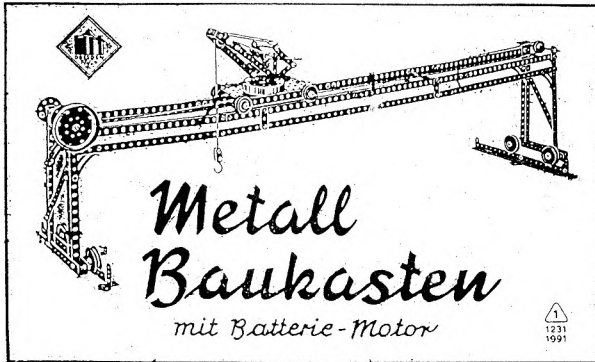


about 1950. The Sets 18-24 in MCS were preceded by a series 1,1A...3. MCS doesn't mention that Strips, A/Gs, and small parts were nickel plated.

METALL BAUKASTEN A system from the 1930s with over 50 different black parts. Holes are 4.1mm Ø at 12.7mm spacing.

METALL BAUKASTEN mit Batterie-Motor The manual cover of this East German set is shown below - the logo on it was reproduced in 13/337. EZ says that the parts were packed in a plastic box, and that they were strong and well made, with a black finish. They included 2 sizes of Tyres, rectangular and trapezoidal Plates, and circular parts up to 7h Ø. 4mm Bolts were used, and the pitch of the holes was 12mm.



METALLO-TRIGON This 'geometrical' system was discussed in 5/93. EZ gives the period as 1913 to c1926 and lists the firms who made it during that time: Metallo-Trigon GmbH, Offenbach; from 1916, Stanzwerke GmbH, Eisenach; from 1919, Stanzwerke u. Schloßfabriken GmbH, Bad Liebenstein and Sachsendorf bei Eisfeld; from 1920, Stanzwerke GmbH at Sachsendorf and from 1923 at Eisenach again. A photo of a 1916 No.2 Set shows several types of spoked Pulleys with 3, 4 and 6 spokes, all straight, and a pair of the smaller (6-spoked) ones are fitted with Tyres, as shown in the original sketches of the parts in MCS.

MEWEKA From EZ: this DIY system (see 12/321) was made until c1960.

MIKRONO Konstruktionsspiel EZ lists this system as being made by M. Löffler of Altona/Elbe from 1918 to ?, but no details of it are given. If I've understood correctly it already existed in 1916 under the name **ROSETTA Konstruktionsspiel**, and also mentioned is **PYTHAGORAS Konstruktionsspiel** in connection with the words 'objection/Patent/renaming', but I can't sort out exactly who did what to whom.

M K A Probably from East Germany in the 1950s, this system had about 40 parts, all plain aluminium except for steel Axles, and included both TRIX-style and MECCANO-

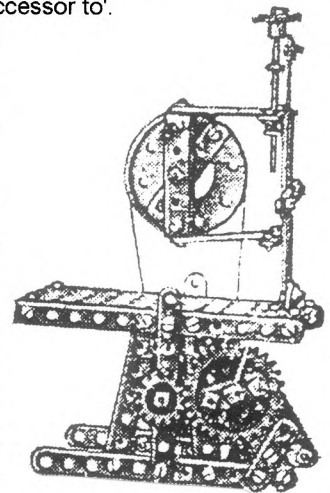
style Strips. The hole pitch at 11.2mm was larger than TRIX but smaller than MECCANO, and the holes were 4.1 and 4.3mm respectively. Mystery Part #3 from 2/25 may be a M K A part, or if not it's very similar. The model at the foot of the last column gives an idea of some of the parts. There are 3 sizes of Pulley with Tyres to fit the middle one. All of them, and the 5h Ø Disc, have tapped bosses.

M K A may well be connected to **M F C**, already in MCS - the parts look the same, the same range of PNs are used, and those for the N&B, the only parts that can be positively identified by PN, are identical.

MODELLO On the logos (12/312), Jeannot wrote that the JB one was that of the first manufacturer, Johann Brandner of Regensburg (1919-20). Ernst Plank at Nürnberg then continued (EP-MODELLO) until at least 1928. EZ confirms the hole pitch as 10mm with an Axle diameter of 4mm.

MÖWE The name is sometimes spelt **MOEWE**. This system was made from about 1946 until perhaps the early 1950s. A leaflet shows what looks like a metal box, and has at the bottom 'Made in German - Brit. Zone - N. Rh. W.' The only mention of a maker is 'Möwe Metall-Baukasten-Fabrik'; in EZ it is given as 'Möninghoff & Weiß Nachfolger' - the last word seems to mean 'successor to'.

A page from a manual shows 2 models which can be built from Sets 1 and 2, and for which about 20 different parts are listed. These include Strips 3,5,7, 8,11,12 & 20 holes long; Achsenträger which may be Double Bent Strips; a Baseplate which looks as if it is 5*11 or 12h, and may have flanges on its long sides; 2h Ø Loose Pulleys; 5h Ø Flanged Discs with a pulley groove and a large centre hole, like STABIL; 25 & 85mm Axles which are probably Threaded Rods; a Crank of some sort; and the large and small Gears that you may be able to see in the Bandsaw above, and which look as if they might be similar to the STABIL patented gears.

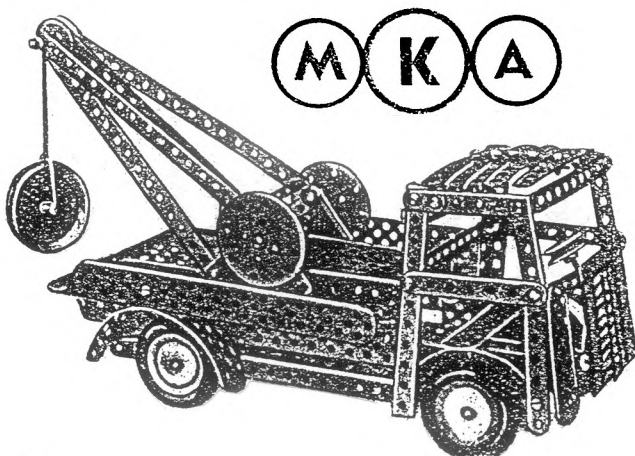


Some of the parts in a set differ from those in the models. The Baseplate is flat and has 12*5 holes, while the 5h Ø Flanged Discs appear not to have a centre hole but instead a boss, fitted to the recessed side, with 6 holes at 1h radius around it. There's also a Double Bent Strip and two 8h long Flat Sector Plates with a 5+7*3 hole pattern. They, like the Baseplate, have sharp corners.

To give an idea of the size of the sets the other model, a Double Swing, uses 57 parts plus 20 Angle Brackets, 8 Pulleys, 80 Bolts and 100 Nuts.

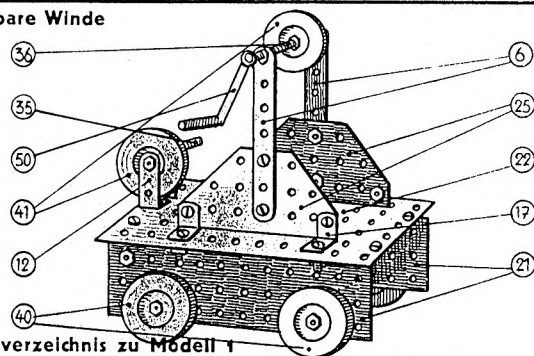
Nothing is known of the hole spacing or diameter but my impression is that the pitch is nearer ½" than 10mm, and in that case the holes scale at between 3½ and 4mm.

MWK This was an East German system from between WW2 and the early 1950s, with plain aluminium parts that had 4.1mm holes at 12.1mm pitch. In all there were about 36 but the models I have seen show only the following: 2,3,5,7,11h Strips; 1*5*1, 1*3*1, 2*1*2 DAS; 1h Angle and Reverse Angle Brackets; Double Bent Strip; 7*11, 3*11, 3*7 Perf. Plates; a Tapered Plate (see model at top of next column), & a 2h Triangular Plate (perhaps with a centre hole); 28mm and 62mm Ø (pulley?) Wheels, and a Handle, all of which are nipped onto 50 and 90mm Threaded Rods; N&B.



Gebaut mit MWK-Modell-Baukasten

Fahrbare Winde



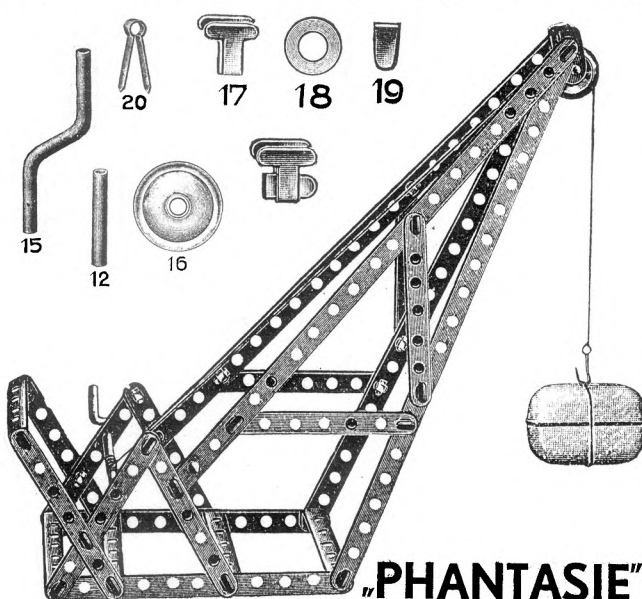
Teileverzeichnis zu Modell 1

Teil-Nr.	Stück	Teil-Nr.	Stück	Teil-Nr.	Stück
6	2	35	1	21	Schrauben
12	1	36	3	55	Muttern
17	8	40	4		
21	2	41	2		
22	1	50	1		
25	2				

One or two of the parts in the model don't quite match their descriptions in the Parts List - the 7*11h Plate appears to have 6*10h in the model for instance.

OLYMPIA The 30 or so different parts of this East German system are shown in MCS but more details are given in EZ. It was made between 1949 and 1955 by Elektrobau Werner Gennencher of Löbau/Sachsen, and the parts were tiny with 2mm N&B in holes spaced at 7mm. The models fitted well into HO railway layouts. The main parts were made from .5mm steel, nickel plated, but the Pulleys were aluminium. The Bush Wheel also looks as if it's aluminium and has 4 holes in its face that aren't shown in MCS. It may be PN16 even though the MCS illustration of it looks like a pulley. Bolts were brass and the Nuts aluminium.

PHANTASIE This small system first appeared in 1923 made by Joseph Sponseil of Nürnberg, but from 1925 to 1936 it was produced by the Gebr. Fleischmann. The illustrations of the parts in MCS/FB were from a manual that came my way, together with some parts, a while ago. The parts were designed for cheapness and special ('U' section) 'T' Clips were used instead of N&B, to join the various Strips and DAS, the main parts. A Clip is put through the Strips to be joined and locked by a Wedge inserted through



Mod. 42 Kran crane Grue Grue grúa

the tail of the 'T'. Washers are used as necessary as packing under the Wedge. This arrangement works quite well provided the Wedges are pushed right home, but pliers or

the like are really needed to do this. The Strips are 10mm wide with 5.1mm Ø holes at 15.0mm pitch. They are made of slightly springy steel and are a medium grey in colour with the look of having been plated.

The only wheel is a Pulley and it pushes onto the tubular Axles which were rolled from thin tinplate. This is described in the Manual - 'The wheels are applied on the axle-trees where they are kept in position by the resilience of the latter.' - and the Axles are springy enough to hold a Pulley reasonably securely: however my Axles are slightly too large to turn easily in the holes of the Strips, even when their free edges are pressed together. The 4 Pulleys in my parts are 33mm Ø and have 6 spokes; they are made from 2 tinplate pressings joined by a brass eyelet at the centre. The ones shown in the Manual scale at about the same size but are solid.

The wings of the Spring Clip are about 15mm long, so long that they prevent the use of the part in many instances - it can't be seen in any of the models in the Manual. The stubby Crank Handle is 57mm o/a and mine is 3.50mm Ø with slightly raised strakes on either side at one end. The idea I suppose is that it would push into and grip the Axle, but mine would need to be appreciably thicker to do that.

SUMMARY OF MANUAL •Name: PHANTASIE •Details of maker, Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. •Page size: 213*145mm deep. •No. of pages: 32 + covers. •Language: German, English, French, Italian, Spanish. •Printing: black line drawings of models. The light brown cover has just the name shown by the Crane on it. •Page No. of Illustrated Parts & highest PN: 32,20. [No Parts List or Set Contents] •Sets covered: 000-4. •No. of models for each set: 000: 12; 00: 5 0: 6; 1: 6; 2: 11; 3: 16; 4: 21. •Name, Model No., Page No. of first & last model of each set: 000: Schaukel,1,4; Flugzeug,12,5. 00: Kran,13,5; Steg,14,6. 0: Wagen,18,6; Automobil,23,7. 1: Schaukel,14,7; Brücke,29,8. 2: Leiter,30,9; Brücke,40,12. 3: Sportwagen,41,13; Aussichtsturm,56,17. 4: Reparaturwagen,57,18; Russische Schaukel,77,31. •Other notes: 1. The back cover of the manual is missing. 2. Only the German names of the models have been given.

EZ has a photo of a PHANTASIE set from around 1926 which is in a wooden box, and the parts look a darker grey than mine, possibly they are tin plated. Two types of Pulley are shown, both solid - one is dark grey and the other brass. An Axle seems to have short stubs at each end which are considerable smaller in diameter than the main part: but they don't look long enough to take a clip on the outside to retain wheels running on them. The manual is shown open and all the models that can be seen are in mine, but the order isn't the same.

PIONIER The dates given in EZ for this East German system are from 1955 to at least 1960. There's also a photo of a set and some of the parts are black, and others, including the Strips and the unusual Windmill Sails, are a light colour, perhaps plated. Some of the black parts don't correspond to those in MCS. The 5*11h Flanged Plate has a 7*3h centre cutout; there's a 3h Ø disc similar to the TRIX Dished Pulley (half); and as well as a MÄRKLIN-type 5h Ø Flanged Disc with Boss, there's a similar part but with 16 large slots replacing the outer ring of holes and slotted holes - it looks as if a pinion would run in them. The box lid shows a model Crane fitted with an electro-magnet and a girl is holding a sideplate electric motor.

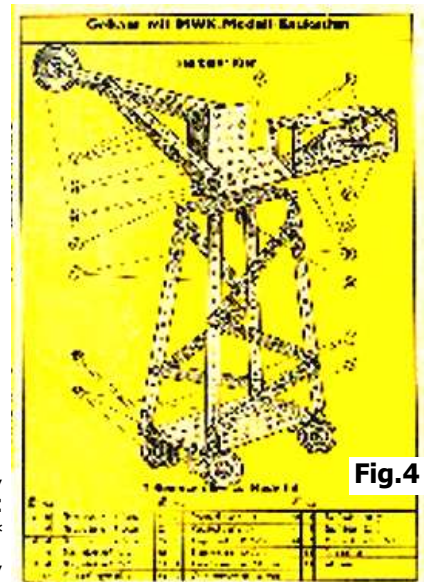
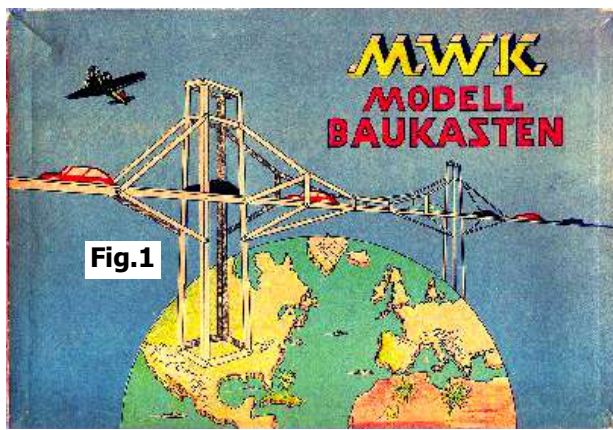
PIONIR From EZ. This early (1903-05) metal architectural system was made by Otto Nentwig of Neustadt/Oberschlesien. It consisted of black members which clipped together to form a framework, with solid red and yellow in-fill panels, and black ones for the windows and doors. Possibly the red panels could also be used for pitched roofs.

Snippets. MWK A brief account of this post-WW2 East German system was given in 15/416. Baukästen says that it was made in Kronach (40km NW of Bayreuth) around 1945-47 by a firm, Metall Werkstätten Kronach, founded by Oberingenieur (Chief Engineer) Erich Schwass, and that there were at least 2 Ausführungen (versions).

These notes are based on the 2 sets shown on p220 in Baukästen and 3 sets seen on Ebay. The parts in one of the Baukästen, & 2 of the Ebay sets, look as if they are the aluminium mentioned in OSN 15, but those in the other two are a dull black or very dark grey, and are perhaps made of steel. With one exception (see later) the parts common to the 'black' & 'aluminium' sets look the same, so the difference in material & finish could possibly account for Baukästen's two versions.

All the sets have the label in Fig.1 above which nearly covers the lid and on some sets it has a thin red border. It has no indication of size or maker except that sometimes the latter is given in tiny letters in the bottom left corner, and on one, the largest aluminium outfit, there is '4' in a circle bottom right.

The 'Aluminium' Sets The No.4, from Ebay, was by far the largest and a selection of typical parts from it is shown in Fig.2, but none are to the same scale. A better impression of the relative sizes of the parts can be gathered from Fig.3, the other Ebay set. A list of the various parts and a few notes on



them follow:

- **Strips:** 4,5,6,7,9,11, 11,15,19,25h. • **DAS:** 1*3,5,7,11*1h & 2*5*2h. • **A/Gs:** 5,11,15, 19,25h. All are pale green, no doubt anodised - these and probably the Flat Girders are the only coloured parts.

- **Flat Girders:** 5,7,11, 15,25h. • **Perforated Plates:** 7*11, 7*25, 3*7, 3*11h. • **The Trapezoidal Plate** (see Fig.3 & 15/417). • **Brackets:** A/B; 1 & 2h deep D/Bs; Flat Bracket; Reversed A/B; & Double Bent Strip. Also, in the Baukästen set, the small, 2h Triangular Plate mentioned in OSN 15. Only the Flat & Angle Brackets have a slotted hole. • **Pulleys:** 28 & 62mm Ø, and also what appears to be a **Pulley Disc** at 'a' in Fig.2, a little smaller than the smaller Pulley. • **Gears:** 12 & 24t. • **Screwed Rods** which scale at 6, 9, 15 & 27cm. • Also at 'b' two parts that don't match the rest and are likely to be foreigners.

The parts in the No.4 lot include 4 each of the A/Gs, 1x 7*25h & 2x 7*11h Plates; 8x 62mm & 6x 28mm Pulleys; 3x 24t & 2x 12t Gears, and 8 Pulley Discs.

There are some anomalies in the **dimensions** of the parts. The diameters of the Pulleys in the Ebay No.4 were given as 6 & 3.7cm, against the 6.2 & 2.8cm in the parts list for the model in OSN 15, and scaling does indicate that 3.7 is more likely than 2.8. Also the 7*25h Plate was said to measure 31.5*9cm and thus a hole pitch of about 12½mm, a figure confirmed by scaling parts in several of the sets. On the other hand Eisenzeit gives 12mm, and the Gears would be Mod.2, a likely value, if they mesh with their centres at a multiple of 12mm.

The other two 'aluminium' sets are much smaller than the No.4 and don't have any Girders or the 7*25h Plate. A 24t Gear can be seen in both though and the matching 12t part in the Fig.3 set.

The 'Black' Sets Both the 'black' sets look smaller again and both have wooden boxes (against cardboard for the 'aluminium' outfits). Only the smaller Pulley can be seen but a large Gear is in each. The only unexpected part is a black 5*11h Flanged Plate with a 3*7h centre cutout in the Baukästen set.

The Model Sheets The models are on separate sheets. The presentation is similar to that shown in OSN 15 but they are actually printed black on yellow with 2 small or 1 larger model per Sheet. There were 4 each of 1- & 2-model sheets with the Fig.3 set and they included all the sheets shown with the other sets. The Sheets vary a little in size but are probably about A5. The photos of them are poor but it is clear that all the models are quite simple - the larger ones include a Windmill, a Swing, and the Crane in Fig.4.

Fig.2

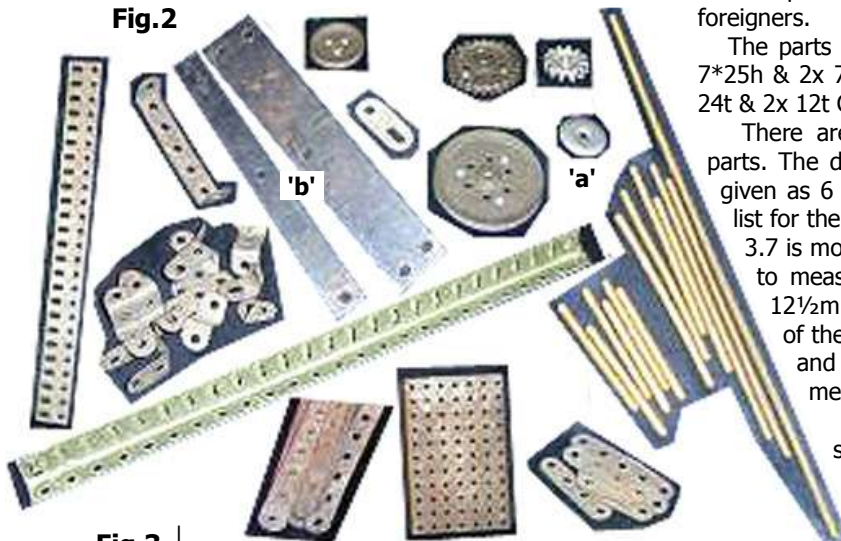


Fig.3 ↓

