

Snippets. 'New' System: WITTNER A set was offered recently on Ebay and since then Urs Flammer has been in touch with Horst Wittner, now over 90, who was a member of the firm Wittner GmbH & Co. KG at Lenzkirch/Schwarzwald (a small town 35km ESE of Freiburg) which made this system soon after WW2. The head of the firm at that time was Rudolf Wittner and the firm is still in business making musical instruments. Horst kindly sent photos & details of the manuals, and said that sets were probably produced in the period 1946-48, and certainly not after 1952 when the company moved to Isny im Allgäu.

The SETS 2 were produced: one, No.320/321, with parts to build a Mine Locomotive (320) towing 4 identical Wagons (321); the other, 406/407, a Tram (406) & Trailer (407). Figs.1 & 2 are the models as shown on the lid labels & manual covers; Fig.1a the complete Mine Train.

The boxes were black with lid labels identical to the manual covers, Fig.3 for example. Fig.4 shows the parts in a Loco set but some are missing. From the manuals, the Tram set contained 187 parts + 474 NBW, the Loco outfit 150 + 332.

The PARTS The manuals list 48 different parts that were in the Sets and they are listed below with my names, or where there is doubt, the German name first. Most can be seen in the various photos. • #1/2-25 **Strips**, 2,3,4,5,13,25h. • #2/1 **A/B**. • #2/3-7 **A/G**, 3,5,7h. • #3/5-25 **Winkel+stück**, 5,7,9,25h (very likely a 2*1h A/G). • #4/1 **D/B**. • #4/5,7 **DAS**, 1*5,7*1h. • #5/2 **D/B**, 2h high. • #6/7, 13,17 **Channel**, 1*3*1h (with staggered holes in the base), 7,13,17h. • #7/3,7 **Curved Strip**, 3,7h. • #8/7, 13 **Flanged Plate**, 7*7,13h. • #9/7x13, 9/5x17h **Perf. Plate**, 5*13,17h (the 13h can't be seen). • #10 **Formed Plate**, 3½cm radius, 7h long. • #11 **Semi-circular Plate**, 7*4h. • #12 **Lasche** (Fishplate, but can't be seen & more probably the small Triangular Plate on the Loco's nose, which isn't listed otherwise). • #14 **Headlight**. • #20 **Pulley**, 2½cm Ø. • #22 **Collar**. • #23 **Threaded Boss**. • #24 **Verlängerung** (probably the Coupling used in the base of the Tram's pantograph). • #25 **Pulley** (the Tram's controller, smaller than #20). • #28/25-135 **Axles**, 25,60,85,135mm. • #29/25-95 **Screwed Rods**, 25,45,65,95mm. • #33,35 **Bolts**, 5,13mm u/h. • #37 **Washer**. • #38 **Nut**.

Holes are 3.3mm at 10.0mm pitch, the Axles are 3mm Ø, & the thread is M3. The only slotted hole that can be seen is in the Triangular Plate.

The MANUALS were a single sheet folded to give 4 A5 size pages. They were in German, English, & French, with an Introduction & Building Instructions on the inside pages. The former stresses that there wouldn't be enough parts in any normal 'universal' set to make either of the featured models. The back page lists separately the parts needed to build the featured models for the Set.

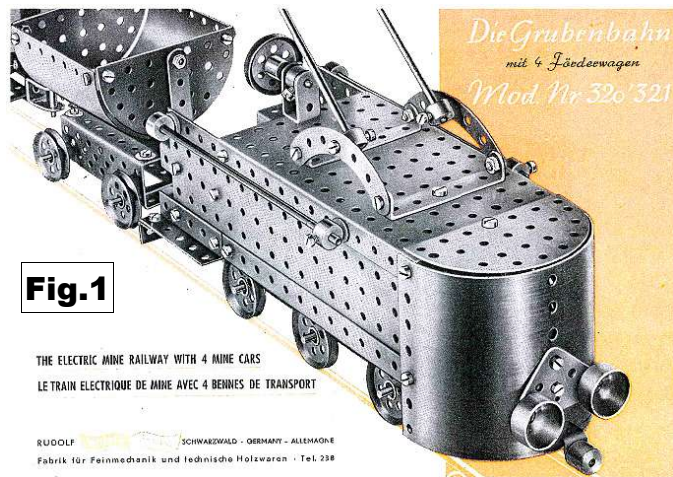


Fig.1

THE ELECTRIC MINE RAILWAY WITH 4 MINE CARS
LE TRAIN ELECTRIQUE DE MINE AVEC 4 BENNES DE TRANSPORT

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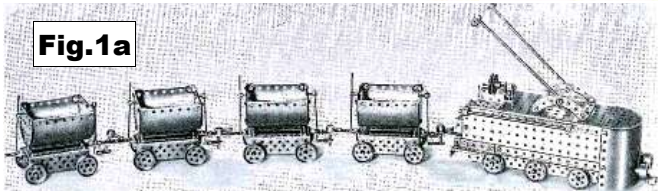


Fig.1a

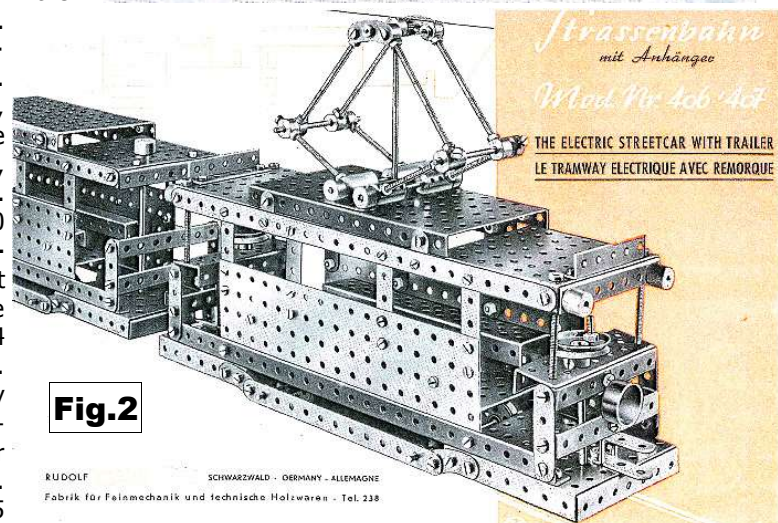


Fig.2

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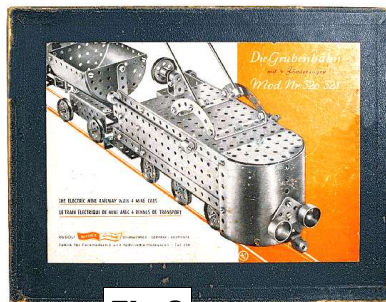


Fig.3

REMARKS As can be seen the parts in the set were in muted colours; in Fig.5 they are much more colourful, but no 'coloured' sets have been mentioned. In similar vein, Horst's photos include numerous other models, some simple, some complex, and among them are Bridges, various vehicles including a small Racing Car with steering, machine tools & industrial

plant. 3 of the clearest are shown in Figs.6-8. Many of them use parts not in the Sets, the large Flanged Disc Pulley for instance.

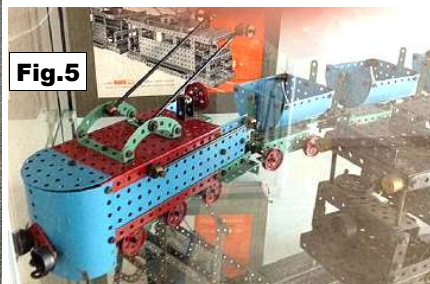


Fig.5



Fig.7

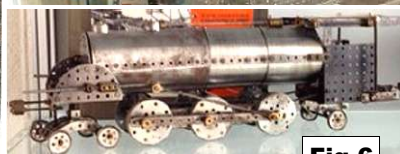


Fig.6

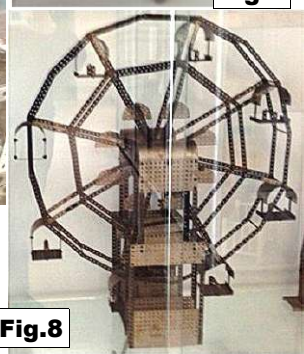


Fig.8

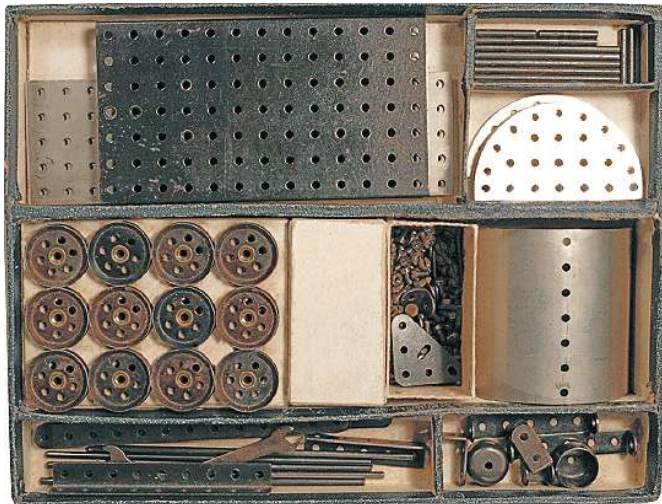


Fig.4