

'New' System TEKNO This system is from Israel and its 4-letter name in Hebrew (or Yiddish, I'm not sure which) can be seen on the manual cover, and on the lid below. I'm told that it would be TEKNO in English. At a glance the parts look just like VAŠEK, and the very close connection between the two systems can be seen in the parts list & manual models. But though the range of parts is virtually identical, nearly all the actual parts are different to some degree or other, and the thread & Axle diameter are different. So it's likely that TEKNO is an Israeli product, with a very small chance that the parts were copies of VAŠEK from a period as yet unknown. Or that the parts were Czech



made from that time.

These notes are based on my near complete No.4 outfit and, thanks to David Hobson, a lot of parts, probably most of two No.4's, which show some differences of detail.

The PARTS The Illustrated Parts in the manual is identical to the VAŠEK one on p861, and apart from the bosses all the metal parts are steel. The notes that follow refer to the No.4 set parts, with variations from David's lot in square brackets; major differences from VAŠEK are mentioned.

Colours Strips & A/Gs are green; Brackets are nicked; and other parts are red, blue, or yellow. Details & exceptions below. One of the No.4 sets in the lot has green & blue parts of the same medium shades as in my No.4, but the other has the same parts in distinctly lighter colours (the two blues can be seen in Fig.1).

Basics Unless stated otherwise: holes are 3.9mm (Bolts & Axles are a snug fit in them) at 13.0mm pitch. Strip parts are 12.9-13.3mm wide (up to 1mm wider than VAŠEK) and have not quite fully rounded ends. Plates & A/Gs have square corners. Slotted holes are 7.9-8.4mm long.

Bosses are not like VAŠEK. They are brass [some brass, some aluminium, no doubt from the two different No.4 sets in the lot], 9.0mm o.d., 4.1-4.2mm bore [4.0-4.1], and 12½mm [some 11½mm] long, single-tapped, with deep, slightly recessed peening.

Threads All are 5/32" BSW (not VAŠEK's M4).

#1-7 Strips with 25,11,7,6,5,4,3 holes. The holes centres in some 25h are 1mm short overall. The 3 & 4h are quite thin (.6mm) and are nicked.

#8,9 A/Gs, 25,10h long. The 10h is listed as 11h [11h]. 16* 15mm in section. Slots are 4.0mm wide.

#10,11 Strips with Slotted End Holes None found but extra 7 & 5h normal Strips instead.

Brackets **#12 A/B**, made from the **Flat Bracket #14** (both as VAŠEK). **D/B #13**, 15.0mm wide [14.5mm].

#15/36,36b Rubber Rings to fit 25, 18mm Pulleys. Black rubber about 36 & 28mm o.d., and 6mm wide.

#17 Curved Strip. Blue. The slotted hole at one end is only 7.3mm long.

#18,19,19a DAS, 7,3,5h long, 1h deep. The 3h is nickel, the others green. [All green.]

Brackets: #20 – as illustrated but 5h long along the top,

Leading Particulars of TEKNO

Country Israel

Maker Possibly a company called Adloyada.

History

Hole dia. 3.9mm.

Hole pitch 13.0mm.

Sets Nos.1 to 7 (also called I to VII).

Material/Finish Steel. Strips & A/Gs are green; Brackets nicked, other parts red, blue, or yellow.

Bosses Brass or aluminium, 9.0mm Ø, s/t 5/32" BSW. Bore 4.0 – 4.2mm.

Fixing Nicked steel 5/32" BSW N&B. Hex Nuts 8.0mm A/F. RH Bolts, 7.0 & 6.7mm Ø.

Axles 3.80mm Ø.

Motors None.

DP 12 (Mod. 2.1).

Remarks Manual indicates a strong connection with VAŠEK but the parts, though very similar, are not identical

green.

#21 Rev. A/B has 3 round holes and short lugs with only 2mm [3mm] of metal outside the holes.

#22 Double Bent Strip has, unlike VAŠEK, round outer holes.

#22a D/B 2h Deep.

#22b Collar, brass, s/t, 9.0mm Ø, 10.0mm long [Brass, 8½mm long; aluminium 9½mm long].

#22d 3*5h T-Bracket, and made from it is **#22g** with the 2h long sides of the 5h cross arm bent up at 90° to the 3h arm.

#24 Hook, flat & 31mm long, but otherwise unlike the VAŠEK part. David's parts had one identical part and a different shaped flat Hook, 27mm long with a 2.3mm hole Both are nickel plated and are shown in Fig.1.

#26 pressed Nut, hexagonal, 8.0mm A/F, 2½mm thick, nickel plated.

#27-27d Bolts have 7.0mm round heads & are 7mm u/h (6 & 8mm are listed) [6.7mm Ø, 8mm u/h]. Nicked.

#28 Spring Cord, 290mm [262mm] long plus small loop ends.

#29,30 Flanged Plates have slotted holes in their flanges, in the outer top rows of holes in the 5*11h, and, unusually, in the outer 2 rows each side in the 5*7h. Red. The hole pitch is 13.1mm along one 5*11h, and 13.3mm along the other.

#31 Flanged Sector Plate is blue. It also has slotted holes in its flanges, and, unlike VAŠEK, the ends are straight.

#32 Windmill Sail. Smaller and different to the VAŠEK part, it is shown in Fig.1. 75mm long o/a, the 'oblong' part is 31*63mm, and the large holes 15mm Ø. Blue.

#32a Windmill Sail is steel and smaller than the VAŠEK fibre part. Also in Fig.1, it is 64mm long & 19mm wide. Blue. All the other VAŠEK fibre parts have PNs of 100 or above, so perhaps the original VAŠEK part was metal.

#33 Flanged Disc Pulley is yellow, with a 15mm flange which tapers outwards from 68mm to 70mm Ø. Otherwise as the VAŠEK part except the pulley groove is much deeper (2 v. ½mm) & wider (6 v. 2mm). [Brass or painted aluminium bosses.]

#35 8h Bush Wheel, 39mm Ø red disc with no centre recess.

#36,36b, 25mm Fast & Loose Pulleys are 26mm Ø with a normal vee 5½mm [7mm] wide. The Loose type has a 5mm long boss [4mm long boss, brass or aluminium]. The Fast Pulley is red, the Loose blue.

#36a, 18.0mm Loose Pulley– the nickel discs are joined by

tiny tabs through the centre hole, 4mm wide vee [discs joined by 4mm long bush, brass & aluminium, 5mm vee].

#36c, 18mm Fast Pulley, like the 18mm Loose Pulley above but with a normal length bush.

#38/33,36 steel Gear Rings, 6½mm [7mm] deep, to fit over the 70 & 25mm Pulleys, 35 & 14 teeth, 1 more in each case than VAŠEK.

#39 Crank Handle, 142mm long o/a with a 16mm handle offset about 20mm.

#40-41d Axles, 30,20,15,13,11½,7,3cm nominal lengths but many are up to ½cm longer. 3.80 mm Ø (VAŠEK 3.95mm). Nickel plated with slightly rounded sheared ends. [Some are BZP.]

#42 Cord. A long length of white cord was found attached to the Hook.

#43 Spanner, see Fig.1. 90mm long o/a, each end is cranked by a few millimetres and has a straight semi-circular bottomed opening. Nickel.

#44 Screwdriver, see Fig.1. Flat, with impressed centre, 76mm long o/a. Nickel. [2 different screwdrivers were in the lot, one nicked wire similar to MECCANO, 116mm long o/a, and one with a translucent yellow plastic handle & BZP blade, 137mm long o/a.]

#45 Manual.

#48 Coupling, unlike the VAŠEK one it is brass, 9.0mm Ø, 24mm long o/a, and has 3 s/t MECCANO-pattern bores. Unfortunately the outer pair are at 15mm pitch. [Better made with the outer bores at 13mm pitch, but the middle bore is not quite central in one example. 23½mm long.]

#50 Propeller. At 111mm Ø, a lot smaller than the VAŠEK part, and the blades have some twisted. Blue. [Brass or aluminium boss.]

#111 Axle Stop, short. [Spring Clips were also found in the lot, along with some ¾" Washers & the wire Screwdriver mentioned earlier – they could all be MECCANO parts.]

The Fibre Parts Long 53 hole lengths of the 3 types #100-102, each folded into three. They are made from quite unsuitable, orange cartridge paper (.033mm thick), which has little rigidity and kinks very easily if curved. The pitch of the holes varies from 13.0 to 13.3mm. These 'strips' would be cut to length to provide the parts needed, and called up, for the manual models.

Washer #112 No paper Washers were found, instead thin steel ones, 10mm Ø, with a grey metallic finish. [1 aluminium washer found, 9.5mm Ø.]

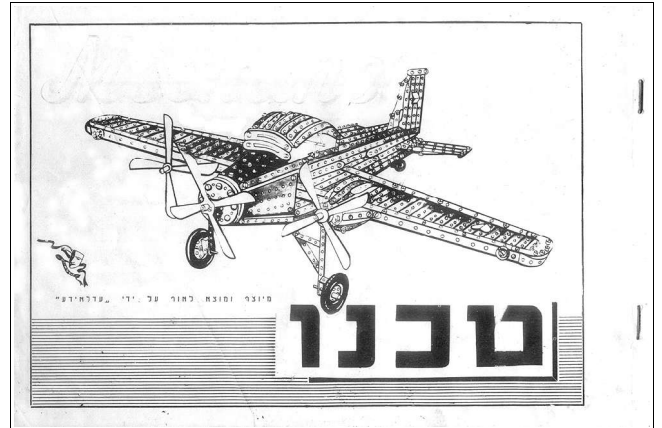
Quality Similar to VAŠEK overall, apart from the 'Fibre' parts, but the paint seems to stay on appreciably better.

The SETS Sets 1-7 are included in the Set Contents in the manual and Nos.2-7 are nearly identical to those in the VAŠEK manuals. (Parts #37a & 51 are included.) The only difference is that a number of different lengths of the Fibre Plates #100-103 are listed. These are 25,21,15,11,5h for #100 & #103; 25,21,15,11,5, 3h for #101; & 21,15,11, 5,3h for #102. As already noted these parts in the No.4 would have to be cut from the long lengths supplied.

The No.1 has the same 10 N&B as the No.2 but fewer Strips, Brackets, and only two 25mm Pulleys.

It is interesting that the total parts count for the different sets are the same in both the TEKNO & VAŠEK manuals, and that they are correct in the former, but too high in the latter because only the 11 & 25h long #101's are included. This would seem to indicate that the TEKNO Set Contents, and no doubt the VAŠEK equivalent at the time, were from a period before the known VAŠEK manuals.

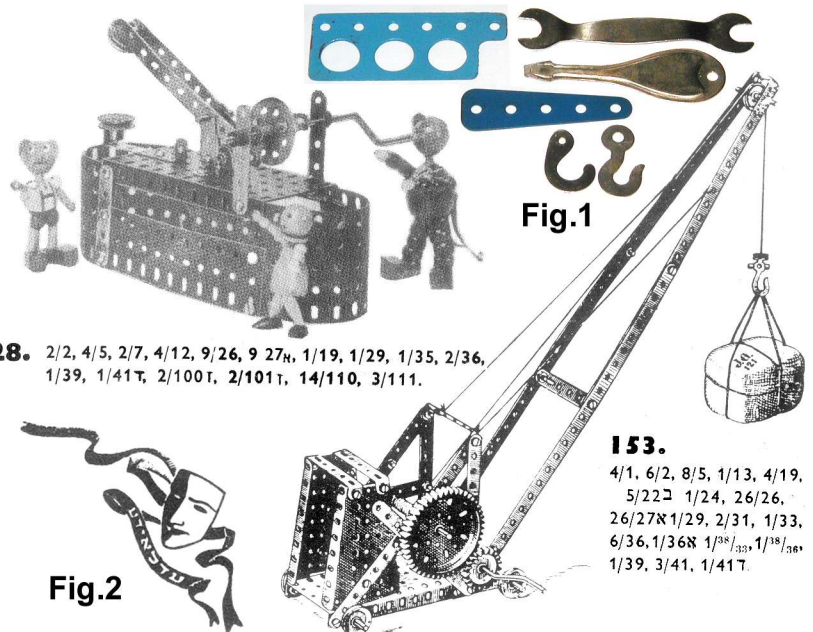
The No.4 is in a green box, 25*34½*7½cm, with the lid already shown. The parts were loose but would have been clipped to the white cards in the 2 remaining white trays – there would be room for a third, or perhaps there was a card resting on the bottom of the box.



The MANUAL It consists of 15 sheets, 243*164mm, plus the front cover above, stapled together (on the right, the pages read from top right to bottom left), and printed in B&W. The logo from the cover is shown in Fig.2, about 150% natural size. The word in it, and also the first word in the line of text below it, is Adloyada in English, and means carnival. On the original is the word *Mechano*, starting inside the frame at top left, and extending to the model's fin. But it is so very faint & patchy that it can barely be seen, and it may be that it has been imperfectly erased before printing.

The inside cover is blank and then the pages 1-30 are similar to those in the VAŠEK manuals. The Model Names on pp5-6 are for Sets 1-7. Pages 7-30 have the models for Sets 1-5, and are also numbered I./1 to V./4 in VAŠEK-style. Due to the smaller page size some rearrangement of the models has been necessary and 2 more pages are used than in the VAŠEK manuals. Some of the model illustrations are identical to the VAŠEK line drawings but the majority are halftones, usually with a similar view to the VAŠEK drawing. Small doll figures have been added to many of the halftone models and these can be seen in one model, a Roundabout, in the No.8 halftone VAŠEK manual.

The No.1 Set #28 Hammer below shows three of the many doll figures used. The No.4 #153 Crane is the only model which makes use of the Gears. Both illustrations are natural size.



28. 2/2, 4/5, 2/7, 4/12, 9/26, 9 27h, 1/19, 1/29, 1/35, 2/36, 1/39, 1/41, 2/100, 2/101, 14/110, 3/111.

Fig.2

153.
4/1, 6/2, 8/5, 1/13, 4/19,
5/22, 1/24, 26/26,
26/27, 1/29, 2/31, 1/33,
6/36, 1/36, 1/38, 1/38, 1/38,
1/39, 3/41, 1/41.