

An Unusual MEX Set. The usual MEX has Strips with narrow slits between the holes, and across some holes, see 16/452 & 49/1505. This MEX has parts almost identical to BAUFIX/BATIFIX (see MCS & 6/136). The parts are shown in Fig.2 at about half size. Compared with BAUFIX their nickel (or possibly highly polished) finish, is better but there is significant burr around many of the holes. The thread and the N&B though are as MEX. The 4mm Ø wooden dowel is not used in any of the Leaflet models, and will not pass through any of the holes in the parts.

The Set is in a box 15*21¼*1½cm. In design the lid (Fig.1) is quite similar to BATIFIX (I've never seen a BAUFIX lid). It has FOREIGN bottom left (on the blue Strip). The parts are in a pale orange envelope 13*19½cm.

The Parts As found they were: **Strips:** 5,5,3 of 5,7,9h. **DAS:** 2. **Wheel Disc,** 30mm: 4. **Small Disc,** 13mm: 4. **A/B:** 4. **N&B,** steel, 3.5mm Ø x 32 tpi: **Nuts,** hexagonal, 6.0 A/F: 25; **Bolts,** tapered cheesehead 6.5mm Ø, 6mm u/h: 11. **Threaded Rod,** 55mm: 2. **Spanner,** coppered: 1. **Dowel** 4½" long: 6.

That makes the 72 pieces claimed on the lid but includes those very doubtful Dowels. More parts would be needed for some of the Model Sheet models, at least 1 extra for both the 7 & 9h Strips for example.

The Model Sheet is headed NEW "MEX" CONSTRUCTION SET, with MAKES ENDLESS VARIETY OF MODELS along the bottom. 27 small models are shown on this side with 8 slightly larger ones overleaf. All are typical BAUFIX models and 22 of them are direct copies from a BAUFIX Model Sheet to hand. The best model, the Merry-go-round in Fig.3, is the only one to have a mechanical feature, a friction drive between 2 Discs. Also on the reverse side are 5 much larger models; a Caravan, a Church, a Giant [Big] Wheel with a cord drive between pulleys made from the 2 sizes of Disc, a Windmill, and the Merry-go-round in Fig.4. The latter seems to have no drive to the centre shaft but perhaps there is an elastic band below the Threaded Rod. The model could then be wound by hand. A puzzle is what the Wheel Disc above the platform on the left represents. Both Merry-go-Rounds look to have extras: the little balls at the end of the arms, and the flagpoles with flag.

Thoughts No other MEX set of this type is known, nor any reference to it. And with the amount of burr on the parts I wonder if the Set was a prototype which never went into production. And



Fig.1



Fig.2

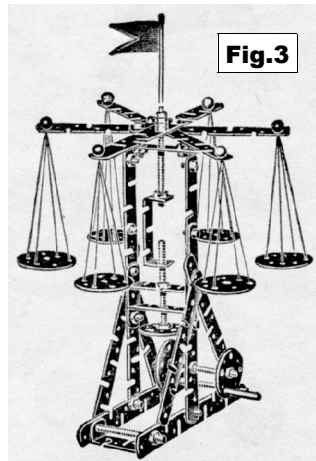


Fig.3

Merry-go-round

Figs.3 & 4 are their original size

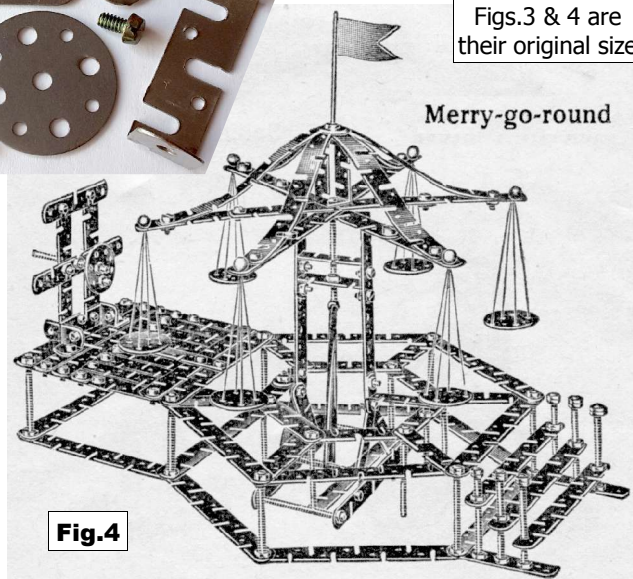


Fig.4

Merry-go-round

with the use of a BAUFIX stable lid & BAUFIX models, and the FOREIGN on the label, perhaps the German firm was involved in some way. If so though it's hard to understand why special parts, which would have needed tooling, were made, or bought from another company, when BAUFIX parts could have been used, polished up for the occasion if need be. After all that perhaps the reason this MEX was never launched was that it finally dawned on someone that ULOX was patented and that the MEX parts were identical to ULOX in most respects. It would be interesting to know if BAUFIX was ever sold here.

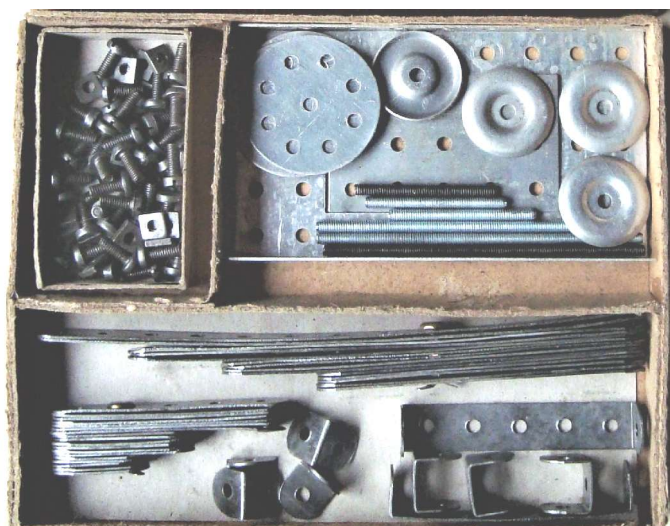
OSN 54/1669

MEX [2]: S1

Another No.1 METALLIX Set Urs Flammer kindly sent details of his No.1 set. It differs only slightly from the one described in 30/889, but for convenience all aspects of it will be covered here.

The set is thought to date from around 1950. The box is 195*155*20mm with the label as in 28/821 except that it does not have the '1' on it. The maker is again as on the label. In the box (right) the Strips are steel, the other parts aluminium. Holes are 4.2 & 4.4mm Ø at 14mm pitch. The thread is M4.

The manual, 147*102mm, has all the features in the OSN 30 one. There is an Intro on pp 2-3 with the firm's address given as (20a) HANNOVER, Kirchröder Straße 99. Also that there are Sets 1 & 2, and that a clever boy could build 70-80 different models with the No.1, and 130 with the No.2. The No.1 Set models, Scales, Mobile Crane, & Lorry, are on pp 4-6, and the larger No.2 Crane is on p7. p8, the back cover, says don't let your set get wet, or you will spoil it.



OSN 54/1669

METALLIX [1]: S3