

**Snippet. PYGMÉE** An Airship that was featured in a 1920 ad for this unusual French system was shown in 16/448. It was from the firm L'Établissements Péricaud, presumably the manufacturer. The main constructional parts in it were an Octagonal Plate & various lengths of Braced Girder, all joined by 3h long A/Gs. No other details were to hand until recently when two lots were seen on Ebay. One was a box (with MECCANO parts inside) plus a manual; the other some parts with various TRIX pieces mixed in with them.



Fig.1



Fig.2

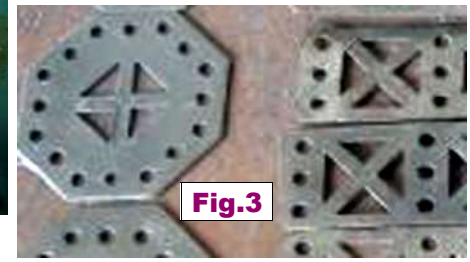


Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6

The green steel box has the Fig.1 logo in the top left corner of the lid. The parts in Figs.2-6 are not to the same scale but their size can often be roughly judged from those alongside them. A 5 bay Braced Girder is shown in Fig.2 and others have 2, 3, & 8 bays. Their dimensions were given as 2.5\*7,9, 15,23cm: they are not entirely consistent but the lengthways hole pitch is perhaps 30mm, or a little less, with the crossways holes at 7½-8½mm. So quite small parts. The holes might be about 3mm Ø, and the Octagonal Plate in Fig.3 about 5cm across. The various Pulleys & Wheels in Figs.4 & 5 may or may not be from the system. In Fig.4 their size can be compared to the TRIX Gear which is about 6cm diameter, and the Wheel in Fig.5 is about 6cm too. The Tyre in Fig.6 may be TRIX but at a scaled 5cm Ø it is ½cm smaller than typical UK

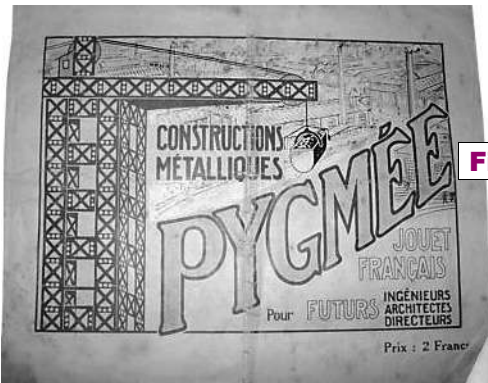


Fig.7

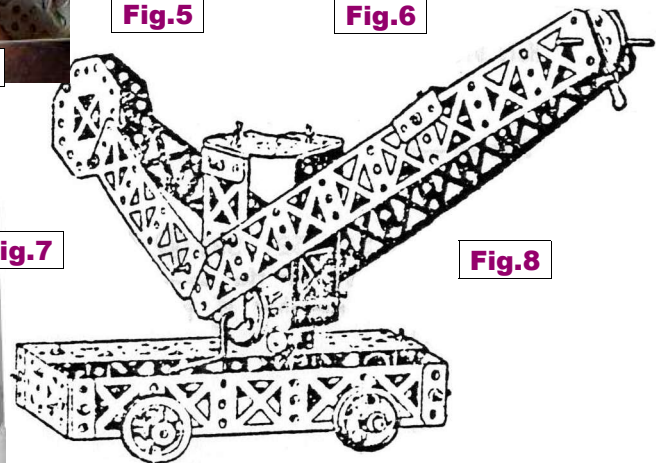


Fig.8

parts and the Wheel in its centre is 5mm less in diameter than a TRIX Pulley Disc. The manual cover (Fig.7) doesn't provide any new information but a few other parts can be seen in the Crane (Fig.8), taken from another ad which was shown in the MCS entry for PYGMÉE.

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**Snippet. 'New' System: O PEQUENO MECÂNICO**

The set, right, was sold on American Ebay though its name is Portuguese – literally, The Small Mechanic. All that was said about it was that the box is wooden. The sliding lid has a bird (duck?) in a logo top left. The featured Crane seems familiar though I couldn't find it in any of the TRIX material to hand. The parts in it look just like TRIX but though it's hard



to be certain, the black DAS in the compartments on the left in the box, and the blue ones on the right, look to have only two rows of staggered holes. On the other hand, the green Strip in the centre at the top appears to have the usual three rows.

There is no indication of the country of origin, but as a pure guess I'm going for Brazil. It's the largest Portuguese speaking country, and O PEQUENO MECÂNICO could have been

launched there when supplies of TRIX ran out during WW2, in the same way that CONSTRUÇÕES MECÂNICAS was when MÄRKLIN became scarce (see 27/807). Before the war Brazil was a large market for German goods and the straight edged Hook on the model on the lid points to influence from German TRIX.