

SNIPPET: DUX-UNIVERSAL SETS No.70, 71, & 72

These add-on outfits, shown below, are listed in MCS but no details are given other than indistinct illustrations. Some of the parts in them are used in the standard sets 101-104, and are shown in MCS, but most in Nos.71 and 72 are new. The colours are generally as for the Second Period in 20/560.

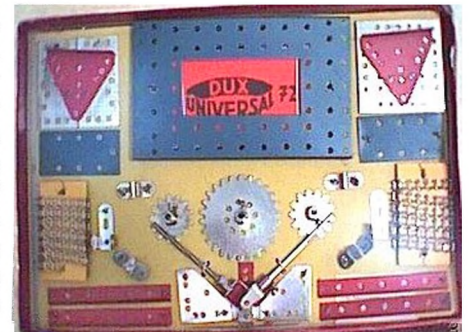


The No.70 (top) has some Strips, DAS, Plates, 4 Pulleys, and certain parts which were only in the largest standard set: a Grab 1059, a Handle Crank 1054, 2 large Trunnions 1051 (red), a Ring Spanner 1073a, a 22t Pinion 1031b, a 38t Gear 1032a, and a pair of Bevels 1065/1066. Also included is the large Circular Plate, with 2 rings of staggered holes, that was illustrated in 20/560. Like the Grab, it is not painted. What looks as it might be a centre boss in the photo may be a clip holding the part to the

backing card.

The No.71 has some of 'new' parts. The 7*9h Flanged? Plate is blue – its end rows of holes differ slightly from the others, and the edges of the Plate are well outside them. To the right is a Plate, about 85mm square, and on the left a Plate of the same size but differently perforated, or more likely two half-sized Plates. On top at both sides is a Large Triangular Gusset. All these are silver looking. Below the Large Trunnions are red Small Trunnions. In the centre is a brass Worm, with a gear either side, the 22t Pinion perhaps, or is one a Worm Wheel? At the bottom is a Rack Strip, with immediately above it, a small red Triangular Plate with at least two sharp pointed corners.

The No.72 has the blue 7*9h Plate too, & the same silver Plates on either side, but with Large Trunnions on top. A pair of the Large Triangular Gussets can be seen at the bottom, with a vee of shafts, joined by a Universal Joint, between them. Above are a 26t Sprocket with a 13t one on either side, all silver. Lengths of Chain, perhaps with a brass look, can be seen at the sides of the box.



SNIPPET: A Later ELEKTROMECHANISKAIS

A set with that Lettish name (EMK **KONSTRUKTOR**? for short), and parts generally very like MECCANO, was discussed in 4/188. Its red box lid is shown



above with the boy & model in full colour.

The corresponding Russian name can be seen top right, ending in the very familiar 'KONSTRUKTOR'. The outfit to the right may be a later, somewhat smaller set from the same system. Not all the lid can be seen but if it does not



carry a Lettish name, it could mean that the set was actually made in Russia itself. The EMK models were from the '62-'69 MECCANO range, and the Sports Car on the lid looks like the MECCANO 4.15 of that time. It is set on a green ground below a blue sky.

The parts in the box are blurry but look generally like the ones in the OSN 4 set, except that there are no A/Gs, Braced Girders, Semi-Circular Plates, or electrical parts. In particular the unusual 3" Pulley, with 4 long slots in the face, is similar. The only part obviously different is a wire Screwdriver instead of a flat one. The only significant differences in colour are the light blue Road Wheels and blue, instead of black, Flanged Plates – possibly following Meccano's 1970 change in colour scheme in that respect.

The manuals shown have more interesting looking covers than the very plain EMK one in MCS. The model on the top one could easily be the Estate Car in MCS.

SNIPPET: SPIROU CONSTRUIT In MCS it is said that this Belgian system is TEMSI made under licence, and that the range of sets, Nos.1-5, continued into the 1970s. In 1966 GMM wrote that Sets 1-4 were being imported into Belgium



by S.A. Sarma-Nopri, 13-15 Rue Neuve, Brussels 1. The manual cover left (yellow with a green Crane, an orange boy, and the name is a light blue panel) is similar to

the one in MCS except that the bottom part with the alternative Flemish name on it, ROBBEDOES AAN DE BOUW, is missing. Spirou isn't in my dictionary but the 'robbedoes aan de bouw' is given as 'tomboy (a bit odd that) at the building (work)'. The box with the manual is red outside, yellow inside, and the lid is mostly covered with a label identical to the manual cover (though again some of it can't be seen). The box is quite large, roughly 17" wide, and the parts sit between a number of partitions. The few that can be seen look just like TEMSI and are consistent with the contents of a No.2 TEMSI outfit.

EDITORIAL First, my thanks to everyone who sent comments on the proposed changes to the N/L. I've tried to incorporate as many as possible of your suggestions but the result is inevitably something of a compromise, especially as it is often a question of trying to get a quart into a pint pot. Let me know your reactions.

On 'admin' matters - details of subscription rates, etc, and your credit balance, are now given overleaf. Please note that for simplicity all prices are now per Issue, and that in future the next N/L will not be sent unless the credit balance is sufficient to cover its cost. To make this clear the minimum you need to send to receive the next Issue is given, but as before you can send more to avoid having to make frequent payments.

With the experience gained from printing this Issue I can give an indication of the prices likely due to the use of colour, and printing single-sided. For the usual postal zones the price per Issue will probably be about £6.50/£7/£8. The final figures will be given in OSN 29. As explained in OSN 27 this Issue and the next (OSN 29) will be at the existing rates (given overleaf) for current subscribers, and the new rates will apply to OSN 30 and thereafter.

A note on the page numbering. As well as the normal page numbers each item has an 'S' number for those who want to file OSN material in MCS. For each system the first item about it will be 'S1', the second 'S2', and so on.

FROM READERS

1. **FERMO** (see 27/784) came from the British Zone of Germany rather than from East Germany, as stated in the Extra MCS Sheet. Thank you to Jacques Pitrat for this correction.

FERMO: S1

[28/813]

2. The **MERKUR M8** was mentioned as possibly the largest general purpose set now available, but Alan Blake & other readers have drawn attention to the **METALLUS** Berlin outfit. According to the Metallus web site (now much improved & much faster) it costs €599 and has 2462 parts (the old **MÄRKLIN** No.1015, see below, has 990 + 558 N&B). By my count the M8 has 1384 parts (652 + 366 N&B), plus a Motor.

In passing, Metallus has a range of 12 outfits including 5 Gear sets. The 7 constructional outfits are said to be equivalent to the old **MÄRKLIN** Sets 1009-1015, & each is named after a German town, from Berchtesgaden to Berlin. Details of the **MÄRKLIN** sets are in MCS (the 1015 is the 1014+1034), and they all seem to have slightly fewer parts than the **METALLUS** ones. From the web photos the latter still include a few **TEMSI** parts. A **TEMSI** manual is included but it is suggested that the old **MÄRKLIN** manuals be used.

At the time of writing, October 2002, Dave Taylor has the Berlin listed at £329.95. The Dutch site mentioned in 27/790 has the M8 at €140.50.

METALLUS: S1

[28/813]

3. Thomas Morzinck wrote that Karl Debik has opened his

building toy museum in Germany. The address is Baukasten-Museum, Hartmannstraße 4, Löbau/Saxonia.

[28/813]

4. From Alan Blake. The Maplin catalogue includes 17 **CONSTRUCTION** sets, from a set with 116 parts at £3.99 to a 1482 part outfit at £49.99. No Set Nos. are given. Maplin shops have very few, if any, of them, but one shop had two sets that weren't in the catalogue.

CONSTRUCTION: S1

[28/813]

5. From Jacques Pitrat. 'On **BUILD** (27/798) I have an unused #400 set and the lid is the one with 'Standard' under Buildo. The contents are almost the same than those of the #45 set, but there only 6x 5h Strips, 6 DAS, no 5*9h Plate, & 3x 98mm Shafts. The Flat Plates are not fully perforated. There is a plate Screwdriver with a centre cutout in the handle. The Eccentric Strap is anodised red, and the upper two Pulley Discs are anodised orange. The disposition of the parts is slightly different from the photo in the manual. On page 1 of the manual there is the address of the maker and the description and the price of the four sets: 400, 600, 900, 1500.' [Jacques also sent a photo of his open box, showing all the parts and their layout.]

BUILD (1): S1

[28/813]

6. Some notes from Don Redmond on **BUILD** following the article in 27/796. His No.45 includes Flat Brackets with one hole slotted, and A/Bs made from them. The Bolts in the set are steel, mostly mush head but with a few, 6 & 9mm, RH. The 6mm hex Nuts are chamfered on one side. The wire Screwdriver is distinctive with a narrow, 5mm, tip. The Strips are rather inaccurately stamped. The finish appears to be cadmium plate or similar, soft and susceptible to fingermarks, and easily polished with 0000 steel wool.

The glassine tube of N&B in a No.400 set contains chiefly truss head Bolts (very flat round heads tapering to a sharp edge), but with some fillister heads, chiefly on the longer ones. The Nuts are 7.5mm hex brass. The Screwdriver is the flat style, and likewise in a No.600 outfit.

The Gear Quadrants in the 600 are the 13-tooth type, and they mesh well with a 30cm bronze plated, steel Chain - pitch 4.65mm and 4mm wide.

BUILD (1): S2

[28/814]

7. From Jacques Pitrat. On **SPIROU** (27/783), the word is the name of a well known hero of a Belgian comic, who has the uniform of a page boy in a hotel. There is still a 'Journal de Spirou' published in Belgium and in France. Temsi chose this name for a metal construction system because many Belgian boys liked his adventures, the same reason that there is a Mickey Mouse set.

SPIROU: S1

[28/813]

8. Clive Weston has found a **VOGUE** catalogue dated January 1957. As would be expected, Sets 1, 2, 3, 5 are listed, with B&W photos, and named Junior, Standard, Major, & Super. This is the first positive date for the No.5

EDITORIAL It dawned on me the other day that subscription rates for OSN should be reduced because postage isn't so high now that the pages are printed double-sided. It's a matter of pennies for UK subscribers so no change there, but the price per issue for 'Europe & surface elsewhere' will be reduced by £0.50 to £6, and by £1 to £6.50 for 'airmail outside Europe'.

These rates should have applied to the 3 issues 31-33 so the accounts of those affected have been credited with £1.50 or £3 as appropriate.

Back Issues prices have also been adjusted and details are given overleaf.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. Werner Sticht wrote that he has updated his **STABIL** site (www.stabilbaukasten.de.vu) with more material including many new illustrations of sets & models. Revised areas are the history of the system & the Walther company, the Inventor sets, the small sets & Kanonenbaukästen, the Motors, and the wooden constructional outfits (Maschinen-baukasten, Record, Zimmermannbaukasten). The STABIL periods 1921-1926 & 1927-1929 are now described in detail and can be considered complete. Other additions include detailed descriptions of the Patented Spur Gears, the Rubber Tyres & the parts made from fabric, and a list of books on MCS. The following chapters are still to be completed: Walther's INGENIEUR Bauspiel, STABIL after 1929, and other STABIL matters (ads, contests, etc.).

STABIL: S3

[34/1004]

2. Jack Little has identified the balloon Road Wheel in Mystery Parts No.44 (see 22/640) as a **YOUNG ENGINEER'S** part. He has received a set of 4 of them from Tony Johns, the son of Fred Johns, one of the partners in Johns & Avons who made YOUNG ENGINEER'S sets from 1938-41. It isn't sure though that the rest of the Mystery 44 parts are YOUNG ENGINEER'S. They generally match the Illustrated Parts in MCS but the Plates, #2 & 3, are 6*5h with perforations along all four edges, and both types of Trunnion, #10 & 11, are the 7h pattern. Also MCS says that YOUNG ENGINEER'S parts were possibly red & green.

Mystery Parts 44; YOUNG ENGINEER'S: S1

[34/1004]

3. News from Constructorama sent by Jeannot Buteux. 6 'new' systems have recently come to light:

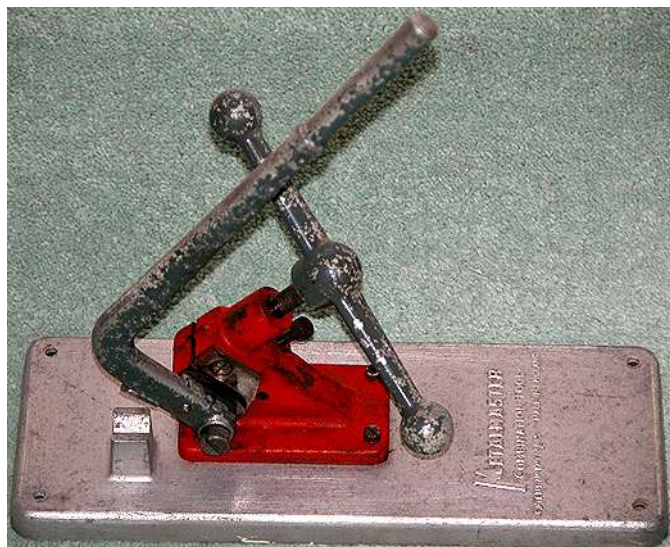
- **CUBAL**, French, around 1947 (from an unused set with manual).
- **LE CHARPENTO**, French, around 1950 (from a manual and a box with a few parts in it).
- **AUTO-MÉCA**, French, around 1930, a system to make various vehicles (from photos).
- **INGÉNIORA**, French, around 1950, a system to make various motors (from photos).
- **CONSTRUCTO**, French, around 1922, a Plate system.
- **LE PETIT ARTISAN DE LA CONSTRUCTION MÉCANIQUE**, Belgian, around 1950, probably the same as LE PETIT ARTISAN DE LA MÉCANIQUE - a system in MCS but with no illustrations (from photos).

Jeannot is sending details of CUBAL & LE CHARPENTO and I plan to include them in the next Issue.

New OS Names: S1

[34/1004]

4. An illustration of the **METALMASTER** DIY Tool taken from a manual was shown in 33/1003 but now Paul Goodman has



tracked down the actual example below. The red body is steel while the base & handles are aluminium. Said base measures 275*105*15mm, a little larger than that of the JUNEERO Tool. Cast into its top face is METALMASTER COMBINATION TOOL PATENT No. 17973/45 MADE IN ENGLAND - that would be the patent application number in 1945. The company's name & address, as in OSN 33, is cast into the underside. A 4mm MÄRKLIN Axle is a running fit in the hole made by the punch but a MECCANO Axle (4.06mm) won't enter it.

METALMASTER: S2

[34/1004]

5. Snippet: 'New' System: STAHLBAUKASTEN

All that was said of the set right was a date -1948. The main parts in the Bridge seem to be Strips with just a hole at either end joined by several types of small Junction Plate. Some of both types of part can be seen in the box, including the unusually shaped hexagonal Plate at bottom centre. There may be some grey plate material under the Spanner and wood-handled Screwdriver

STAHLBAUKASTEN: S1

[34/1004]



6. **Snippet: A SPIROU/ROBBEDDOES No.6 Outfit** Sets 1-5 are listed in MCS for this Belgian version of TEMSI, but a No.6 was recently offered on Ebay. It is a 2-layer set in a red box, yellow inside, with the parts in card partitioning. Sets 2-5 in similar packaging but with a single layer of parts have also been seen. All have the same lid label design, the one described in 27/783.

Sets 1-5 have also been seen with in each case, the parts in a yellow moulded plastic tray. They are all single layer sets and no doubt later than those above. The boxes are again red

with the same type of label.

One final variation, a No.3 & a No.5 in similar boxes but with blue plastic trays. The layout of the parts in the No.3 is as in the yellow tray but the No.5 has 2 layers (its size is given as 32*42*5cm). One other difference in these 'blue' sets, the Bush Wheel disc & the Flat Trunnions are nickel instead of red (no Trunnions can be seen).

SPIROU: S2

[34/1004-5]

7. **Snippets – GNOM** Some sets called Gnom, made by ANDERS, were discussed in 31/932, but there was also a German system called GNOM. It isn't in MCS but there is a photo of a set in *Baukästen*, p217; the maker, Rimü, is given, but with no other details except the dates '1930s' to 1950s'.



The set above was said to be a Nr.0A. The slogan along the top is also on the manual cover right, and means 'for the young engineer'. Lehrspiele would be 'educational toy' in English. The main part in the box is a 3*7h Flanged Plate. Its top (with a reflection of the lid on it) has holes only along its ends & centre lines. The end holes in the flange can be seen



but any others are hidden by a reflection from the 5h Strip next to it. The other parts are 5h Strips, a 7h Strip (along the top), A/B's, Flat Brackets with one hole slotted, & Bossed Pulleys with Tyre.

Additional parts can be seen in a second set (shown at the foot of the last column): a fully perforated 3*3h Flanged Plate, a Loose Pulley with 4 face holes, a Crank Handle with near 90° bends, a wire Screwdriver, and what looks like a 5h A/G near the top.

A third outfit is larger and is in a box 30*22*4cm. The lid is like that of the first set except that the background colour looks yellowish. The photo of it is very poor but both sizes of Flanged Plates can be seen, also the Strips above, and the Pulley with Tyre. Less clear are a possible 1*3*1h DAS and a Bush Wheel.

The *Baukästen* set measures 19.5*15*2.5cm and has 'II' on the lid. The logo and wording on it are the same as the Ebay ones, but it is otherwise quite different, light brown with a blue dockside scene in white panel. The date given for the set is the 1950s. The main parts are the two types of Flanged Plate and some Strips - they match those above except that the finish looks to be a matt light grey rather than shiny nickel. Other parts are a Pulley of about the same size as before but with 8 radial 'spokes' pressed into the disc, and lying under it what may be a Bush Wheel with 4 face holes.

Scaling from the various illustrations, the hole pitch may be 18-20mm, the Pulleys about 30mm Ø, and the 'Bush Wheel' 45-50mm Ø.

There is no manual shown with the set in *Baukästen* but all the others have one with the type of cover right. The colours vary though, with the others light grey, dull yellow, & brown.



GNOM: S1

[34/1005]

8. Don Redmond wrote that the **ERECTOR No.100** set mentioned in 11/298, 15/411, & 19/544 is not in fact a No.100, it is a No.00. The set number is on the ends of the box and the mix up probably arose from the '100 TOYS IN ONE' slogan on the lid.

ERECTOR [3b]: S1

[34/1005]

SMALL ADS

[34/1005]

KLIPTIKO INFORMATION WANTED! -- Canadian artist living in Holland is preparing a series of small publications -- each one discussing a particular construction set and it's relation to his own art work. Searching for stories, photographs, copies of publicity materials and manuals, special models etc. related to KLIPTIKO. As there is very little information available every bit is appreciated! (Also looking for Arkirecto related info...). Responses to perry@xs4all.nl please.

Wanted Manuals (or copies) of all non-Meccano sets. Please send list and prices to Vern Ellis, P O Box 3277, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia 0871.

OSN Subscription Rates The price per Issue, including postage, at Printed Paper Rate where available, is £5.50 for UK; £6 by air to Europe & surface anywhere; £6.50 by air outside Europe. **Back Issues** For the zones above : OSN 1: £1/£1.30/£1.50; OSN 2,3: £2.30/£2.70/£2.90 each; OSN 4-27: £3.60/£4.10/£4.50 each; OSN 28 on (in colour): £6/£6.50/£7. (All colour & some B&W issues are on loose sheets.)

Payments Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances must be in Pounds Sterling (GBP) or, as cash, in Euros or US Dollars (at £1=€1.50= \$1.80). Payments from overseas may also be made using PayPal.

Small Ads Short ads are free to subscribers; insertion guaranteed in OSN 35 if received by the end of July (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask).

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