



an 8-hole Wheel Disc, and the 2 Spanners with square tails shown below (enlarged), along with the top of the box lid (opposite). (JB)



- The parts in the **SACHSENMEISTER** theme sets (15/418) have only very limited compatibility with the ordinary parts. (JB)
- The parts in a photo of a **SCHWERKA** Set include the Windmill Sails illustrated in OSN 15, though they don't look black. (JB)
- On **TECHNOFIX** the parts are steel, brass plated, the holes are 3.5mm Ø, and the arms shown in Fig.5 can pivot independently. (JB)
- On **WEMA**, Nebenzweig is not a town, it means 'sideline' and thus constructional toys were only a sideline activity for the firm Eberspächer from 1946 to 1948. (They made and still make, heaters for cars.) (SG)
- The early 30s catalogue that listed ALPHA also includes **ZICK-ZACK** with as an illustration the box below. The WK logo (by Nr.) shows it to be from the Wilhelm Krauss period, and the main thing is the unusual hole pattern in the Strips. 3 sets are listed with 40, 80 and 147 parts. The largest one cost 18 Marks a dozen, against 66 a dozen for the ALPHA set with 150 parts, so it would have been aimed at the



cheap end of the market. (SG)

The 'NEW' GERMAN NAMES

- **ANDERS**, blue and orange parts without many holes in them, and so not very adaptable. (JB)

- **BAUE SELBST**, from the 1930s with special parts for Cranes. (SG)
- **BOSCH**, MECCANO-type parts, painted black. A photo shows a wooden box with a sliding lid. The label on it is similar to the manual cover reproduced opposite. (JB)
- **COMBINATOR**, 1930, parts to make buildings. (JB)
- **CONRAD**, wooden parts but metal Brackets, Axles, and Wheels. (JB)
- **DUX Railway Sets**. (SG)
- **FRI-DIE**, a simple system with red and blue painted steel parts, and holes spaced at markedly more than 1/2". [It is probable that this is the FRI-BIE of 11/291; other mistakes in that list: KOHLER should be KOBLE, and WESFALIA, WESTFALIA.] (JB)
- **GECO**, preceded CONRAD and is identical to it. (JB)
- **GESCHA**, a simple system from the late 1940s, with an unusual hole alignment. (SG)
- **HEIKO**, MECCANO-type parts but only a limited number of simple ones. (JB)
- **INGENIO**, pierced or perforated sheet steel parts painted white, red or black, which slot one into the other to make Dolls' Furniture, parts of Buildings, and also Trains. (JB)
- **KOSMOS MASCHINEN**, from the 1930s, with semi-specialised parts to make machines. [Perhaps from makers of TECHNOFIX?] (JB)
- **MAGNETO**, heavy steel parts, with Wheels & Axles. (JB)
- **METALLIX**, from the 1950s, with MECCANO-style steel and natural aluminium parts. (JB)
- **RIAG Modelbau**, another simple system from the late 40s, with a hole pattern like that of ZICK-ZACK above. (SG)
- **ROCO**, possibly from the 1950s, & based on Rods. (JB)
- **UNSERE TAKTSTRASSE**, an East German theme set to make 2 different Tractors with mainly special parts. (SG)
- **WERNER'S Metallbaukasten**, an early postwar copy of TRIX. (SG)



An EGB-ELEKTRO Outfit Well actually most of the parts from one that Richard Symonds came across last year in Canada (for \$5). He kindly sent a photo of the parts and as examples, a 3h Strip and a N&B. The Set is thought to be from the 1950s and is shown in MCS as ELEKTRO-BAUKASTEN. EGB was the name of the East German maker from Leipzig, and as well as this EM (Electro-Magnetism) Set, 3 others are noted in MCS - the M (Magnetism), RE (Static Electricity), and CE (Electro-Chemistry) - but no details are given.

The main parts of the EM Set are 2 8*14h Flanged Plates, various Strips and special Brackets, a ready-wound Coil and motor Armature, a Horseshoe and 2 Cylindrical Magnets, and a Bell. All the parts are shown in MCS but the following details can now be added.

- **DATA** (in mm) **STRIP** (3-hole): •hole pitch/dia, 10.0/4.2; •width, 10.0; thickness, .86; •ends fully radiused. [No bosses] **THREAD**: M3 [No Axles or Gears] **NUT**: hex 5.6 A/F; **BOLT**: tapered cheesehead 5.0 Ø; both nicked steel.
- The **Flanged Plate** is moulded from dark brown plastic and has no holes in the flanges. The holes in the top look much smaller than those in the Strips.
- The 3 & 9h **Strips** are aluminium and have little material outside the end holes, so the 3h one is less than 28mm o/a. The 6h Strips look to be dark brown plastic.
- The **Trunnion** appears to be aluminium, and the long centre slot looks much longer than in the MCS illustration.
- Most of the other **Brackets** look as if they are nickel but some may be aluminium.
- The base and switch handle of the **Switch** #8 look to be red fibre, and the fittings, nickel.

- The **Coil** is about 20mm wide and its top and bottom are brown plastic. The **Armature** is about 10cm long o/a.
- The top contact part of #12 (**Contact Strip**?), and the **Brushes** #18 are copper.
- The **N&B** are in a flat square box that may be made of brown plastic. It's about 4*4cm with a hinged lid, and may be a substitute for the #21 shown in MCS. In Richard's parts the **Container** #22 (with Iron Filings in it I think) is a clear phial with stopper.
- The flat **Plates** #29 & 30 are red - plastic no doubt.
- The **Pointers** #31 & 32 are about 6cm long. #31 looks at first glance like light yellowy-brown wood, but is probably plastic; #32 is aluminium.
- Part 33 (**Nägel**, but I can't think of a suitable English word), looks aluminium, and is some 5cm long with a small hole in the 10mm long by 5mm wide spade end.
- The **Bell** is nickel and about 8cm diameter.
- What may be #35 (**Disc**?) is black and about 2cm Ø.
- **Axle** #36 is a brass looking Threaded Rod, 5cm long.
- There are 4 lots of **Wire** on the card former of #41, and the wording on it is Kupferdraht 0,10mm Ø; Kupferdraht 0,30mm Ø; Eisendraht 0,30mm Ø; Heizdraht 0,12mm Ø.
- The **Bolts** are 6mm u/h, and 2 longer ones can be seen, one 15 and the other 18mm long. Their (neat) heads are 2.0mm deep. The (machined) **Nuts** are 2.3mm thick.
- There are 2 identical nickel **Spanners** which look like the one in MCS and are about 8cm long. The **Screwdriver** is perhaps 16cm o/a and has a long, round wooden handle.

Richard wrote that parts 13,14,15,19,20,27 & 40 are missing from the Set, and I can't see 23,26,38,39 & 42-46 either.

More on METALLIX Following the 'Snippet' in 28/821, Jacques Pitrat kindly sent details of his No.1 Set, believed complete. He wrote that at a guess, it was made a few years after WW2, and:

'It seems that there were some non-METALLIX parts in the box described in the OSN 28, I don't believe that the system included bossed parts or rubber rings. Certainly neither is in my set, nor shown in the manual.

The size of the **box** is 20*15.5*2cm, and its label is identical to the one in OSN 28.

The holes in the **parts** are 4.0mm Ø at 14mm pitch, and the thread is M4. All the parts are aluminium except that the Screwed Rods, the N&B, & the 5*3h Flat Plate that fits in the middle of the Flanged Plate, are steel. Curiously enough, the Flanged Plate itself is aluminium. As can be seen in the photo of the Set below both Plates are painted red.

Set Contents The number of Strips in my set are: 4x

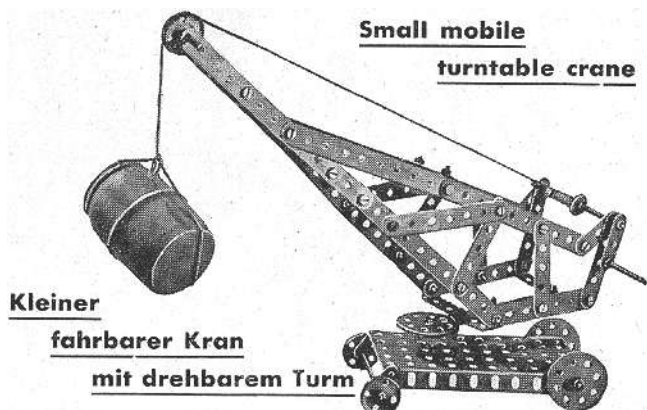


13h, 4x 11h, 4x 9h, 6x 7h, 8x 5h, 6x 3h, & 6x 2h. There are also 2 DAS, 4 A/Bs (both holes circular), & 4 Double Brackets.

The other parts are the Flanged Plate & its centre 3*5h Plate; 4 each of 8h Wheel Discs (diameter 42mm), & small Pulley Discs (diameter 28 mm); 2 each of 98 & 14mm Screwed Rods; an S-shaped Wire Hook; 40 Bolts (cheeseheaded, 13 mm long o/a) & 40 square Nuts (8mm A/F); and a Spanner with a single, angled end, 61mm long (its other end is too thick to be used as a screwdriver for the Bolts).

In the Manual the Flanged Plate is incorrectly shown with the holes in its flanges slotted and without the 5*3h cutout. Also the Pulley Disc is shown with 4 face holes.

The **manual** is made from 2 sheets folded in the middle to give a page size of 15*10.5cm. They are not stapled together. The cover is exactly the same design as the lid label. All the text is in German & English. Only 4 models are shown – the first is a Pair of Scales (called Weighing machine/Tafelwaage), the second the Crane below, and the third & fourth are the Lorry & Crane shown in OSN 28. The latter is the sole Set 2 model.'



OSN 30/889

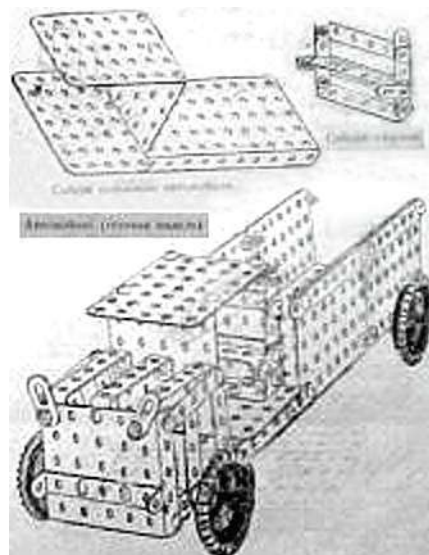
METALLIX: S2



Snippet 'New' System:

KONSTRUKTOR

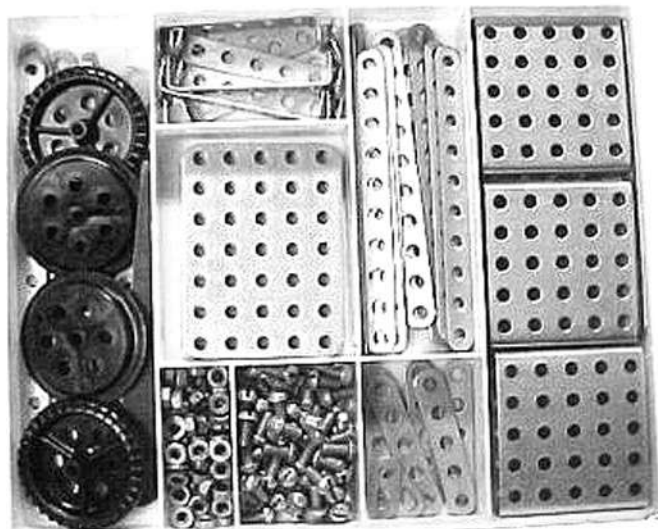
For the record, another Russian system, small and rather dull. Left, the lid; below, the open box; and right, a manual model. There is nothing to identify the maker, not even a logo, and the only text that can be read is KONSTRUKTOR on the lid and the word above it, meaning children's or kindergarten. The box is plastic, 8³/₈*6⁷/₈", and looks white or light grey. Probably the markings on the lid are moulded in.



The parts that can be seen are 5 & 10h Strips (and there are probably longer Strips underneath the Road Wheels, perhaps the 15h shown on the lid); 1*5*1h DAS; Flat Brackets (a pair can be seen in the bottom left corner of the 5h Strip compartment); 5*5h Flanged Plates; 5*7h Perforated Plates; black plastic Road Wheels with 6 face holes and 3 webs supporting the boss; hex Nuts & RH Bolts. Also in the Wheel compartment, on the right side, is a long, tapering, dark something – a Tool perhaps.

Scaling from the size of the box gives a hole pitch of 10mm, and most likely the N&B are M4. Assuming the 10mm pitch, the Road Wheels would be about 4¹/₄cm diameter.

Axes are shown on a manual page of basic constructions not reproduced here, and the Road Wheels probably push onto them. The other parts on the lid (3 & 6h Strips, 8h Wheel Disc, & 5*6h Plate) can't be seen anywhere. The windscreen on the Lorry looks as though it ought to be a Transparent Plate.



OSN 30/889

KONSTRUKTOR [18]: S1

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

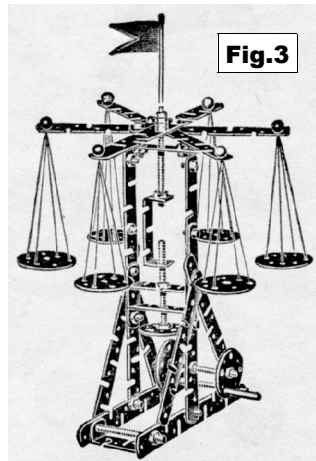


Fig.3

Merry-go-round

Figs.3 & 4 are their original size

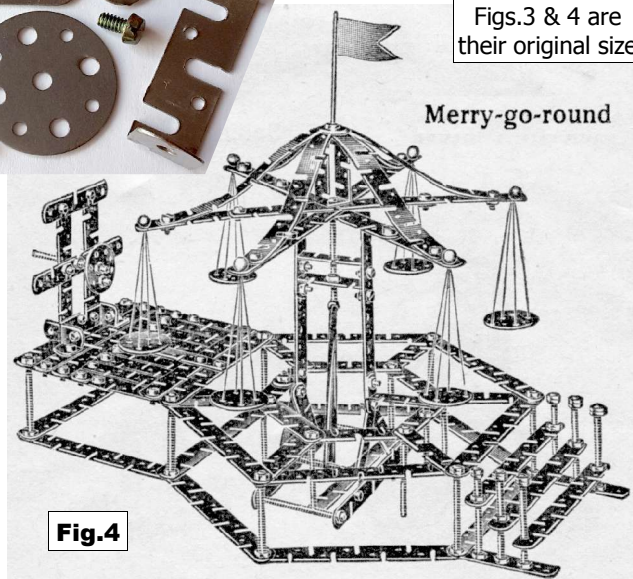


Fig.4

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.

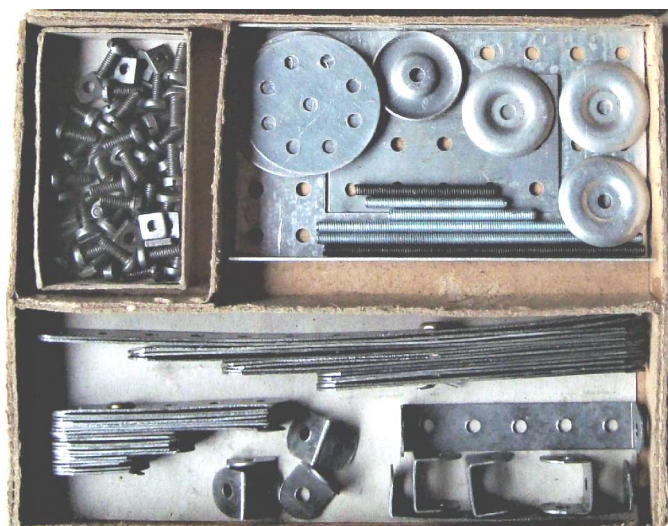
OSN 54/1669

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