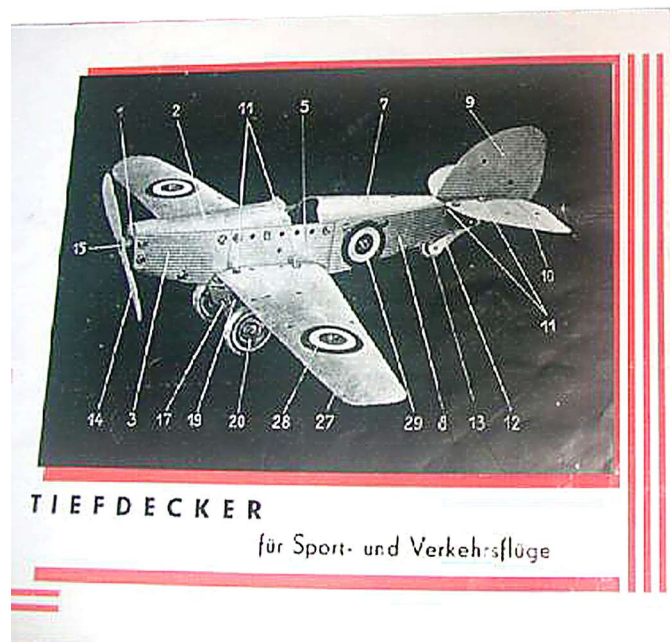


Snippet. 'New' System: VERKEHRS FLUGZEUGE

Verkehre Flugzeuge means Airliners and the set shown here was sold on Ebay from Austria. It was made by a company called Artus Spiele, and was said to date from around 1940. Most likely Artus Spiele was an Austrian firm but I've not been



able to find confirmation of that, and as will be seen the Roundels in the Set are a bit of a puzzle.

The **box** is red, 44*30*3cm with the lid label above, about 35*23cm. The 3 models on it can be made with the Set and the dog logo top right includes the words Artus Spiele. The top two words bottom right say 'all aluminium' and those underneath speak of 'education, realism, & ease of assembly'.

Most of the main **parts** can be seen in the open box, right; the model and a scrap view from the manual, above & below the box; and the models on the lid. Said models are in typical 1930s Aero style with fuselage sides made of 3 Panels, joined by the Front & Rear Top sections, and the Nose Underside. There is no indication of any handed parts and so the Wings etc are probably flat. The Centre Wing in the compartment below the red N&B box is used between the Wings for the Biplane model. The Fuselage Nose Side Panels are probably the parts under the U/C Struts in the compartment under the Tapered Wing. The detailed view right shows: the Wing attached with A/Bs #11; DAS #6 used as a cross-brace and to journal the Propeller Shaft #15 (the cross-brace is shown without a centre hole); and the drive from the Axle #17 to the Prop Shaft by the Band #16 on Pulleys #18. Probably the Axle has threaded ends and the Wheels are nuted to it. #26 is a Diagonal Strut and it can be seen in the Biplane on the lid, bracing the lower wing from the fuselage. The Tail Wheel #13 is held in what looks like a forked Carrier #12 which is bolted to the fuselage under the Fin. In all 29 parts, other than N&B, can be identified.

By scaling, the holes along the Wing root & in the Undercarriage Frame are at a pitch of around 1/2" — between 12.5 & 13mm say. The Axle comes out at 3-3/4mm Ø, but that figure could easily be in error.



All that is known of the **manual** is the 4 pages that were shown with the Set. One is p1, and has the detailed view (right) plus some building instructions. The others are a page each for the models on the lid. The Biplane is on p4 and it's possible that there are only 4 pages with the Tiefdecker above on p3 the third lid model on p2.

The **Austrian national colours** are red & white but the red/white/red pattern of the Roundel in the Set does not seem to have been used by Austria — it is actually listed for the Peruvian & Turkish air forces. Austria used a black cross in one form or another during WW1, and also from 1938 to 1945. The Austrian air force adopted a roundel consisting of a white triangle in a red circle when it was reformed in 1936 and again from 1955. Perhaps the Set was destined to be exported to Peru or Turkey but it seems much more likely that Artus Spiele simply invented the design using the Austrian national colours. And if so, it may well have been at a time, before 1936 or from 1945 to 1955, when there was no Austrian air force.

