

## An Early M K A Outfit, Der kleine Praktikant

It will be the same strip as the 2h high D/B, with a width of 16½mm recalled from 28/830 that MKA was a system which combined normal parts with oversize TRIX-style Strips & Brackets, both types in aluminium and both with a hole pitch of 11.2mm. The set to be described here has only the 'normal' parts and is thought earlier than the OSN 28 phase. One reason for this is that the models in the manual are all taken from a prewar MÄRKLIN manual with identical line drawings, and this points to early post-WW2. Also some of the parts are not as well made and the A/Gs have no slotted holes.

**The Box** is red, 22½\*33¼\*3¼cm, with the (rather sad) lid right. The model is another from MÄRKLIN but would need rather more parts than are in the Set. The set number is IIa but it is a basic outfit and its manual has Nr. II on it. Inside the box is divided into 12 areas by small card trays, but there is nothing to indicate how the parts were held in them.

**The Parts** in the Set, with their quantities, are listed on a label inside the lid. All are given below with comments where they differ from the 'early' parts in OSN 28, and with quantities in curly brackets.

- **Generalities.** A few of the holes in the Brackets are 4.6mm. Most parts are 1.0 or 1.1mm thick but some range from .8 to 1.3mm, apparently at random.
- **Strips.** The 6 lengths have 3,5,7,9,11,25 holes; they are between 12 & 12½mm wide. {4,12,4,4,16,10}
- **Flanged Plates.** 5\*11h & Sector, as before. {1,2}.
- **Brackets** Like the Strips they are a little wider than before. They comprise a • **Flat Bracket** {4}, and • the **A/B** made from it {12}; • an **A/B with longer arms**, about 18\*19mm with some 4mm of metal outside the holes {4} (this part isn't in the list of parts but doesn't look homemade and couldn't be made from any of the other pieces – the Set is very largely complete but lacks 6 of the nominal 12 A/Bs, so just possibly the 2 types of A/B were lumped together in the list); • a **D/B** 15mm wide & 18mm deep {4}, and • a **2h deep D/B** 30mm deep, & again 15mm wide {1} (these D/Bs are made of strips with holes at about 15mm pitch; the OSN 22 D/Bs were 13mm wide by 12/23mm deep and were probably bent from standard Strips); • a **Reversed A/B** 34mm long o/a with all round holes, and again made from a strip with holes at 15mm pitch {4}; • a **4-bend Reversed A/B** with thus 5 holes, all round {4}; • a **Double Bent Strip** - the example in the Set is mangled but was probably made from

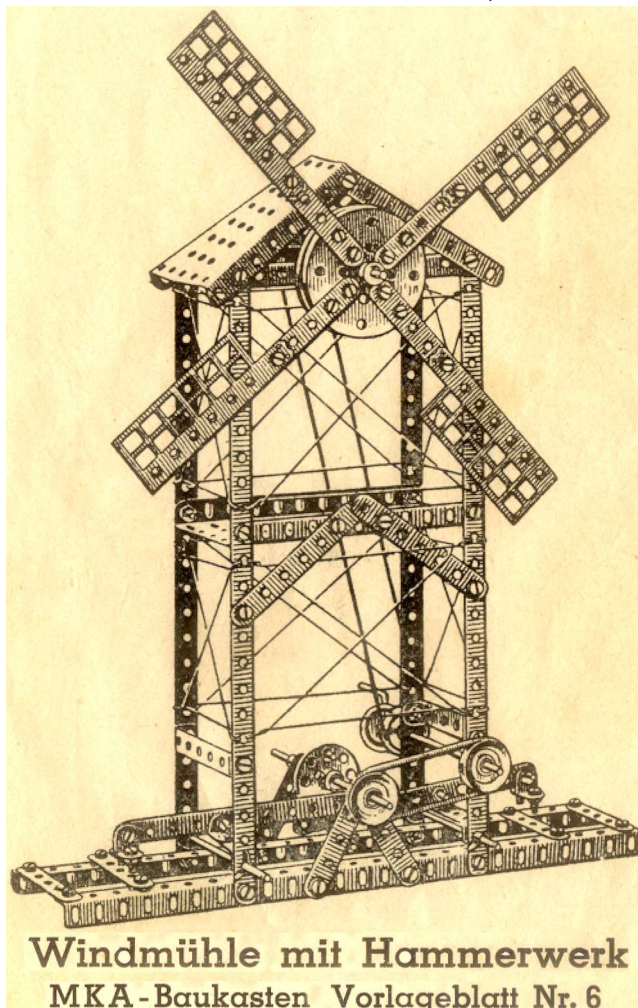


the same strip as the 2h high D/B, with a width of 16½mm across the 'hump' {1}; • a **DAS**, as before but with different bend points giving an increased width of 68mm o/a {6}.

- The **A/G** is 25h long and has no slotted holes. {4}
- **Pulleys.** They are 54½, 33½, & 25½mm Ø with, typically, a 5½, 6, & 7mm vee respectively. All have plain faces. {4,4,6}
- **Faceplate.** 55½mm Ø, with a 1mm thick disc. {2}
- **Bosses** are brass, 9.0mm Ø & only 6mm long, single-tapped M3 as before. The peening isn't so neat, a wide, flat ring with several splits in it. The bore is 4.1-4.2mm.
- **Axles.** They are 13, 11, 9, & 5cm long, with a mix of brass, 3.98mm Ø, and steel, 4.00-4.05mm. {3,3,2,2}. The **Crank Handle** is steel, 3.95mm Ø, 137mm long o/a with 90° bends and a 46mm handle offset 21mm. The ends of the brass parts are flat, the steel ones slightly domed.
- **Collar.** It matches the bosses: 9.0mm Ø, 6.0mm wide, single tapped M3. {4}

- **N&B.** The Bolt is brass with a hex head, 8.0mm A/F, & 8mm u/h. The Nut is steel (with a few brass), hexagonal & 8.0mm A/F. {62,62}
- The **Set Screw** is the tiny, early brass one.
- **Tools.** None are included in the inventory, and none were in the Set, but one or two Spanners would have been needed.
- **Windmill Sail.** It is light brown cardboard, 74\*29mm, and looks exactly like the one in the 28/832 Windmill, printed in black on both sides. {4}

**The Manual** It has 8 unnumbered pages including covers, 150\*210mm, with the front below. The back cover (C4) is blank & the other pages have one



model on each, the first is Motorkippwagen (Tipping Lorry) and the sixth is the one on the left. As already mentioned the illustrations are exact copies from prewar MÄRKLIN; they are No.2 models in fact and the contents of the set matches the prewar MÄRKLIN No.2 quite closely. Some of the parts differ of course but there would be no real difficulties in making any of the manual models.



catalogue has no Tools, and says that with the Wing Nuts none are needed. (PHA of course used Clips held by Wedges).

**The SETS** There were Nos.1-4 with no mention of linking outfits. The 1930 catalogue gives their parts count as 82, 122, 214, 303. Boxes are black, and all have the same label with Press Studs below the Strips (Fig.1), except that sometimes each of the small grey squares in the bottom corners has the company logo in it (Fig.7a), or is replaced by a black oval. Possible box sizes for Sets 1-4, from Ebay ads, are: 28\*20cm, 34\*28½\*3cm, 38\*25cm, 41\*28\*3cm. Fig.5 is probably a No.2 and Fig.6 a No.4 from the catalogue. A No.1 probably has 4 Pulleys like the No.2, but only 4x 1\*5\*1h DAS and fewer Strips; the No.3, 6 Pulleys, 9 or 10x 1\*5\*1h DAS, more Strips but no A/Gs (the No.4 has four). A No.1 set has printed on the lid's underside the 15 models given for the Set in the manual. In all the sets the parts are attached to a deep pink backing board probably by clips.

**The MANUAL** It has 32 pages, 223\*143mm, plus covers. Fig.11 shows C1. pp1 & 2 have 'Directions for use' in German, French, English, & Spanish, and p3 the 'Mod.' numbers for the 4 sets: 1-15,31,48,66. The models are all shaded line drawings, mostly clear, with their names in the 4 languages. They are I think good of their type given the parts available, though, as so often, the Pulleys are far too small to be used in the models needing road wheels. The No.1's models are on pp4-6 from Handwagen to Leiter (ladder); pp7-12 have the No.2's from Leitertreppe (step ladder) to Modell einer Windmühle; pp13-20 the No.3's from Wippschaukel (swing) to Werkstatt+engebäude mit Transmissions-Anlage (machine hall); & pp21-30 the No.4's from Güterhalle (goods station) to Bagger (bagger, but actually a type of dredger, cf Drague & draga in the other languages). pp31 & 32 are blank; likewise C2-4.



Fig.11

4 of the No.4 models are shown in Figs 7-10. Other

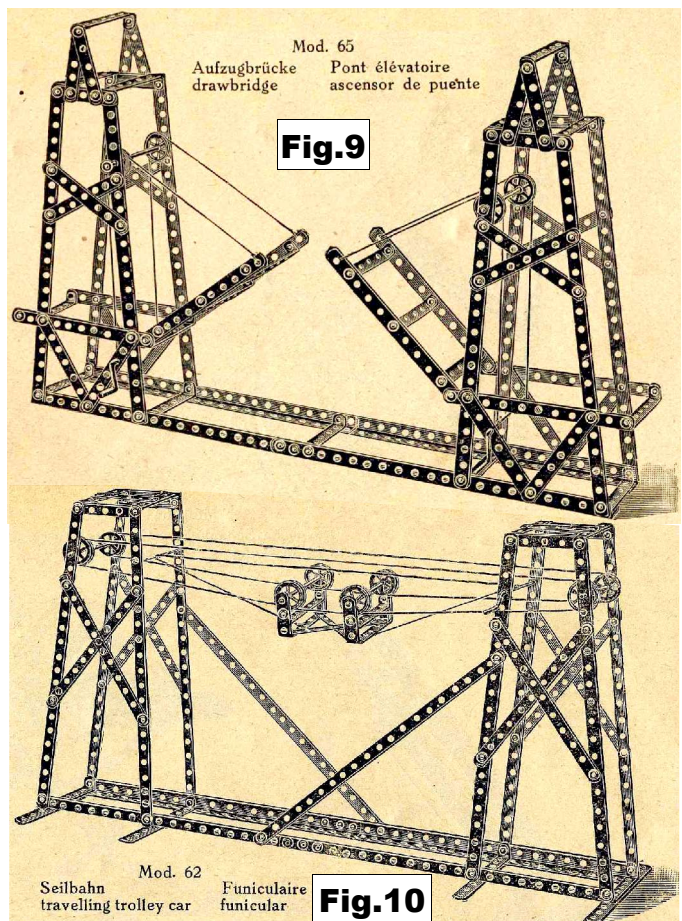


Fig.9

Fig.10

of the Sets's models include a Cable Railway & a Russische Schaukel (russian swing – actually a big wheel).

Of all the other manuals seen on Ebay there is nothing to indicate that the contents ever changed but some have a whitish or pale brown cover, usually with the name as Fig.11 but some have the Falk logo below it.

## INDUSTRIE: S2

## OSN 53/1620

**Snippets. More MKA 'Der kleine Praktikant' Sets** A Nr.IIa set was described in 33/999, and since then 8 sets have been seen on Ebay: a Nr.I, 6 Nr.Ia, & a Nr.IIa. The IIa looked the same as the OSN 33 set but didn't have a manual. Xmas 1949 was written on its lid. The smaller sets differ from the IIa in having Screwed Rods as axles, Pulley Discs rather than bossed Pulleys, a Disc instead of a Face Plate, & a Perforated as well as, at least for the Nr.Ia, a Flanged Plate. Most of the 'new' parts can be seen in Fig.2.

**The Nr.Ia** The box is similar to the IIa's but smaller, it scales at 28\*19cm and is partitioned into 8 bays. The label is again similar except the models in Fig.1 (the Nr.1 label) replace the Lifting Bridge. The set contents are again shown on the inside of the lid, and are as follows, with notes on differences from the IIa parts, and quantities in curly brackets.

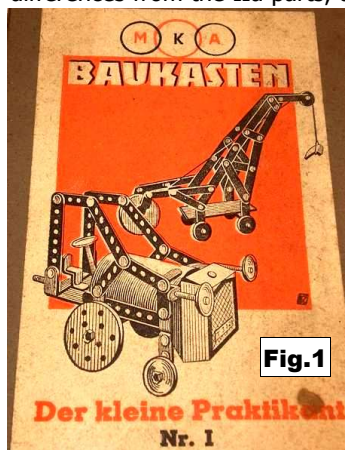


Fig.1



Fig.2

**#1-3, Pulleys Discs**, no face holes, 25,34,55mm Ø. {4,4,2}. **#4, Disc**, 55mm Ø, with rings of 4 & 8 holes. {2}. **#5, Perforated Plate**, 5\*9h, square corners. {2}. **#6, Flanged Plate**, 5\*11h. {1}. **#7-11, Strips**, 11,9,7,5,3h. Ends vary from radiused to near rounded. {6,6,6,6,6}. **#12, A/B**. {16}. **#13,14, N&B**, M4, hexagon Nuts, roundheaded Bolts about 10mm u/h. {50,40}. **#15,16, Screwed Rods**, short, long. The short scales at 25mm, the long at 90mm and is smooth with 25mm of thread at each end. {2,2}.

The manual cover is as in OSN 33 but with Nr.Ia instead of Nr.II. It was said to contain 7 models as follows (with possible meanings): Bank [Bench], Übergangssteg mit Signalmast [Railway Footbridge with Signals], Traktor, Gans [Goose], Windmühle (Vorder- und Rückansicht) [Windmill, front & rear views], Traktor mit Anhänger [Tractor with Trailer].

**The Nr.I** Figs.1 & 2 left show the Nr.I's lid label & open box. The lid is dark brown and scales at 9½\*17½cm; the label is similar to the Ia's. The parts that can be seen are like the Ia's except the A/B looks to have 2 holes in one arm, and the Bolts have cheeseheads. It's possible that the Rods below the Plate of the right side have threaded ends and if so may be genuine, but their thread length is only about half that of the Nr.1a's parts.

The box looks large enough to hold the contents of the Nr.Ia and given that the quantities of Perforated Plates, Discs, Brackets, & probably Pulley Discs, that can be seen in Fig.2 match those in the Ia, any differences between the sets rests with the other parts including the Strips & the Flanged Plate. So it is still unclear what the 'a' designation means but it certainly doesn't indicate a linking set.