

Some Current INDIAN OUTFITS

Ashok Banerjee has kindly sent over some more Sets that he found on sale during 1998 and 1999. Of the first 4 described below he wrote that there is probably only a limited market for them, and that TECNICA is too expensive to sell well, even though it is of very good quality. The other 5 sets are a series, each to make a single small model, or a similar alternative one. Finally, a smaller than previously seen MECHANIX outfit found on sale here.

TECNICA If MECHANIX parts owe much to BRAL (see 15/409) then TECNICA parts owe even more to MÄRKLIN, with many hard to tell apart except by their colour. The Set has No.2 on the lid and there may be a larger one because a 2" Pulley, not in this Outfit, is shown in the Manual's introductory pages.

The large box (45½*30*5cm) opens at the end to take the foam block in which the parts are housed, and the lid is hinged to show the parts through a clear cover that fits over the foam. The box lid is like the Manual cover opposite, bright blue but with colour photos of Manual models covering most of the top & sides. On one side is the Product Code, 11569, and 'Manufactured by Electronic toys - india | 37/A, B.T. Compound, | Malad West, Bombay -400 064. | For | Kemp & Co. Ltd. | E-6, (1) Addl. MIDC Area, | Jalgaon - 425 003.' More models are shown on the underside of the lid, together with the Set Contents and B&W illustrations of the parts.

The parts fit into recesses in the foam block but some are also held by 35mm long CH, ½" BSW bolts which pass through the block and screw into round pink plastic 'nuts'. Perhaps Ashok added them to minimise damage in the post. The main way the parts differ from MÄRKLIN is in colour, the light green MÄRKLIN parts (Strips etc) are silver-grey, the pinkish-red parts (Flanged Plate, Trunnions) light red, & the Flexible Plates are yellow instead of blue. In both the Brackets are black. The parts are described below with notes if they are not the same as current MÄRKLIN.

• **DATA** (in mm) **STRIP** (11-hole): •hole pitch/dia, 12.7/4.3; •width, 12.8; thickness, .81; •ends nearly fully radiused. **BOSS**: •o/d, 10.2 but see below; •i/d, 4.04; •steel, painted; •double tapped. **THREAD**: 5/32" BSW. **AXLE DIA**: 3.92. **NUT**: hex 7.9 A/F; **BOLT**: CH 7.0 Ø; both iridescent steel.

• **Strips**, 3,4,5,7,9,11,25h. Also a 5h long Curved Strip, and a '5h' Strip with holes at ¼" pitch. 3 & 5h long DAS.

• A 5*11h **Flanged Plate** with a 4mm radius on each corner. 4 **Flexible Plates** 3*5,11h, & 5*5,11h; all are aluminium, like MÄRKLIN, but have a centre hole.

• **Brackets**. Angle; Flat; Reversed Angle; Double & 3h high Double. The chemical black finish on these parts is duller than on MÄRKLIN parts. A Trunnion & Flat Trunnion.

• **1" Pulley** painted black, and **Tyre** for it with ET & 709 on each side, and a tread pattern extending half way down the sidewall. Brass ½" **Loose Pulley**, probably similar to the current MÄRKLIN one. **Bush Wheel** painted red. **Universal Gear**, red with a BZP on steel, 9mm Ø boss, and with a wider 'V' between the teeth laterally.

• 3,5,7,10,11.5, & 13cm long Nicked **Axles** with flat, slightly rounded ends,. A **Handle Crank**, s/t & painted black. A brass **Collar**, s/t, 9.5mm o.d. A push-on **Axle Stop** of soft, red plastic. A brass **Spacer** 9.0mm Ø & 3.0 mm wide. A **Hook** like the current MECCANO part but with a slightly smaller, 11.5mm Ø, barrel, & it is painted black.

• **Bolts** 5½, 9, & 22mm u/h. The heads are not tapered

and are only about 2.4mm deep. A pressed **Nut**. A BZP **Set Screw** with 4.7mm Ø CH, & 4½mm u/h. A brass **Grub Screw** about 6½mm long. A **Washer** to match the N&B, 10mm Ø. A **Spanner** painted black, 5mm longer than MÄRKLIN, with deeper jaws. A **Screwdriver**, 15.8cm long, with a BZP blade & a clear orange handle marked ET 002.

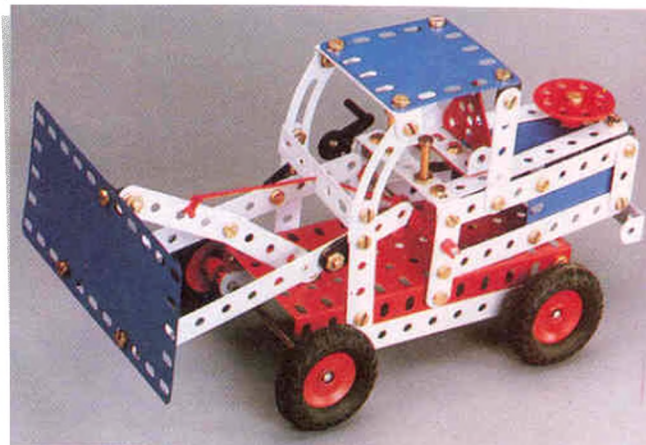
• **The parts** are accurately made and well finished. The Double Bracket and 3h Strip are shown in the Illustrated Parts in the Manual, but not elsewhere, with an elongated centre hole. A hank of **Cord** is included in the Set Contents but was not found in this outfit.

The Set contains 163 parts plus 173 NBW. The main pieces are 54 Strips, a Flanged Plate, 12 Flexible Plates, 5 off 1" Pulleys/Tyres, 2 Universal Gears, a Bush Wheel, 4 Trunnions, and 29 Brackets.

So a reasonable little Set, a little larger than the MECHANIX one. The **Manual** is a number of loose sheets clipped into a cover, and 6 pages of constructional hints are followed by 33 models. They vary from a simple 2-wheel Handcart to some quite nice looking Vehicles with a few Cranes,

simple Machine Tools, etc on the way. In fact that is the pattern of the first 17 models and all those are shown with blue Flexible Plates. After that there are a number of the better models, most with yellow Plates though some on the back covers are blue again. None of the Flexible Plates shown have a centre hole.

All the models except the ones on the back cover have step by step photos, up to 6 for the Bulldozer below, but after the 17th only 1 step before the complete model is shown. Also the parts needed for each step are shown for the first 17 but not afterwards. I don't recognise any of the models but they are generally in the 1937-61 MECCANO style, straightforward with good lines without needing to bend too many parts. They are not very adventurous mechanically though, with just centre pivot steering on a couple of models, and not much use is made of the Gears.



SUMMARY OF MANUAL •Name: TECNICA Set 2. •Details of maker: Electronic Toys (India) | 37-A Bombay Talkies Compound, | Malad (West), Bombay - 400 064. Marketed by: Blow Plast Ltd. | 88C Old Prabhadevi Road, | Bombay 400 025, INDIA. •Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. •Page size: covers 255*210mm deep, pages 247*189mm. •No. of pages: 30 unnumbered + covers. •Language: English. •Printing: cover (see top of page) blue with yellow top band & models in colour; colour photos of models. •Page No. of Illustrated Parts List / Set Contents: IFC [no PNs] •Sets covered: No.2. •No. of models: 33. •Name, Page No. of first & last model: HANDCART,8; DRILL PRESS,BC. [no Model Nos.] •Other notes: 15 loose sheets clipped to covers.

TRONICO RCEE is a Bremen company which has produced various 'POLYLONG' set in the past, and since last autumn has added the TRONICO brand to its range. It currently consists of 8 one-model sets with more promised. All the models can be seen at www.rcee.de – look for 'Tronico' on the home page. There is an English language option. The company is now seeking new partners to distribute their products worldwide.

3 of the models are Tractors, all rather similar to the one below, but with changes of detail, paint scheme, and transfers to represent the Claas Axion 850, the Fendt Vario 939, & Massey Ferguson 8690. The next 3 are the same models but fitted with a bucket, as below.

The 7th is the Krampe 650 Trailer in Fig.3. A grey, simpler 2-Wheel Trailer has also been seen on Ebay but isn't listed on



FIG.1



FIG.2



FIG.3

Loader, as on the Set's lid in Fig.1 above. It is 44cm long and has 1345 parts.

the RCEE website.

All the models so far are 1/16 scale, with the Tractor about 30cm long and having 1012 to 1077 parts according to version. The Trailer has 1455 parts and is 45cm long.

The final model is the 1/20 scale Liebherr Front Wheel

All the parts have the square holes as in other RCEE outfits. The lids of all the sets are similar in style to the Liebherr but none of the others are in English as well as German.

None of the models are motorised and they look to be mechanically simple: from the website photos the Tractor's front wheels are linked to steer, the front & rear of the Liebherr are articulated, and I presume the bucket can be moved, but I suspect that none of these movements are linked to controls, even the steering.

Postscript The model left was also attributed to Tronico but has only been seen on the UK Ebay. It was described as a Unimog at 1/16-scale.

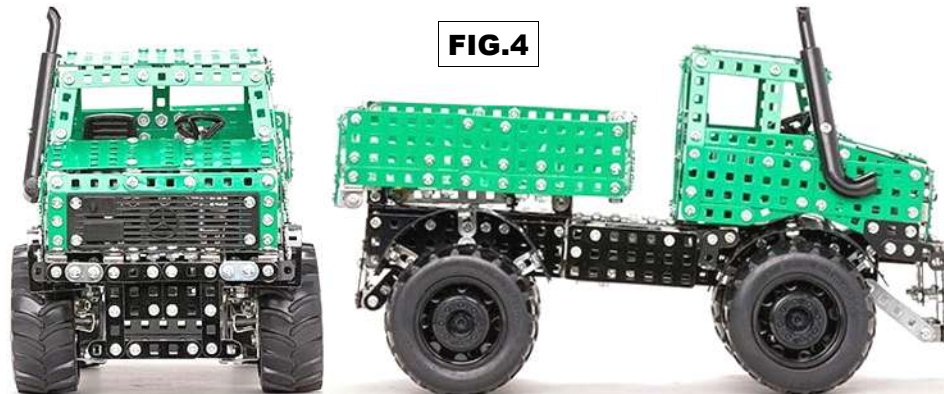


FIG.4

TRONICO: S1

OSN 46/1396



FIG.1

TECHNICA: New Indian System The set shown here (with the box plus manual below & the lid right) was seen on the U.S. Ebay. It was described as 'Anmal Technica' from Mumbai, with 342 parts, including a Motor & remote Controller. 60 models are claimed on the lid & manual. 'Anmal' is on the lid in small print above the 'T' in Technica. It is to the left of a Screwdriver/ Spanner/Gear logo, and an Anmal logo can be seen in the top right corner.

No clear connection can be seen between this system & TECNICA (see 22/624), also from Mumbai, or any other known Indian system. Except perhaps for the orange Hook (on top of the Controller) which looks like the MECHANIX part, and cutouts in the Trunnions which remind one of MR MECHANIC (both were made in Mumbai, see 15/409 & 22/625).



FIG.2

TECHNICA: S1

OSN 46/1396