

Notes on VAŠEK The Illustrated Parts & Set Contents of this Czech system are in MCS, but the key dimensions of the parts aren't given and it is hard to identify some of them. Many of the pieces resemble MÄRKLIN but the hole pitch is 13.0mm, and the Flat Plates & some other parts are made of fibre, like the original MECCANO Flexible Plates.

This account is based on a 1959 No.6 set to hand; photos of, & notes about, a No.8 kindly sent by Werner Sticht; and Ebay photos of 2 other No.8's. The first two sets are both missing a few parts, but the Ebay sets are probably fairly complete. Also used are some manuals, including a No.4, a No.6, &, courtesy David Hobson, a No.8. Especial thanks are due to Werner for translating the text in the manuals. In passing, set numbers are in Arabic numerals on the lid labels & manual covers, but Roman inside the manuals.

Dates The No.4 manual cover has a PR of ST 202-5167-63, the No.6 (it was with the 1959 No.6 set) has PMT 02-2222-55, & the No.8 has Pmt 02-227-54. No firm dates are known for VAŠEK but MCS gives the end date as the late 1960s and one suspects that it began after WW2. If the last PR numbers indicate dates they fit into this time span.

VAŠEK's manufacturer is given on the back of the '54' & '55' folder as the IGRA People's Cooperative, and on the '63' folder as the KOVODRUŽSTVO People's Cooperative. In both cases it is said to be made in Prague. The packing slip with the 1959 No.6 set has IGRA on it.

The origin of the **VAŠEK name** isn't known. Vašek is a Czech surname and is also a diminutive of the forename Václav. Perhaps the system existed before the days of People's Coops and Vašek was the name of the company that made it then.

The PARTS The picture of the parts in the manuals is shown on the facing page. The parts in Werner's set, and probably in the other No.8's, are all steel, whereas most of those in the No.6 are aluminium.

The **colours** of the parts differ too in many cases. In the notes that follow the parts in the No.6 are asterisked, and, for the metal ones, colours, and material if it is not aluminium, are given in square brackets. The main colours of the metal parts in the No.8's are green for Strips, A/Gs, & the Brackets in some sets; and red for Plates, most of the large circular parts, & the smaller ones in some sets. Exceptions are given in curly brackets, except that the colours of the DAS & Brackets are only given in the general Colour Scheme for each of the No.8 sets, in the 'SETS' section. In the photos it is sometimes hard to be sure of the colours of unpainted parts and they will be noted as bright (perhaps nickel), silver (a matt look which in some cases might be aluminium), or brassy (a somewhat metallic looking pale to mid brown colour).

Dimensions are from the No.6 parts or, failing those, the literature.

Basics Unless stated otherwise: holes are 4.1mm at 13.0mm pitch; Strip parts are 12.0-12.3mm wide & have fully rounded ends (but the metal outside the end holes can be up to 5mm); slotted holes are 7.8-8.1mm long.

Bosses are nicked steel, 4.1mm bore, and 10mm long, double-tapped, with a narrow ring of peening. The o.d. is 10.0mm but some, noted below, are 8.0mm.

Threads, all are M4.

#1-7 Strips have 25*,21,19,17,15,13,11*,9,8,10,7*,6*,5*,4*,3* holes. The ends of the 25h are semi-radiused and the hole spacing over the whole length is about 1½mm short. [The 25 to 6h are steel painted in various shades of dark green. The 4 & 5h are a lightish green, & the 3h is unpainted.] [In one set the Strips with 7h and less look bright, perhaps nicked.]

#8-9d A/Gs, 25*,21,19,17,15,13,11*,9,7,5h long. 18*14mm in section, with square corners. [Lightish blue]

Leading Particulars of VAŠEK

Country Czechoslovakia

Maker The IGRA, & then, probably around 1960, the KOVODRUŽSTVO People's Cooperative, both in Prague.

History Perhaps post-WW2 to the late 1960s.

Hole dia. 4.1mm.

Hole pitch 13.0mm.

Sets Nos.1 to 8 (also called I to VIII).

Material/Finish Steel or aluminium, mostly painted, with green Strips & A/Gs, red metal Plates, & brownish fibre Plates. Circular parts are red, blue, & green. Other colours are known including blue A/Gs.

Bosses Steel, 8.0 & 10.0mm Ø, d/t M4. Bore 4.1mm.

Fixing Plain steel M4 N&B. Hex Nuts 7.0mm A/F. RH Bolts, 7.0mm Ø (longer ones have 7.0 mm CH).

Axles 3.95mm Ø.

Motors At least one electric motor is used in the manual models but make not confirmed.

DP 11.5 (Mod. 2.2).

Remarks The Israeli TEKNO has many similar parts.

#10* & #11* Strips are 7 & 5h long with slotted end holes. [Lightish green.]

Brackets #12* A/B, made from the **Flat Bracket #14*** (with a round & a slotted hole, and about 4½mm of metal outside each). **D/B #13***, 14.8mm wide. [Unpainted.]

#15/34-36b Tyres/Rubber Rings to fit 50,25*,18,40mm Pulleys. [The 25mm is a fat white Rubber Ring.] {The 25, 40, & 50mm are black rubber Tyres. Some, perhaps all, have PNEU MATADOR CORD on one sidewall & VASEK diametrically opposite.}

#16 Bracket, as illustrated.

#17 Curved Strip. It has slotted end holes. {Red or bright.}

#18-19a DAS, 7*,9,3,5*h long, 1h deep. [Steel painted brown.]

Brackets #20*,20a,20b,20c – as illustrated. [Steel painted brown.]

#21* Rev. A/B has 3 round holes. [Unpainted.] A **1*2*1h Rev A/B** can be seen in one of the No.8 sets.

#22* Double Bent Strip has slotted outer holes.

#22a* D/B 2h Deep. [Unpainted]

#22b* Collar, nicked steel, 10.0mm Ø, 12.0mm long.

#22c* 3*3h Flat Bracket, with all round holes. [Beige.]

#22d* 3*5h T-Bracket. Parts made from it are **#22g*** with the 2h long sides of the 5h cross arm bent up at 90° to the 3h arm; **#22h** with the tips of the 5h arm turned up; **#22i** with one side arm formed into a 1*1*1h 'U' by two 90° bends; **#22j**, a mirror image of #22i; & **#22k** with the 5h arm formed into a Double Bent Strip shape. [Unpainted.]

#22e & #22f, 2 & 3h High Double Bent Strips, probably with round holes in their base lugs.

#23* DAS 2*5*2h. It is shown as 7h long, which may be **#23a**, but a **2*3*2h DAS** can also be seen in one No.8. [Steel painted brown.]

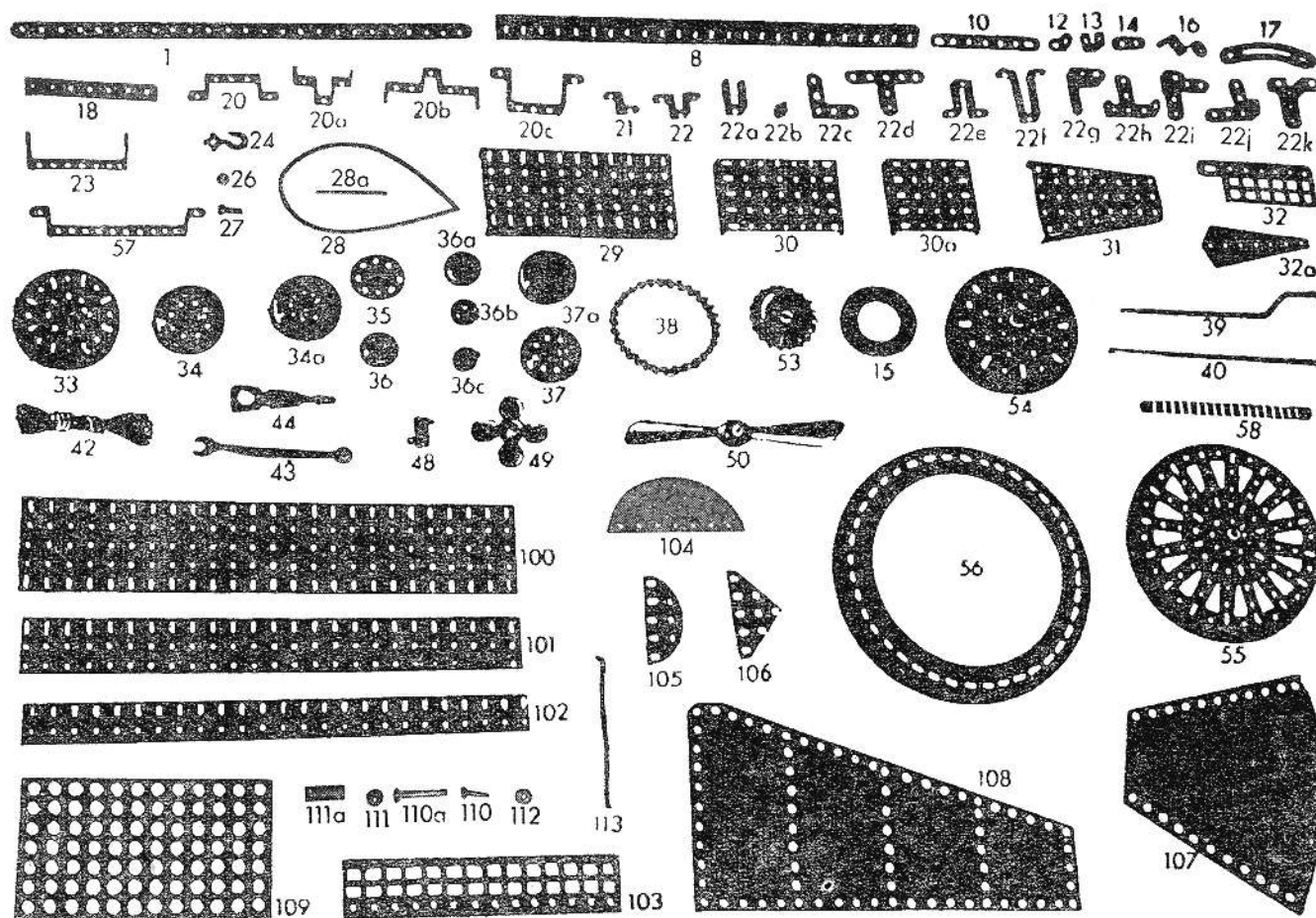
#24* Hook, flat, 31mm long o/a. [Unpainted.]

#26* pressed Nut, hexagonal, 7.0mm A/F, & 2.0mm thick. [Plain steel.]

#27-27d Bolts are 6,8*,12*,15*,20mm u/h. The main quantity in the No.6 should be the 6mm but are actually 8mm with 7.0 mm Ø round heads. The other lengths have 7.0mm Ø cheeseheads. [Plain steel.]

#27e, a Set or Grub Screw, is listed but none were found in the No.6 set.

#28* & #28a* Spring Cord, 64 & 143mm long, plus their small loop ends.



#29*,30*,30a* Flanged Plates with slotted holes in their flanges as well as along the outer top rows of holes.

#31* Flanged Sector Plate also has slotted holes in its flanges, and the ends are slightly curved. All the Flanged Plates have corners with small radius rounding. [Red.]

#32* Windmill Sail, 100mm long o/a, and the 'oblong' part is 35*80mm with fully radiused corners. The slotted hole in the arm is 12.0mm long. [Red.] {Red or yellow.}

#32a, see Fibre Parts on the next page.

#33* Flanged Disc Pulley is 70mm Ø with a 16mm flange,

& MÄRKLIN pattern holes. [Unpainted.] {Blue}

#34, 50mm Pulley with a ring of 8 face holes. {Red or silver.}

#34a, 50mm Flanged & Grooved Pulley, right. As #34 but with a 'bowl' attached by the boss to give the flange. {Red or silver.}



#35*, 8h Bush Wheel, 40.5mm Ø with a quite deeply recessed centre for the boss [Unpainted.] {Blue or silver.}

#36*, 25.0mm Fast Pulley has an 8mm Ø boss. Its discs are formed to give parallel sides to the 4½mm wide 'vee'.

#36a*,36b*, 18.0 & 25.0 Loose Pulleys have belled centres and normal vees, 3 & 5mm wide respectively. The discs of the 25mm are joined by 3 irregularly spaced spot welds, and those of the 18mm by 2. [Unpainted.]

#36c, 18mm Fast Pulley, perhaps similar to the 25mm. {Red, bright, or silver.}

#37, 40mm Pulley, smaller diameter version of the 50mm, #34. {Red or silver.}

#37a, 40mm Pulley, right. It looks like a smaller #33 Flanged Disc Pulley but is made by using the boss peening to attach a 'bowl' (it looks like the one used in #34a) to one of the #37 discs. {Red or silver.}



#38/33-56 Gear Rings, steel, 9 to 9½mm deep, to fit over the 25*,40,50,70*,100, 150,190mm Ø circular parts. The 25mm has 13 teeth & the 70mm, 34. {Some are painted.}

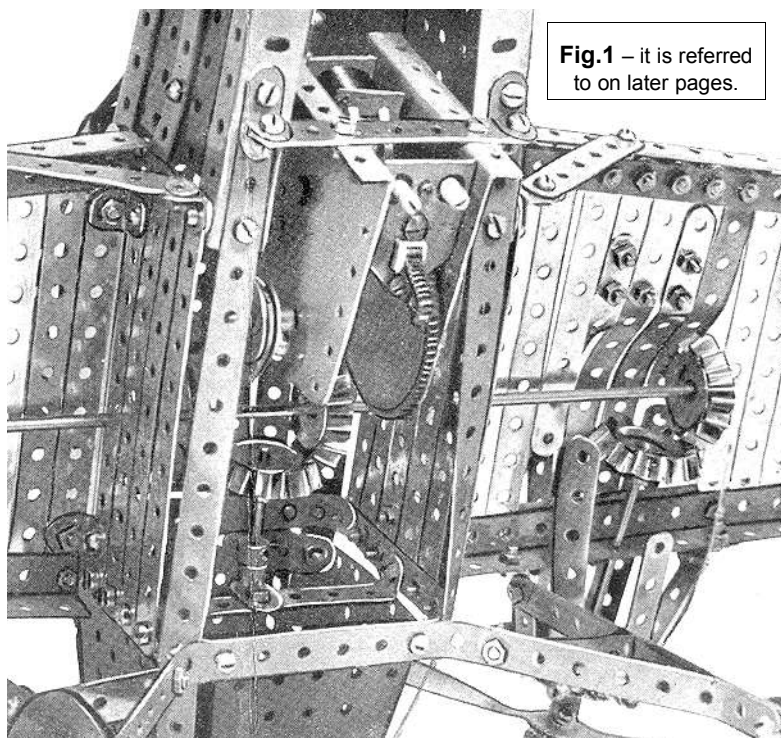
#39,39a Crank Handles, long & short. [Steel.]

#40-41d Axles, 30*,20*,15*,13,11.5*,9,7*,5,3*cm long, 3.95mm Ø with slightly rounded sheared ends. [Steel.]

#42 Hank of Cord. {Red.}

#43* Spanner, 98mm long o/a, with a hex ring at one end

Fig.1 – it is referred to on later pages.



and a deep opening with a semi-circular bottom at the other. [Steel, yellow]

#44 Screwdriver, flat, 72mm long o/a. [Steel, red.]

#45 Manual.

#48* Coupling, nicked steel, 10.0mm Ø, 21mm long o/a. Double tapped at each end, with 13mm pitch in one example & 14mm in another.

#49 Ship's Propeller, scales at about 50mm Ø. {Bright or red.}

#50* Propeller, 160mm Ø, no twist to blades, 8mm boss. [Unpainted.] {Red or silver.}

#51,52,53 Bevel Gears. All are a ring of formed steel teeth that push over the 25, 40, & 50mm Pulleys and snap into the vee groove. The smallest can be seen in Fig.1, a photo of the drive to the Propellers in the Aeroplane model on the manual covers. The angle of the teeth is about 30° and Werner noted that this isn't really enough, especially for the 40 & 50mm sizes. {Some are painted.}

#54,55 Flanged Disc Pulleys, 100 & 150mm o.d., are similar to the equivalent MÄRKLIN Flanged Discs but have a centre boss. Their flanges haven't been seen. {The #54 is green, but blue in one set.}

#56 190mm Flanged Ring looks similar to the MÄRKLIN part but has 40 slotted holes around its top face instead of 32. Its flange hasn't been seen.

#57 long Double Bent Strip. It is listed as having 11 holes and those seen have 7 holes along the top, so 11 in all.

#58,58a,58b Rack Strips. These are flat strips with a mounting hole at each end, and lengths of the Gear Ring material spot-welded on. They are listed as 7h, 11h, & 25h, and from a blurry photo have about 7,17,43 teeth. In a clearer photo #58a has 16 teeth. {Some are painted.}

#110,110a Bifurcated Clips, short & long. [Steel.]

#111*,111a Axles Stops, short & long. The Short one is a 7mm length of 6mm o.d. red rubber tubing. #111a is only in Sets 7 & 8 and has not been seen.

#113 Chain, not seen but is shown as a fine (steering) chain in a Steam Roller model.

The Fibre Parts These are made from good quality 'cardboard', and range in colour from light fawn to a mid orange-brown. The **Small Windmill Blade #32a*** is 90mm long, .7mm thick, and has only 6 holes along its length. **#100, 100g* Plates 5*25, 5*11h**. #100g is .6mm thick and will flex into a semi-circle with only minor kinking outside the slotted holes. **#101,102,103** are probably of similar thickness. The sizes of **#104,105,106** are given as 110, 60, & 56mm. An actual #104 has 9 holes along the base & 4 holes along the vertical centre line. **#105** has 5 round holes along its base. **#106** hasn't been seen. 8 of **#107** are used to make the base of a Roundabout, and the outside is an arc of a circle. As well as the 11 holes shown along each edge there are 11 along the centre line, 13 around the outer curve, and 5 on the inner, straight edge. **#108*** is a Wing, .8mm thick, as in the illustration. **#109** has 5.5mm holes at standard pitch, and the part seen appears to be 9h wide and over 17h long. The **Washer #112** is 10mm o.d., and about .5mm thick. It is included in all the sets and the No.8 has 300 for 500 Nuts. The comparatively few fibre parts in the No.6 set are accurately made but in Werner's No.8 the hole pitch among the different parts varies from 12.8 to 13.1mm.

Quality Werner wrote that his steel parts are solid with TEMSI-like rigidity. A little burr is evident on a few of the Strips, and the paint comes off very easily. The aluminium parts are less 'solid' but certainly adequately strong, and with the one or two exceptions already noted, are quite well made. Again though the paint is the weak spot and on the aluminium parts can be scratched off with a fingernail.

The SETS Models for Sets 1 to 8 are included in the manuals but only Nos.2-8 are listed in the Set Contents. No mention is made of linking outfits. The sets are progressive except that 5*11h Fibre Plates are only included in Sets 2-6 – in the two larger sets they are replaced by the 5*25h size. In fact various sizes of Fibre Plate are called up for many of the models and as will appear, were to be cut from the relatively generous quantity of the longer ones provided – 72 of the 25h in the No.8. Also needed for some models are the Plates 101,102,109 & the Railings 103, and these can be seen in the No.8 sets but are not in the Set Contents. It would be possible to cut a #100 to make a #101 & a #102. There are a few minor errors in the Set Contents of the different manuals but the only significant changes are that the 3 Bevel Gears, #51-53, are only included in the No.8 manual, and the 40mm Pulley #37a is only in the No.4. All these parts though are included in the list of parts alongside the Illustrated Parts in all the manuals.

The main parts in the No.2 set are 12 Strips, 4x 25mm Pulleys, a 5*11h Flanged Plate, 5x 5*11h Fibre Plates, and (only) 10 N&B. Also listed for the Set are 33 Clips, no doubt used to hold the parts in the box, but also needed for some of the models.

The number of N&B in the sets increase steady to 180 in the No.6, and then jumps to 400 in the No.7, & to 500 in the No.8. And that set has 44 A/Gs, 22 Flanged Plates, 2 each of the large circular parts, 17 Gear Rings, & 12 Bevels.



The **No.6** set is packed in a wooden framed box, 50*35½*4½cm, with hardboard top & bottom panels. The lid lifts off & its label, above, measures 29½*21½cm. Kovová stavebnice at the top means metal building parts, and the set number has been rubber stamped on. A packing slip has IGRA printed on it, and the rubber stamped date 19.III.1959. Inside the box ply partitions create 10 compartments, and as found the parts were loose in them, but with many of the different types clipped together.

Werner's No.8 is in a wooden box, 41½*44½*21cm with the lid missing, and the parts are in 6 white, partitioned cardboard trays, 37*41½cm. Many of the parts are again clipped together and all the circular parts, and a few others are clipped to fawn backing cards.

One of the **Ebay No.8's** is in a lightish green cardboard box with the same lid label as the No.6. The parts seem to be in 5 trays, and their partitioning looks very similar to the 5 in the No.8 above.

The other **Ebay No.8** is in a red wooden box with a hinged lid. The small part of the label remaining is as before. The bottom of the box is subdivided by wooden partitions into 18 areas, with 5 along one side higher than the rest. The parts in all 18 are loose or clipped together. The others are clipped to white cards in 4 red-edged cardboard trays. I think 3 are sized to sit down on lower partitioning and the 4th rests on top of the other 3, and on the higher partitioning.

Colour Schemes All the metal parts in Werner's set are painted except the N&B, a few small nicked parts, & 2 of

the Bevel Gear Rings. Strips, A/Gs, DAS, most Brackets, Gear Rings, Rack Strips, & the 100mm Flanged Pulley are green. The Angle, Flat, Double, & Reversed Angle Brackets are painted black. All the other parts, including the Curved Strip, are red, except the blue Bush Wheels & 70mm Flanged Pulleys.

Only the larger parts of the 'cardboard' Ebay set can be seen clearly and they are similar to the above, except that the Bush Wheels and most of the 40 & 50mm Pulleys are silver. Some of the smaller Brackets & short Strips look bright, and the 'Gear' parts look dark but not green.

The main parts in the 'wooden' Ebay set are again similar except that the 100mm Flanged Pulleys are blue, and so again are the Bush Wheels. Of the 40 & 50mm Pulleys, 4 are red and the rest silver; the smaller Pulleys look bright. Strips of 7 holes or less also look bright, but the Curved Strip, and nearly all the DAS & Brackets, look brassy. Only the 2h deep DAS are green. The Propeller is silver, the Ship's Propeller bright, and the Windmill Sail yellow. The smaller Gear Rings look unpainted but those of 100mm & above look blue.

The MANUALS First, the type of manual most commonly found. It consists of loose cream sheets, 295*210mm deep, printed in black, in a fold-over wrapper, printed in blue on a light background – from grey through green to blue, for the different examples seen. All the wrappers are similar except that the front of the No.4 (at the top of the next column) differs slightly from the others, and the one in MCS, in having no horizontal lines in the bottom panel and the typeface for VAŠEK is simpler. The MADE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA bottom left is the only English in the whole manual.

The inside front cover has an introduction headed to 'Dear Young Friends' and after saying how good the toy is, there are notes on the fibre parts. It is explained that the sizes needed are to be cut from the larger pieces supplied in the Sets. It is also suggested that builders make their own plates for their models. The main uses of #108 & 109 are given, and some other applications – the sails of a Ship for example. The word decorative is used in connection with the Plate with the oversize holes, #109. It is said that the Clips 110 & 110a can be used instead of N&B to attach the Fibre Plates, and that using them is quick and easy. (Untidy also comes to mind as all in my set are 35mm long. But perhaps the shorter ones have got lost.) The Fibre Washers are to be used for spacing purposes, to protect the paint finish, and to prevent the N&B coming undone. Finally it is noted that the rubber Axles Stops, 111 & 111a, can be used instead of Collars, and also that they can be used as decorative parts.

The inside back cover is 'For the Parents' and mentions that VAŠEK is Czech made in Prague. Also that extra parts can be bought from toy shops.

The only item of interest on the back cover is the name of the manufacturer.

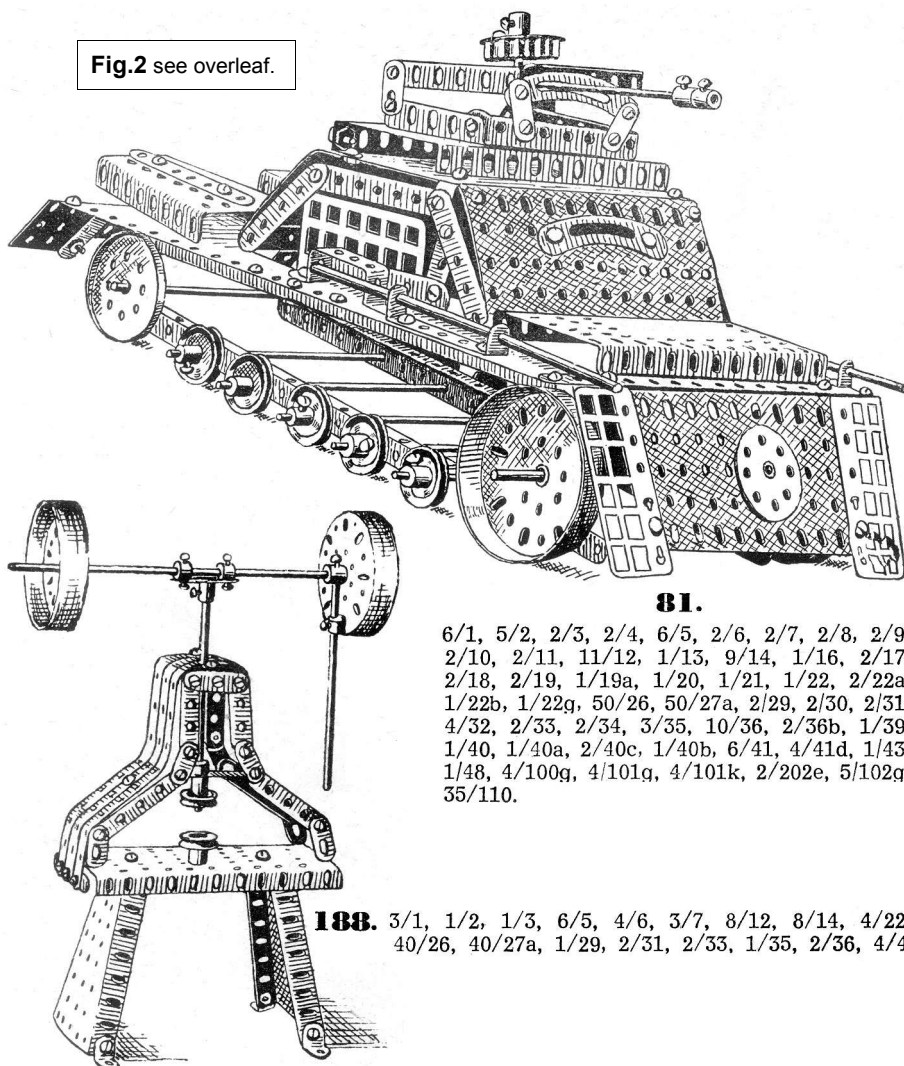
The first 6 pages of the loose sheets in the No.4, 6, & 8 manuals are almost identical. p1 shows the Illustrated Parts, and also the names of



the parts. pp2-3 have the set contents of Sets 2 to 8. p4 has line drawings of 12 basic constructions. pp5-6 list the models that can be made with each set, 229 in total, with names & model numbers. After that the sheets showing the models: all for Sets 1 to 4 in the No.4 manual; for Sets 1 to 6 in the No.6; but only the 7 & 8 models in the No.8.

The first & last models for each set are as follows, with my English names. Set 1: No.1, Rake on p7, to No.31, Sailing Ship on p10. 2: No.32, Luggage Barrow, p11, to 88, Monoplane, p18. 3: 89, Cart, p18, to 122, Mobile Ladder, p23. 4: 123, Saw Bench, p23, to 156, See-Saw, p28. 5: 157, Biplane, p29, to 180, Railway Bridge with Signal, p32. 6: 181, Tank, p33, to 209, Horizontal Steam Engine, p38. 7: 210, Mobile Sliding Ladder, p39, to 216, Jeep, p43. 8: 217, 3-Engine Monoplane (the one on the cover), p44, to 229,

Fig.2 see overleaf.



6/1, 5/2, 2/3, 2/4, 6/5, 2/6, 2/7, 2/8, 2/9, 2/10, 2/11, 11/12, 1/13, 9/14, 1/16, 2/17, 2/18, 2/19, 1/19a, 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 2/22a, 1/22b, 1/22g, 50/26, 50/27a, 2/29, 2/30, 2/31, 4/32, 2/33, 2/34, 3/35, 10/36, 2/36b, 1/39, 1/40, 1/40a, 2/40c, 1/40b, 6/41, 4/41d, 1/43, 1/48, 4/100g, 4/101g, 4/101k, 2/202e, 5/102g, 35/110.

188. 3/1, 1/2, 1/3, 6/5, 4/6, 3/7, 8/12, 8/14, 4/22a, 40/26, 40/27a, 1/29, 2/31, 2/33, 1/35, 2/36, 4/41.

Paddle Steamer, p58. On p59 is No.230, Machine Shop, as on p5a of MCS/FB, a model needing extra parts. As well as its normal page number each page has a page number for the Set; thus page 58 is also VIII./13.

There is a line drawing and parts list for each model, with an additional view in a few cases. The models through Set 6 are mostly rather elementary and the majority don't do justice to the contents of the outfits. Some are recognisable as small prewar MÄRKLIN models but a number look

distinctly original. The Tank in Fig.2 for instance, the most adventurous No.6 model, but it does need a number of parts not in the Set. The Fly Press also caught my eye but as there are no Screwed Rods in the system I suppose it doesn't actually work. Many of the models need various sizes of the Fibre Plates.

The No.7 & 8 models are a different matter with a number of original, large models. They include Aircraft, Locos & a Coach, a Tower that must be well over 6ft tall, a

20/1, 4/1b, 4/1c, 4/1d, 4/1e, 4/1g, 18/2, 4/2a, 4/2b, 4/2c, 24/5, 20/6, 12/8, 4/8b, 4/8c, 4/8d, 4/8e, 7/8g, 4/9, 4/9b, 4/9c, 10/9d, 40/12, 8/13, 40/14, 2/15-36, 3/15-36b, 8/17, 8/18a, 4/19, 16/19a, 8/20, 8/20a, 3/20c, 7/22d, 4/22f, 2/22g, 4/23a, 2/24, 526/26, 340/27, 100/27a, 20/27b, 20/27c, 20/27d, 4/29, 8/30, 2/30a, 2/31, 6/33, 2/34, 2/35, 7/36, 6/36a, 4/36b, 4/36c, 4/40, 2/42, 6/48, 2/54, 2/55, 2/56, 2/58a, 2/58b, 12/100, 12/100b, 12/100c, 12/100g, 12/100j, 12/101, 12/101j, 12/101e, 12/101g, 12/101k, 12/102b, 12/102c, 12/102g, 12/102j, 12/102k, 4/103a, 4/103, 4/103b, 4/103c, 4/103d, 2/104, 2/105, 2/106, 2/108, 8/107, 2/109, 100/110.

229.

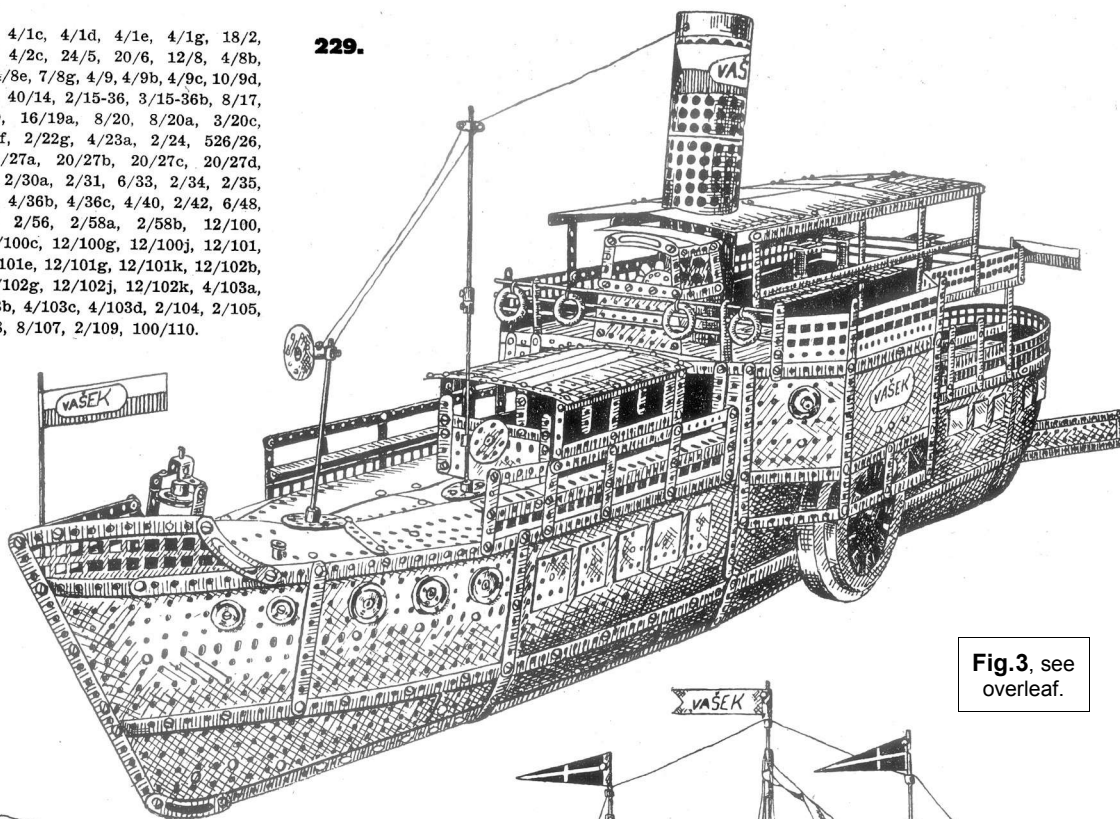
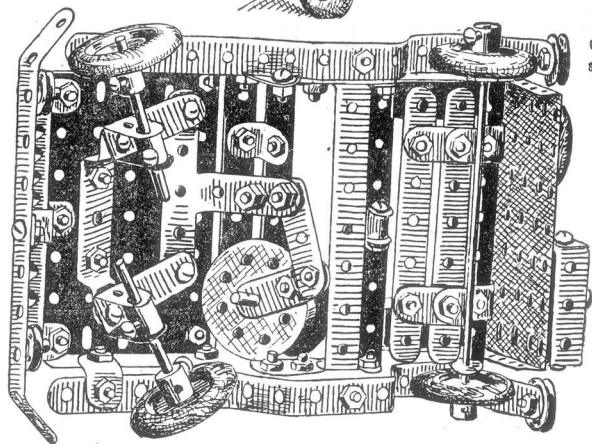
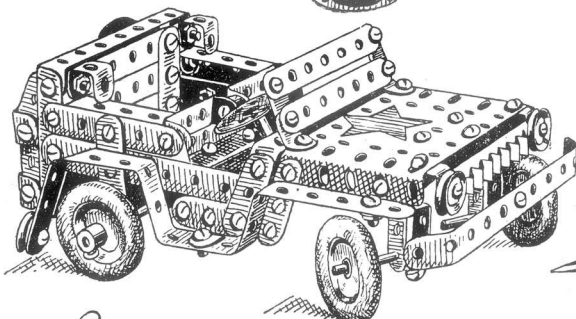
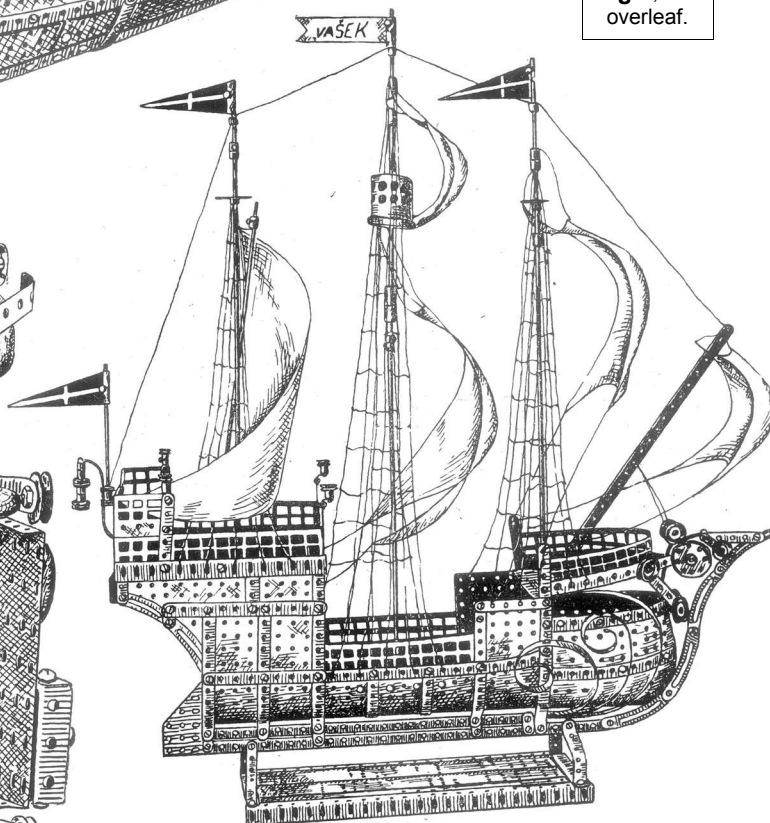


Fig.3, see overleaf.



216. 2/1c, 1/2, 2/2a, 8/3, 2/5, 5/6, 13/7, 11/12, 2/13, 5/14, 5/15, 3/16, 3/18, 9/19a, 1/20, 6/22b, 1/22d, 2/22g, 95/26, 87/27a, 2/27b, 2/30, 1/35, 4/36, 2/36a, 4/36b, 1/40c, 2/41c, 1/41d, 1/58.



221. 22/1, 2/1e, 2/1d, 2/1g, 6/2, 1/2a, 2/3, 7/4, 12/5, 3/6, 1/7, 2/8, 4/8e, 3/8g, 12/12, 1/13, 8/17, 1/22a, 1/22g, 1/22h, 129/26, 129/27a, 2/29, 1/34a, 5/35, 8/36, 4/36a, 2/36b, 2/37, 4/10, 1/40a, 1/40c, 1/42, 5/48, 10/100, 3/100g, 2/101g, 1/101j, 3/103, 4/103b, 1/103c, 40/110, 3/111, 14/111a.

Steam Roller, a Big Wheel, a Galleon, a Jeep, & a Paddle Steamer. No Cranes are shown despite the large one on the lid label, and there are no 'mechanical' models, such as machine tools. None of the models are at all complicated mechanically and in some the details are not shown. Most of these though can be seen in extra views in the 'photo' manual described below. The No.7 Jeep, the only vehicle with 'proper' steering, & 2 of the No.8 models are shown in Fig.3, about ¾ full-size. The special model Machine Shop consists of some No.6 models - a steam engine and 6 machine tools - mounted on a baseboard, with the drive through overhead line shafting. It's impressive looking but again simple mechanically without for instance fast & loose pulleys on the shafting to allow the drive to each machine to be disconnected.

Another Manual Art paper pages from a manual, possibly later, have halftone photos of the No.8 models, & the No.230 special model. The pages are numbered 41-60 (with the first 5 also having VIII./1 to VIII./5 on them), and instead of being loose the sheets are double width and printed so they can be folded & bound in normal book fashion. The binding has been neatly done with sellotape, & black tape on the outside around the spine, but may not be

original. The models are as before but with many additional views, and alternative versions of the Tower, No.223, and the Railway Coach. No.228. The MCS/FB pages 5 & 5a are taken from these pages.

It is clear from some of the additional views that the propellers of the multi-engined aircraft models are geared together, and in at least one, the model on the manual cover, they are driven from an Electric Motor. This can be seen in Fig.1, and the Motor appears to have 6h wide flanged sideplates. A large gearwheel can be seen between them but I'm not sure what the seemingly similarly toothed strip coming out of the terminal plate is. An electric motor drive is also shown in an auxiliary view of the Big Wheel, instead of the Crank Handle, but what little can be seen of it looks different to the one in the Aircraft. There is no indication if either Motor was a VAŠEK item.

An Earlier Manual? The original p5 in MCS/NZ has a page from a manual with a completely different format to the loose pages. As shown the page size is smaller, and the pages may be bound. The Crane and Windmill on the page are identical to 'later' No.6 models, but unlike those they have names but no model numbers.

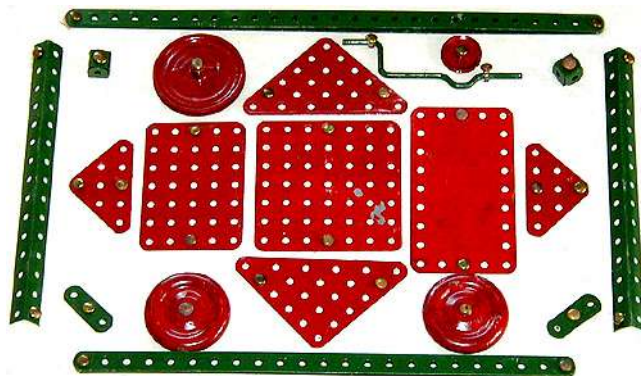
VAŠEK: S6

OSN 29/865

Is It A Real ONADO No.4 Outfit? The set in question came from the U.S.A. and David Hobson kindly let me examine it. No one as far as I know has hitherto seen a No.4, so why the doubt? First it has no label, and there is no sign that it ever had one. Second, the parts are red & green instead of the expected red & blue (see 15/405). Third, the manual is the one described in 25/728 with only models through No.3 in it, and mention of 'oiled' rather than painted parts. (The enlarged version with No.4 models was described in OSN 15.)

So what indicates that it is a No.4? Mainly that nearly all the parts listed in the later manuals, many of them rather unusual, are included, and only about half of them are in the No.3. Also the parts on one of the backing cards in the Set are, with minor exceptions, all of those in a No.3.

The SET The box is 29½*42*5cm, red outside, and white inside. The parts are attached to 2 white cards with the usual brass clips. One layer is identical to the No.3 shown in 25/728 except that the Tools are missing, the Strip parts are green, all the parts are painted, and there are 2 N&B boxes instead of one. The other layer is shown below and under it are listed the parts on it, and the N&B, with the quantities in curly brackets. Features not mentioned are as before.



- 3, 23, & 27h **Strips**. {4,2,2}
- 15h **A/G**, about 13*13mm in section, with square corners, and all holes round. {2}

- 5*7 & 7*7h **Plates**. The corners are well rounded, unlike those of the Flanged Plates. {1,1}
- Large & Small **Triangular Plates**. The rows of holes at ½" pitch are parallel to the hypotenuse in the Small type. The Plates in 15/405 appear not to be ONADO because of the different hole pattern in the larger version. {2,2}
- 5*7h **Flexible Plate**. {1}
- **Double Bracket**, about 14mm wide o/a. {4, a pair can be seen in each top corner.}
- **Pulleys**: 58mm Ø (right) & 25½mm Ø Loose. The discs of the 58mm have shallow circumferential corrugations, & the vee has parallel sides, 6mm wide. The o.d. of the boss is 9.8mm. {1,1}
- 'Balloon' **Road Wheels**, 51mm Ø. {2}
- **Single Throw Hand Crank**, 112mm long o/a. This part doesn't look much like the one in the OSN 15 Steam Hammer model. The Parts List also has a Bent Crankshaft which hasn't been seen - it cost 8d against 6d for the Single Throw Hand Crank. The Winding Handle cost 6d too. {1}
- **N&B** ⅝" BSW, with hex Nuts 7.9mm A/F, 2.3mm thick, and RH Bolts, 6.7mm Ø, 10mm u/h. {66 Nuts, 71 Bolts} Set Screws are all the long RH 4 BA, as in the No.3 in OSN 25.
- **Finish** Apart from the plain steel N&B all the parts are painted, including Axles, bosses & Set Screws. Plates, Wheels, & Set Screws are red; all the rest green. The red is a little darker than the shades in the photos here. Both red & green are glossier than the blue/red parts. The paint finish is poor with many runs & thick patches, especially on the 'new' red parts.



CONCLUSIONS The most likely explanation is David's, that this set was just a mock-up or sample of a proposed new set. In that case the No.4 manual might well not have been available, and perhaps a different lid label was being considered. On the colours, it could be that the set was produced before a definitive scheme was decided to follow the unpainted sets, and red/blue was finally adopted. A pointer to a red/blue No.4 is the blue A/G reported in 21/615.

ONADO: S1

OSN 29/865