TRONICO Update In the 2 years since the last note on this German system in 47/1440, its range of sets has been greatly extended, to a degree that I'd not realised until Urs Flammer kindly sent me a copy of their 2015 catalogue. It now lists some 58 outfits, each with parts to build one model, usually of a particular full-size machine, often a Tractor or an agricultural implement, though now with a good selection of other models. But the 58 do include many of the same or similar machines at different scales; 12 are an option to have radio or IR control; and 3 an option to add a Trailer. The range is divided into four series: Profil; Junior; Mini; & Micro.

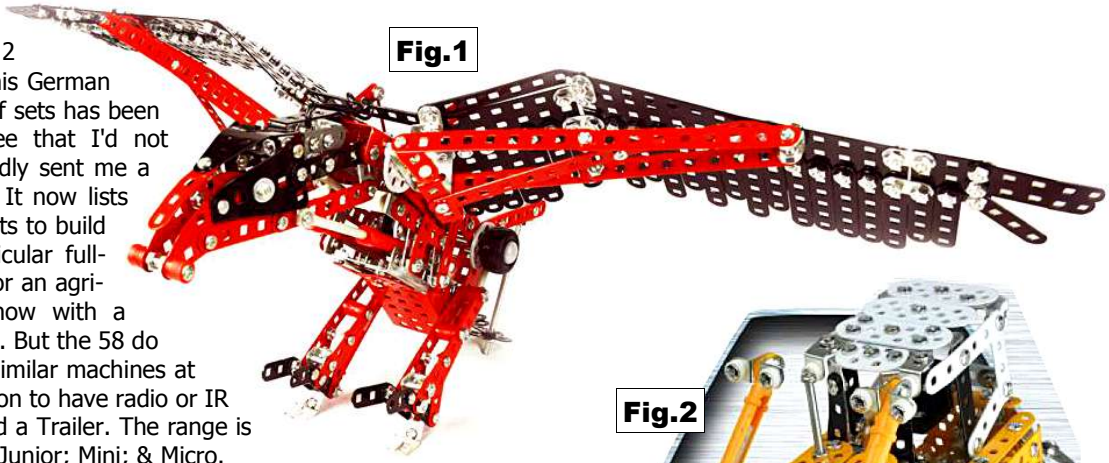

Fig.1

The Profil Series The 27 models include the original 1/16 scale Tractors (see 46/1396), now extended to include New Holland & Case machines, with a R/C option on some. They are about 30cm long with 1000+ parts (700+ with R/C).

Other 1/16 models include a Claas Combine Harvester (53cm long, 2356 parts); a Challenger Tracked Tractor which has rubber tracks with 3h Strips bolted across (36/2080); a Krone 'Chop Forage Harvester' (Fig.3) with a hinged cutter bar (44/1456); a Challenger Sprayer with 4-wheel steering (35/1577); & the Horsch InnoFalcon in Fig.1 (61cm span, 732 parts).

Fig.2

Other sets include a 1/25 Liebherr Crawler Excavator (25cm body, 1283 parts); the 1/100 Liebherr Tower Crane in Fig.4 (60+cm high, 25+cm jib, 1008 parts); a 1/50, 58cm span Ju 52 with 3 Motors driving the 3 Props (908 parts); a 1/32 Helicopter with a Motor driven 33cm Ø rotor, but a fixed tail rotor (757 parts); a 1/23 Submarine (38/606); & a 1/23 Tiger Tank (36/1423).

Fig.3

The parts have 4.15mm square holes at 10mm pitch; the thread is M4. As far as I can see the main parts of models which might be expected to move can usually be hand operated, and the steering, on the Tractors at least, works from the Steering Wheel. (I built a Tractor, a nice model, widely admired, but sadly I found it impossible to get the steering to work from the Steering Wheel, though finally 'steering' the Wheels by hand did make the Steering Wheel rotate.)

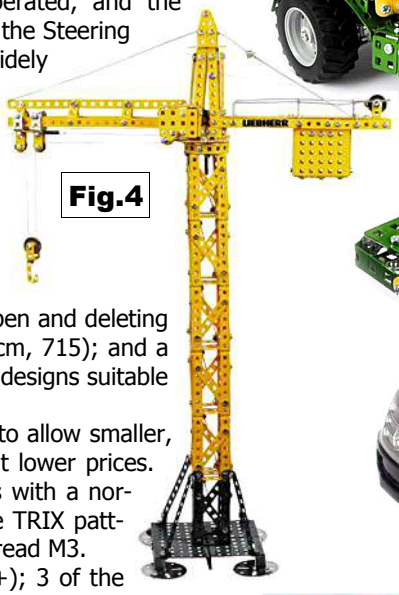

Fig.4

The Junior Series has 8 sets and 6 are for 3 Tractors, with or without R/C. They are similar to their Profi counterparts but of simpler design to make construction easier – mainly by having the underside of the body open and deleting the steering. There is also a Krone Bailer (42cm, 715); and a Garage set with 805 parts to make 3 different designs suitable to house a Junior or Mini model.

The Mini Series of 14 sets was intended to allow smaller, 1/32-scale, models with fewer parts, to sell at lower prices. Thus the parts are a mix of 8mm wide Strips with a normal row of holes, plus others, wider, with the TRIX pattern. All holes are 3.1mm at 9mm pitch, the thread M3.

Fig.5

The sets are 5 Tractors & Trailer (31/700+); 3 of the Tractors alone (15/350+); the Fig.2 Bulldozer with engine sound & plain rubber Tracks (22/551); 3 Mercedes Sprinter Vans (Police (Fig.5), Fire, Ambulance) with lights & sound (17/508); a 'Chop Forage Harvester' like the Profi one; & a Bailer like the Junior model.

The Micro Series extends the range with 10 sets at 1/64 scale. My thanks to Jan Ringnalda for data on the parts. Holes are 2.2mm Ø at 5mm pitch; the thread M2.

The sets are for the 5 usual makes of tractor, each with the same Trailer, 5 with, & 5 without IR control. Separate sets for the Tractors & Trailer may also be available The IR Tractors have LED head & taillights. Tractors are 8.5mm long, likewise the Trailer; the parts count is around 450 & 570 for the IR & non-IR versions. Fig.6 shows the New Holland IR model (on a typical TRONICO lid).

Fig.6

The Website http://www.modellbau-metallbaukasten.de/index.php/en/ is of interest with lots of information scattered within it and some manuals can be downloaded: the new easier to use ones in colour introduced in 2014. The range of sets doesn't always quite correspond to the catalogue but includes a few of the early 'Polylong' type outfits, and also the Dinosaur sets described on p1516.