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EDITORIAL I'm pleased that OSN has survived 25 years to reach No.50 and that it is still in good heart. Much ground has been covered and much remains to be explored, but for me at least it has been a fascinating journey, and I look forward to producing more Issues. None of this would have been possible without the support of both contributors & subscribers, and I would like to thank them all, not least for their patience now that it takes so much longer to produce each Issue.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **Snippet. TRONICO Dinosaurier Sets.** There are 3 of these outfits, all in the same vein. They are Tyrannosaurus



FIG.1

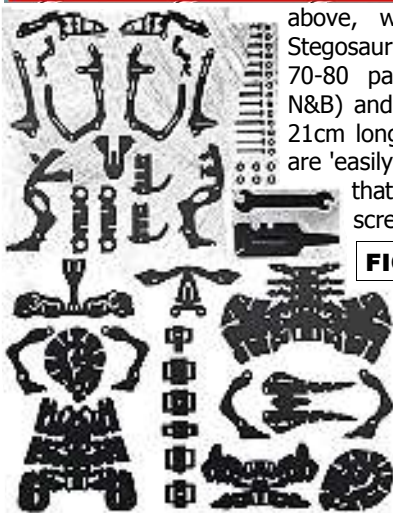


FIG.2

above, with its parts below it; Stegosaurus; & Triceratops. All have 70-80 parts (including 30 or so N&B) and all the models are about 21cm long. It is said that the parts are 'easily bendable' aluminium' and that 'the kits are only bent not screwed together'. So presumably the parts interlock after having been suitably bent, with the N&B at critical points. I wondered if the parts were ready formed but in an Ebay set they look flat, and the diagonal slot in the corner of the Screwdriver's handle

is probably an aid to bending.

These sets are sold (at €9 each) only by the shop attached to the TRONICO website, but sets to make identical models called METAL DINO, as below, have been seen on American Ebay. As can be seen the lids have OWIKIT in small letters in the bottom left corner. A Parts List sheet with one set is headed ROBOTIKITS & below it is 'This aluminum kit includes soft and hard aluminum plates. To give this kit your own

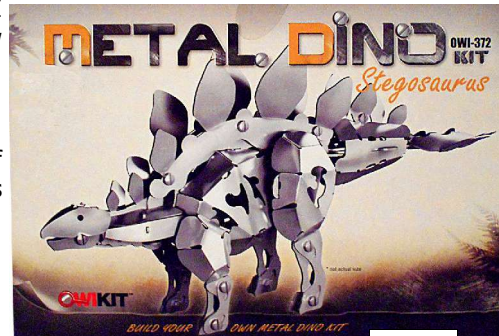


FIG.3

shape, bend the soft plates to a different position and/or angle according to your own ideas.' And the undersides of all the boxes, OWIKIT and TRONICO show the animal in several different postures.

TRONICO: S4

[50/1516]

2. **AUTOMAT.** Paul Goodman wrote (some time ago I'm sorry to say) that AUTOMAT had changed hands, and since June 2012 its new owner has been Knotech GmbH, Selitstraße 10, D-55234 Erbes-Büdesheim, a town about 50km away from the previous address.

The website //www.compact-technik.de gives details of the current range of sets & parts and I hope one day to update the review of AUTOMAT in 21/604 (that was in 1999) to include an outline of all the changes since then.

AUTOMAT: S2

[50/1516]

3. **METALLUS.** Paul Goodman also mentioned that this German system might be 'running down', and when I checked its website the only sets I could find were 3 of the earlier 7 basic sets, and one theme set, the Ploughing Engine. It was only practical to check on a few parts: all of the 3 categories of common parts I looked at were as before, but in more specialized areas no parts were listed in 2 of 3 of them.

METALLUS: S6

[50/1516]

4. **The TECO Manual.** Jürgen Kahlfeldt wrote that the 8 model pages in the TECO manual described in 34/1027 are identical to 8 of the 13 model pages in the 31st Edition of the STABIL manual for Set 48, although said pages are not in the same order.

TECO: S4

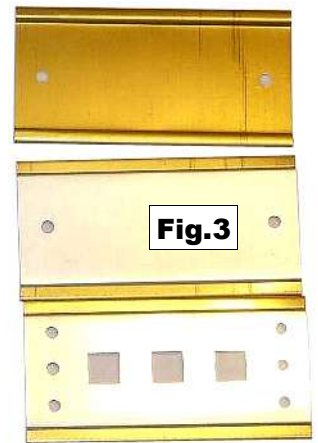
[50/1516]

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Snippet. A 'New' Norwegian System: MEKANIKER'N

The set shown here was seen on Tradera, the Swedish auction site. It was said that it probably came from Norway, and this is borne out by the text on the lid – Mekaniker means Mechanic in Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian but Byggesett (around the '4') is only a Norwegian word, meaning Set. I haven't been able to find the meaning of the apostrophe N ('N) after MEKANIKER, beyond a suggestion that it possibly denotes 'The' before the word it's added to.



There were 6 of the plain Plates **Fig.1** in the Set, plus 2 of the Window Plates, and the latter, with at least some of the other Plates, together with the Wheels, Axles with threaded ends, and deep DAS, could have been used in a Railway Coach similar to the one on the lid. But in that case missing parts would have included, among others, those for the ends of the Coach, and some A/Bs or their equivalents.

The 2 lengths of long-slotted Strips in the box may not be original parts because the Bolts (and Axles) look too large to pass through their slots. And what of the 'matching' narrow unperforated strips? **Fig.2**



The other models on the lid look to have conventional Strips etc, apart perhaps for the Lorry's bonnet. Perhaps such parts are missing from this Set or were in other sets, and Set 4 had only parts for a Coach.

MEKANIKER'N: S1

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Snippets. The GAKKEN Metal Kits & Metal Dinos.

Let's start with the Dinos. Following the mention in 50/1516 of the Metal Dino sets seen on US Ebay, Jean-Pierre Guibert wrote of 7 Metal Dino sets produced by the Japanese Gakken company. Gakken it is recalled, made the MECHAMO animal models, and the earlier, simpler MECHANIMAL sets (see 34/1011 & 4/66), both quite different in concept from the present models.



Hornet, a Mantis, a Stag Beetle, a Grasshopper, a Tarantula, and a Butterfly.

Adverts for 3 of these sets, the Mantis, Scorpion, and Rhino Beetle, have also been seen with a different style of lid. All three of them show two views of the model, as below for the Mantis.

The 7 Gakken sets were in fact the original Dino outfits, and the 3 TRONICO & US Ebay sets are repackaged versions of the Gakken ones. The 4 models over & above those named in OSN 50 are Parasurolophus, Spinosaurus, Anomalocaris, and Pteranodon. Above the Gakken Spinosaurus box.

The METAL KIT Series These date from around 2006 and were earlier than the Dinos. They were all insect models and were made in the same way as the Dinos with some soft aluminium parts, but were rather simpler, and about 10 or 12cm long. A Scorpion box is shown above right (Fig.2) and others in the Series were a Rhino Beetle, a Tarantula, a Giant



METAL KIT/DINO: S1

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