a Wedge to hold the two together, and two wooden parts: a Plank to form the roadway, and a Foot.

All can be seen in Figs.4 & 4A. The Strip is about 20cm long and edged with shallow flanges. The Beam looks to be a flat strip about 15cm long with cylindrical end extensions faired back into the strip. The ends pass through the large end holes in the Strips (they scale at 6½mm) & are slotted through to take the Wedges (Fig.4A) which hold the parts together. Washers (bottom left in Fig.4) are used as necessary to allow the Wedges to work effectively. The reason for the small top hole in the Wedge isn't known. The Planks sit on one of the Strip's flanges with the end

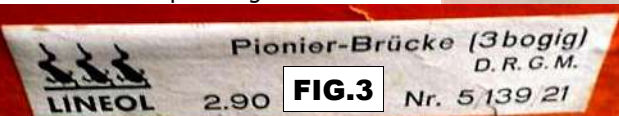


FIG.3

ones in each bay butting against a Cross Beam. In some sets the metal parts look grey rather than blue-grey.

The Sets All the boxes are red, 21*22½*3½cm, though one was said to be 21*21cm. A label on one side



FIG.4

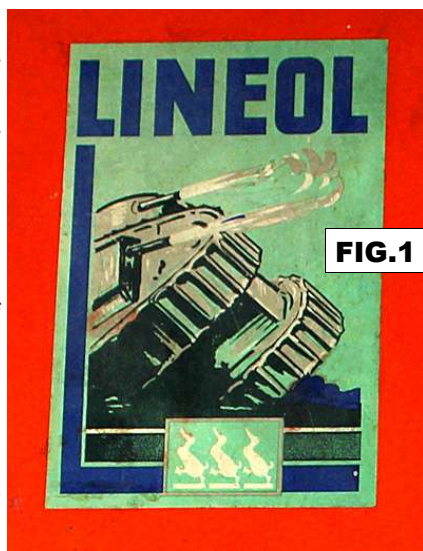


FIG.1



FIG.2

(Fig.3) gives the price, the set number (5/139/21), etc (bogig = bay). 3 of the lids have the Fig.1 label, though in one the back-ground colour is a light pinkish-fawn. The others have the rather less threatening label in Fig.2, an earlier one perhaps. The partitioning is the same in all the sets. The main parts needed for the Girder Bridges are 26 Strips, 9 Beams, 35 Planks, & 4 Feet. Planks are missing from some of the sets seen but a few still have all 35.

The MODELS No manual can be seen in any of the Sets but most have a sheet showing the models in Fig.5 accompanied by an appreciable amount of text. The pontoons in the top Bridge are separate Lineol models, and the illustrations in the two other sheets which were with some of the sets, show the Bridge parts used with other Lineol products, soldiers carrying Strips for example. No other bridges from the Set are shown and, apart from shorter versions, the scope for building different designs looks rather limited.

OTHER SETS • One of the Fig.2 sets has a model sheet in French. It has the same Set No. on its side label as the German boxes but the name is 'Pont en fer, avec arches'.

• In one Ebay ad it is said that the Bridge sets date from 1935-40 and a 1938-39 catalogue lists the 5/139/21 set and a cheaper Nr. 5/139/20 for 2-bay models.

• Elastolin also made bridge sets and a 1939-40 catalogue shows the model in Fig.6. An

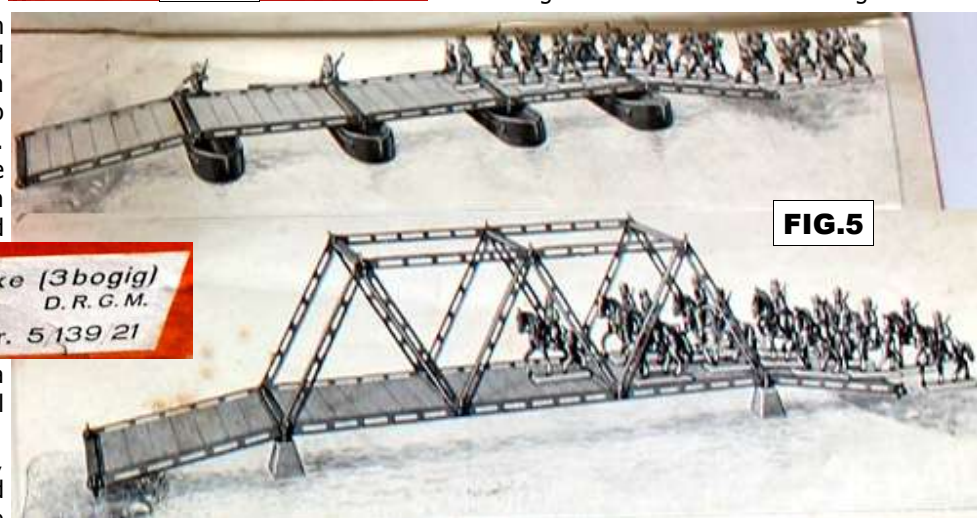


FIG.5



FIG.4A

auction lot of Elastolin parts is shown in Fig.7 with 18 & 25cm long Bars, Beams, Planks, & Bolts mentioned. The Bars again have shallow flanges but have an impressed 'V' pattern instead of slots, and the Planks are slotted to fit over them. I can't identify the Beam though conceivably it could be a 'DAS' made from the 18cm Bar.

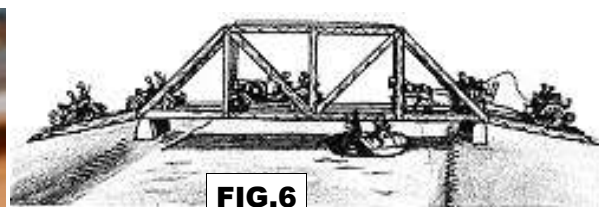


FIG.6



FIG.7