



NZFMM MAGAZINE

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Barry Babbage has built a fine **MECCANO** model of the Sumitomo SH-120 digger. It looks just like the prototype pictured on the left. Details on page 4. At the bottom of this page you can see it at full stretch!



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NZ Federation of Meccano Modellers Magazine

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Letters are welcome and may be sent by post or by email. The author's name and address must be supplied. Publication of letters will be at the editor's discretion.

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Time, Gentleman, Please!

I recently received a letter from a long time subscriber advising of his change of address from a normal residential address to a rest home address. This caused me to reflect on the process of living in NZ, the upheaval by the elderly to supervised living and do Meccanomen ever give up their hobby? With the trend to supervised living when age and frailty comes upon us, the clutter and disposal of a life time collection of belongings has to be faced up to. How much Meccano can you fit into a room or two or do you give up your Meccano altogether?

I recall a new retiree telling me that he missed his bookcases the most when all that came with the housing unit was a single shelf along the bottom of a very low window. At least nowadays, Meccano Magazines are on CDRom which can be read in bed on your laptop computer. My set of paper Meccano Magazines takes up 6.5ft (2m) of shelf space and weighs in at about 160lbs (73kg). But what about the other 15ft of Meccano literature?

Then there is the actual physical Meccano. I would like my obituary to say "he was found in bed, a smile on his face, screwdriver in hand and the bed strewn with Meccano parts". But the problem is having Meccano to hand. A mechanics chest of steel drawers with roller bearings and the chest on a set of large wheels provides moveable storage and can be wheeled wherever needed for use or even as a TV stand. This saves the continual 'get out of bed/chair' to get the essential part you need. Convince SWMBO that that beautiful red is just the décor that the room needs.

A Set 10 plus additional gears and brass has an enormous number of models and mechanisms written up in manuals and literature that would keep your failing brain and body busy for years, and would fit into the above mentioned mechanics tool chest.

If the worst comes to the worst, you can always model 'virtually' on a computer and post your efforts to the online world.

Think about what you are going to do ☺

R. Bruce Neilson

This brief note about Lego's woes was published in the September 2006 issue of the International Meccanoman:

LEGO IN TROUBLE?

Lego Group announced on 20 June it is ending production at Enfield, Conn USA, laying off 300 people. Production is going to Mexico. 900 of the toy maker's employees in Denmark will also be sacked over the next three years. A third of domestic production will be moved to the Czech Republic. Production of the basic Lego bricks will be by Flextronics of Singapore, an electronics manufacturer, operating factories in Mexico and Eastern Europe.

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Meccano Model Excavator based on a Sumitomo SH-120

by Barry Babbage.



The challenge was to build a simple but compact model similar in appearance to the modern Sumitomo SH-120. Only one motor

has been utilized which is the small Exacto MR4.

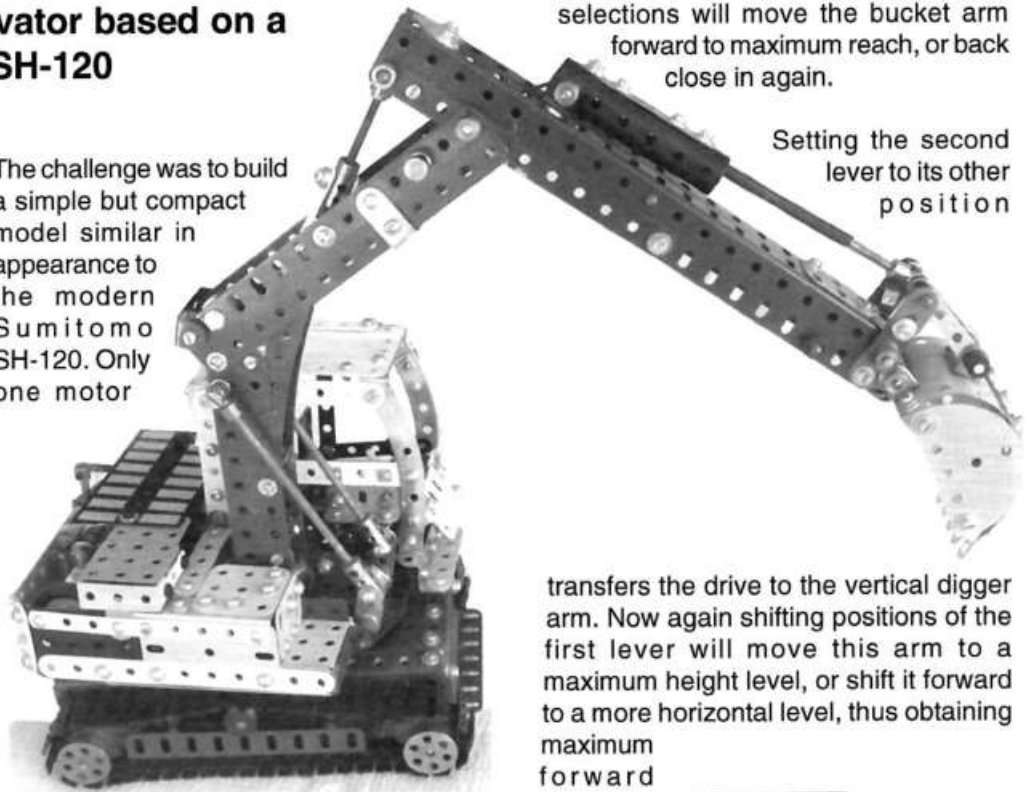
All the drive functions are controlling the excavator lifting mechanisms. The two main arm movements are controlled separately, one at a time. The digger shovel is set manually with a rotating knob and quick release action.

While I enjoy the challenge of designing a smaller model, one of the difficulties can be in containing the housing of a mechanism to carry out authentic functions well for the working model. The advantage of a larger model design is that these mechanisms are more easily concealed, especially with the usage of same size parts and gears within the system.

The model is powered by one Exacto MR4-200, a small but impressively powerful motor. Some of the model photos give some idea of the limits or extent of movement of the digger arm and bucket. Two levers positioned at the rear, behind the cab, control the digger arm and hoist. The main lever is held in neutral by Tension Springs. Left and right

selections will move the bucket arm forward to maximum reach, or back close in again.

Setting the second lever to its other position

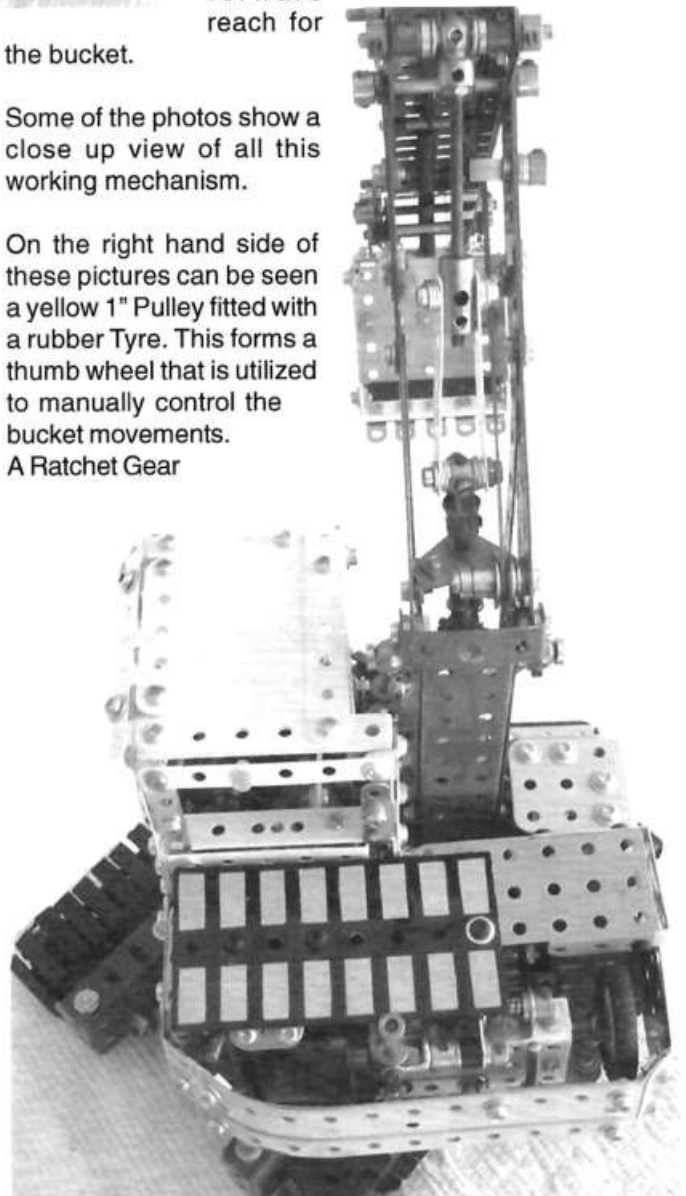
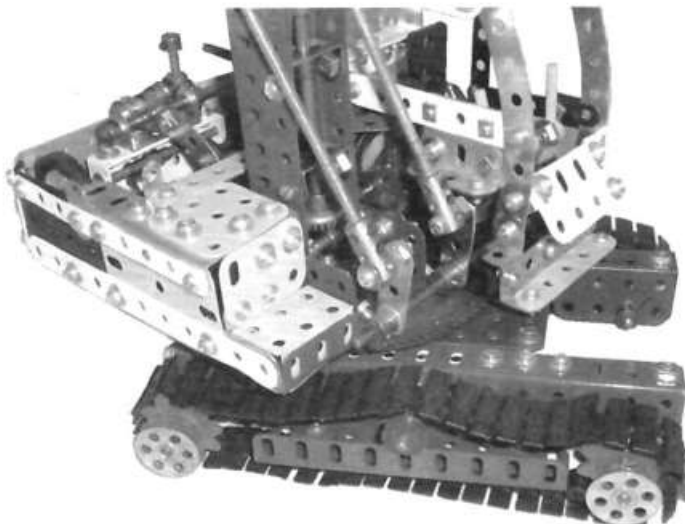


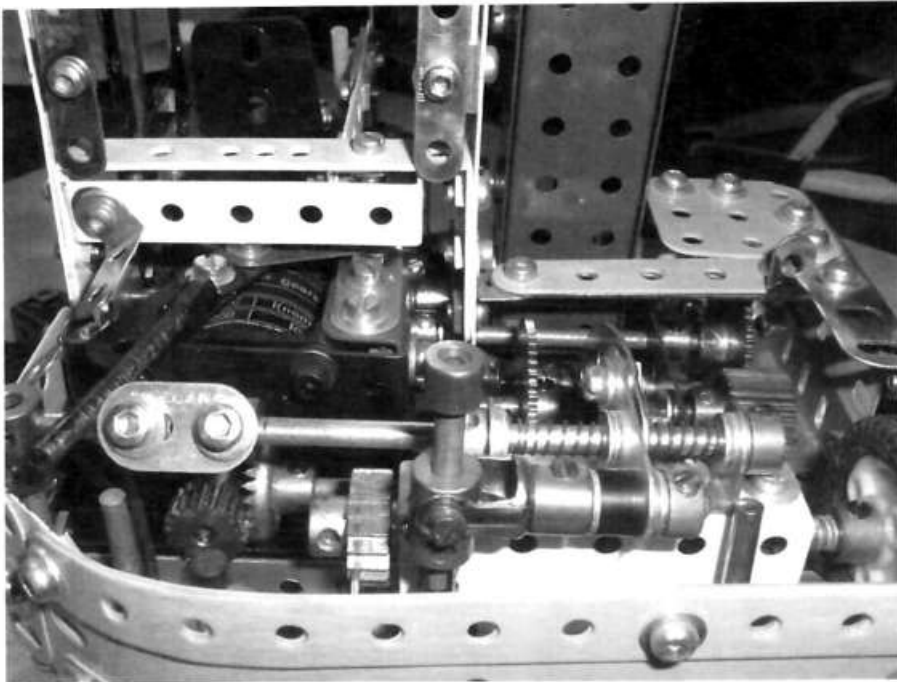
transfers the drive to the vertical digger arm. Now again shifting positions of the first lever will move this arm to a maximum height level, or shift it forward to a more horizontal level, thus obtaining maximum forward reach for

the bucket.

Some of the photos show a close up view of all this working mechanism.

On the right hand side of these pictures can be seen a yellow 1" Pulley fitted with a rubber Tyre. This forms a thumb wheel that is utilized to manually control the bucket movements. A Ratchet Gear





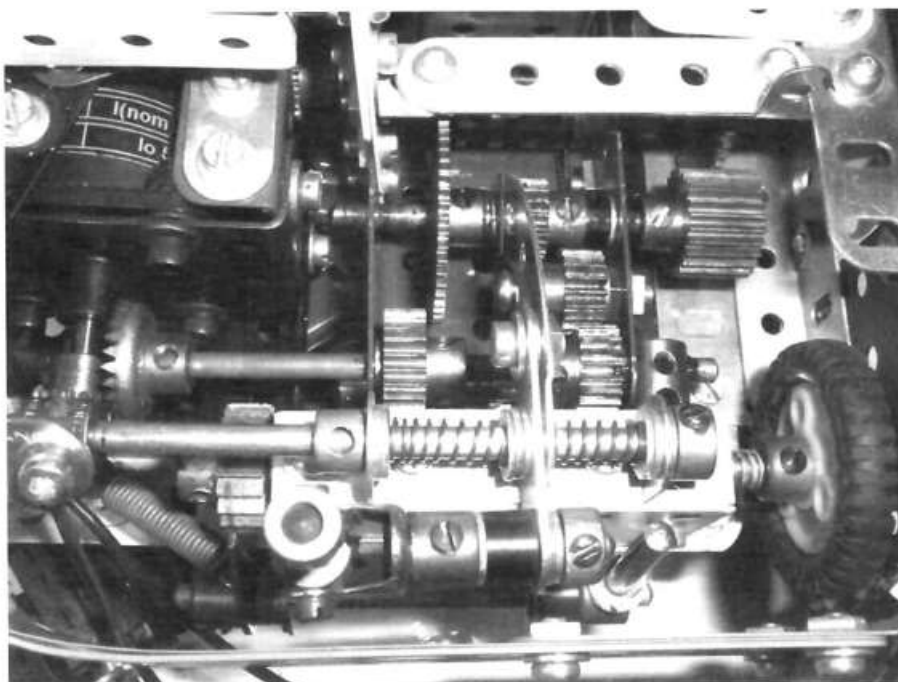
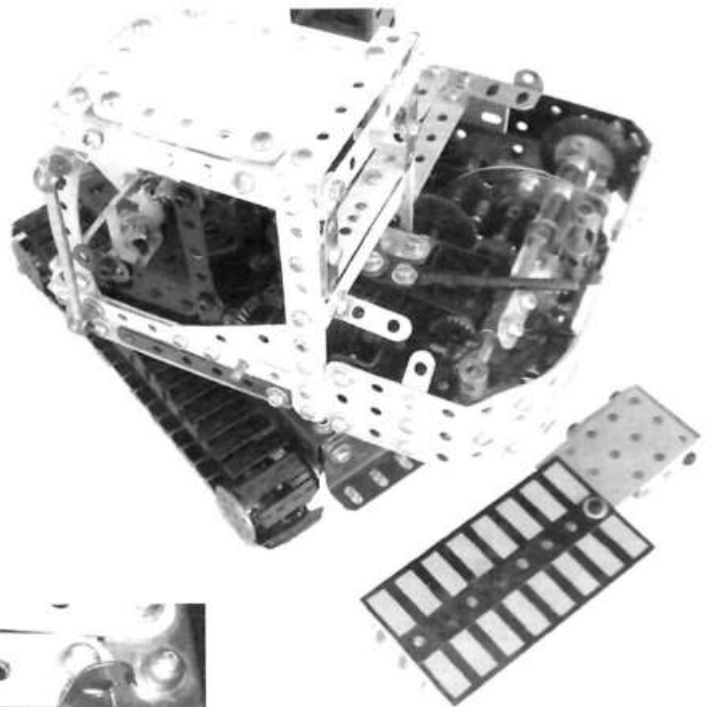
with holding Tension Spring assists this operation. As the wheel is rotated forward the bucket can open to any setting. The maximum open setting is clearly depicted in the picture at the bottom RH corner of the cover. The control to the bucket is achieved with string Cord concealed within the digger arms.

A small release lever is positioned just to the left of the thumb wheel which is used to release the Ratchet Gear, allowing other bucket settings to be made, including a fully closed position.

The vertical hoist arm is controlled from the gearbox, by rotating drive of two crank arms. These connect two 4" Rods to the mid section of the hoist with both ordinary and Handrail Couplings. This arrangement is representing the hydraulic lift units. The bucket arm is controlled from the same gearbox that rotates a Screwed Rod to shift the arm fully forward and back.

The base unit is a simple construction, employing a track unit from an Army Meccano set. The rotation of the digger is achieved by use of a Ball Thrust Bearing P/N168. This works extremely well for smaller models like this one. The model has not been motorised to travel via the tracks, but like any good toy it can be pushed about!

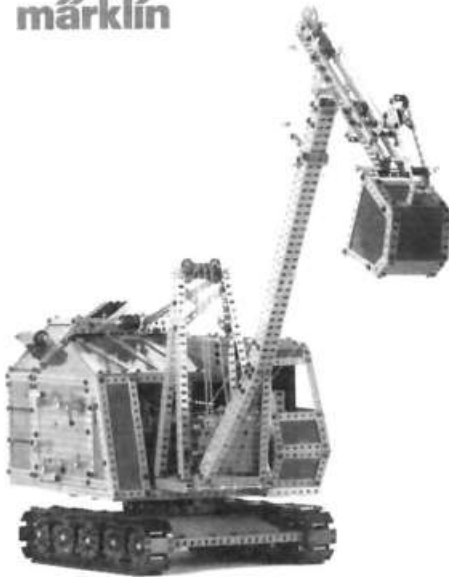
Well, now it's time to pull the model apart and put on the 'building hat' for the next convention in 2007.



Märklin Seilbagger mit Tiefloffel 10900 Impressions of Assembly

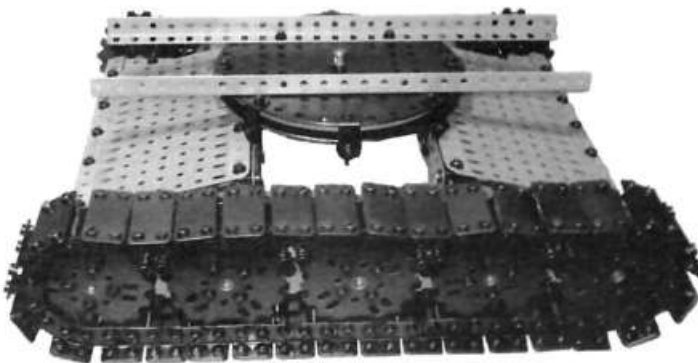
by Robin Rye

märklin



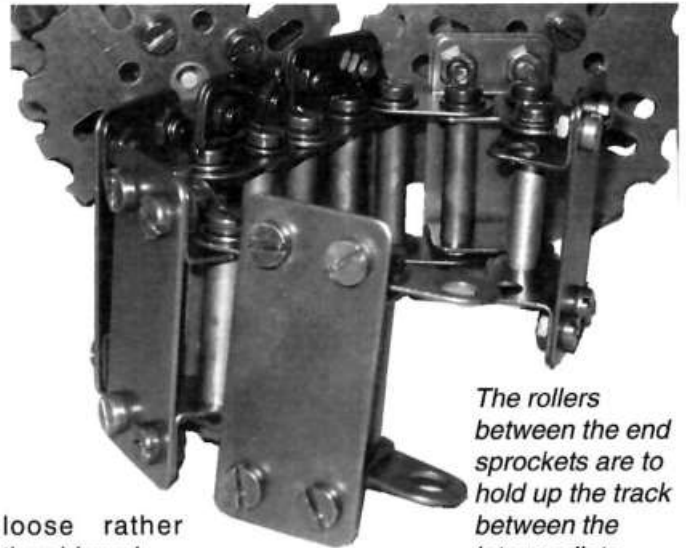
Seilbagger mit Tiefloffel 10900 First impression

This special set was produced for the 90th anniversary of Märklin Metall. The Excavator model is based on the prototypes of the 1950s. (Ed: Literally translated the title means "Rope digger with deep spoon". A more sensible interpretation might be "cable operated digger with big bucket.")



The base, one track and turntable.

was how large, flat and heavy the outer shipping cardboard carton was. The strapped cardboard carton and sheets of polystyrene cushioned the strapped plywood box which in turn contained six polystyrene parts trays in two layers of three trays. Most impressive, although the plywood lid is



The rollers between the end sprockets are to hold up the track between the intermediate sprockets.

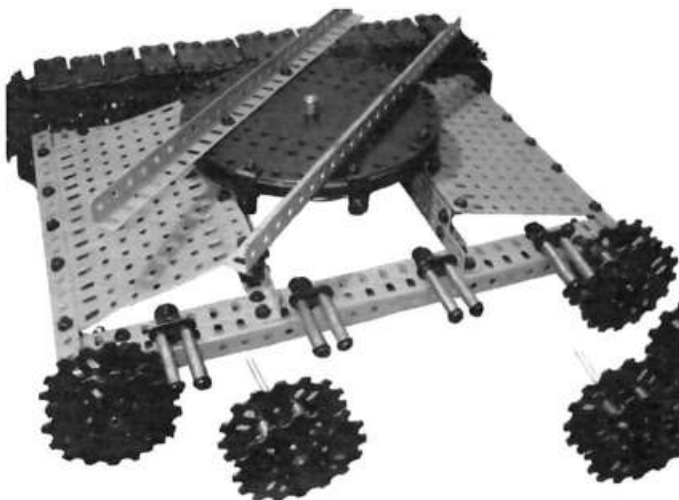
loose rather than hinged.

As expected many standard Märklin parts are supplied along with special shapes and sizes produced especially for the Excavator. Märklin parts in general are compatible with Meccano. The big difference is that the Nuts and Bolts are metric 4mm (M4) as are the threads in the bossed pieces. Standard Märklin uses $\frac{5}{32}$ "

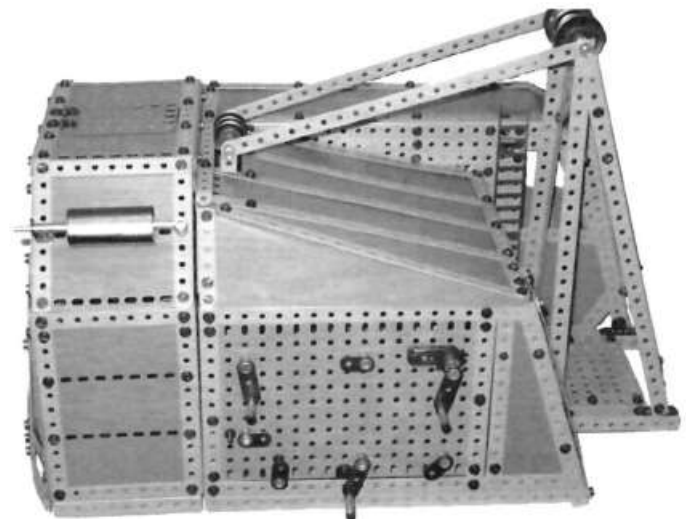


The turntable showing inner ball rollers and outer hook rollers.

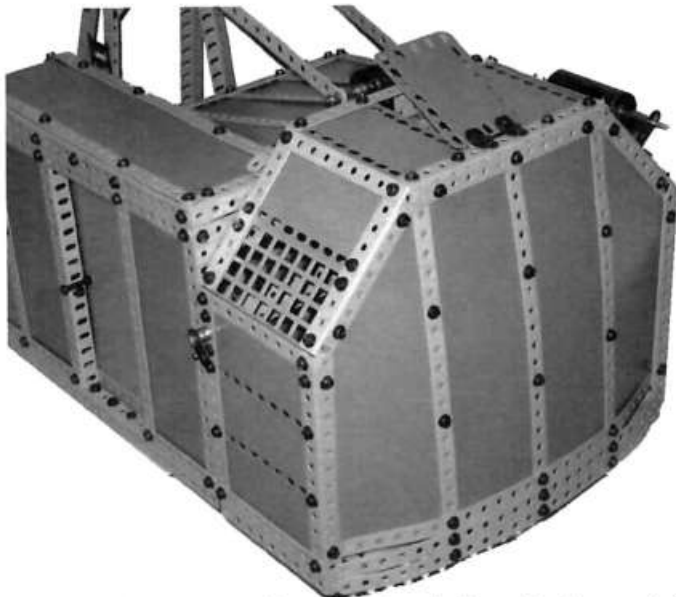
hardware as does Meccano. I wondered why the Spanners supplied in this set each had two sizes for Nuts. Eventually I found that the larger size fits regular Märklin hardware and the smaller the M4. Initially I thought the short Screwdriver supplied would be useless but soon changed my mind. Now it is a favourite. Not once did it slip out of a



The rollers between the end sprockets are to hold up the track between the intermediate sprockets.



The completed digger body ready to bolt to the turntable.



The rear 'motor room' is clipped and pinned to the rest of the body.

Bolt slot and gash a finger or palm as has happened many times with the Meccano equivalent. The M4 equipment in this set was superb to use.

Eleven different Bolt lengths plus one size Grub Screw are supplied. Each building step has the Bolt requirements noted but no indication of where the differing lengths are to be used. But the further you go with construction, the methods of the original designer repeatedly show up. Washers are nearly always used under the Bolt head but rarely under the Nut.

All the information you need (but not the experience to understand it ☺) is in the manual assembly pictures. All the assembly details are not necessarily on the page you are working from, and sometimes more information is there than you want. A list of parts required is usually with each picture. No text but a little encouragement in English is in the introduction and a "Corrections" sheet includes English.

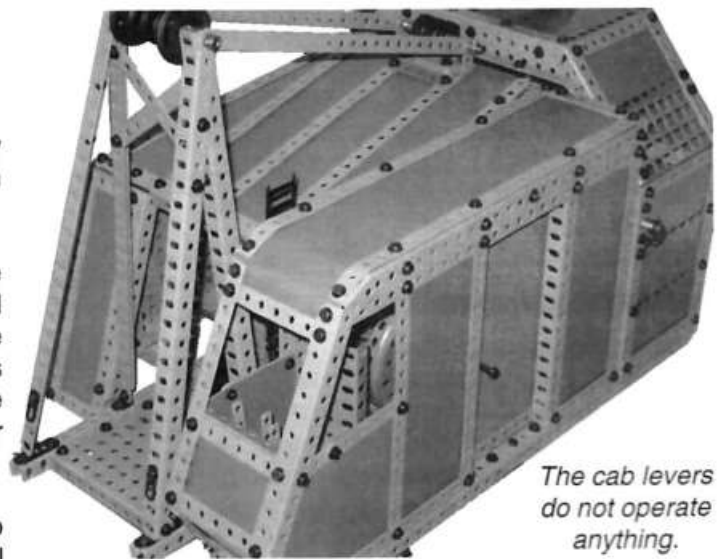
As the Excavator is assembled in modules, I started with a few easy looking modules picked out of the manual. After a while I realised that the parts are generally arranged in the polystyrene trays in the order you need them if in fact you start building as the manual indicates. There is a difference in use between 5mm and 6mm length Bolts for a reason as I found. Great use was made of my metric steel ruler to distinguish Bolt lengths and brass Spacer length and diameter.

Some fascinating features appeared in the model as building progressed. A door that slides on ball bearings; the rear of the body "clips" on; one of the winch drums has two ropes wound on in opposing directions and the winch brakes are strings tightened around parts of the winches and work really well.

The Strips and Flexible Plates of the Märklin model do not have the tensile strength of their Meccano equivalents. Flexible Plates have to be bent to form the bucket, cab roof and the roof in another area. I was not looking forward to bending the Plates but found that the task was easy.

Building the crawler tracks was quite repetitive. Once I knew what I was doing, I timed myself and completed seven links in thirty two minutes. There was a total of sixty four links to make. It is important to make sure each is completely loose and free for the crawler track system to work properly.

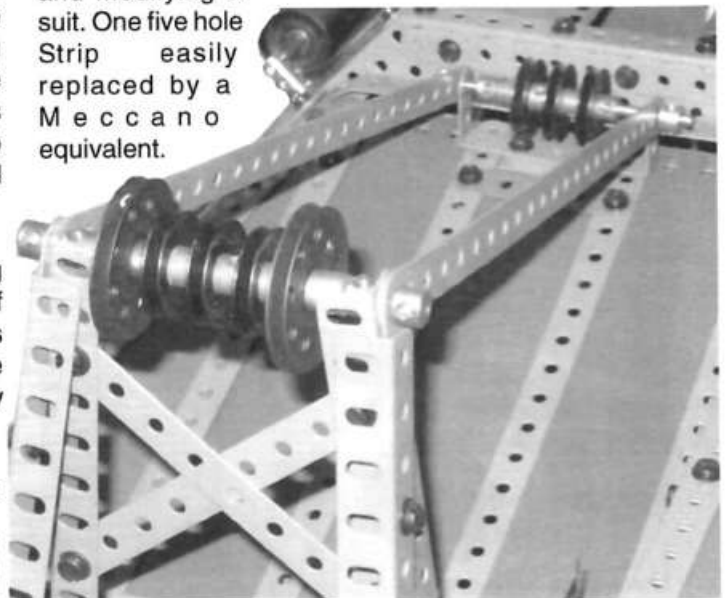
Some grumbles and gripes (the author's) showed up during assembly. I discovered that there were thick and thin versions of a particular Bracket but only after I had used them in the wrong place. Some of the brass Spacers had their ends burred at time of manufacture but the Meccanoman's round file soon fixed that. More disappointing however were the loose bosses on most of the short and long Cranks, and the 39mm Pulleys that split with the pressure of the rigging string. Simply bolting the



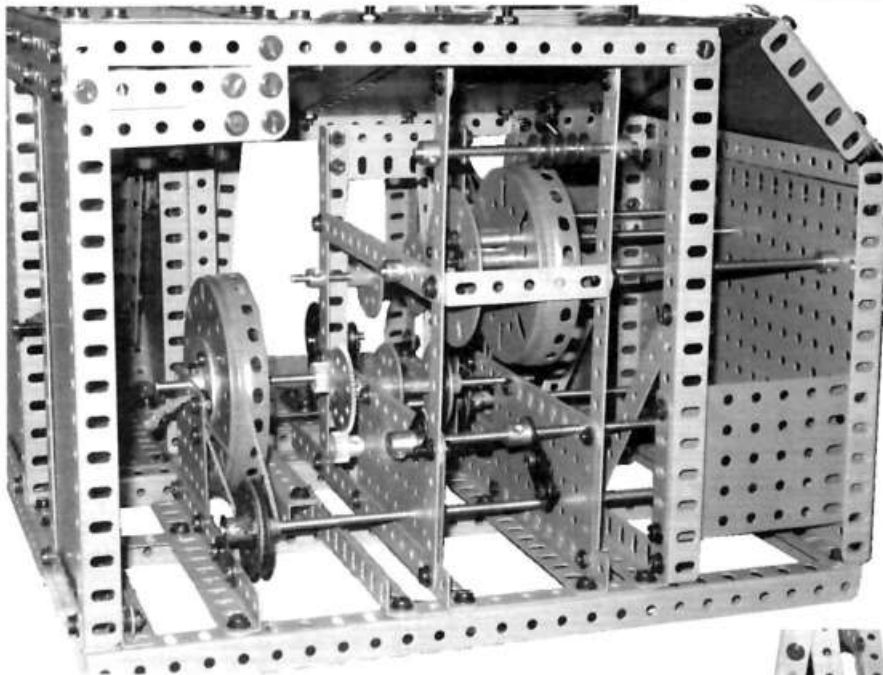
The cab levers do not operate anything.

two halves of the Pulleys together solved that but did result in using all available Nuts. The bucket latch needs a short Grub screw to prevent possible binding.

Missing parts? Two Spacers used in the crawler tracks solved by buying some tube from the local engineers supply and modifying to suit. One five hole Strip easily replaced by a Meccano equivalent.



Both large pulleys split when rigging string was tensioned



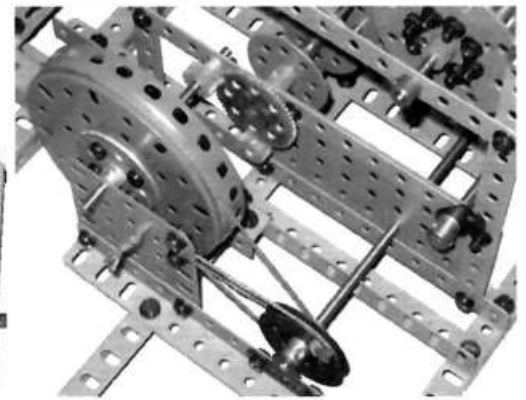
Rear view of the winch room. The large circular parts are the brake drums.

Excess parts? Thirteen Angle pieces for the crawler tracks!! Plenty of both plastic and steel Washers, various length Bolts, Grub screws, Collars, Ball bearings, a few Brackets, two Perforated strips and string.

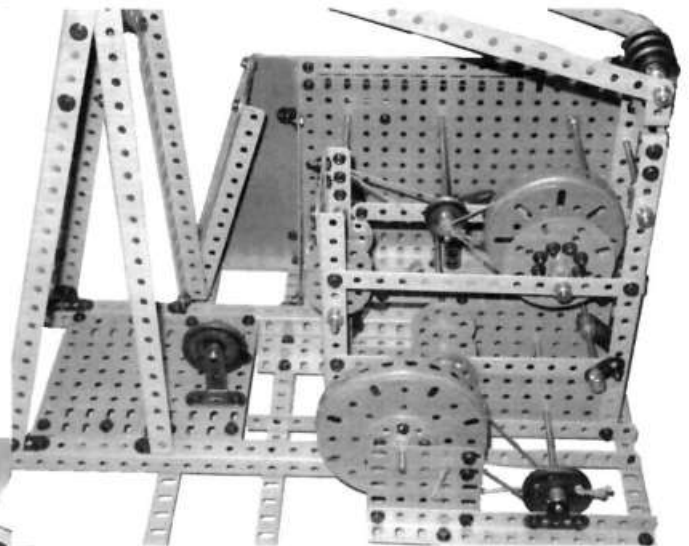
Most people expect the Excavator to be motorised but it is not. Operation is by good old fashioned manual winding. At the time of writing I have not "played" with the controls enough to become an expert operator. Labels on the various controls will be a big help.

Modifications could include motorising. The basic concepts in this set would allow conversion of the back acting Excavator into a Dragline, a Face shovel or a simple Crane. Additional parts would, however, be necessary.

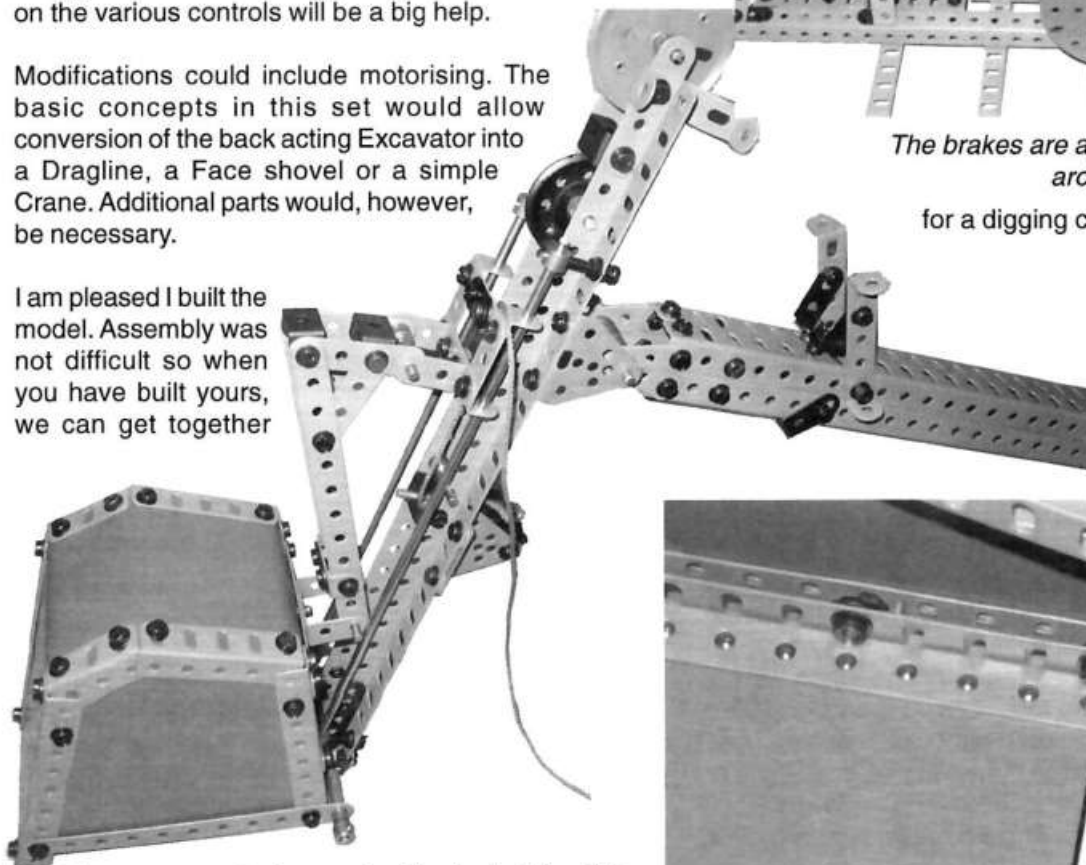
I am pleased I built the model. Assembly was not difficult so when you have built yours, we can get together



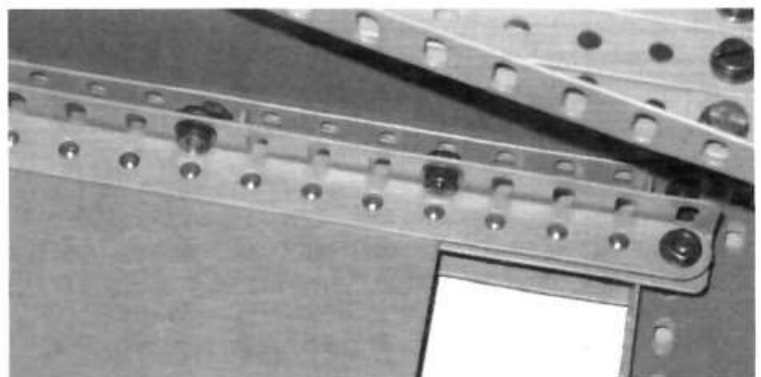
The brake actuating shaft has its own brake via tight string around a pulley.



The brakes are applied by tightening string around the drum for a digging competition.



The two rope winch operates the bucket by sliding the mechanism along two rods.



Ball bearing trapped in the holes between two strips that the door slides along.

Meccano Speedplay – Dinosaur and Robot

by Garry Higgins

I have two of the Meccano Speedplay sets as above. They are a marked departure from the normal Meccano method of construction by Nut and Bolt. Instead they use a plastic insert into which a self-tapping screw is fed, the plastic swells as the screw is tightened thus trapping the components.

There are a couple of drawbacks with this system.

1 - The inserts are not always easy to remove after use and can be damaged during removal.
2 - They do not always fasten securely, sometimes requiring a washer or two behind them.

That aside, the system works and makes up a number of interesting models. Meccano has made up a large number of new plastic parts for use in these sets but has also continued to use a number of traditional parts as well.

The Dinosaur set is probably the best value with 640 plus pieces. It makes up four different models, using the provided motor as the driving motor for the models and as a screwdriver during assembly.

The dinosaur model looked the part but was somewhat flimsy in construction requiring the use of a number of real nuts and bolts to make it secure. It worked fine with the motor in place and was popular with the crowds and Auckland ModelX.

The Robot set used a motor control system which had been pre-programmed by Meccano which has 900 plus parts and made up three models. They were on sale at Dick Smith Electronics for NZ\$95, less than half price elsewhere.

The system uses three motors, two are standard Meccano motors with a power socket in the back and one screwdriver/motor combo again with power and control sockets.

All three motors link to a control box which has a USB capable plug to link to a PC. This enables users to load the unit with one of three sound and movement options to suit whatever model they are constructing.

The robot worked fine initially, however, Meccano had used small clear plastic rings to hold the wheels in place and these quickly fell off when the robot rotated. I solved this problem using Meccano Collars.

I had problems downloading the software for the models. My computer, running Windows XP, wanted USB drivers to continue. I contacted Nikko who sent me a helpful reply (it still did not work) and managed to get the system to work on a laptop running Windows ME. It recognised the USB unit straight away and downloaded without a problem.

Then the motor controller died on me, no power, no nothing. I took it back to Dick Smith and received a replacement, last one in stock, end of line etc. This worked for two seconds and stopped.

I tried substituting all motors, leads etc but to date the

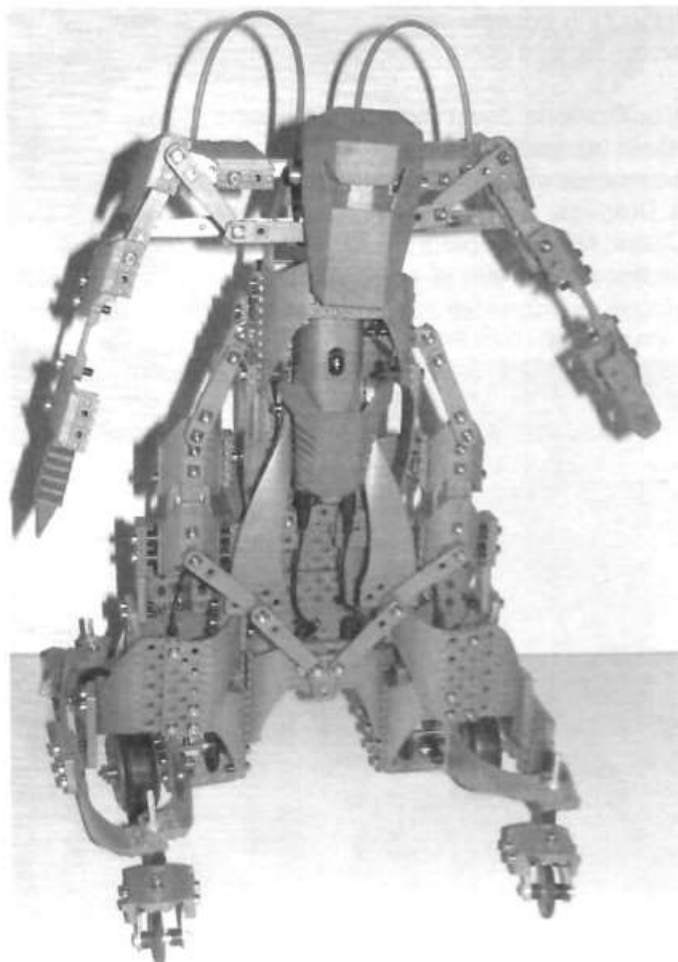
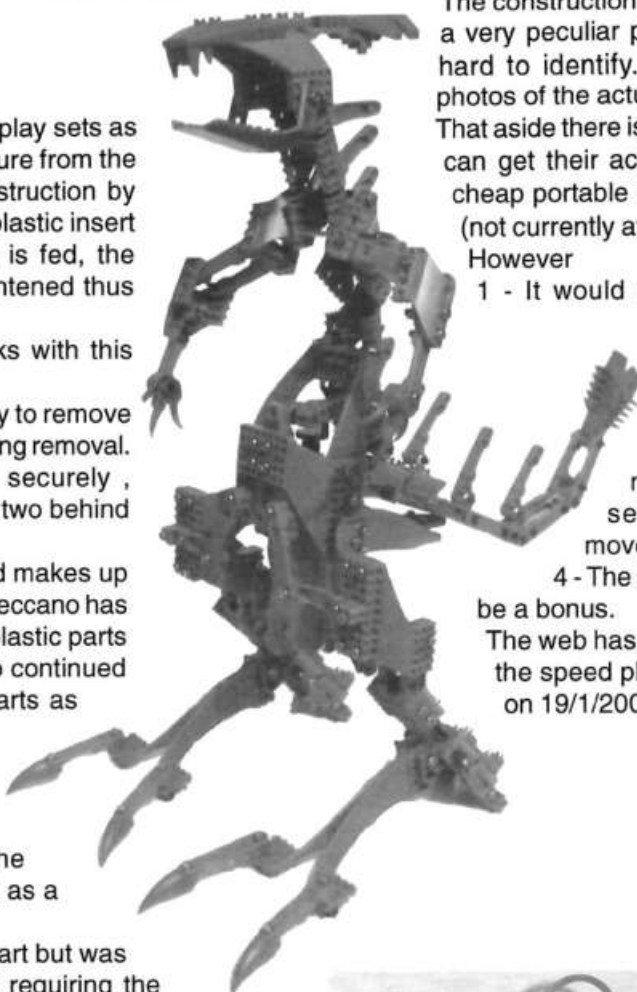
problem still is not solved.

The construction manuals show the new parts in a very peculiar perspective which makes them hard to identify. Meccano should have used photos of the actual part.

That aside there is great potential here if Meccano can get their act together. The possibility of a cheap portable motor controller with user input (not currently available) would be a real bonus. However

- 1 - It would need to be able to computer interface without problems.
- 2 - It would need to be reliable and work as described.
- 3 - It would need to be programmable by the user and not rely on a pre-programmed sequence of sounds and movements.
- 4 - The ability to turn off the sound would be a bonus.

The web has an article on how to MotorVator the speed play robot, published by Andrew on 19/1/2006.



Meccano Apprentice Set Models.

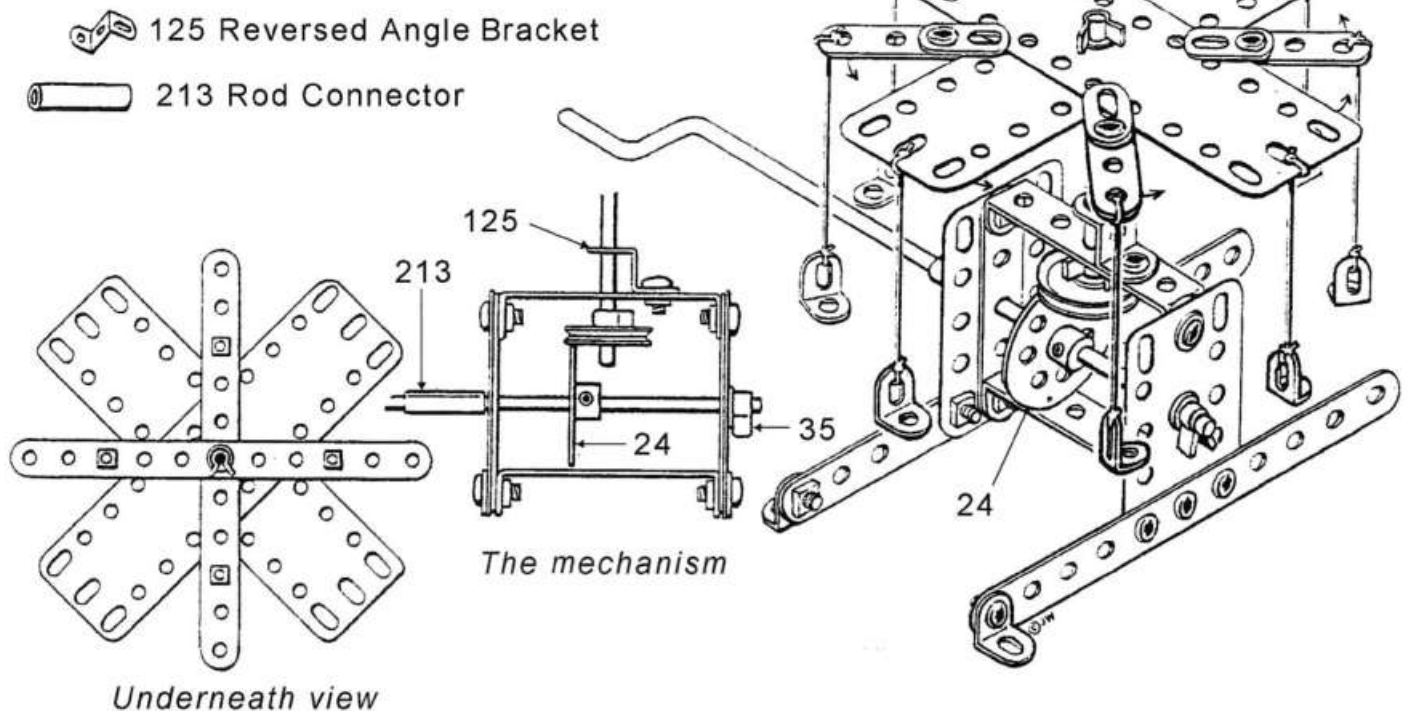
Reproduced by kind permission of John Westwood (UK)

Two models are featured in this article. They are a bit more complicated than the two featured in the April 2006 issue. Both feature that iconic Meccano part, a Crank Handle. Once constructed, to make the models work, it is necessary to master the art of turning the Crank Handle. Its operation is quite different from pressing a button, something which 21st century youngsters are expert at, but once mastered the delights of the model will be apparent!

The numbers on the diagrams refer to Meccano part numbers.

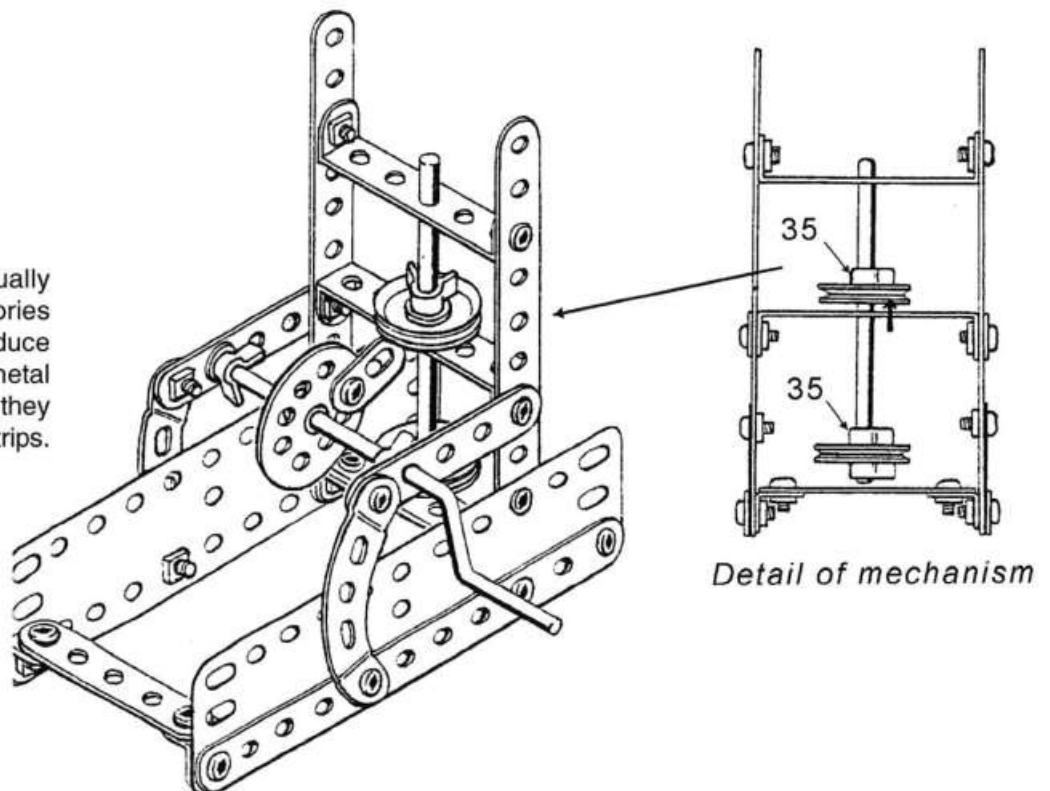
Roundabout

Roundabouts are often to be found at fairs and the real ones will probably have music playing when they spin round. They usually have a protective fence as the chairs, like the ones on the model, fly out when the roundabout gathers speed.



Stamping Machine

Stamping machines are usually found in workshops and factories where they are used to produce parts from various types of metal sheet. In the Meccano factory they were used to punch holes in strips.



Value for Money – Small Big Ben Clock MO522

by Bruce Neilson

I recently had my attention drawn to the boxed set for the small Big Ben Clock which retails at between \$32 to \$40. To buy these parts individually and new will cost you about \$150. The Nuts and Bolts alone are worth \$43.

As can be seen from the list, the contents are run of the mill with a lot of 'new' parts such as various Narrow Strips, 1" Angle Girders and some 'hard to get second hand' parts such as the 1 1/2" Flat Girder and 1" Triangular Plate. The 32 Obtuse Angle Brackets certainly look a lot better than my old rusty ones!

All the metal parts are zinc plated (except P/N 51b) which makes painting to the preferred colour of your choice quite easy.

If you have bought, for yourself or child, one of the more recent sets which have a limited variety and quantity of parts, I would recommend the above set as a supply of extra parts and additional Nuts and Bolts. The extra quantity of parts will encourage the building of original models



Contents of Small Big Ben set

P/N	Description	Size	Qty
5	Perforated Strip	2 1/2"	4
6a	Perforated Strip	1 1/2"	12
8b	Angle Girder	7 1/2"	4
9l	Angle Girder	1"	4
10	Fishplate	1"	4
12	Angle Bracket	1/2" x 1/2"	8
12c	Obtuse Angle Bracket	1/2" x 1/2"	32
17	Axle Rod	2"	1
34	Spanner	Square Nut	2
36c	Allen Key	3mm	1
37a	Nut Square		161
37b	Bolt Allen		142
38	Washer	Standard	12
38a	Spacer Plastic	Standard	2
38b	Spacer Plastic	Small	16
51b	Flanged Plate	1 1/2" x 1 1/2"	4
59c	Plastic Grip Collar		2
77	Triangular Plate	1"	4
103h	Flat Girder	1 1/2"	8
111	Bolt	3/4"	2
111c	Bolt	3/8"	16
235d	Narrow Strip	4 1/2"	8
235g	Narrow Strip	1 1/2"	28
235h	Narrow Strip	2"	8
806b	Narrow Strip	1"	8
811	Narrow Dble Bracket	1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2"	2
B115	Threaded Pin with 2 Flat Sides	Large	1

MECCANO DEALERS SHOP WINDOW DISPLAY MODELS

by Lou Nichols

For a number of years I have had a copy of the 1957 Dealers Leaflet and have done nothing with it, only holding it safe with the pieces of Meccano ephemera that I have collected. However, I recently borrowed from the Wellington Central Library, volume six of 'The Hornby Companion Series' published by Cavendish in 1987 and there displayed on page 164, is the magnificent 1936 six foot long display model of the R.M.S. Queen Mary, modelled in the then new blue/gold Meccano parts. This gave me the idea that these Meccano Display Models would be a good subject for featuring in our NZFMM magazine.

Reproduced in this issue is the 1957 leaflet, and on the back cover is a Meccano Illuminated Hanging Sign plus a model of the South Goodwin Lightship. Both of these items were displayed at the NZFMM Convention held at Feilding in 1997 and were owned by the late Lindsay Bond of Stratford. Also featured is the Meccano Motor Chassis set in a revolving frame and displayed by Alastair Tong of Hawera at the NZFMM Convention at Hawera in 2003. This model is not the same chassis as shown in the 1957 leaflet.

These display models would appear to have been available to Meccano dealers for a period spanning at least 70 years, not only from Liverpool, but also from Calais when production of Meccano in the UK. had ceased. The models were well designed, well made and because they had to be in shop windows for quite a while, they were durable as well. They

not only had to be attractive to the young modellers but to adults also as it was probably the adults who received the requests that a Meccano set would be just right for a birthday or Christmas present. Meccano did its part by not only offering dealers the display models, but also display cards and suggested window layouts, including of course the other Meccano products available, such as Hornby Trains, Dinky Toys, Aeroplane and Motor Car Constructor sets. This was of real assistance to those shop keepers who might not have had the expertise to make a really attractive window display. There will be many of us who will remember with nostalgia such displays from our past and our yearnings to be able to build models like these.

Two models that could be built by the Meccano modeller were featured in the Meccano Magazines of October 1956 and April 1957, namely the Blackpool Tower and the South Goodwin lightship. They were included as part of the Model of the Month series that commenced in March 1956 and ran for several years. The models were illustrated and described. However, to obtain the building instructions it was necessary to write to Meccano Ltd., or the Meccano agent in the country outside of the UK. where you resided. A very good illustration of a shop window dressed with lots of Meccano products is the cover page of the Meccano Magazine for December 1954 and the Meccano model shown is the Blackpool Tower.

A further article on these display models will feature existing models that we know of in New Zealand and also some of those that we know exist in Australia.

Ed. A comprehensive illustrated article about the motor chassis in the revolving frame will be published in a future issue.

EXPORT 1957

MECCANO

DISPLAY MODELS

1957

A working Meccano model in your window cannot fail to attract the attention of the public, and bring increased sales. This year's range of Meccano display models is illustrated in this folder.



MECCANO ILLUMINATED HANGING SIGN

Made of metal with cut-out letters in wood and an illuminated glass panel below the name. The base plate is cut away to illuminate the area below.

Dimensions are : Length 16" (41 cms.), Height 5½" (14 cms.), Back to front 3" (7½ cms.).

Set of three Illuminated Hanging Signs (Meccano, Hornby-Dublo, Dinky Toys).

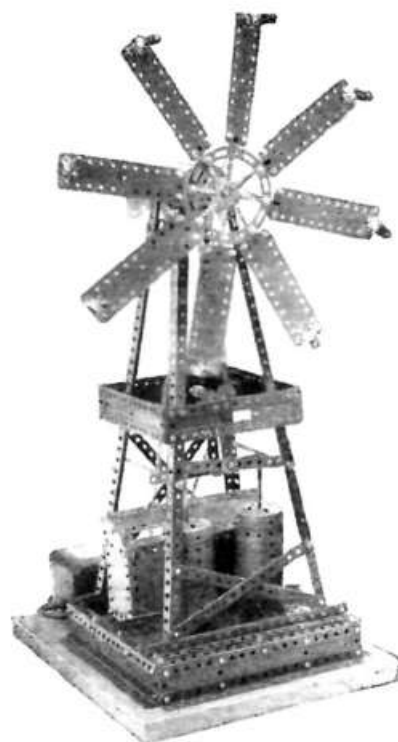


MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/10

LIGHTSHIP

(With rocking motion and light beacon)
on illuminated base

Dimensions : Height 22½" (57 cms.), Width 27" (69 cms.), Depth 12" (30 cms.).



MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/6

WINDMILL PUMP

(Revolving vanes and operating pumps)
illuminated

Dimensions : Height 29" (74 cms.), Width 15½" (39 cms.), Depth 15" (38 cms.).

Each of these Meccano Models requires a high-voltage electric motor to operate it.



MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/5

PRINTING MACHINE

(Reproducing action of a platen machine)
on illuminated base

Dimensions : Height 15½" (39 cms.), Width 15" (38 cms.), Depth 10" (25 cms.).



**MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/3
MOBILE POWER LOADER**

(Wheels revolve, scoop raises and lowers automatically)
on illuminated base

Dimensions: Height 17½" (44 cms.),
Width 15" (38 cms.), Depth 10" (25 cms.)

Each of these
Meccano Display
Models requires
a high-voltage
electric motor
to operate it.



**MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/12
FLYING JET PLANES**

(Aircraft rotate)
illuminated

Dimensions: Height 25" (64 cms.), Width 28" (71 cms.),
Depth 28" (71 cms.)



MECCANO
DISPLAY MODEL 57/9

MECHANICAL SHOVEL

(Automatic raising and lowering of jib, scoop.
Revolving road wheels)
on illuminated base

Dimensions: Height 25" (64 cms.),
Width 22" (56 cms.), Depth 12" (30 cms.)

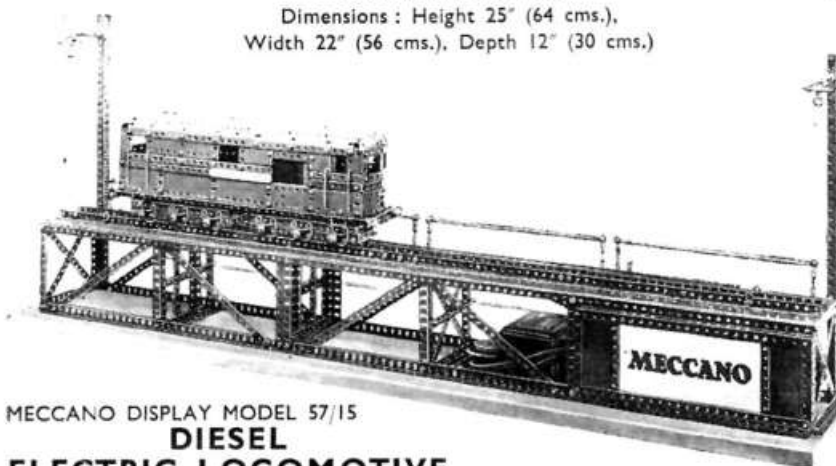


MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/1

HELICOPTER

(With revolving rotor and stabiliser)
on illuminated base

Dimensions: Height 15½" (39 cms.),
Width 28" (71 cms.), Depth 22" (56 cms.)



MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/15

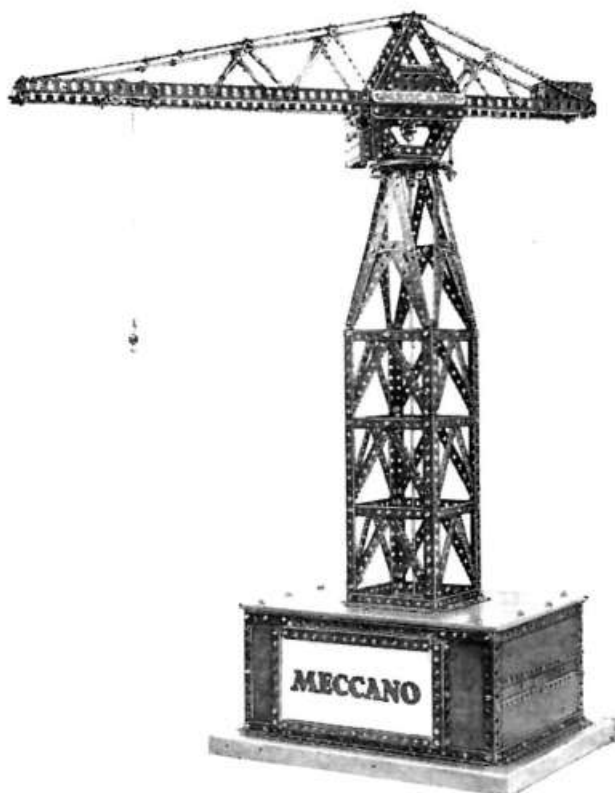
**DIESEL
ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE**

(Locomotive travels backwards and forwards
with head lights alternating)
illuminated

Dimensions: Height 20" (51 cms.), Width 52½" (133 cms.),
Depth 8" (20 cms.)

Display Lids for Meccano Outfits

We are introducing a series of glass-top lids for the effective display of the contents of Meccano Outfits Nos. 00 to 5. It is intended that Dealers should first reverse the ordinary lids of the Meccano Outfits; then the special Display Lids will fit over the Outfits, providing attractive displays while keeping the contents clean.



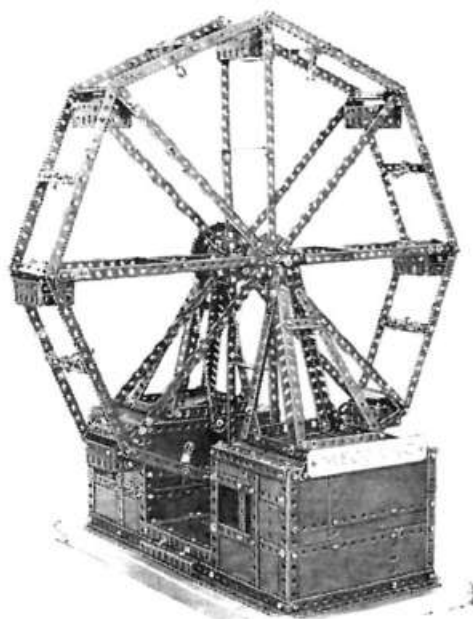
MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/8

SHIPYARD CRANE

(Traverses load, hoists and lowers)
on illuminated base

Dimensions: Height 34" (86 cms.),
Width 36" (91 cms.), Depth 36" (91 cms.)

Each of these
Meccano Display
Models requires
a high-voltage
electric motor
to operate it.

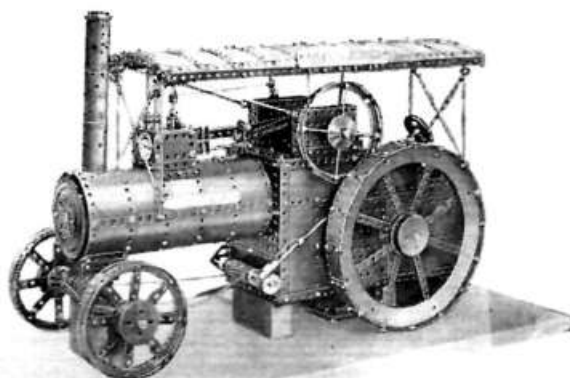


MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/11

BIG-WHEEL

(Revolving)
illuminated

Dimensions: Height 26" (66 cms.), Width 19½" (50 cms.),
Depth 22" (56 cms.)



MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/14

TRACTION ENGINE

(Driving wheels revolve. Pistons,
flywheel and governor operate)
Dimensions: Height 19" (48 cms.),
Width 32" (81 cms.), Depth 15" (38 cms.)



MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/13

WORKSHOP

(All machines working)
on illuminated base

Dimensions: Height 20" (51 cms.), Width 21" (53 cms.),
Depth 16½" (42 cms.)

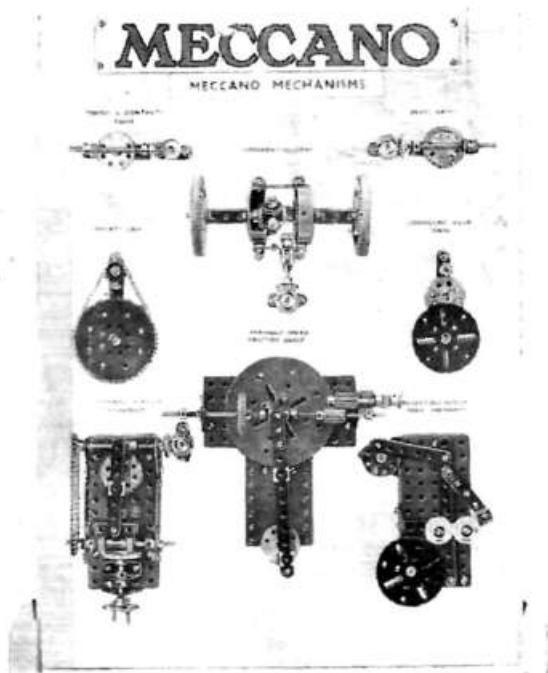


MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/16

ROTATING MOTOR CHASSIS

(Rear-wheel drive — Gears and differential operate)
on illuminated base

Dimensions: Height 17" (43 cms.), Width 29" (74 cms.),
Depth 29" (74 cms.)



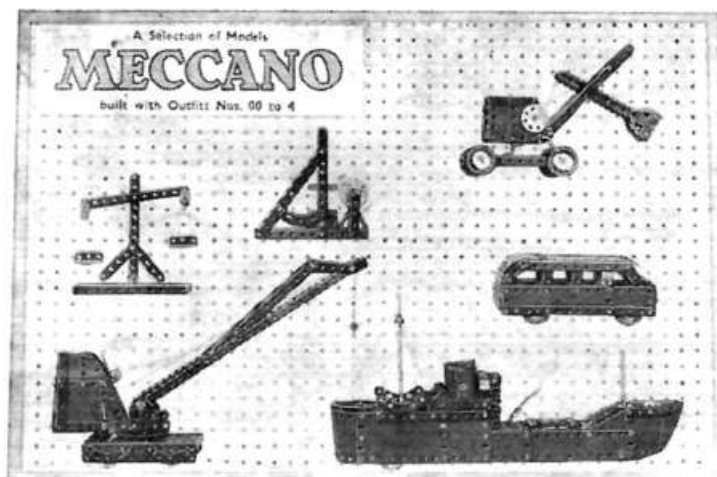
MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/7
MECCANO MECHANISMS
 (Driven by electric motor at rear)
 Dimensions: Height 24" (61 cms.),
 Width 19½" (50 cms.), Depth 8½" (22 cms.)

Meccano Model 57/7
 requires a high-voltage
 electric motor to
 operate it.

MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/2
GEARS "B"
MECHANISMS ON
PEGBOARD
 (Non-working)
 Dimensions: Height 24" (61 cms.),
 Width 36" (91 cms.), Depth 3½" (9 cms.)



MECCANO DISPLAY MODEL 57/4
00-4 MODELS
ON PEGBOARD
 (Non-working)
 Dimensions: Height 24" (61 cms.),
 Width 36" (91 cms.), Depth 7" (18 cms.)



MECCANO LIMITED - BINNS ROAD - LIVERPOOL 13
 LONDON SHOWROOM - 22 BERKELEY SQUARE - W.1.

Powder Coating

The use of Spanner email is acknowledged.



I have recently been experimenting with powder coating restored Meccano parts, and have to say the results are fantastic. I get the parts grit blasted by a local monumental mason and then powder coated. I have an excellent colour match for 1950s Medium Green, and the later 1958-1964 Light Red, but am struggling with 1950s Medium Red. Has anyone else got any experience with colour matching Medium Red and can they name a manufacturer/product/colour code that I might be able to source? I can get a batch made up but apparently the minimum order is 80kg! (About 5 kg does more than you'll need - hundreds of strips/plates.) Alternatively, if anyone else in NZ is interested, we could get a batch made up and I can use what I need and send the balance on. My powder coater was very obliging and happy to use powder from another source. The blasting process is amazing to watch too - way better than paint stripper. It is excellent for old nickel parts too, which the stripper generally won't touch. (Andrew Palmer, Nelson, NZ)

Just got a load of angle girders back from the powder coaters. Excellent finish, truly first class. However, the cost was a bit serious and I think they saw me coming. It worked out at about 60p a part. Word on the street has it that powder coating should be only a few pence per part for a big load. Has anyone who's done a bit got any figures to hand? It certainly seemed a bit lively to me, but I was not in a very good bargaining position unfortunately. Would the chap from Aussie who offered a few pointers on Flame Red and Lawn Green colours a week or so ago please get back to me off air, thanks. (Andrew Palmer, Nelson, NZ)

I have all my parts done as I go, it's not cheap but as you say the finish and look of the model is superb. I stripped the parts and hung all the parts on the racks at the powder coater. It's the labour not the materials that costs. (Mark Bridle)

My last batch worked out at £300 for approximately 3000 parts, 10p each, the same price for small brackets or large plates. The powder coater I used previous to him charged me about 12p per part. My last batch though, the coater did not have my colour in and bought a box of deep red (RAL 3003) and did not charge me for it! His apprentices did all the hanging, but I did have to prepare and strip all my painted parts. Did not bother stripping the zinc off zinc plated parts though, just painted over them. (Dave Harvey)

Have you coated any nickel parts that have rusted? If so do you remove the remaining nickel coating completely? (David Jenkins)

Can you please tell me how you did the hanging? After stripping and cleaning, the parts should be free of rust, any chemicals and oil or grease. Is it necessary to do the hanging with (surgical) gloves or is that exaggerating it a bit? (Hans van Ouwerkerk, Delft)

Hello Hans, yes surgical gloves are a bit over the top. I don't remove nickel, just remove any flaky bits. My powder

coater puts all my parts through a vapour degreaser, even though I've scrubbed them with hot soapy water after I've stripped them. I've just

stripped and washed a load of parts today as it happens. I think I use RAL 3001 signal red for my parts, the green escapes me but I can find out if anybody wants it. (Mark Bridle)

For green RAL 6010 Grass Green might suit. (Hans van Ouwerkerk, Delft)

I have just found my receipt it says I used 3001 Red and 6010 Green. I will be getting some more done soon from my powder coater in Weston-Super-Mare. (Mark)

Rob Beijerbergen told me once that RAL 3000 and RAL 6010 come close to Meccano red and green. I suppose these colours are closer to light red and green than to the darker variants. Mike Rhoades sells excellent matching paints. In my opinion the objective of repainting/spraying or powder coating is not so much getting an exact match to original Meccano colours as to having uniform colours in a large model. After all, Meccano colours are not that well defined. Using colours from the RAL or other standards guarantees that a second or third repainting job gives the same result as the first one. (Hans van Ouwerkerk, Delft)

Thanks all for comments on Powder Coating. I shall see if my fellow can lower his (rather high) charges a bit. Re colour matches and RAL codes, thanks for the info and link. I have been using a product from Pacific Gold, manufactured by Orica, called Grass Green, code 83228. The literature I have makes no mention of RAL codes, so I conclude that this may be a European thing that hasn't caught on here in NZ yet. This powder is a good match for 1950s Medium Green. I have yet to find a good match for 1950s Medium Red, but in my experimentation I have discovered that powder code 58413 Bright Red from the same manufacturer is an excellent match for 1958-1964 light red, so if there is anyone in NZ/Aus looking for this colour then this may help a bit. Re preparation - sand blasting with 80 grit aluminium oxide through a 3mm nozzle is the only preparation I have done. It gets rid of anything nickel, zinc, paint (original and over-paint) and digs out any rust leaving a splatter free bake in the oven after coating. No rinsing or wiping of any sort required. If you go easy on the pressure it doesn't damage parts. My powder coater told me that parts should be coated within a maximum of four hours after blasting, but I have subsequently found that this advice is based on items like trailers and staircases etc that are too big to keep indoors, and so speed is a bit of an issue. I haven't tried it yet but assume that keeping stripped parts in a cupboard accompanied by a dehumidifier will allow them to be stored for a couple of weeks while amassing a load for coating. That way I can keep the number of bake cycles down and lower the cost. I shall research this RAL business with my coater and see if he can find a good match for the red. (Andrew Palmer)

I choose my colours as follows. For red I use RAL 3003, as this is a match for most of the red Meccano sold by Dave Taylor, so if I need a match for a particular part, it's usually

available from him. My blue, which was an initial mistake but so many people have commented on how nice it looks, is RAL 5015 and is like a light French blue. My yellow is JCB yellow. Closest match is RAL 1028 which is a nice deep yellow, much smoother than the 1990s French yellow, but a little brighter than the UK yellow of the late 1970s. I currently do not have any old dark red/green, medium red/green or light red/green or blue/gold in my collection. Most of it has been stripped, but as I find some I will compile a colour reference for all colours I can match with a RAL or BS number. I have three colour charts to reference from RAL, BS381C and BS4800. From these I should be able to match most colours. I will put the list up on Spanner when I have it completed. (Dave Harvey).

Comments on the Accuracy of Model Plans

by John Ince

The Spanner extracts on the Accuracy of Model Plans on page 24 of the August issue make interesting reading. To date I have produced six model plans - MP 118, MP 124, MP 133, MP 138, MP 147 and MP 158 but these cover nine models as the last three model plans each contain instructions for two models. All of these cover my own

original designs and the as far as the publications are concerned the instructions, photographs, diagrams and parts lists together with the preparation of the model plan for publication are all my own work.

I think these model plans are accurate but achieving that is not too difficult as the models described are not especially complicated. In some cases I have commenced the instructions and the parts list while the model is under construction. Clearly the more complicated the model, the more difficult it is to give an accurate and reliable set of building instructions. I certainly struck trouble when I built Colin Cohen's *Sleeping Meccanoman* (where the hand emerges from the box). I could not get it to work!

My six model plans have all enjoyed good sales with average sales to date of 105 each, ranging from 75 to 155. I think the reason for their popularity is, at least in part, due to the fact that the models are not too big and may each be built without needing a truck load of Meccano. For the most part they may be built with a No 10 set plus a few extra bits. Before embarking on MP 158, which describes two cranes, I noticed that most of the published model plans for cranes described huge models. While spectacular to see and operate, for many people the prospect of building such a large model is quite daunting. I like my model plans to present something which is within the ability of most model builders to attempt.

Tuning Radio Control 6950 Set

by Bob Prescott

This is a sort of mini version of the RC car (8950 set) detailed in the NZFMM magazine June 2006 edition.

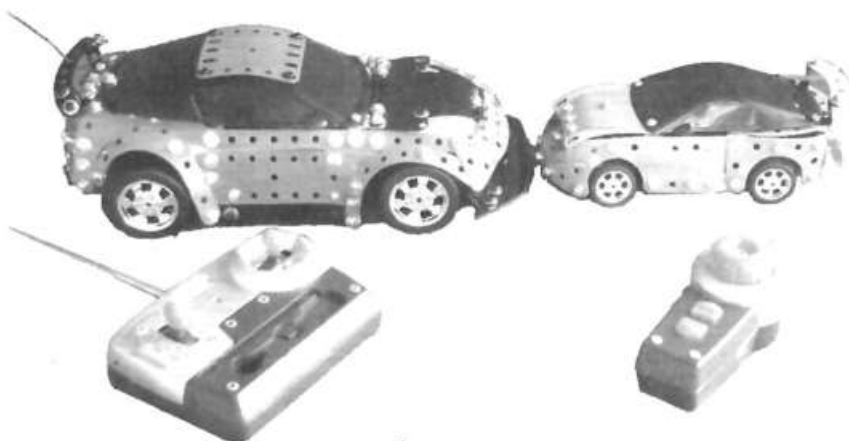
The set makes two models, both good looking cars, and as with the other RC models the upper body frame is made with brightly coloured parts, (green in this case although I understand there is a white version), many of which are "spring steel".

I took about two hours to build the model adding Washers for paint protection (not included in the set), and substituting the odd $\frac{3}{8}$ " Bolt for the $\frac{15}{64}$ " version. They do expect short Bolts to secure a lot!

The model chassis is powered by three AA batteries and the controller with a 9 volt one and be warned, the model does not like the cheap batteries, it works best with re-chargeable Ni-MHs or Energizer/Duracell type batteries.

In the 8950 article I assumed it was called "Tuning" because of the noises it made. Obviously I was wrong because this smaller version makes no noise (did I hear - good!).

As will be seen from the comparison photograph this really is a mini version - a neat little model.



The NZFMM 2007 Convention

Don't forget about the Competition which is to build a Model with Rolling Ball(s) inside. There are generous prizes on offer

1st NZ\$ 300 cash - 2nd NZ\$ 200 cash - 3rd NZ\$ 100 cash

For the rules please refer to the August 2006 magazine, page 18.

FAST DELIVERY, GREAT SERVICE: I ordered from MW Mail Order John Westwood's three "Our Meccano" volumes. I emailed my order at 4pm on Wednesday, September 28th. Exactly 7 days (less 4 hours) later the books were in my letterbox in Tawa. (L.S.).

HISTORIC MECCANO INTEGRATOR: The Science Museum in London is a "must see" for visitors to the UK. The Mathematical Instruments and Computing Section has one of the Meccano integrators from the original Hartree and Porter Meccano differential analyser on permanent display. (Tim Robinson on Spanner).

HUMBROL CLOSED?: According to the BBC, Humbrol is in receivership says Brian Willis on Spanner. With its large range of colours and shades of colours Humbrol has been a favourite supplier of modelling paints for generations of model makers.

STILL IMPERIAL:

"Some talk of millimetres and some of kilogrammes,
And some of decilitres to measure beer and drams,
But I'm a British workingman, too old to go to school,
So by pounds I'll eat and by quarts I'll drink,
And I'll work by my three foot rule."
(Michael Threfall on Spanner).

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?: Joe Attard in Malta reckons he owns the equivalent of 28 Meccano Set 10's. But this remark from him is the important one — "It's what you do with it that counts, not how big your collection is".

MECCANO WITH ICE: Following a visit to Antarctica with other artists, Christchurch jeweller, Kirsten Haydon, has designed pieces of jewellery based on ice forms. On TV1, Sunday, August 13th, joining her pieces in one picture were clearly Meccano P/N 90 Curved Strips.

THE ROBOT INVENTOR: Dr. Mark Tilden said "My early experiments involved everything from bolting our cat into a Meccano suit of armour to motorised housemaids. Building(in Meccano) confirms real world lessons far better than simulations, I find". (From 'NZ Net Guide Magazine', September, 2006.).

PS From Charles Steadman - "Do you have a modelplan for the motorised housemaid?"

From Howard Somerville - "Titled as what? 'Maid out of Meccano?'"

THE 'HUMMER' SET: Dave Denner said on Spanner the Nikko Meccano R/C 6-Wheel Prime Mover is an attractive model. The same parts (except for a fridge magnet of Stick-ons) came in the Erector 'Hummer H2' set.

BINNS ROAD TO TAWA, NZ: Following the September 25th arson attack on a residential unit in Redwood Village (where I live), I was visited by Constable Gregory from Porirua Police who were doing a "house to house" in the Village. Seeing my current Meccano model on the table, he said he originally came from Liverpool and had lived close by the Meccano factory where many of his relatives worked. He was there



when the factory closed and well remembers the industrial troubles at the time and the problems it caused in the community.

BAILEY BRIDGES: George Illingworth says on Spanner that Bassett-Lowke (the model railway suppliers) built Bailey Bridge models during the last War on a 1:6 scale. These were used to train the Army Engineers who would later build the real bridges. Some of the Bassett-Lowke bridge kits are still around. The kits include

wood panels with brass fittings, and they pin and bolt together just like the real thing.

TOYWORLD'S MECCANO: Toyworld's "Layby for Christmas" catalogue had a picture on the front cover of the grey R/C 'tuning' car, and again on the inside, priced at \$99.99. Also inside were advertisements for the Dragster at \$69.99 and the Excavator at \$49.99. One very attractive 'layby' item was a large R/C electric motored aeroplane, ready to fly. It comes complete with radio, NiCad battery, charger and a DVD on how to fly it successfully. The plane is priced at \$229 — enough to buy the three Meccano sets!!

MOTORVATOR SUCCESS: "You might be interested to hear that the New Zealand Robocup competition was held on the 19th and 20th of August. A MotorVator controlled intelligent dancing robot built and programmed by two eleven year old girls and entered in the Primary School division blew away all the Lego Mindstorms controlled competition and won both the Primary and Secondary School divisions." (Andrew Wells on Spanner).

MECCANO HOLE SIZES: Nut thread diameter = $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW which is nominally 0.156 inch or 3.96 mm.

Axle Rod diameter = 8 SWG which is 0.160 in. or 4.06 mm. Bore diameter in bosses and couplings, etc = toleranced 0.161 to 0.163 inch or 4.09 to 4.14 mm.

Hole diameter in strips and plates = $\frac{11}{64}$ " in which is 0.172 inch or 4.36 mm. (George Illingworth on Spanner).

HISTORIC NZR Ec LOCO: "Among the models the Christchurch Meccano Club exhibited at the 1969 NZ Industries Fair was a 1/8 scale model of an NZR Ec locomotive used on the Christchurch to Lyttelton line. It was built by draughtsman Syd Kennedy in something like 200 working hours. An estimated 7,100 parts were used including about 4,500 nuts, bolts and washers. Because of its size - 4ft 10ins long - it was possible to include authentic details such as doors, pipes, handrails, leaf spring suspension and automatic couplings. It is a superb, true to scale, solid model. Solid it certainly is — it weighs 62 lbs." (from Meccano Magazine, May, 1969).

BRUNEL UPSIDE DOWN: An arcane piece of information about Brunel - he swallowed a half sovereign while entertaining a child with a magic trick. It stuck in his throat and the most eminent surgeons failed to move it. Brunel was suspended by his ankles in a specially constructed machine which shook him while he was thumped on the back. After three weeks the sovereign fell out. ("Country Life", 1996) (from Tony Press on Spanner).

Auckland Meccano Guild at MODEL X 2006

by Peter Hancock

Queen's Birthday weekend, June 3, 4 and 5, 2006 were the dates that the *MODEL X 2006* organising committee chose to stage, for the 22nd year what is considered to be the



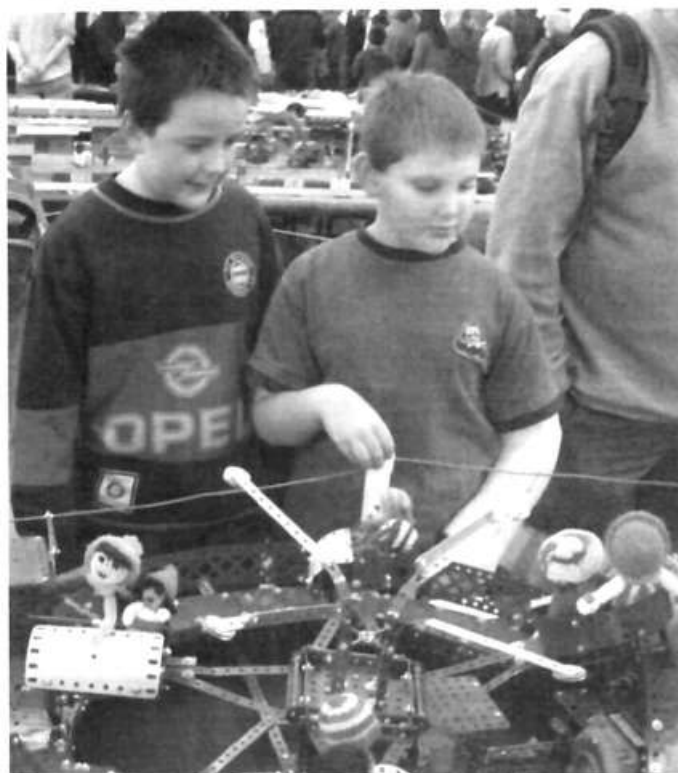
Oh I wish my Daddy would make me one of those!

largest premium modeller's show mounted in New Zealand at the West Wave Recreation Centre, Alderman Drive in Henderson, Auckland.

Each year this event draws together all types of modelling groups, collectors and hobby shops from all over New Zealand to a show that is set up on a Friday evening by what appears to be thousands of people scurrying everywhere in chaos. However, when the show opens to the public at 9am on the Saturday morning everything is in place and calm reigns. The show operates from 9am to 5pm on the Saturday and Sunday and from 9am to 4pm on the Monday when it is taken down and everyone clears the venue as if by magic.

The show is well publicised and is now a recognised part of the Auckland 'to do' calendar for families to attend as part of the Queen's Birthday weekend family entertainment. It is marvellous to be part of it and to have the opportunity to watch young and old alike be astounded by the marvels they see around them. Fresh young eyes which stare fascinated at the various models or items on display with the inevitable questions being posed to their parent or minder, "What is that? How does that work? Can I have one please?" The stately members of the crowd, often grandparents who like to stop and take time out to tell us about how they played with Meccano when they were children and now wonder where their set is today. *MODEL X 2006* was an extremely busy event and well patronised by the public at large.

The Guild has mounted a large display at these events for a number of years and this year was no exception when we decided to increase our show display area by 50% to enable even more models to be placed on display at one time than in the past. Even with the enlarged stand area, we had more models than we could display at any one time so we



That must be a David Wall model the boys are admiring.

were able to rotate items to keep the display fresh and could have used even more table top area than we had. It is a wonderful opportunity for members to participate and more than fourteen members took turns to 'man' the display and keep everything running over the weekend. All in all a wonderful (tiring) opportunity to keep our hobby in front of the public and keep us all thinking and working as a team.



Grandma on duty pointing out things of interest.

Wellington Meccano Club Meeting 13 October 2006

Our October meeting produced a variety of interesting models.

The largest was Laurie Webb's scale model of the chassis of a Plasser railway line tamping machine. He also showed us photographs of an original machine. Laurie was given these, as well as sets of plans, by the manufacturers when he visited the factory in Vienna, Austria.

Second in size was Don Flowers' first section of the three part extending jib of his lorry mounted crane. A most impressive example of large scale Meccano modelling.

At the other extreme, from Lou Nichols, was a tiny cart he used as a test bed for the pawl and ratchet mechanism on the robot shown on the cover of our August issue. Lou also brought along his blow ball soccer game.

Lloyd Spackman, instead of a model, brought a selection of

magazines and manuals including the three recent John Westwood volumes.

Brian Peterson had a "Mechanic" Set, bought from The Warehouse and a car carrier he had built from it, Warning: it is not compatible with Meccano as the holes are metric spaced.

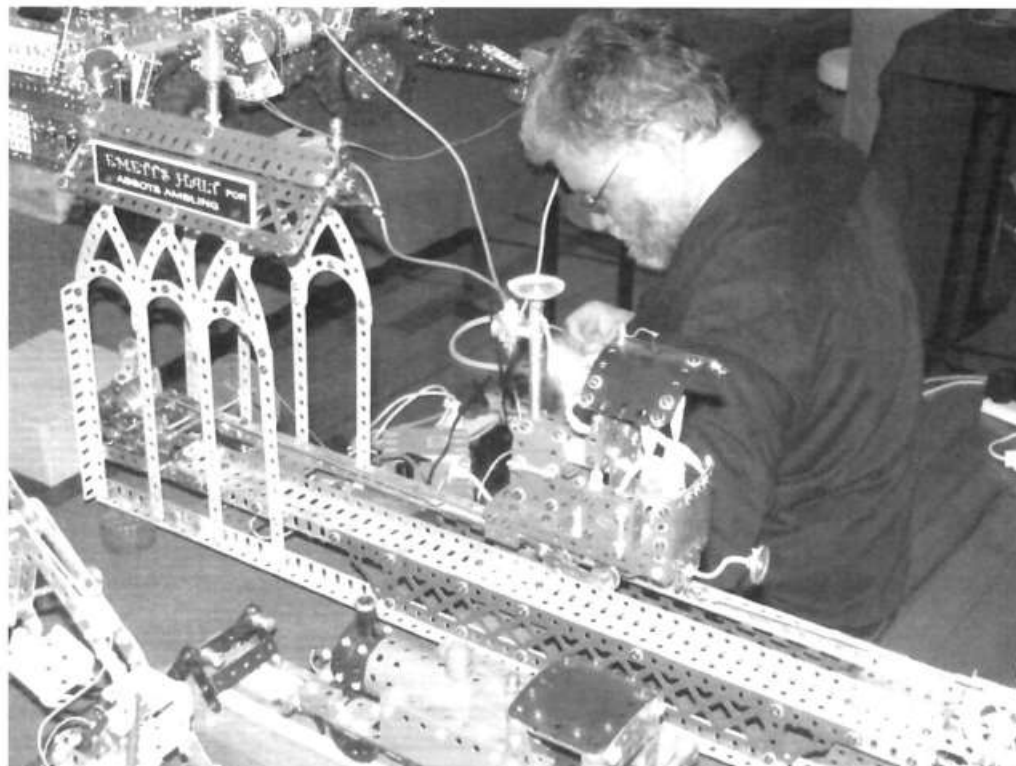
During an informal meeting we discussed the Convention and other matters.

The Club's Christmas Dinner will be on Tuesday, December 5th, from 7.30pm at "Amazing 5" restaurant, 5 Queens Drive, Lower Hutt.

The meeting wound up with a showing by Stan Baker of various Ashok Meccano parts, including a 7 1/2" Geared Roller Bearing.

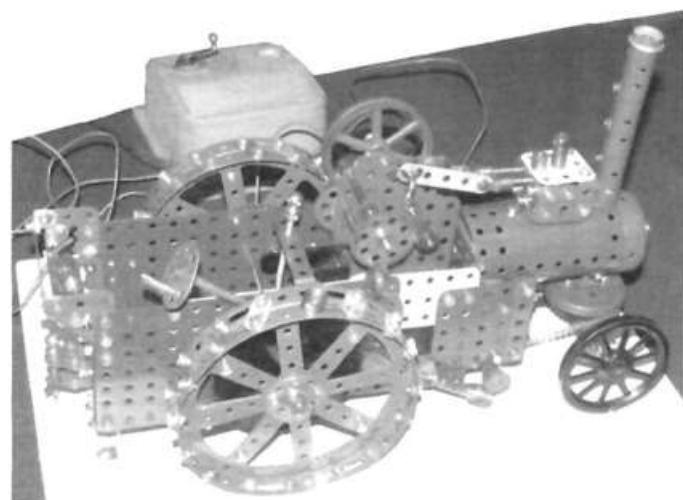
It is possible Mr. Banerjee will be able to attend our 2007 Convention.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 1st, at Konini School, Wainuiomata, as usual.

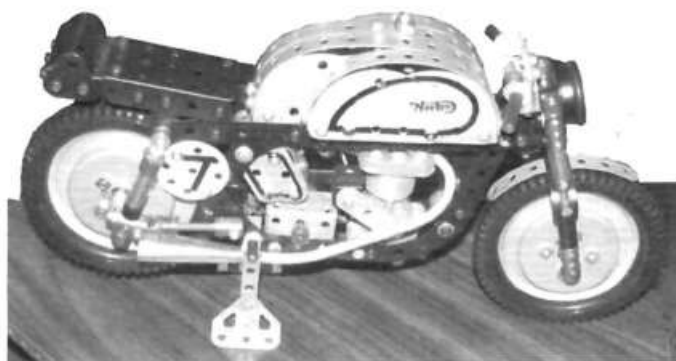


More Model X pictures

Les Megget at work on his railway where the station pictured is called "Emett's Halt for Abbots Ambling"



Neil Carey is the builder of this traction engine.



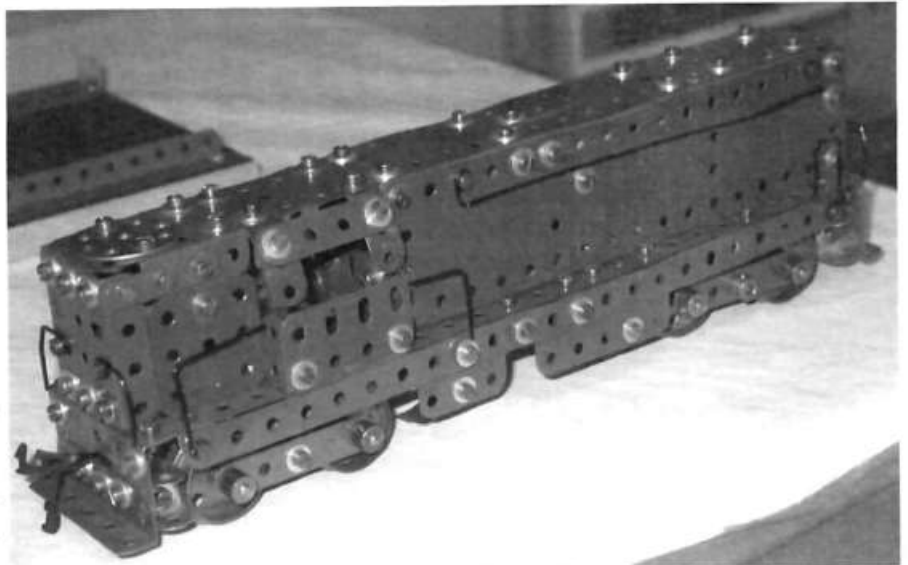
This Norton motor cycle is the work of John Denton.

Palmerston North Model Engineer's Show August 2006

photos by Bruce Geange
text by Bruce Neilson

The Palmerston North Model Engineers held a public show in Palmerston North on 26/27 August 2006. This brought out various model engineering projects ranging from large ride-on locomotives to beautifully turned brass cannon. To give the public additional entertainment, there were three model train layouts ranging from HO, O and G gauge in operation and twelve feet of table for Meccano models. As Bruce Geange couldn't be in three places at once, Bruce Neilson and Shirley Gray provided the support staff to look after the Meccano models. A Level Luffing Crane was run from a MotorVator, Ploughing Engines pulled a reversing Plough back and forth across a muddy field, a Horseless Carriage got under the feet of amazed children, and a lot of people could not name the Spitfire as they watched the propeller spin and waited for it to takeoff, etc. All the models came from Bruce Geange's extensive collection. The show was a success in finance, entertainment and publicity terms.

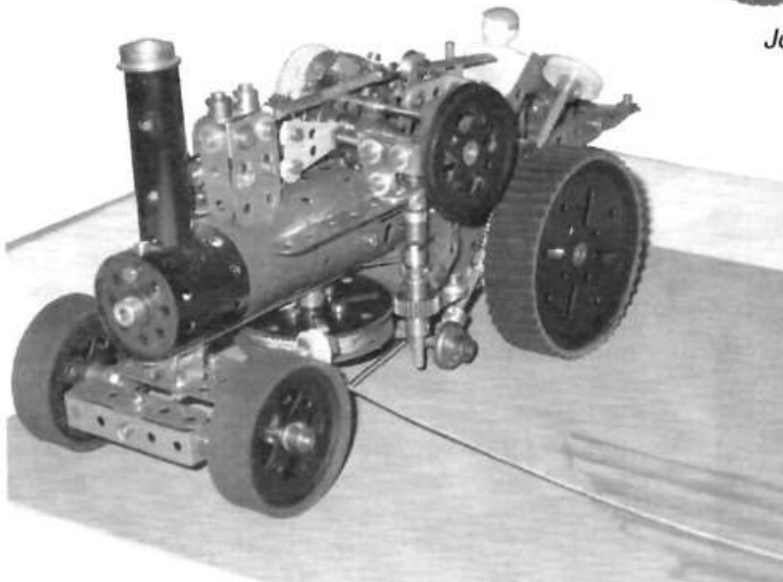
All the models illustrated are built by Bruce Geange.



Da Diesel Locomotive



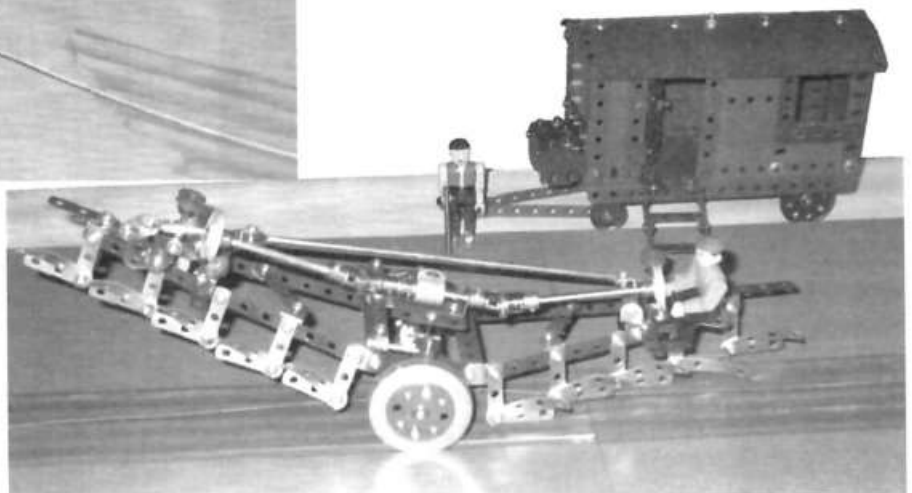
John Deere Farm Tractor



Ploughing by Steam

Ploughing Engines were used mainly in pairs to plough the fields ready for crops. These engines carried a winch under the boiler and this enabled them to tow the plough backwards and forwards. As can be seen from the photograph, the plough had two set of plough shares. The set on the side

away from the towing engine did the job. While the plough was being drawn towards one ploughing engine, the other engine would move forward to line up a new set of furrows. Once the cable from that engine tightened the plough tilted to bring the correct set of ploughshares into use.



Meccano Worldwide Mail Order

See our website: <www.mwmailorder.co.uk>

"Our Meccano" by John Westwood

In this comprehensive new work, John reveals how genius in the detail designing of individual parts enabled Meccano to develop from a crude toy into a great adult hobby, with today's model builders brilliantly proving its ongoing capacity. Volume 1: Inspiration: Frank Hornby's inspiration, determination and luck; the philosophy and design of Meccano parts - prototypes, problems and solutions; factory production and quality control; model builders' contributions and discoveries.

Volume 2: Evolution: The history of the company and its products from 1901 to the present; new technologies and colour schemes; the Meccano Guild and the Meccano Magazine, competitions and awards. Here for the first time ever we see the history of the model builders and the clubs woven into the tapestry of the history of the Meccano Company, year by year, especially after the 1970s revival on our side.

Volume 3: Diversity: Famous Meccanomen and their models; Meccano collecting; rival, replica and compatible parts and systems; modifying parts; Meccano and independent literature and publications; the Meccano community: clubs and societies worldwide; the Internet: websites and newsgroups; virtual modelling; reference material; computer software; Meccano dealers and suppliers. Ref: OM Price: £19.95 (Set of three volumes, 109 pages A4)

Meccano Magazine on CD Vol. 14 1928 - 29

During this period, covered by 24 issues and 2,192 pages, was an expansion of the Meccano system heralded by frequent announcements of new parts. Also contained are building instructions for no fewer than nine Super Models. Often spread over two or more issues, they appeared at the same time as Meccano Ltd. was issuing them as a prestige leaflet series intended for separate sale and the two top outfits of the day. These construction articles run the gamut from SML4, the famous Giant Block Setting Crane, to the trivial Roundabout. An oddity of the time was a series of articles entitled *How To Use Meccano Parts* that was regularly accompanied by *In Reply*, a column devoted to rejecting suggestions for new Meccano parts! Also of interest to the builder was the continuation of the series of articles *Electricity Applied to Meccano*. Much of the content is obsolete today, but several gems warrant careful study and adaptation. Price £9.95

Meccano Magazine on CD Vol. 13 1930 - 31

Much of what may be termed the standard Meccano literature emerged in the pages of the Meccano Magazine or were published there during this period. The issues from 1930 include the final parts of the magazine serialisation of "How to Use Meccano Parts", later issued in booklet form. On the product front that year, and of particular interest, is the introduction of the Aero Constructor sets and the

subsequent redesign of some of the parts. Many of the 1928 - 37 Supermodel leaflets are published in these issues. A comparison of the magazine version with the leaflets is often quite informative for the historical researcher. Those leaflet models included the Dragline Excavator, Electric Mobile Crane, Warehouse, Electric Derrick Crane, Railway Breakdown Crane, Level Luffing Grabbing Crane and the Howitzer, Limber and Tractor. Although not published in leaflet form, the White Aerial Ropeway is also documented over two issues. Amongst many interesting mechanisms published in these issues are a swash plate mechanism and a 2.5 million to 1 gearbox. Price £9.95

Meccano Magazine on CD Vol. 12 1932 - 33

The strong growth of the Meccano Company at this time may be gauged from the fact that this volume, like the other volumes of the 1930s, contains only two years' issues, as the Meccano Magazine was substantially larger both in page count and format than in later periods. There are 2,172 pages in all. There is much to interest the Meccano enthusiast in the pages of this volume, such as Frank Hornby's second telling of the Life Story of Meccano - a romance in the true meaning of the word. Product developments, like the Motor Car Constructional sets produced in 1932, feature here. Models include the revised Grandfather Clock and Hand Loom, also released in the series of Super Model Leaflets. Other worthwhile features included a model of giant lorry to an appropriate scale, a working printing press and a twin, firing Anti Aircraft Gun. Contributions by Meccanoman include Keith Cameron's prize-winning model of the LMS locomotive "Fury" and Monsieur Rham's great Astronomical Clock. Price £9.95.

Meccano Magazine on CD Vol. 11 1934 - 35

The issues published during early part of the 1930s coincided with what is probably the peak period of interest in Binns Road production, which may be inferred from the sheer quantity of product related articles contained in this and the following volumes to be released in this series. The quantity and diversity of Meccano production was at its peak at this time and the MM recorded many of the details.

Within these pages you will find supermodels including the LNER 10,000 Locomotive, the Master Clock together with its slave, and a neat Outboard Motor. Also included is a six-part series on the history of the development of the British Marine Engine containing many interesting constructional features. Among the novel and interesting mechanisms included here are an automatic gramophone mechanism and movie projector rendered the Meccano. These issues also record introduction of such products as Dinky Builder and the transition to the lettered sets in late 1934. Price £9.95

"Silence is Golden" the saying goes. Our house tonight is very quiet with all three girls out staying at friends. The noise of the TV has been replaced with Carol reading a good book and me writing this column. So let us make a start:

* Marklin No. 1072 motor. This is a nice motor which Meccano used for a period-sixteen volt electric, this one is boxed and runs well. They always sell well as this one brought NZ\$250. It is a bit expensive to use!

* The 1930s Meccano was a great period and here we have a French Manual 1930 4 to 7 in great condition. Blue and Yellow cover-sold for NZ\$131.

* I have a liking for early Plastic Meccano sets and I have a few listed this time. This one is the Plastic No 1 set 1977. Boxed and in nice condition. 95% complete with instructions-good buy at NZ\$7.

* A Meccano manual 1, 2 & 3 about 1919 in nice condition. Has a red cover. These are not that uncommon but still bring about NZ\$40.

* Meccano No 4A empty Wood Box. This is just for the box, no parts and instructions. Box measures 22 by 13 by 2 inches. Lid has a bit of wear and damage, hinges not original and missing part of lock. Bottom lined with velvet and seller was unsure if the glass door on the inside was original. I guess this box is around 1911 -1914 era. Sold for NZ\$230.



* Hornby speed boat. "Racer III" only one owner since 1938. Racer in nice condition just needs a minor repair to rudder. Clockwork motor runs well and comes with key. Nice original box-

nice item and sold for NZ\$565.

* Meccano X series outfit No 2. These unusual sets were only produced for a short period from 1932 to 1936. They came out in two sizes, 1 and 2 and this No. 2 set is like the day it left the factory still fixed in the box with its red string. Came with instruction manual and sold for NZ\$450.

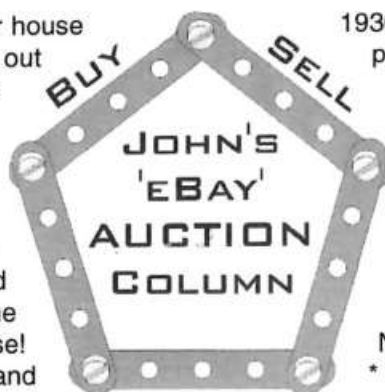
* A more unusual item- Engineering for Boys by the editor of the Meccano Magazine. Book written by Ellison Hawkes and dated 1st June, 1923. The 389 paged book with a coloured front showed wear but still very readable. NZ \$27.

* Another Plastic Meccano Set- Gears Set in wooden box. The wooden box has a sliding lid, looks fairly complete but no manual. A nice lot of plastic gears in this set-sold for NZ\$75.

* Some of you may have the next motor- the MR electric motor brought out by Meccano in the 1990s. It is a 9-12 volt DC motor, long and red in shape, a useful motor in certain situations. I do not have one and is on the list of things to buy. This one sold for NZ \$55- more than the new price a few years ago.

* If you have a spare "K" Oil can stamped with Meccano on it then you have a readily saleable item. They always sell well and this one was a very nice example-NZ\$300 please.

* Another desirable item is always the F-L manual of the



1930s. Considered by some the finest manual produced this beauty in MINT condition brought the amazing price of approx. NZ\$700.

* Next we have two Pocket Meccano Sets and their original dispenser. The two sets were complete and boxes in great condition. The dispenser was a display box placed on a counter from which the purchaser would take one of these sets from to purchase. An unusual item and sold for NZ\$42.

* Now let us look at a Dinky item. Dinky Toys British Road Signs No 772 mint. This is a complete set of twenty four British road signs in near mint condition. Very nice original box and inner -a really nice item and good investment- NZ\$235.

* Aeroplane Constructor sets are not uncommon on eBay but this one is a little different. Built as a Biplane in silver with authentic filigree corrugated sheet metal structure. Seller states that this aeroplane was "a very limited edition for the Scandinavian market". It is basically complete and comes with two extra wings and is in good condition. No box or manual. Final sale price NZ \$355.

* This rare non-Constructor Meccano two Seater Sports car of around 1930 in lovely condition-a real beauty. Car colours are blue and white and also comes with an excellent box-M223. Originally cost 6/6 sold for NZ\$2200.

* Another rare item-1926 No 6 Outfit-New and Unused. Sold by a well known dealer this set is new and unused, basically new old stock. All parts still wrapped or wired to stringing



boards just as it had just left the factory way back in 1926. Amazing set. Sold for approx. NZ\$4500.

* Meccano produced so many promotional catalogues and here is a early one. 1920s Toys of Quality. This one has the usual rusted staples and small tears but generally VG. Quite rare and sold well at NZ\$330.

* A more modern set- No 8 Meccano Breakdown Crew set of about 1967. The set is in very good condition, nice box and parts nice and clean. All manuals present and a nice addition to your collection for NZ\$510.

* To finish with let us look at the set most of us wish to own-a mint No 10. Here we have a near mint No 10 set from 1964. This one is a little different in that some of the parts are in there original factory yellow boxes-parts are in very good condition and although the set is not strung there are two stringing cards present. Includes all the manuals and the No 10 leaflets in a green folder. 99% complete and comes in a lovely oak 4 drawer cabinet. Sell the TV or what ever. For NZ\$5000 it could have been yours.

Thanks for calling in and until next time, John Hansen, <happypastimes@ihug.co.nz>

New Zealand Club Diary 2006

Auckland Meccano Club.

Contact - David Wall - Ph 09 426 1965.

Meetings at 2 pm on second Saturday every third month.
2006 - 11 November.

MWT Meccano Club.

Contact - John Hansen - Ph 06 325 8211.

Meetings at 2 pm on second Saturday every second month
at St. Luke's Church Hall, cnr. Cornfoot and Manuka Streets,
Wanganui.
2006 - 9 December.

Wellington Meccano Club.

Contact - Lou Nichols Ph 04 973 6177.

Meetings at 7.30 pm on first Friday every second month at
Konini School, Wainuiomata.
2006 - 1 December

Christchurch Meccano Club.

Contact - Graeme O'Neill Ph 03 322 7456.

Meetings at 7.30 pm on first Friday every month (except
January) at St John's Hall, cnr St John St. and Ferry Rd.,
Woolston, Christchurch.
2006 - 1 December.

Other Important Dates

6-7-8 April 2007. - Convention 2007, Upper Hutt. email
<moodys@ihug.co.nz>.

Additional Meccano Contacts

Hamilton - Don McClelland Ph 07 843 4198.

Hawera - Daryl Anderson Ph 06 278 7666.

Kapiti Coast - Bob Prescott Ph 04 905 2963.

Napier - Trevor Adam Ph 06 843 4837.

Palmerston Nth - Bruce Geange Ph 06 357 0566.

Wanganui - Tom Pittams Ph 06 345 9099.

Internet sites

International Society of Meccanomen (ISM)
<www.internationalmeccanomen.org.uk>.

Meccano Webring <www.meccanoweb.com/meccring>.

Category Indexes to articles in Meccano related Magazines
<www.dalefield.com/nzfmm/constructorq/bneilson.html>

Articles etc. for the December 2006 issue of NZFMM
Magazine should be sent to the Editor well before 7
November 2006. (Note earlier closing date)

Back Numbers - NZFMM Magazines from April 2001 are
available again. Contact the Editor.

Consolidated Index for NZFMMM 1976 to 2005 Vols. 1 to 29

27 pages in .rtf format can be sent by email only on email
request to the Editor.

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John Hansen, Phone (06) 3258 211, email
<happypastimes@ihug.co.nz>.



Not valid for postage in New Zealand!

The *South Goodwin* lightship and the **MECCANO Toys of Quality** were both offered on the front page of the 1957 Meccano Display Models brochure (see page 11). These examples belonged to the late Lindsay Bond and were exhibited at the 1997 Convention in Feilding.

Photos by Lou Nichols.



The *Rotating Motor Chassis* is an earlier version of a Dealers Display Model than the one illustrated on page 13. It has been reassembled from the original parts by Alistair Tong and was displayed at the 2003 Convention at Upper Hutt. Photo by Bruce Neilson.

