

'New' System: TIM

by Jacques Pitrat

TIM is a system for building full-size toys, and is comparable to the 1920s Gilbert New Wheel Toy (see 18/522), and MAFELL in the 1930s (19/531). The set to hand is not numbered and there is no indication that there were any others in the system. The slogan on the box lid, right, might be very loosely rendered as 'Now he only has eyes for Tim'.

The manufacturer's name does not appear anywhere but it is likely the system was made in Switzerland, for two reasons: I bought it there and the names of the models are in both French & German. The only indication of date is '49'



under the artist's signature on the lid (right), and this fits with the Outfit's general appearance.



The Set is in a cardboard box 57*38*8.5cm, with 5 compartments, & 3 plain cardboard boxes for small parts.

The open box is shown below left, and under it a sheet showing the parts that was with the Set (but rearranged and with the original hard to read PNs replaced). Some of the actual smaller parts can be

seen in the photo bottom right.

Notes on the parts follow with their PNs, and quantities in brackets. It seems that the set is complete except for some Nuts, Bolts & Washers, and apart from these it is possible to build all the models for the Set with the parts in the box.

First there are aluminium **Tubes** (19mm dia.) with a hollow steel spigot at one end (15mm dia.) so that one can join them together. They have cross holes at both ends and each connection is strengthened with one Nut & Bolt (PNs 3 & 4). The holes in the Tube are conical to match the shape of the N&B, so when tightened the Nut and the Bolt are both flush with the outside of the Tube.

The tubular parts are as follows. 5 lengths of **Straight Tube**. I indicate their length in mm without & with the spigot: PN 17 (2) 420-460; PN 16 (2) 371-409; PN 19 (2) 277-316; PN 20 (4) 152-192; PN 18 (4) 133-173. A **Right Angle Tube** PN 31 (6). An **Obtuse Angle Tube** PN 14 (6). A **U Tube** PN 21 (2). A **Fork** PN 1 (1), with holes for an Axle and a very long spigot, 155-260.

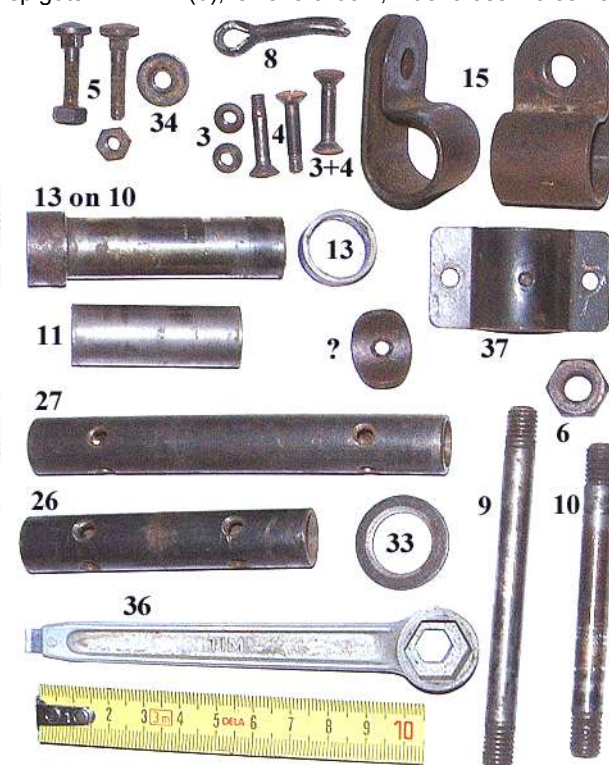
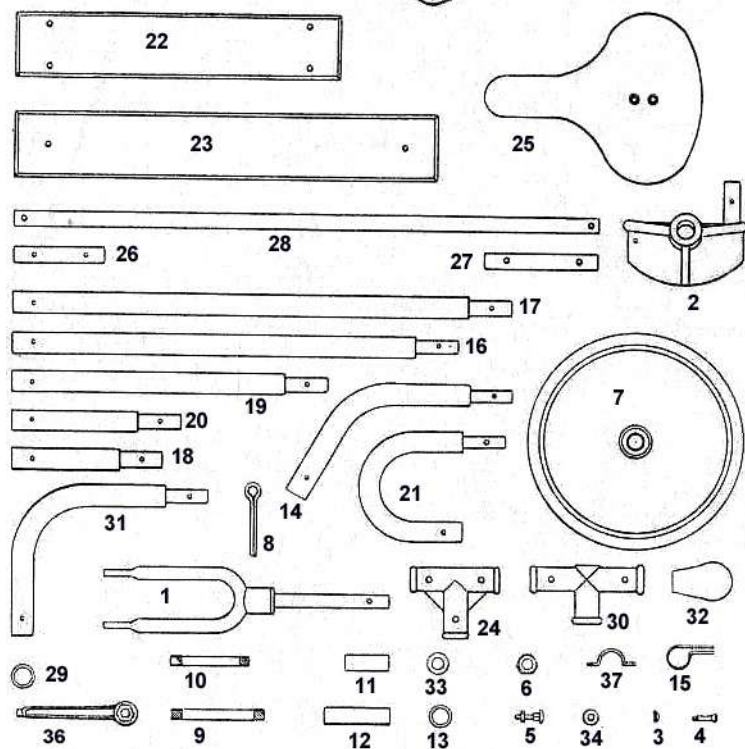
There are two kinds of blue aluminium **T Connectors** with bores the same diameter as the spigots: PN 24 (6), size 8.5*6cm, has cross holes for



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Pièces



Bolts in the 3 branches. PN 30 (4), size: 10.5*5cm, has cross holes for Bolts in the 2 horizontal branches of the T only, and the vertical bore passes right through the part. PN 24 is used to join Tubes as in the models below; PN 30 joins 2 Tubes and provides a bearing for the Axle in the Trailer.

PN 2 (1) is a blue aluminium **Steering Bracket**; it can be seen in the Scooter below and has one hole for a Tube (with a cross hole), a spigot (also with a cross hole) to take a parallel Tube, and a bore at right-angles for the Fork spigot. This part is also used to attach the Trailer's towbar.

The Bolts and Nuts used to strengthen the Tube/spigot connections are a 4mm dia. **Bolt** PN 4 (51) with a conical head, length 19mm; and a round, conical **Nut** PN 3 (46).

Two kinds of steel clamping Clips are used with the Tubes. One is a **P Clip** PN 15 (8) with a bolt hole to allow tightening around a Tube, or connecting it to a Wooden Plate with a Nut & Bolt (PN 5), as in the models below. The second is the **Half Clip** PN 37 (1) which is used to mount the Scooter's Saddle.

Two lengths of 15mm dia. hollow steel **Spigot** are used as necessary in the open ends of the Tubes and T Connectors. They have a cross hole for Bolts at both ends. PN 26 (14) is 8cm long, and PN 27 (1) is 11cm.

There are two types of **Axle**. The first is 8mm dia. and it is threaded at both ends: PN 9 (1) is 9cm long and PN 10 (1) is 8 cm. The **Nut** for them, PN 6 (5) is hexagonal, 14mm A/F.

These Axles can run in 2 **Bearings**, steel tubes, 15mm dia: PN 12, 6 cm long; and PN 11, 4 cm. 2 **Distance Sleeves** can be used with these parts as in the back & front wheels of the Scooter: PN 13, 18mm dia. & 10mm wide; and PN 33, 24mm dia. & 4mm wide.

The other **Axle** PN 28 (1) is used in the Trailer. Its length is 57 cm & its dia. 15 mm. It has holes at both ends for a **Split Pin** PN 8 (2) length 35 mm, and a **Washer** PN 29 (2) is used under it.

2cm long **Coach Bolt**, and 8mm A/F hexagonal **Nut**, PN 5 the pair (6), and **Washer** PN 34 (8).

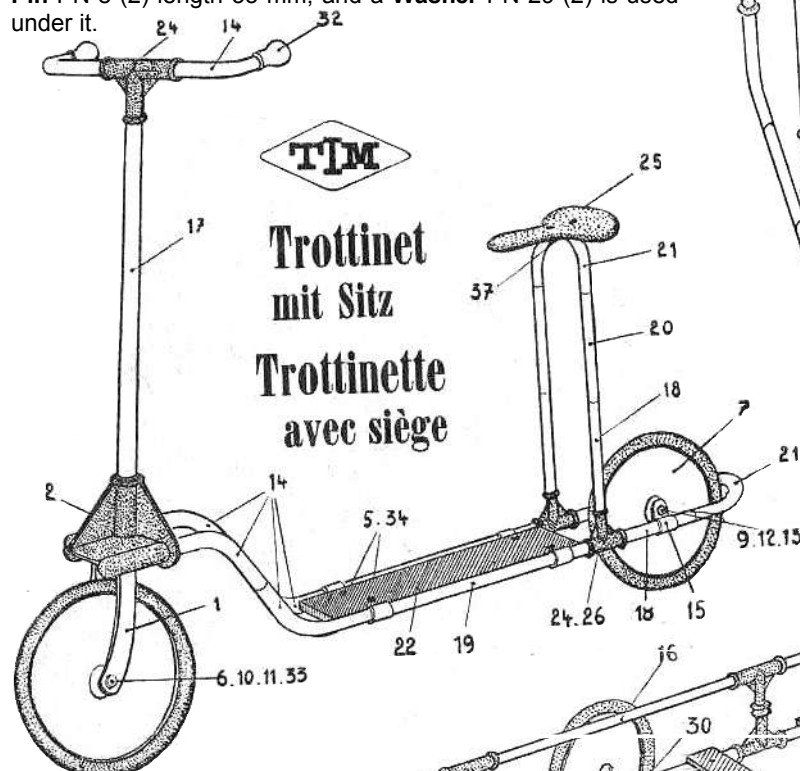
A black rubber **Handgrip** PN 32 (2)

There is one **Tool** PN 36 (1) which is a combined screw-driver and ring spanner for the two sizes of hexagonal nuts (8 & 14 A/F). This is the only part marked TIM.

The part labelled '?' in the photo of the parts matches the finish of similar parts in the Set but is not shown on the Parts Sheet, nor is it used in the models. It is oval, with curvature that matches the Spigot, and it has a tapped hole which takes the 4mm Bolts.

There is no **manual** but 8 loose sheets, 187*127mm, one for the parts and 7 with one model each. All are headed like the Parts Sheet shown earlier. Three of the models require a few supplementary tubes, the Stool below for example.

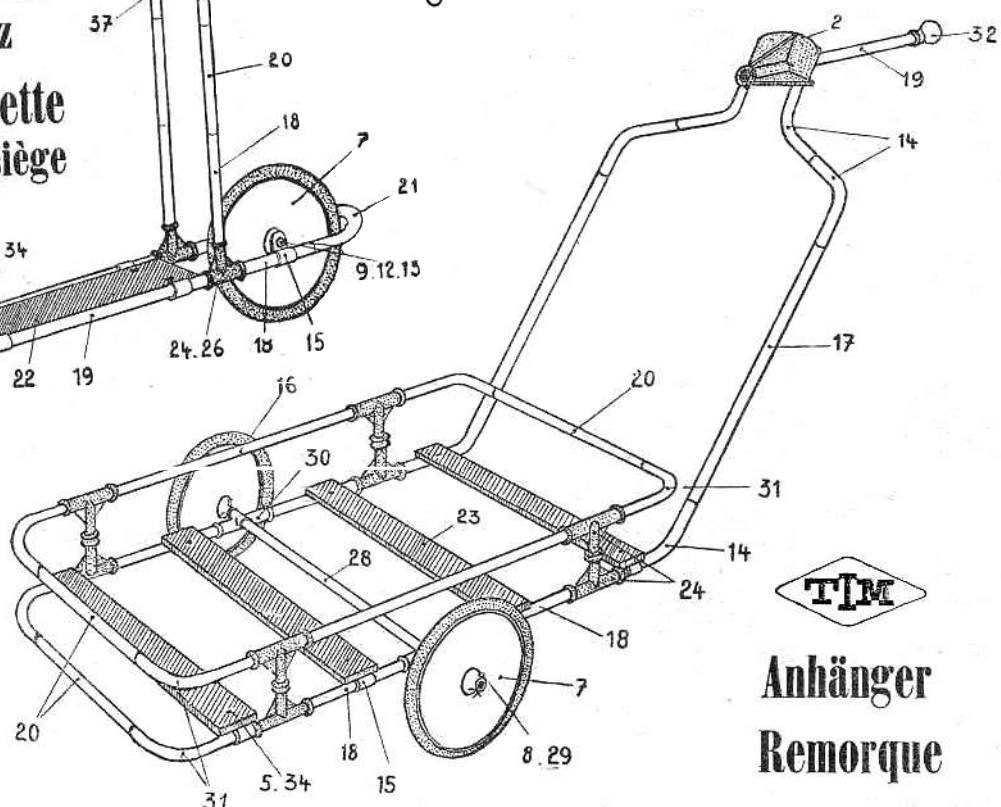
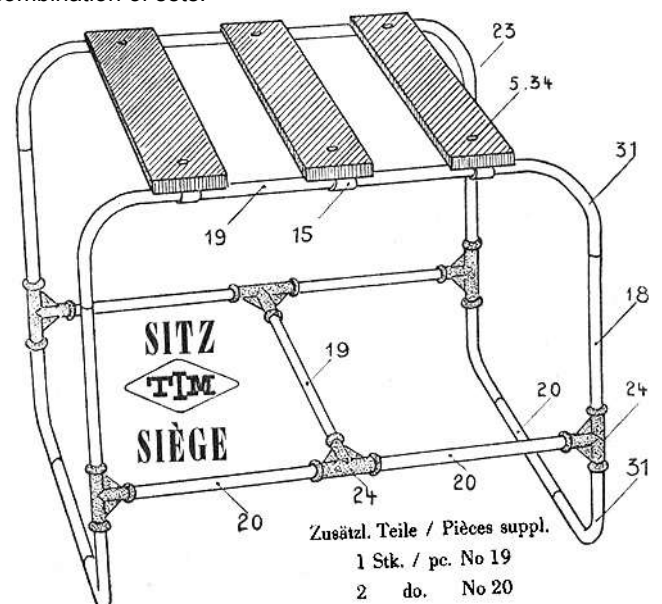
The parts are well made and it is possible to make solid and playable toys with them - a child's Scooter is 80cm high. But there are only two wheels in the Set and this is the main weakness of the system. With two sets it would certainly be possible to build much more interesting models, but the maker does not suggest it and there is no model shown for such a combination of sets.



Red steel **Wheel** PN 7 (2) with black rubber tyres. Its dia. is 20 cm.

A red aluminium **Saddle** PN 25 (1).

There are two sizes of 12mm thick, yellow **Wooden Plates**: PN 22 (1), 30*6cm; and PN 23 (4) 40*6cm. They are fastened using Clip PN 15 with the 4mm dia.,



**Anhänger
Remorque**

More TIM TIM, a set to make child-size toys, Scooters etc, was described in 34/1025. Urs Flammer recently acquired a set in Switzerland and kindly sent some notes about it, plus photos of the two models he had made.

The Set is the same as the one in OSN 34 but in addition to the model sheets it included a leaflet & an order form. The former is one sheet folded to give 4 sides and has the front in Fig.1. The back page has a price list of separate parts; the inside pages constructional hints in French & German.

The Order Form, in Italian as well as French & German, is a freepost card addressed to Firma Metaucol, Monbijoustrasse, Berne, and this firm is named as Représentant Général on the the front of the Leaflet. Also the construction hints are signed Tim, Metaucol, Berne. This supports the view in OSN 34 that TIM was probably Swiss, and further suggests that TIM was probably made by, or for, Metaucol.

The date given in OSN 34 of 1949 or soon afterwards, is also supported because the seller of Urs' set thought that his father had bought it from a cycle shop in about 1951, and Urs judged that from the address & general layout of the Order Form it is likely to have been from sometime in the early 50s.

The parts, mostly metal but with yellow painted Wooden Plates, are as in OSN 34 but Urs noted that the threads are, as would be expected, metric: M4 & M8. Also that the part with a question mark by it, bottom right in 34/1025, is used to lock the Saddle, to prevent it from turning. It is not mentioned in the instructions, nor is it included in the Price List. The Wheel is fitted with a centre bronze bearing (and not the ball race

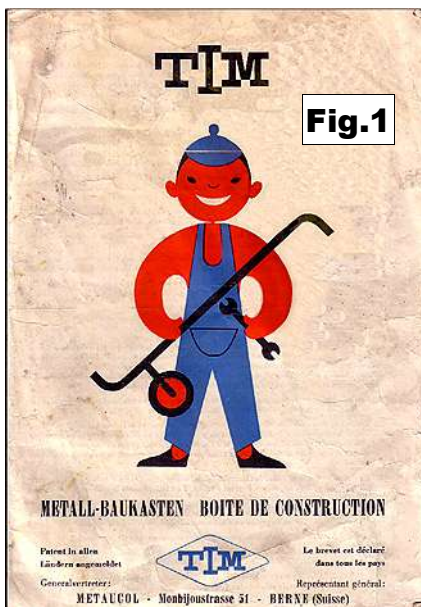


Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

suggested by the French version of the Instructions) and it was to be kept lightly greased. Light greasing was also

suggested to ease assemble if any difficulties were met.

Urs' models are shown in Figs.2 & 3. The Scooter is 100cm long, its Saddle 50cm high, its handlebars 80cm. The Trailer's platform is 36*85cm and it is shown being put to good use.

In conclusion Urs wrote that that construction of the models was relatively simple but the size of the parts makes the system more of a toy for fathers than for youngsters.

OSN 47/1441

TIM: S3

Snippets. The DUX 121 & 122Z

Train Outfits. Notes on the manual models from these sets, and the Loco Outfit Nr.120, were given in 43/1299. Now to hand Ebay photos of the 121 & 122Z sets (the 'Z' is for Zusatzkasten, (Add-on Set)) because its models need parts from the smallest standard set Nr.101.

To the right, the 121's lid (its bottom has been cut off by a few centimetres). It is one of the two DUX lid designs, the 122Z lid is the other type with the same layout but with a Fire Escape replacing the Crane.



Fig.1

Fig.2 shows the 121 and all the major different parts can be seen (see OSN 43 for the contents of the sets). Presumably some of the parts are stacked. Another photo shows the blue box open and it contains the rest of the parts: N&B, A/Bs, Axles, Spanners, & Buffers. It also contains a wooden-handled Screwdriver not called up in the inventory.

As explained in OSN 43 there was one manual which covered all of the three Railway sets. The one shown with the 121 has the expected cover, as in Fig.4 in OSN 43.

Below the 122Z and, assuming some stacking, it is complete (the 60mm Smooth Shafts, #1041b, are below the centre Roof Sheets #120/1).



Fig.2

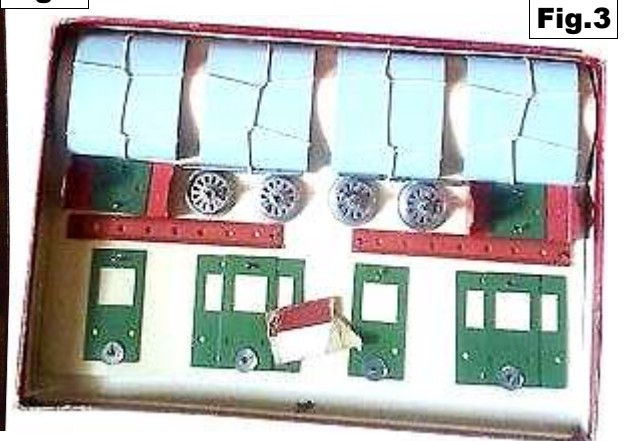


Fig.3

OSN 47/1441

DUX-UNIVERSAL: S5