

ALPHA Construction Sets story

The owner was Mr. Max Andres and the company was founded in 1920 and was still active in 1969.

Headquarters: Schwenningen on the Neckar, Friedrichstrasse 7 (now Pastor Schmid Strasse 7)

Brand Name: Max Andres and Alpha

Production: Singing birds with alarm clock, chess clocks, boxing and billiards clocks, timers, techn. Drives, musical works, fishing reels, Christmas tree rotation works, the first miniature camera with automatic transport , metal building kit.

Max Andres (18.06.1889, +16.05.1975) came from an old Black Forest clockmakers family, his ancestors had emigrated to the Austrian Waldviertel . A connection to the company Andres & Dworsky is therefore conceivable. In Karlstein he took the watchmaking master examen and came before the First World War to Schwenningen.

From 1914 -1918 he worked in the design department at the firm Mauthe , made himself independent in 1918 and took over special construction contracts. The brand Andres was registered in 1920 and remained a company specialized in custom and small batch precision engineering workshop with only a few employees . The activities ended at 1970.

The metal construction sets Alpha was launched at Spring Fair in 1931.

The set consisted of four standard boxes (OO, O, 1 and 2) and two complementary (0E and 1E); immediately before WWII Max Andres produced the special outfit K (Kanonen) in three version RS wheels, ZK sprockets and ZR gears; after WWII were launched three standard boxes (1, 2, 3) and two complementary (1E, 2E), the outfit K was still produced.

Interesting - but visually rather dubious- is an attempt by the company, to include in the manuals non-technical models such as Capricorn, or the Dance of the bunnies Weightlifter or the runners at the start in place of the usual mechanical models.

It 'a system Meccano - Märklin compatible with most pieces of Bakelite as the disks of the wheels of the set K (Kanonen) and perforated flat plates.

The amazing thing about this kit is the unusual presence, for this period, of brass screws and also several parts in brass. The use of brass was limited during the war and could only be used for armaments. Obviously a construction set dedicated to arms (guns, machine guns, etc. ..) was, no doubt rightly, classified as armament and then he was allowed to use the brass.

Chess clocks

Large German clock from the beginning of the 20th C - marked "Max Andres - Uhrenfabrik - Schwenningen, Württemberg"



50ies version of the German Alpha clock - handmade in Western Germany till ca. 1990 - this one is late 50ies or early 60ies.