

Snippet. 'New' Romanian System: MECANO

The No.1 set right was offered on the UK Ebay and, with the main body of its parts resembling STABIL, it is clearly different to the MECANO's previously mentioned in OSN. The words under the name on the lid mean 'The Construction Set for every Boy', and the maker is given along the bottom: EMSA, Electromecanica S.A., 14 Dacilor Street, Timișoara 11. This city is in the west of Romania, some 100km from both the Serbian & Hungarian borders. There is nothing to date MECANO but no doubt it was one of the several copies, or near copies, of STABIL which appeared after WW2.

Of the parts the Ebay ad said that most strips & plates are aluminium (STABIL parts were of course steel) and that the holes are at 1/2" centres. The parts that are not aluminium or STABIL-type include the blue & yellow ERECTOR Plates, the 15h Strips in the top centre bay, and, most likely, the DAS & Curved Strips top & bottom right. On the hole pitch I suspect, by scaling from the ERECTOR parts, that it is the STABIL value of 12.5mm rather than 1/2". (In the photo the 3*7h Perforated Plate looks smaller than the opening in the Flanged Plate but this is because it is farther from the camera – in another photo not shown here they are at nearly the same level and obviously match one another.)

The 'STABIL' parts that can be seen are as follows (most of their originals were described in OSN 13).
 • 3,5,7,11h Strips. • 5*11h Flanged Plate (in the other photo the flange holes can be seen to be slotted), and 3*7h Perforated Plate cut out from its centre. • 3*5h Triangular Plate. • A/B & D/B. • 2*2h 'L' Corner Bracket. • 8h Wheel Disc. • Roller (top centre, left end – an untapped Collar). • Wire Stay. • 28t Gear (the STABIL Bakelite pattern).

Other parts that can be seen on the lid are, on the bench, a Flanged Sector Plate (with the Triangular Plate cutout, & a Flanged Ring (though it isn't clear if it has a pulley groove), and, probably, a Slotted Plate in the back of the Trolley Bus.



Fig.1

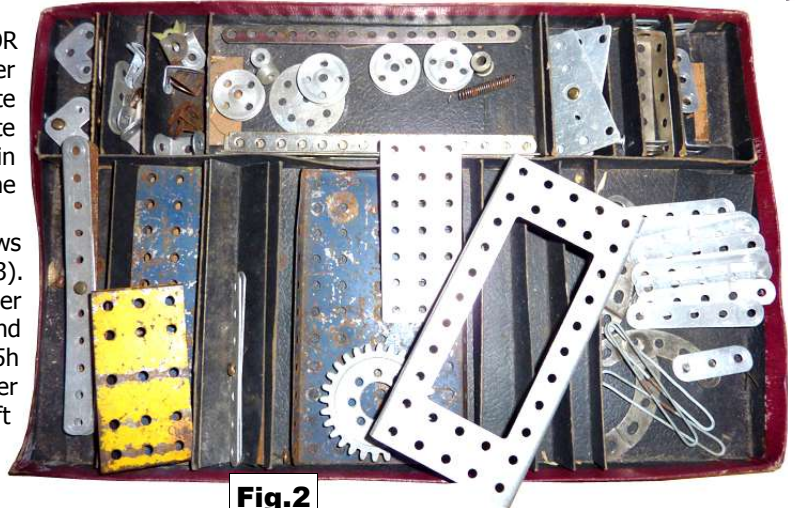


Fig.2

The wheels on the Bus, Tyres on Pulleys with 4 face holes, don't have any STABIL equivalents, but look rather like the Hungarian MECHANIKA parts.

MECANO [3]: S1

OSN 49/1494

More BELIX Following the account of this Dutch system in 48/1466 Jan Ringnalda has kindly sent details of a No.A outfit. The lid is shown right and, below, the parts on the backing card, plus the small envelope with the threaded parts in it. The latter consist of 4 Screwed Rods which scale at about 50mm long, 9 Bolts some 14mm long o/a, and 21 Nuts. These parts are shown in Fig.2A at about the same scale as the card, and larger in Fig.3. The thread is 1/8" BSW. The other details of the parts from Jan agree with

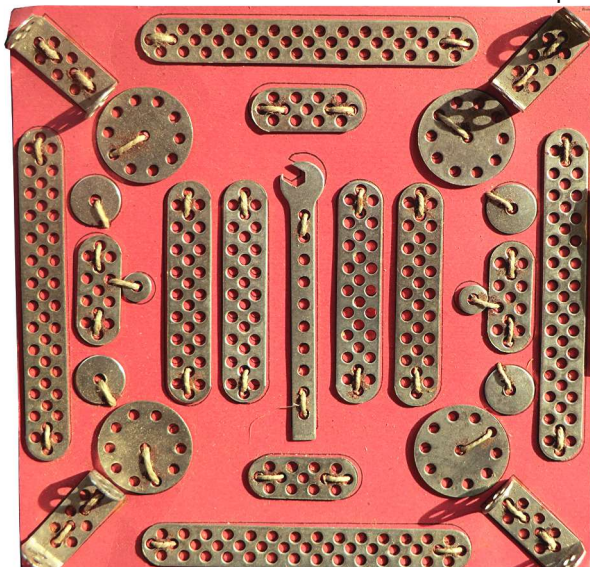


Fig.2A

Fig.1

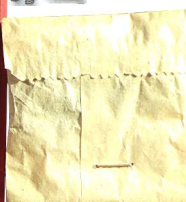


Fig.2

those in OSN 48 except for two small differences: 15.1mm wide Strips, and 7.75mm hole pitch (against 15 & 7.7mm respectively).

The model sheet in the Set was the one shown in OSN 49.

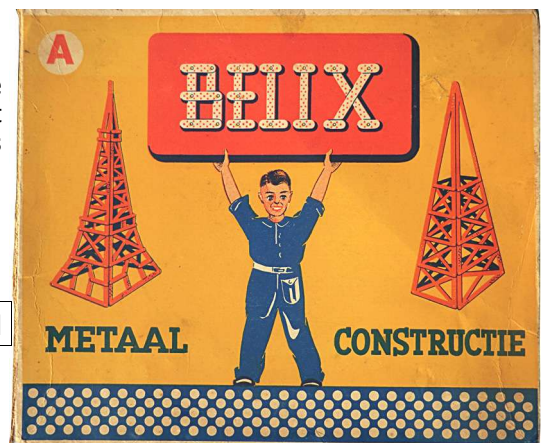


Fig.3

BELIX: S2

OSN 49/1494