

continued to be made until at least 1966. The hole pitch was 12.0mm and the Axles and N&B were 3mm Ø. All parts were nickel plated. As well as the sets mentioned in OSN 8, there were packs of parts Z1-Z14 available. In a photo of a 1955 F Outfit the only part that isn't in the MCS Extra Sheets is a Circular Plate of 45 or 50mm Ø (slightly larger than B31) with only a centre hole and 4 others on a pcd of 36mm (probably). To give an idea of size, the Pulley which takes the Tractor Tyre scales at 75-80mm diameter.

STRUCTATOR From EZ. This system was made by Bing between 1913 and c1917. Then, if I've understood correctly, from 1919 to 1921 it was produced by 'H.Huck, Inh. Adolf Huck' of Nürnberg as '**TECHNIKO/TECHNICO**'. A firm called J.Kleiner of Houndsditch advertised STRUCTATOR in G&T from May 1922 until April 1924, but I suppose it's possible that they were selling old stock. As shown in MCS, the original sets were advertised here in December 1913.

The German patent was Nr.282410 of 14 January 1913. The grooved Baseboards were wooden; the Plates (see 6/115) and some of the small parts were aluminium.

TECHNIK Another small set from the WW2-early 1950s period. The parts were made of steel and bare aluminium: some of the former were plated, nickel or brass, and others painted red. Holes were 3.9mm Ø but I don't have the spacing. In EZ the name TECHNIK-METALLBAUKASTEN WESTFALIA is mentioned in passing and it might be the WESTFALIA described later. There's also a small photo of a set in PI.60 with TECHNIK on it but it's too small to see any of the other wording.

TECHNIKUS I couldn't find anything in EZ on the postwar East German system of that name that's in MCS; the one made by VEB Funkwerk, Leipzig with an 'RFT' logo, and parts that look just like STABIL. There is however mention of an earlier TECHNIKUS made by Menki Zimmer of Fürth from 1914 to ?. No other details are given.

TECHNOFIX From EZ. This was a system in which steel Rods were joined by being pushed into Connectors (rather like the MECCANO Rod and Strip Connector) which were then joined together in some way. No N&B were used and David Hobson has suggested that the method may be that shown in a UK patent from 1924. It is No.230975 in the name of B.Buxbaum, and toy bridges and awning frames are mentioned as possible applications. One Connector has a spigot 'd' which engages in the hole 'c' of the other Connector; and then sliding the Rod 'e' in the second Connector over the holes prevents the joint from falling apart. The ends of the Rods were to be tapered if necessary.

The system lasted from 1928 to at least 1935. The original maker (or agent?) was W.Keller & Co. of Stuttgart, followed in 1930 by Kosmos, also from Stuttgart, and then from 1931, Gebr. Einfalt of Nürnberg. An ad from 1935 is headed KOSMOS-BAUKASTEN TECHNOFIX.

The ad shows 3 models, a small Trolley with Wheels that have 4 large holes in their faces, an Arch Bridge, and a Crane. The Pulleys in the latter look like the Trolley Wheels but small holes can be seen between the large ones. The Crane has a quite complicated braced structure but no indication of scale is given.

THALE STAHLBAU TECHNIK Some notes on this

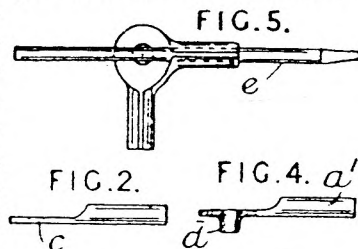
East German system were given in 8/174. There are photos of 2 sets in EZ and it's interesting to see that the 5*5h Plates have elongated holes along 2 opposite edges, and not the larger holes in OSN 8. The only other difference is that the shade of the EZ red parts isn't at all orange.

The dates given in EZ are from the 1950s to the 1970s; the maker, Krause & Co., later became VEB Metallspielwaren Thale/Harz.

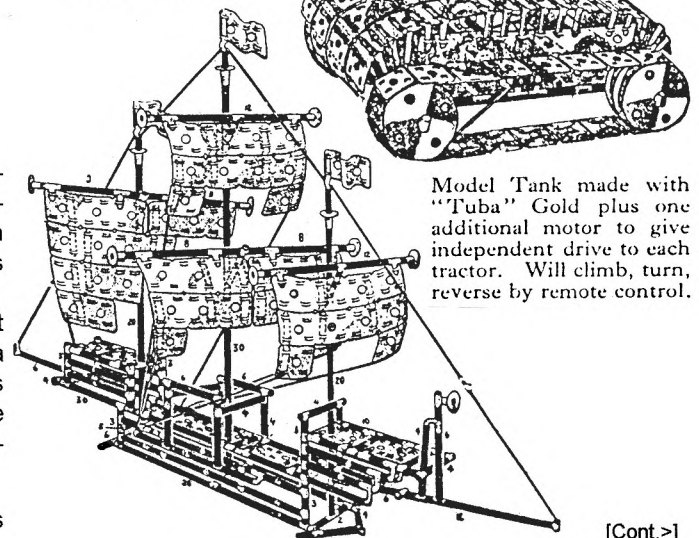
TITAN EZ gives the period of this 10mm hole pitch system as c1948 to 1960. MCS/FB gives the hole diameter as 3.5mm. The manufacturer was originally Titan GmbH of Ludwigsburg/Württemberg, and later of Schwäbisch Hall, as in MCS/FB. A photo of a set from about 1950 shows the Strips and small parts black, A/Gs green, most Plates red, and most circular parts red, silver or green. The only parts in the rich blue are the 11*7h and 9*7h Plates, and the large Flanged Discs (PNs 64 & 65 can be seen). The model on the box lid is predominantly red and blue with silver wheels, the colour scheme given in MCS/FB. The parts were made from steel 1mm thick.

Jeannot mentioned a TITAN (2) with steel parts painted light grey but I don't know whether this was a colour variant of the above or a different system.

TUBA This is included as a UK system in MCS but the evidence now available indicates that it was German. The original Patent was German, applied for on 31 May 1933 by Josef Szapiro, and it was made in Berlin by the firm Die Tuba Spielwaren GmbH. David Hobson tells me that the UK Patent, 434838, of May 1934 (with a Convention Date of 31 May 1933), was in the name of J.F.Kennedy, a British subject but with a Berlin address of Joachimsthaler str. 38. In ads for TUBA in *Games & Toys* there is no mention of it being British made, and most likely it was imported from Germany. It was originally advertised in Sept 1934 by The Chad Valley Co. Ltd, Harborne, Birmingham 17, but in the last ad, in Oct 1935, Andrew Charles Ltd, 13-16 Wrothesly Street, Birmingham 5, announced that they had taken over sole distribution. Several models were shown in the different ads including the ones below. Under colours Jeannot listed steel, blued and nickel plated, and then later, gold, silver, red, green, blue, and yellow Plates. A photo of a German sets in EZ shows black Tubes, bright Plates, a red large Pulley and yellow small ones - similar colours to those given in MCS. An ad in German for the Motor is also similar to the one in MCS apart from using metric units, but it does show it running from a 4½v battery, and it gives the diameter as 30mm.



Model Galleon made from "Tuba" Silver, 15/-



Model Tank made with "Tuba" Gold plus one additional motor to give independent drive to each tractor. Will climb, turn, reverse by remote control.