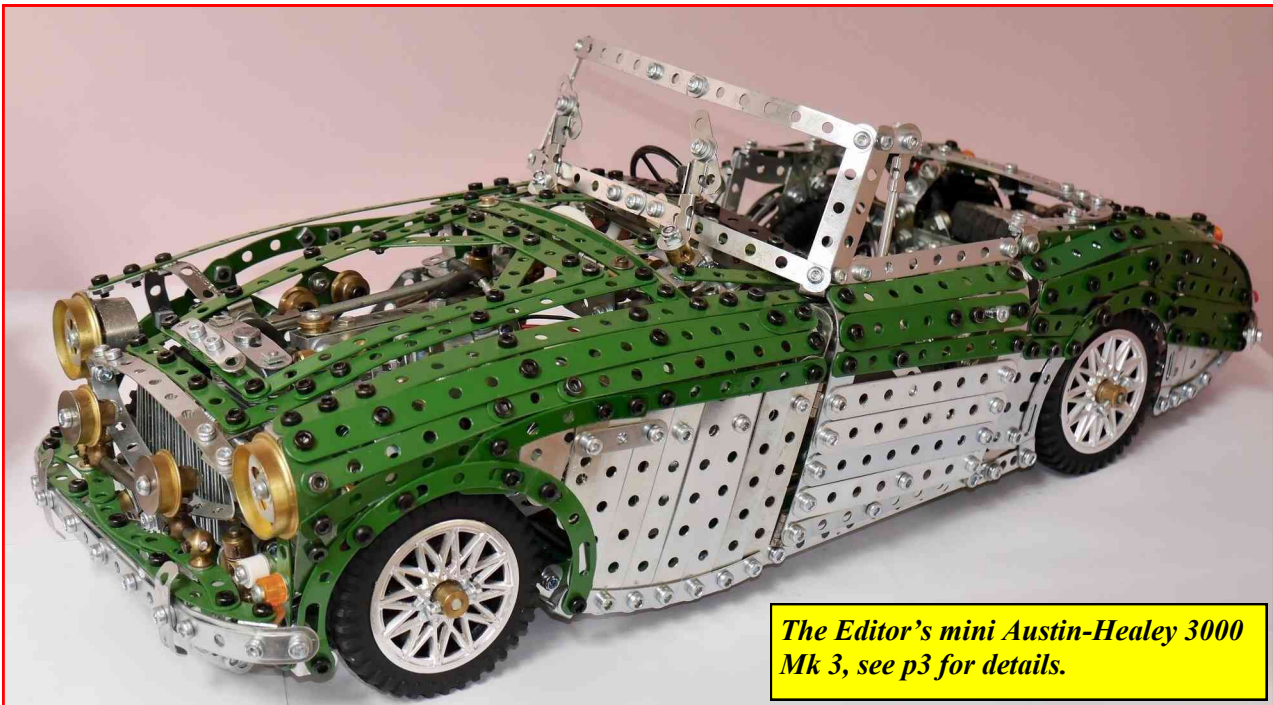




NZEMM MAGAZINE

Volume 40, No. 1

February 2016



The Editor's mini Austin-Healey 3000 Mk 3, see p3 for details.



Graham Jost's Servetti Braider, see p10. (Fig.1)

Included in this issue:

- Mini Austin-Healey 3000
- Servetti Braiding Machine
- Spanner Christmas Challenge
- The Meccanoid
- Club Reports
- Dazza's Other Systems
- Gazza's Ebay Column

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Editorial

Another year has rolled over and 2016 is speeding by. The weather here in Auckland has been so hot and humid lately it isn't too amenable to working on Meccano with moist fingers.

You will see that we have entered our 40th year of publishing this Magazine, a bit of a triumph I think in this age of constant change. This is my 9th year as editor and I'm certainly not promising to continue for another 9.

There have been plenty of new Spin Master sets in the retailers and I hope you got your fair share for Christmas. Spin Master sorted out the Tower Crane Angle Girder debacle by sending all purchasers a new set of orange Angle Girders, this time folded in the correct place. I got 2 sets of replacements because I complained to S-M and that set included a set of the new Narrow AGs as well, these being identical to the original set, why I know not. It was good to see S-M handle the problem quickly and efficiently. There has been a lot written by the Meccano community about the very successful Meccanoids and a long article by David Couch and John Stark is included within.

I am off to the UK for nearly 3 months from May, a postponed trip which hopefully will take in SkegEx at Skegness in early July. A full report should be included in the May or August issues. The May issue may be a couple of months late because it probably won't be completed till our return, so don't get worried if it hasn't arrived by late May.

You will note (to your left) that the subscriptions are due and that we have increased them a bit to cover postage increases, exchange rate changes and not wanting to further decrease our reserves.

My continued thanks to the regular contributors to the Mag and thankyou to David and John, Graham Jost and Dave Shand for responding to my plea for articles for this issue. Just keep writing articles and sending them in, even while we are away; my computer doesn't go on holiday!

Les M

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AUSTIN-HEALEY 3000 Mk 3 - the Mini Version

by Les Megget

I wrote up the larger version of this sports car in the February 2014 issue (Vol 38, No. 1) and it was intended to take that to the Meccano Skegex annual exhibition in Skegness in 2015. However it weighed far too much to be my hand luggage and our plans for the UK trip were delayed one year.

Thus this smaller version (about 1:7.5 scale) evolved over the last year. I started with the 3" diameter tyres from *Frizinghalls* in Bradford, which fit 2" Pulleys. As the prototype rims are 15" diameter you can see where the 7.5 scale came from.

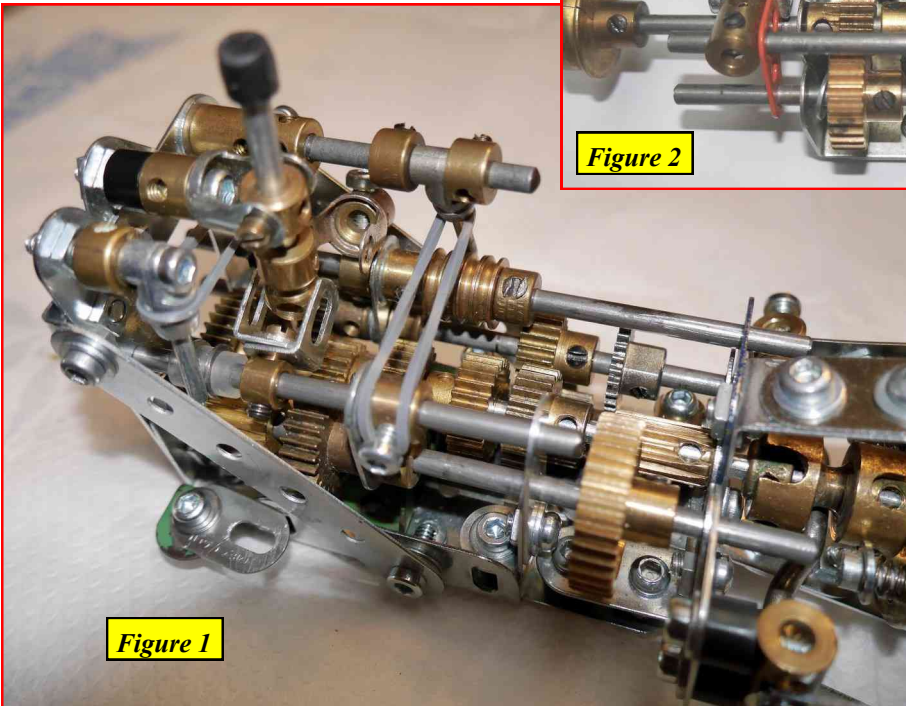


Figure 1

Once the scale was set I went about designing the gearbox, which had to be 4-speed and reverse and be as close to prototypical length as possible. That meant about 6-holes in total length.

The 7-hole long gearbox is shown in Fig. 1. This was based on a design I found on the internet by an English modeler but as usual I changed much of it. It has an H-gear selection pattern with reverse on the same leg as top, not quite prototypical but close. The ratios are: 1st 6.41:1, 2nd 2.53:1, 3rd 1:1 and 4th 1:1.73. So 4th is an overdrive ratio which isn't far off the actual gearbox with overdrive activated.

Since then I've built a more compact 4-speed and reverse 'box which is only 5-holes long (Fig. 2) but it would require a major rebuild to fit it into the chassis and the ratios aren't as widely spaced.

Engine: I used one of Stan Baker's largest motors for the motive power masquerading as the starter motor, a little out of scale but difficult to see it in the finished model. The compact clutch is one of Alan Wenbourne's, described in the *Runnymede Meccano Guild Magazine* and in *CQ*. Fig. 3 shows the engine, clutch and gearbox, comparing it to the real cars in fig. 4 (scanned from "*The Big Healeys*" by Graham Robson). The engine is a little short, the clutch and gearbox a bit long but the final overall length isn't too bad.



Figure 2

Fig. 5 is the engine, etc from the RHS showing a Collar representing the generator, with two 7-hole, 1/4" hole spaced Narrow Strips for the fan and a Threaded Coupling for the oil filter. The distributor between the generator and oil filter is a plastic cylinder from the *Tintin* series with a brass cap. The 6 spark plug leads have yet to be fitted.

Chassis: The chassis frame is made from two 12 1/2"

Angle Girders for each side rail with an end extension of 3 1/2" AGs, but not quite as deep. The car's underside is shown in Fig. 6. Also visible is the narrow width differential, which uses narrow faced 15t Pinions in an effort to reduce the width to a minimum. Short, 1" long universal joints fit well in the restricted space available.

Fig. 7 shows the front suspension double wish-bone setup. A non-Meccano spring is jammed between the bottom 1" Triangular Plate and a similar part under the "shock absorber" Coupling bolted to the suspension box bolted to the chassis rail.

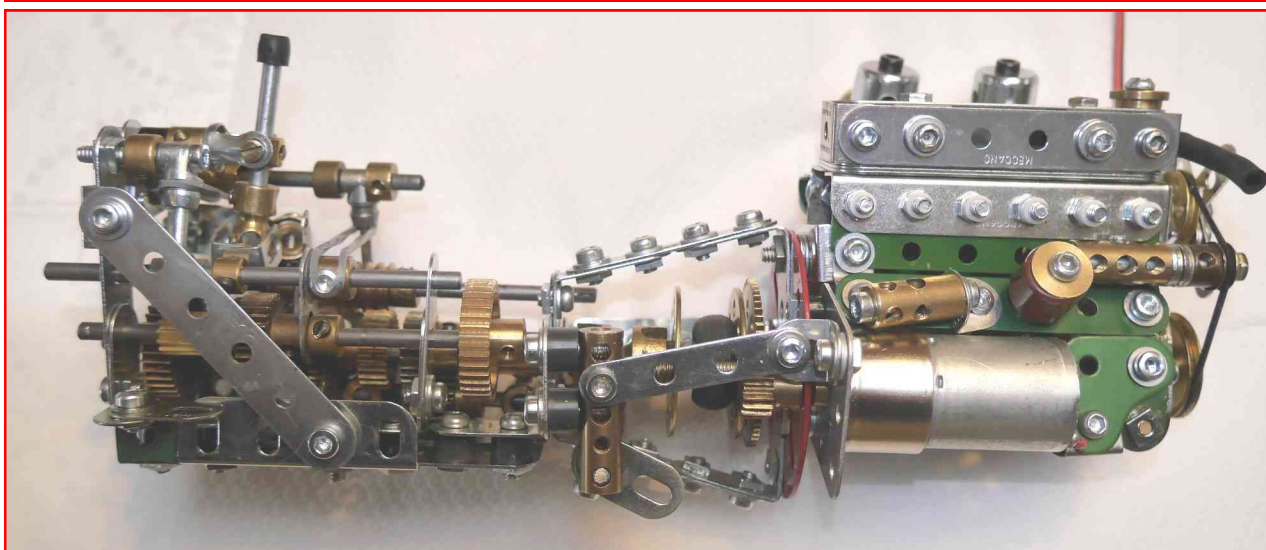
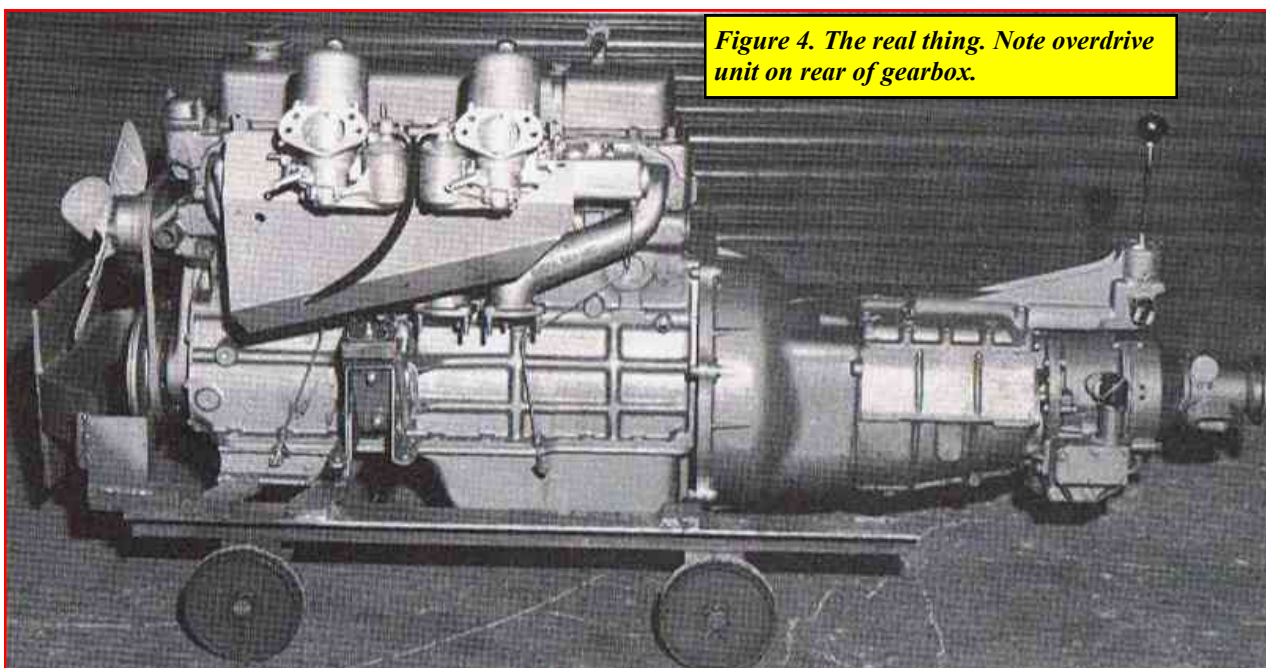
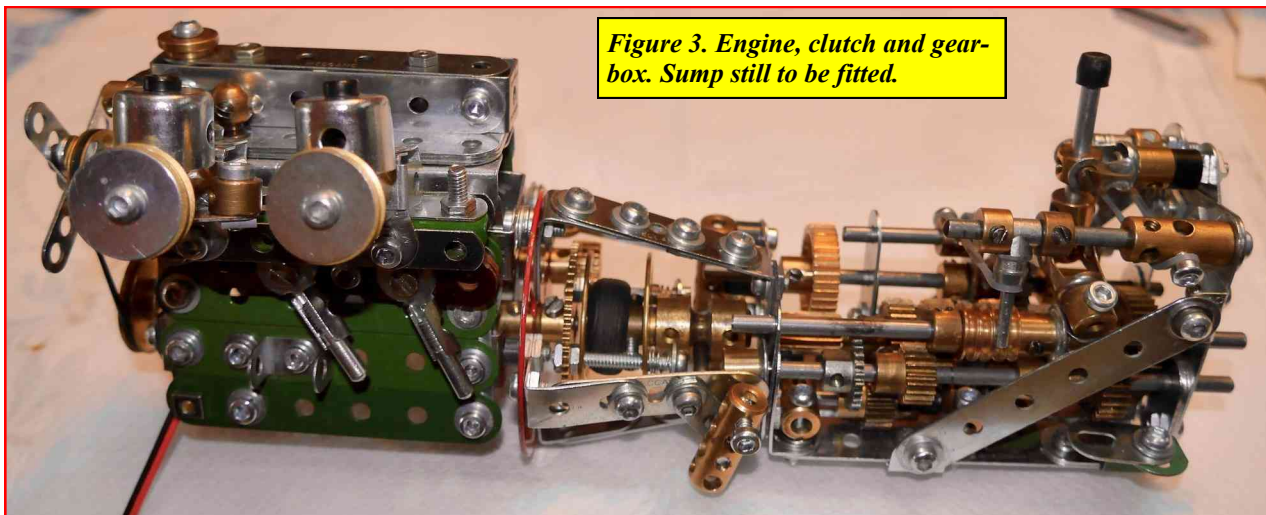


Figure 6:
Healey's underside showing chassis, differential, and convoluted exhaust system. The engine sump has not been fitted.

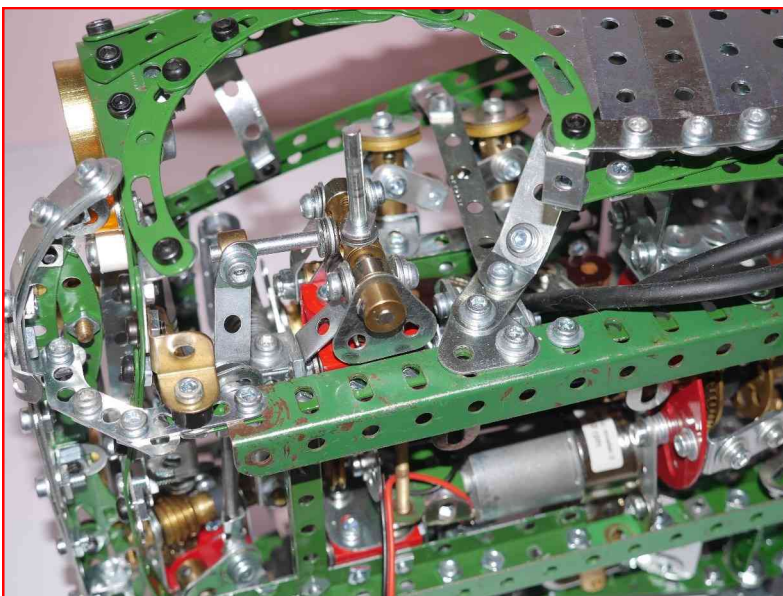
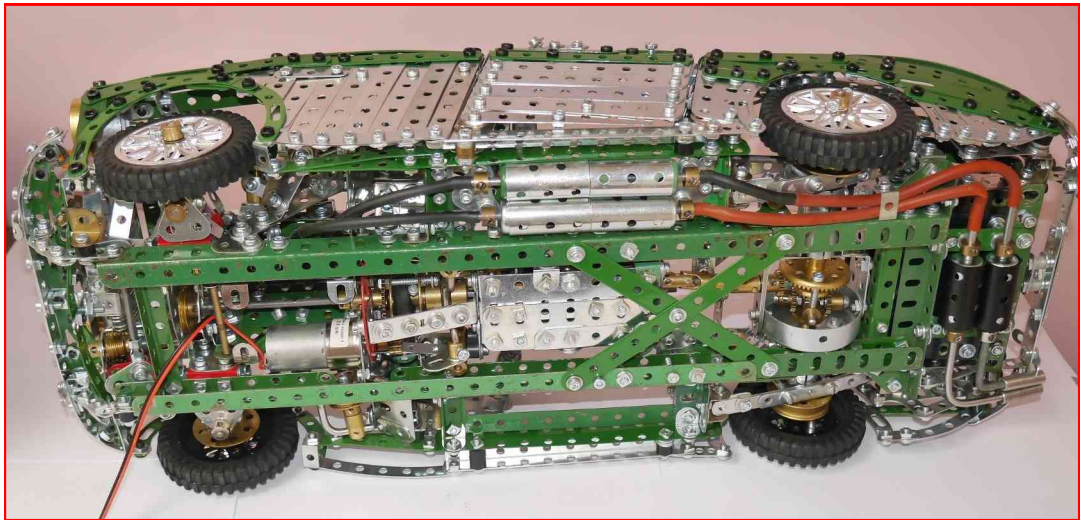


Figure 7:
Front suspension with front wheel and disk brake (Bush Wheel) removed. The short Worm (blurred) in the steering box can be seen at lower left.

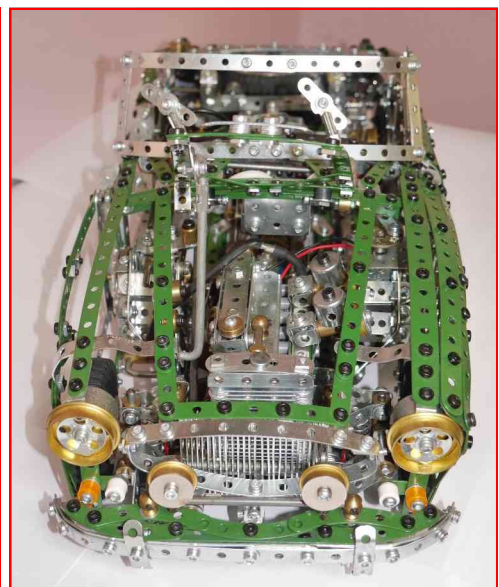
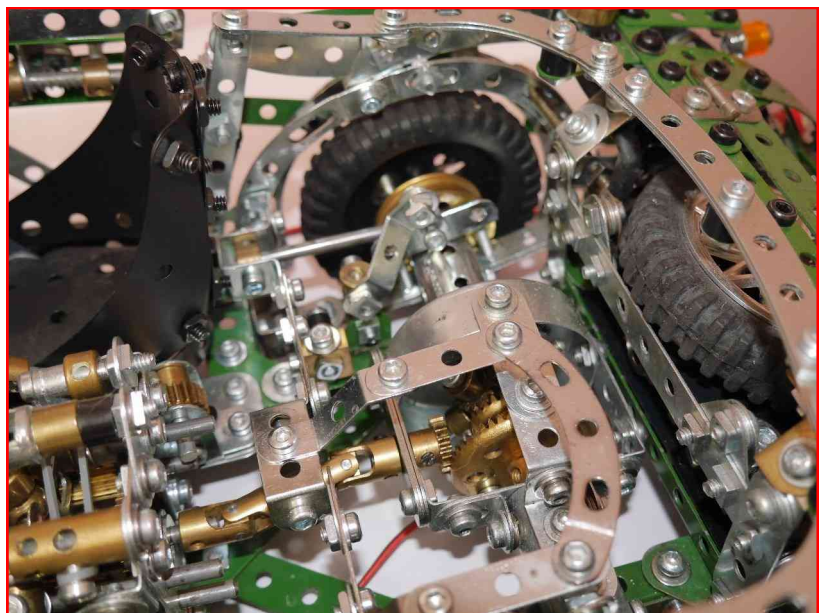


Figure 8:
Front of car with skeletal bonnet raised. Windscreen wipers need adjustment so that they lie flat at rest.

The rear suspension uses multi-Narrow Strips as the leaf springs in such a way that the rear axle lies *above* the chassis rails. The lever Armstrong shock absorbers are represented by vertical couplings with 3-hole Obtuse Narrow Strip links to the rear axle (Fig. 9). Anti-tramp rods are fitted as per the real car.

Figure 9:
Differential and rear axle showing right hand anti-tramp rod and lever arm shock absorber. The frame over the diff is for the occasional rear seats, only one seat pan shown.



Car Body: The body panels are reproduced on the left side only so that viewers can see the internal workings of the car. Green strips, both Narrow and standard, were used above the swage line with zinc strips below. Note the non-standard Ashok 8-hole Strips used on the left hand door skin. The bonnet and boot lid are in frame form only and Fig. 10 shows the boot open with the spare wheel sitting on top of the black petrol tank. The black cube to the right of the tank represents the battery, placed there in the prototype to assist in approximately equal front and rear weight balance. Getting the complex curved body work to look right was difficult and took several attempts before I was satisfied.

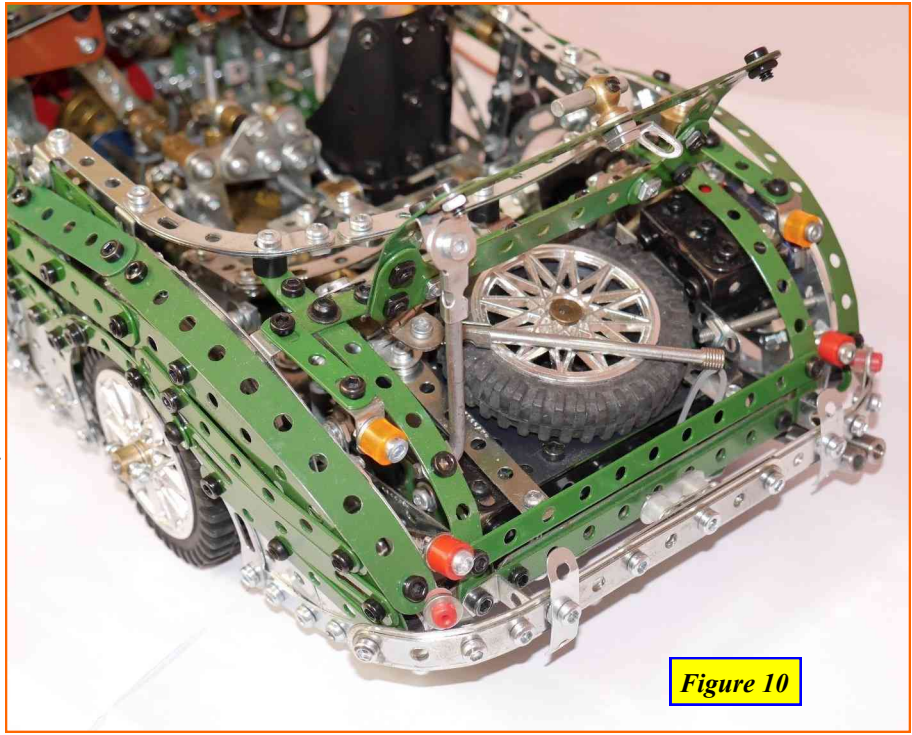


Figure 10

Fig. 11 shows the car's interior with the dashboard showing the main gauges; rev counter and speedo using $\frac{1}{2}$ " Pulleys without boss stuck to the "veneered" dash.

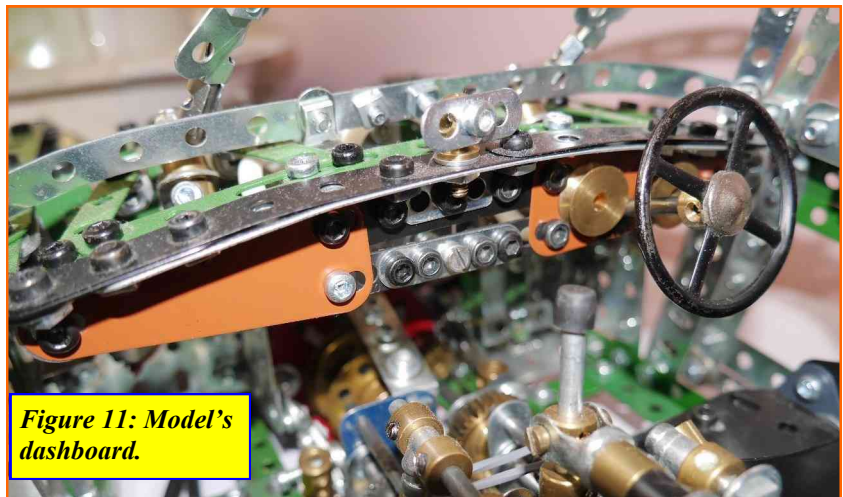


Figure 11: Model's dashboard.

The windscreen wipers are powered by a mini 6V geared motor and I have yet to fit their mini-switch on the dashboard. The dash of the real Mk 3 Healey 3000 is shown in Fig. 12. I hope you can see some resemblance to the model. The model just needs a central console over the gearbox hump.

sawn off they fit perfectly on the boss of a 2" Pulley.

I've squeezed some foot pedals into this model and Fig. 13 shows the clutch and brake pedals. The wire-wheel trim pieces are from the Mechanical

The plan is to take the model to Skegness in July. I will report back in the August issue.

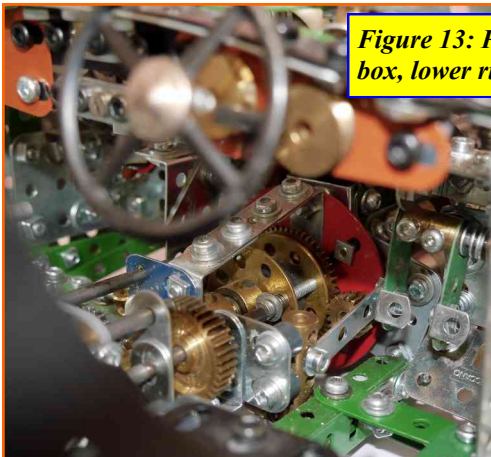


Figure 13: Pedal box, lower right.

Workshop set and with their bosses



Figure 12: Interior of actual Mk 3 Austin-Healey 3000. Steering wheel is non-original, as is upper mirror.

SPANNER 2015 CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

by Les Megget

Every December the *Spanner* internet Group organise a model challenge using a specific Meccano set or a size restriction or a maximum number of parts. This Christmas it was decided, after some discussion, to use the 1955 No. 3 set + one Centre Fork (P/N 65).



Stan Knight

Over 50 models were built and uploaded on the NZMeccano website. There was a great variety of models and this was one of the best Challenges yet in my view. This set comprised only 50 Bolts and 56 Nuts plus six $\frac{3}{8}$ " Bolts. The lack of these seemed to be the biggest problem in finishing many models and some modellers admitted to using a few more. There were 8 Angle Brackets in this set and that seemed too few for many, including me.

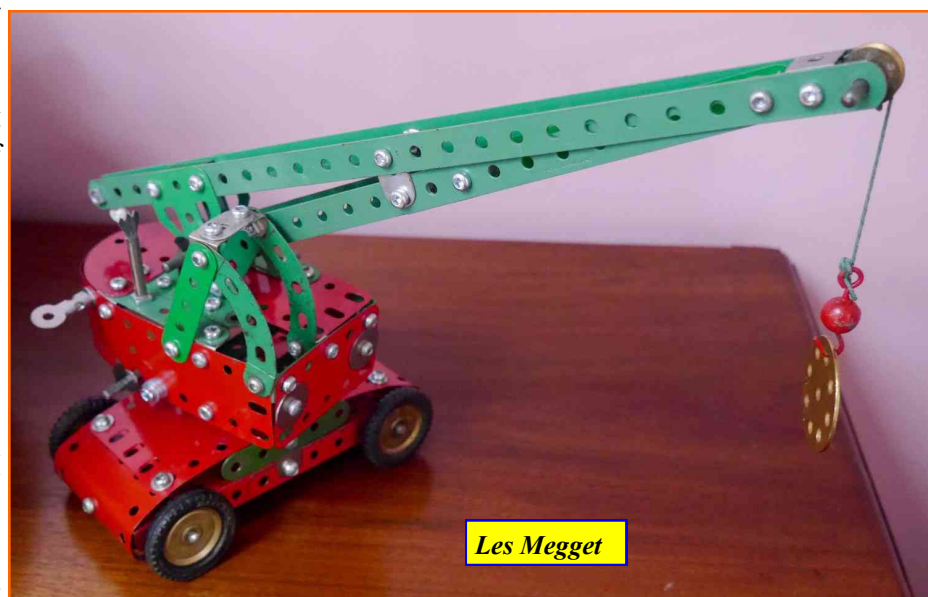
I had just finished marking exams and was in need of something less stressful to do so my Coles Mobile Crane was the first model shown in late November. When I checked this model it had been viewed over 650 times, considerably more than many of the others. I don't think that was because it's any better than the others, just that it was the first to be uploaded.



Rick Vine



Gary Higgins



Les Megget

Here are a sample of some of the models built before the end of 2015.



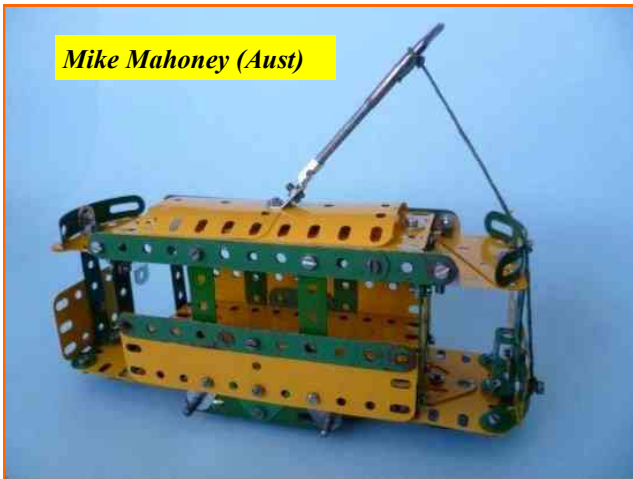
Peter Harwood



Norman Brown



Nigel Pope



Mike Mahoney (Aust)



Joe Attard (Malta)



Mick Burgess



George Illingworth



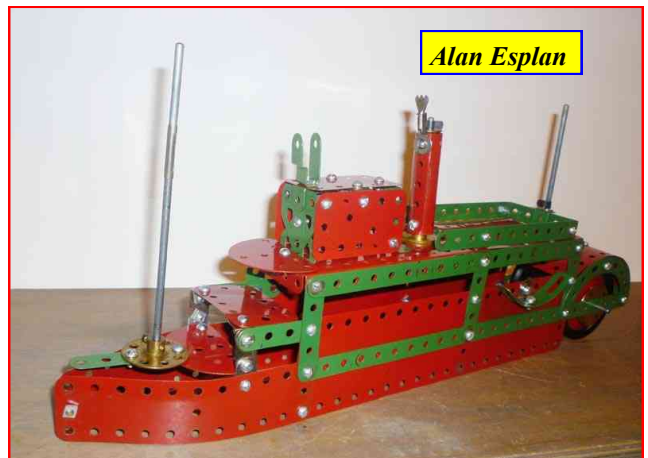
David Dalton



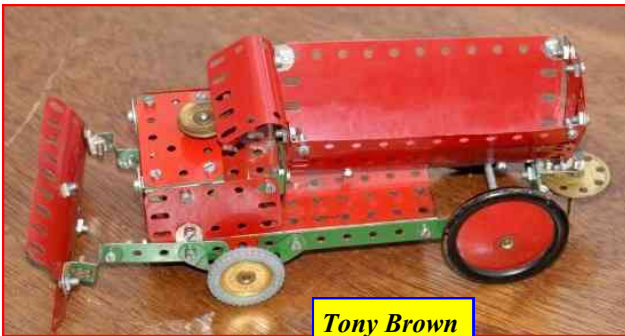
Brian Willis



Andrew Jardine



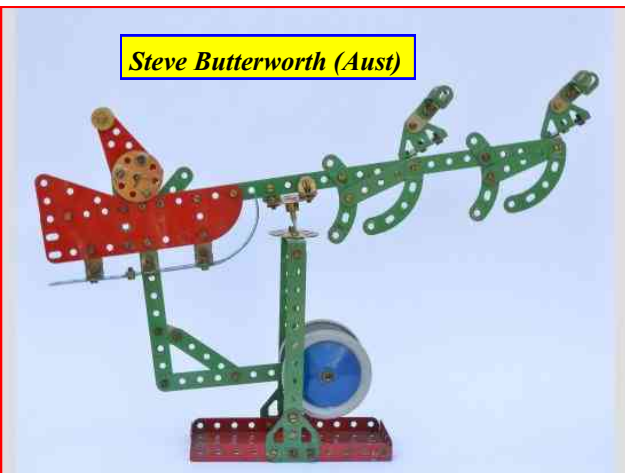
Alan Esplan



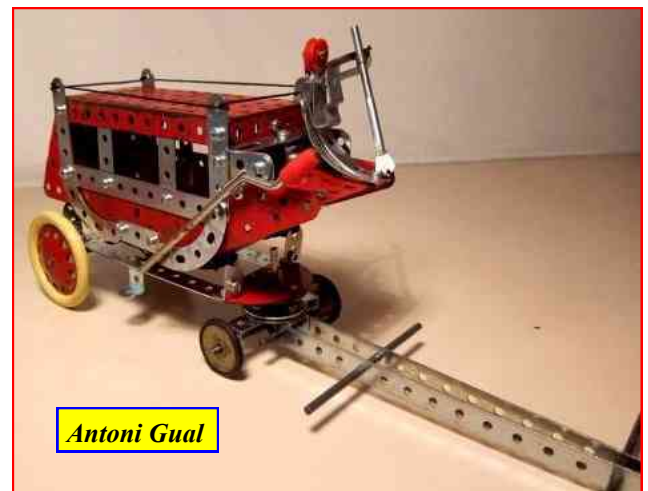
Tony Brown



Stan Knight



Steve Butterworth (Aust)



Antoni Gual

Compact Servetti Braiding Machine

Graham Jost, Melbourne

Background

Many years ago I was introduced to Meccano braiding machines, a fascinating area to which I have returned time and again. Having built my first Maypole braider in 2002 from instructions in the 1966 Meccano Magazine, I was keen to try another, when Canadian Special Model Number 13 entitled *Maypole Tubular Braider* came my way. This braider was designed by Giuseppe Servetti and had been built and then documented by the late Dr. Keith Cameron in 1988. My Servetti braider, built later in 2002, is shown at Fig.2.

An unusual aspect of this braider was the use of the concave edges of Flexible Gussets in building up the outer track profiles for the circulating spools, some 24 of them being required – twelve for the upper track and twelve for the lower. At the time I had very few of those Gussets and had to resort to a flycutter operating on a stack of 2½" square Flexible Plates to achieve the required number! Invention though this scheme was, it did result in a braider of unnecessarily large proportions, its main footprint being 12½" square. If you examine Fig.2 you will see that there is a lot of peripheral unused space around the serious inner part of the deck containing the tracks and spools.

Revised Structure and Gearing

Recently, I decided to revisit this braider, with a view to slimming it down – the new braider is shown at Fig.1, see front cover. It was quickly established that, using similar carriers, the working whole could be contained within a 9½" square framework, and that the carriers themselves could be mounted a little closer together as well. Fig.3 shows the main framework of my machine. Multi-Purpose Gears were to be used throughout, on the carrier shafts and as idlers in-between – some 18 were required altogether around the inner hexagons of Perforated Strips of Fig.3. Fig.4 shows the straightforward arrangement of this gearing from beneath.

The main framework is topped by a Perspex sheet on which the spool assemblies slide as they circulate around the machine, Fig.5. This provides a surprisingly effective visual improvement over the opaque surface of that used in the original braider. Fig.5 also shows one of the six carriers in position.



Fig.2: Original Servetti Braider

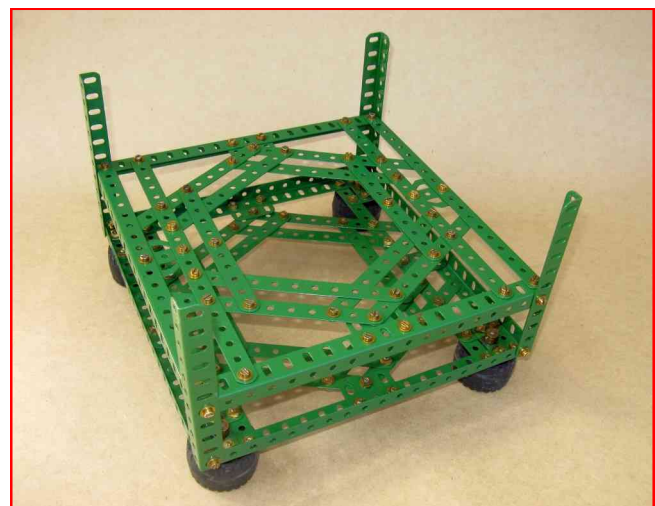


Fig.3: Main Framework

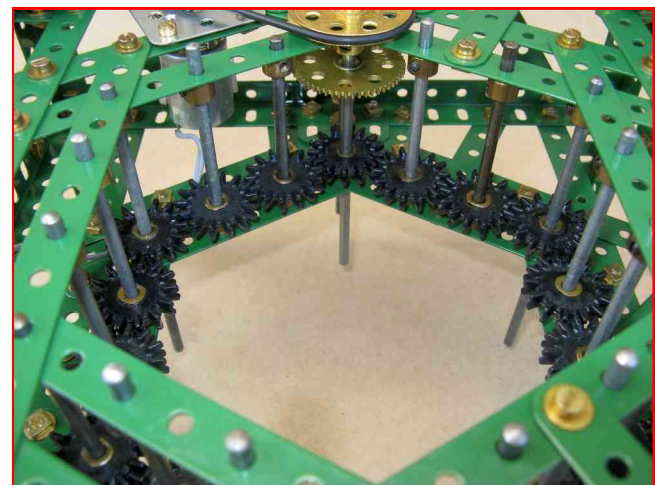


Fig.4: Carrier Gearing

Tracks

The original top and bottom tracks formed from multiple numbers of Flexible Gussets were replaced by even larger numbers of 3½" Stepped Curved Strips (16) and large-radius 2½" Curved Strips (16), Fig.6. In the centre, plain Faceplates provide the necessary restraint there for the circulating spool assemblies – it was a very pleasant surprise to find that no additional restraining devices were required here!

Braiding and Storage

Two-ply knitting cotton is being used. The original braider drew off its completed braid onto a take-up drum direct. I prefer to draw off the braid at a constant rate, irrespective of the diameter of the braid already stored on the take-up drum. An overhead, driven, pinch-roller gear pair carries out this function here, Fig.7. Perhaps rather surprisingly, the triangular braid is not affected by the severe squashing it receives as it passes through the pinch rollers – it simply regains its former composure again immediately on exiting!

The take-up drum to one side is driven by a slipping O-ring, thus applying a constant light tension to the braid arriving at it from the pinch rollers. A suitably curved bar above the drum ensures a neat linear layout of stored braid, Fig.8.

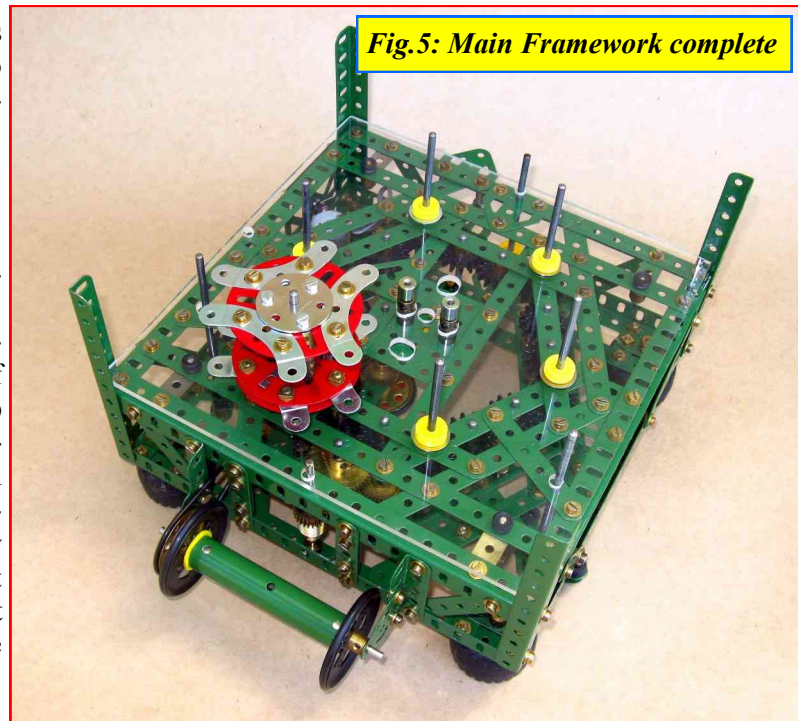
A central core thread adds a little bulk to the braid. This is drawn off from a relatively large storage drum on the other side of the braider. It passes horizontally into the centre of the machine, around a 1" Pulley there and then upwards to the enmeshing point above to become part of the completed braid.

Finale

I am very pleased to have been able to rebuild the Servetti braiding machine to a usefully smaller size, in all three dimensions, without sacrificing anything by way of braid quality – earlier braids and those from the present machine are absolutely identical. It is also lighter, at just over 5 kg, quieter and much more conveniently stored.

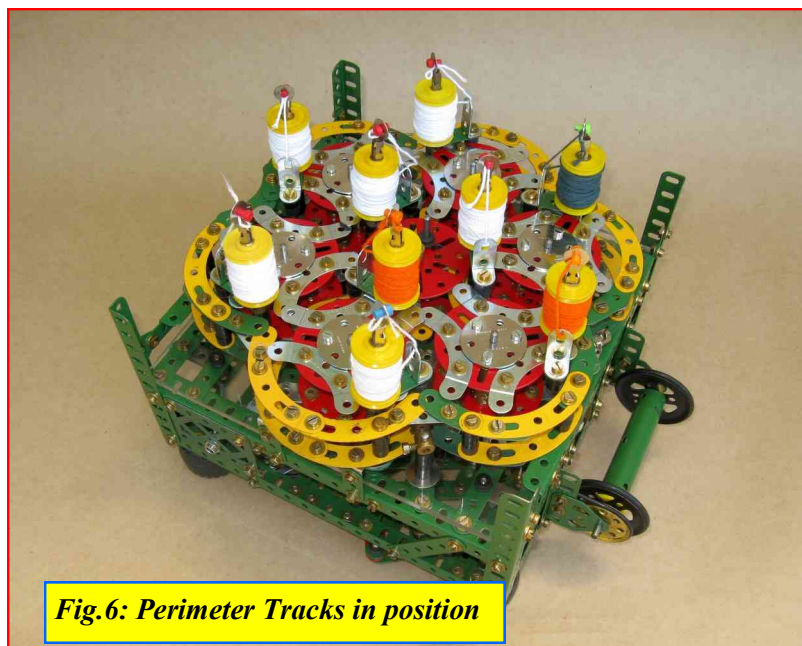
I had experimented earlier with mixing colours and the numbers of each colour of threads without coming to a defini-

itive answer as to what looks best. I do think that my original five white, three red and one black combination is as good as any, and have tended to stay with that, as shown here. But as this braider likely has some considerable exhibition life ahead of it, and now that I have an increased palette of



thread colours to try, I will certainly be taking the opportunity to revisit this matter.

The new braider is documented in more detail in CQ 111 for March 2016. Stills and movies can be viewed on the NZ website at <http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-97155>



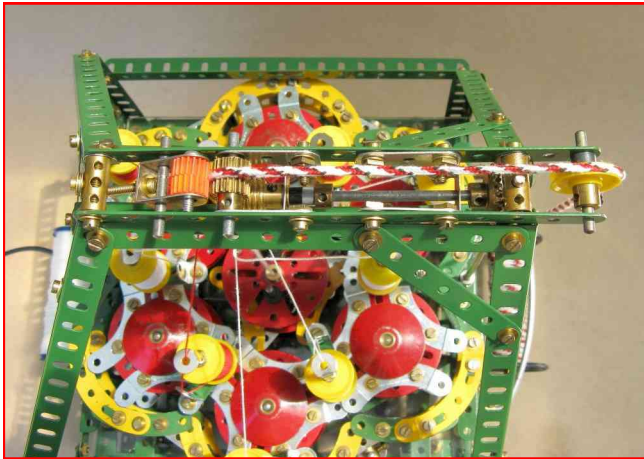


Fig. 7: Overhead Pinch Roller Gear Pair



Fig. 8: Stored Braid

The Meccanoid

by David Couch and John Stark

Having bought out Meccano in October 2013, *Spin Master* launched the Meccanoid at the Consumer Electronics Show and various toy fairs in January 2015. It took the toy world by storm, and was voted toy of the year.

Innovations:

Compared with all previous Meccano products, the Meccanoid is revolutionary in at least three ways. First, it is made almost entirely of plastic, the only metal parts, apart from the motors, being traditional nuts and bolts. The material is thick and tough, so there is no concern about it breaking. Many of the parts have odd, specialised shapes, but holes at half-inch spacing give some compatibility with traditional Meccano.

Second, it incorporates a computer, called the MeccaBrain. At last a computer has become a standard part of the Meccano system and brought it into the 21st century.

Third, it uses servos to move the arms and head, so servos have also become official Meccano parts.

Building the Meccanoid:

There are in fact two Meccanoids. The larger one is named G15KS (15 for 2015, KS for Kid Size). It stands about four feet tall. The MeccaBrain is displayed in the middle of its chest. Each arm has three servos, giving three axes of movement. The head is moved by two servos. The feet are fixed, each carried on a single wheel at the toe end and a castor at the heel, with an independently controlled motor, so that the Meccanoid can turn. It has rechargeable batteries in a box on its back. The smaller Meccanoid, named G15, is about two feet tall. It has only two servos in each arm and none in the head, and uses non-rechargeable batteries. Functionally it appears to be similar to the larger model.

Building the G15KS was quite straightforward, and we did not have any special difficulty. The manual is well-produced and there were no significant errors in the instructions. As always with instructions in pictures it is important to study the details of the pictures carefully. The asymmetric mirror-image parts in the body are a particular trap. The parts fit together nicely, with locating pegs in some places and square recesses to hold the nuts. Expect to spend 4 – 5 hours assembling the G15KS.

Continued on the next page.

Meccanoid behaviour:

The MeccaBrain hardware and software are quite sophisticated. The Meccanoid interacts with its owner in four ways.

The first is speech recognition and synthesis. The Meccanoid recognizes about thirty spoken commands, to move, dance, shake hands, tell the time, tell jokes and so on. It talks a lot and plays music and other sound effects. The Meccanoid comes programmed to speak English but the language can be changed using Robot Update Software from Meccano.com. For English speakers one can choose between US and UK English. However it seems to make little difference to the speech recognition – for speakers of New Zealand English at least.

The second is Learned Intelligent Movement. When put in LIM mode the servos can move freely, and the owner can place the arms in a series of positions, which are recorded. On another command the movements are then played back. Several sequences can be stored.

The third is the ragdoll. An app running on an Android tablet or phone displays a small picture of the Meccanoid. As the owner moves the picture, the Meccanoid makes the same movements, using Bluetooth communication. The Android device records the series of movements and these can be played back to repeat the sequence.

The fourth is motion capture. An app running on an Android phone inserted in the front of the Meccanoid captures the owner's movements with its camera and transmits them to the MeccaBrain via Bluetooth. The Meccanoid then copies the person's movements.

Criticisms:

The ragdoll and motion capture functions require an Android tablet and phone respectively with Bluetooth. Spin Master has provided a list of compatible devices, and the apps refuse to install on most devices that are not on the list. They would not install, for example, on an *HP* tablet, but did install on a Nextbook 7" tablet, despite it not having any Bluetooth capability. The software installed and works well on a *Motorola* Moto G (2014) smartphone and *Samsung* Galaxy Tab S2 9.7".



The little brother Meccanoid (G15).



Big brother Meccanoid (G15 KS).

The list of compatible devices is not exhaustive. It is probable that Android devices that support Bluetooth LE (low energy) which was introduced with BT 4.0 and Android 4.3 (or above) *may* be compatible with the Meccanoid and associated software.

Evidently Spin Master believes that people in North America, at least, already own these high-tech gadgets. If you don't, you may have to spend another \$1,000 to get the full functionality of your Meccanoid.

The Meccanoid is alleged to have a repertoire of a thousand jokes, random facts and smart comments, but we have found that it just repeats the same half-dozen very feeble jokes.

There are some spoken commands that the Meccanoid has great trouble recognising and either ignores them or confuses them with another command. Maybe Kiwi-English is required? Presumably the speech recognition is attuned to children's voices, and it seems to do better with a woman's voice than a man's.

The smaller Meccanoid runs on standard dry-cell batteries. Some people have complained that a set of batteries lasts only a few minutes. Spin Master has issued some guidelines for prolonging the battery life.

The Meccanoid kit has been advertised as being able to build other models, and Spin Master has occasionally shown pictures of such models, mostly animal-like figures. So far instructions for only two alternative models have been published: dinosaurs that can be built from both the large and small Meccanoid kits. However as yet there does not seem to be any way to upload programs specific to these models. They simply run the same programs as the two robots.

The motors in the feet have been designed specifically to be mounted in the plastic housings that make up the feet of the robots. In that respect they may be the least versatile motors that Meccano has ever produced. However, they seem up to the task, at least on firm surfaces like wooden or vinyl floors, but thick carpet can result in your G15KS falling over backwards when running in reverse as the small castors at the heels dig into the carpet.

The new spanner and Allen key wrench provided in the Meccanoid sets may look the part but seem to be of fairly poor quality. The jaws of the spanner spread apart and there is obvious wear on the business end of the wrench. Tools like these

should be expected to last much longer than simply building the model in the box.

Technical details:

The MeccaBrain is based on a Generalplus GPCE4096UA processor. (Google this for more technical details.) It is somewhat similar to the Arduino but with added capability for speech recognition and synthesis. The board includes 64Mb of flash memory, power regulators, motor and servo controllers, a loudspeaker and other features, all packaged in a box measuring 100 x 70 mm. Some of us were quite excited at the prospect of having a real Meccano computer which we could program. However this is not possible so far, as Spin Master has not provided the necessary information and software. The current unofficial word is that these will not be available before September 2016.

The servos look like conventional servos as used in radio-controlled models, but in fact are quite different. Whereas conventional servos are controlled by analog pulses whose width indicates the required position, these servos use two-way digital signals. Two-way means that the computer can discover what types of servos or other modules are present, and the servos, when put in LIM mode, can report their current positions. *Spin Master* has released on the Meccano web site a document describing the servo protocol and, rather strangely, a software library to enable the servos to be controlled by an Arduino microcontroller. We are currently experimenting with this.

Conclusion:

The Meccanoid is a very sophisticated, high-tech toy, totally different from any so-called robots produced by Meccano before. The idea is that it will be a smart companion for a child, who will interact with it in many ways and be constantly entertained by it. Certainly that capability is there, but we think we would get bored with it fairly soon.

For the adult Meccanoman the most interesting parts of the Meccanoid are the computer and servos, which alone are worth the price. For those who are inclined to such things they offer tremendous potential for building intelligent models and machines, once *Spin Master* provides the tools.

Improved versions of the Meccanoid, named G16 and G16KS, were announced at CES 2016, along with the Meccasaur T-Rex and Meccano Micro-noid. Watch the Meccano web site for details.



Auckland Meccano Guild Meeting

7th November
2015

Reporter & Photos: Gary Higgins

This meeting was held at **Les and Shirley Megget's** house in Papakura.

Les had on display his model of the new *Spin Master* Tower Crane and he was able to demonstrate many of its features to us. It did appear that the crane slewed at a speed which was not ideal for such a tall model, however Les had been able to get it to work and had adapted various Meccano parts to allow for the misaligned holes on the original shipping. The replacement parts have since arrived and no doubt Les will be fitting them (*NO, I like my solution better!*).

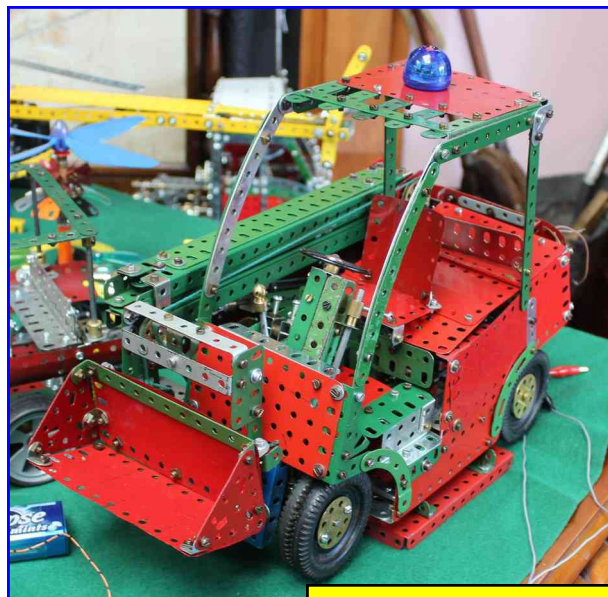
Les has also been working on a model of the Hyster 45-31 container handler, complete with sea container frame. It looks impressive so far and will no doubt work faultlessly when completed.

Brian Cotton and his son and daughter had brought along a complete *Hornby* train display, with rails mounted on an A frame, complete with appropriate signage; a nice vintage display. I heard one of the members say that this was a true reflection of Meccano Meetings of old with both Hornby and Meccano represented. He had a LMS 2180 loco and a LNER1784 along with various other bits of rolling stock, all in nice condition. His daughter had also made a small model to add to the display.



Graeme Mills had built a helicopter from the 20 Model set and another with some interesting variations using large curved strips. It was a search and rescue helicopter and included a winch.

Gerald Hart presented his model of a modern lifter/loader combination vehicle (Teletruck), which had a boom that lay flat on the side of the vehicle and lifted up and out to handle loads in difficult areas. I have seen these used on the wharves to load passenger vessels. Gerald also had a fine model of a Shay locomotive.



Gerald Hart's Teletruck.

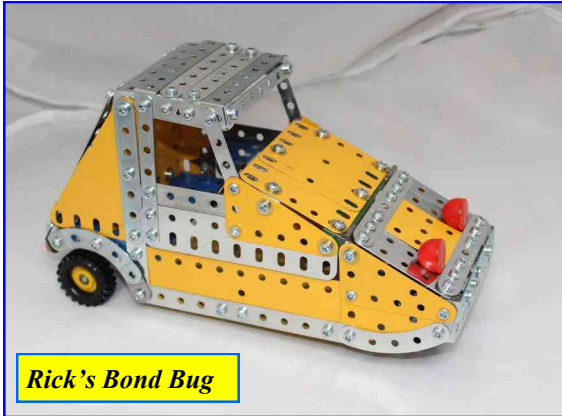
Henry Porter, once again had an unusual range of models; who else would have built a dragon with many heads based on the *Bible's* book of Revelations. He had a Coronation Coach with realistic finishing touches, an 8-wheel recovery vehicle as featured in a *NZ Herald* article, a Katipo Impactor pile driver and a turbo car special, which Henry assured me could move in any direction, but not simultaneously. He had constructed a rocket using some of the new *Spin Master* parts as well as fins from an original Dan Dare rocket ship set.

Anthony Caldwell had brought his model of a crane truck from the new *Evolution* range, as well as a racing car made using parts from the maroon Big Truck set.

David Glenday has made a TR3A model based on a *CQ* design but had a Dinky Toy model of the vehicle as well for comparison. Again driven by a Magic motor, David is a whiz at getting the most out of these little motors.

Brian Cotton's Hornby Display

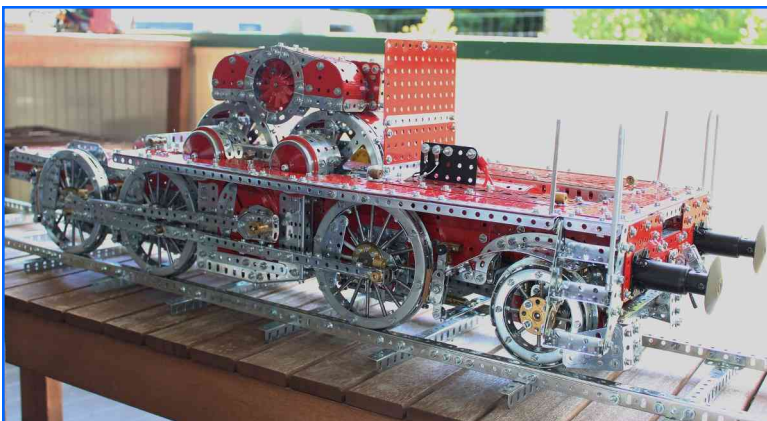
Rick Vine had brought numerous models including a lawn mower, a Meccano train from the special train set in the black and gold plastic carrying case, a Harrier Jump Jet from an English kit (never sold in NZ), one of the new Models from *Spin Master*, the *Canyon Crawler*, which Rick was not very enthusiastic about, a tank set, the Bond Bug, a small vehicle based on one used in the Bond movies and finally a differential using multipurpose gears to show just how versatile they are.



Rick's Bond Bug

Graeme Wrightson had brought two micro models of steam rollers.

Gary Higgins had a number of the new models, the *Thunderbird Two* model from *Spin Master*; he had made some adaptations to improve the suitability of the model. He had made a small Dalek using sector plates as the base and a top dome from the *Rabbit's* submarine set. This is the 2" dome available in a couple of sets. He had made the new *Race-car* set based on pictures from the web but it needed special cams to drive the rear exposed pistons, but it looked like the real thing. He also had made an attack helicopter with available parts based on the new *Spin Master* set and had completed models of the *Desert Adventures* set and the *Mountain Rally* set on display. Finally he had brought along a *Junero* tool and a number of strips which members enjoyed bending into many useful and not so useful shapes.



David Glenday's TR3A + Dinky Toy.

Mike Stuart has done wonders with his Crocodile loco, it really looks great with substantial parts of it being completed and as usual great in red and silver, Mike's favorite Meccano colours.



Rick Vine's Harrier Jump Jet.

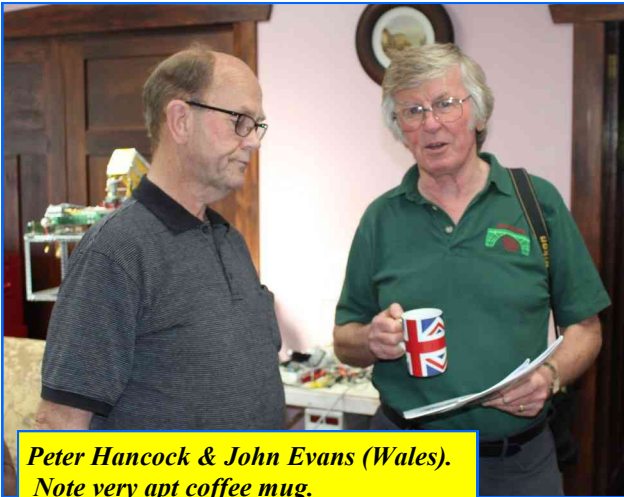
John Evans of Wales was visiting, he is also a member of the *Telford and Ironbridge Society* and the *Runnymede Society*, as are some of our members. He had brought a micro-model along in his pocket, an early French steam driven vehicle (the first.)

David Wall had made up a small model racing car and a bulldozer from two of the newer sets.

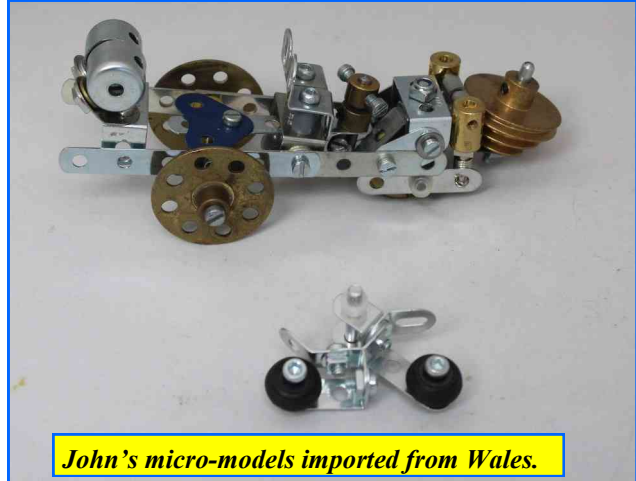
Others present were **Richard Sealey**, **David Barnard**, **Jeff Clark** (who came with lots of brass parts but left with less), **Neil Carey** and **Peter Hancock**.

The meeting concluded with an excellent afternoon tea provided by the Guild ladies.

Mike Stewart's Swiss Crocodile loco is making progress. This is one bogie, another + middle cab section to come. This is to be some impressive model!



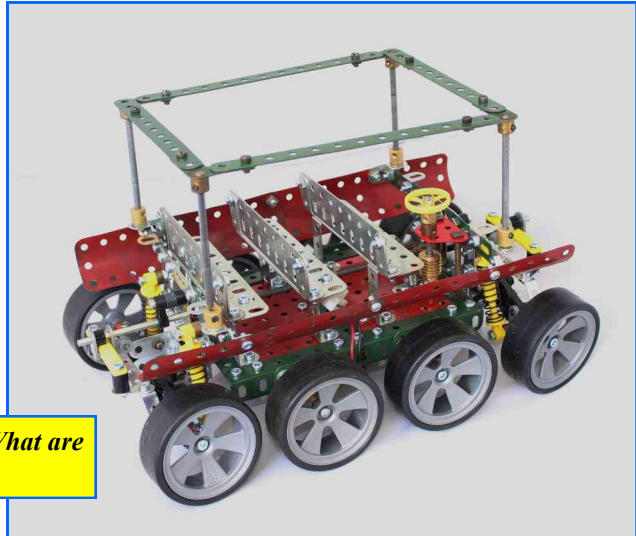
Peter Hancock & John Evans (Wales). Note very apt coffee mug.



John's micro-models imported from Wales.



Henry Porter's "What are they models?"



Tony Caldwell



David Wall



Graeme Mill's helicopter with Gerald's Shay loco.

Les Megget's Reachstacker Container Handler (uncompleted).



MWT Meccano Club Model report October 10 2015

Viv Alexander displayed his boxed *Hornby* Princess Elizabeth locomotive. This was the first item Viv collected when he started collecting in 1968. The price when new in the late 1930s was 5 guineas. Currently the price on Ebay UK is 2,500 pounds Sterling. Viv's loco is in a red box but green and blue boxes were also produced. Also on display were 3 Aeroplane Constructor sets, 2 from Meccano and one from *Dux*. *Dux* was a German manufacturer and this set was from 1932. Quite similar to the Meccano style. The Meccano sets were a English No.1 set of 1931 and a French No.1 of a similar period. The French set was noted as having Belgian roundels on the wings but British markings on the tail fin.

Chris Morton produced Meccano manuals with the models he was going to make for the club challenge. A crossbow model and a Bolista quick firing gun. Chris also reminisced about a toy seen in a 1954 Meccano Magazine comprised of 2 tubes for shooting ping pong balls.

Ross Quayle reminisced how he bribed his infant son to cease a bad habit by promising to buy him a ping pong ball toy....successful. His first model challenge model was of the "Fat Man" atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki from a B-29 Superfortress called *Bockscar*. Ross's second challenge model was a Meccano washer firing gun made as a Centurion tank. The gun had a laser light to aim and was quite powerful....enough to knock over provided photographs of some dastardly characters. He also had a *Metallus* gears set on display.

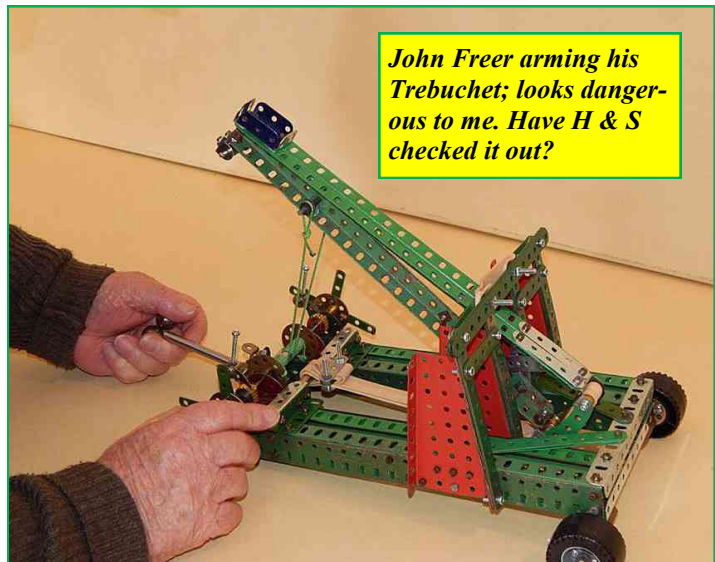
Robin Rye partially reassembled his dockside scene models that were featured at the Te Papa Convention. It consisted of a wharf with a crane and a loco with two rail wagons and a ship (represented by a hold only) along side. The scene was of unloading bulk material from the ship to the rail wagons. He reported that the complex would be on static show at the Egmont A&P. After that, complete disassembly is planned.

Richard Feltham had 2 entries for the model challenge. 1: A trebuchet that fired Meccano balls and 2: A Uzi like that fired Meccano collars. Richard earned a lot of respect that day! Also had a book called "*Architecture On The Carpet*" which featured *Bayko* within.



John Freer also produced a trebuchet that fired Meccano balls for the challenge. It featured an elaborate winch system to pull the arm into firing position and release mechanism.

Daryl Anderson's challenge model was a rubber band firing gun made with little more than 5 of the very latest Meccano spanners.



Paul Vodanovich had made the Dinosaur Dipoldocus from a 1928 manual. He showed again his **John Pond** car copy but with further improvements....mainly the addition of rack and pinion steering. Clever Paul had taken a 3 hole girder and filed correct profiled teeth into one edge to make a rack and a new part!

Ross Quayle won the challenge and therefore sets the rules for the February model challenge.



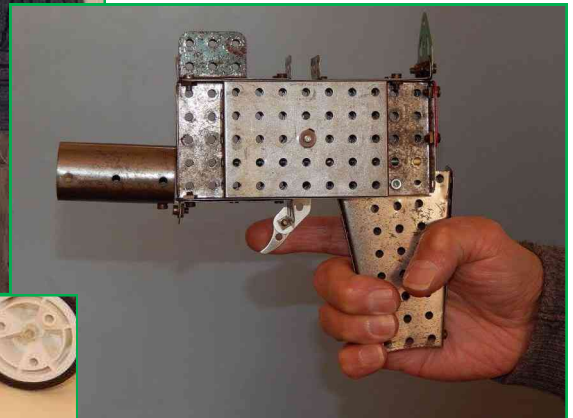


Ross Quayle aims his gun at some notable rouges.

Ross's Hiroshima "Fat Boy" bomb minus the uranium.



Robin telling his crane what to do.

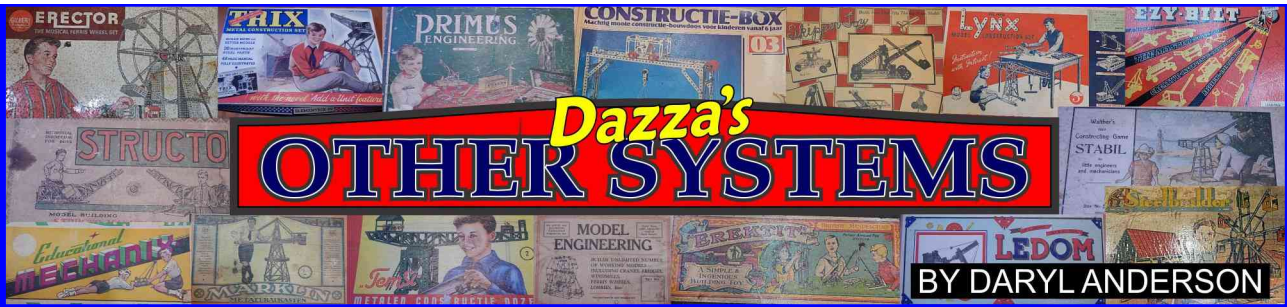


Richard Feltham's Collar firing pistol.



Paul's Sports Car with highly modified Angle Girder steering rack (right).

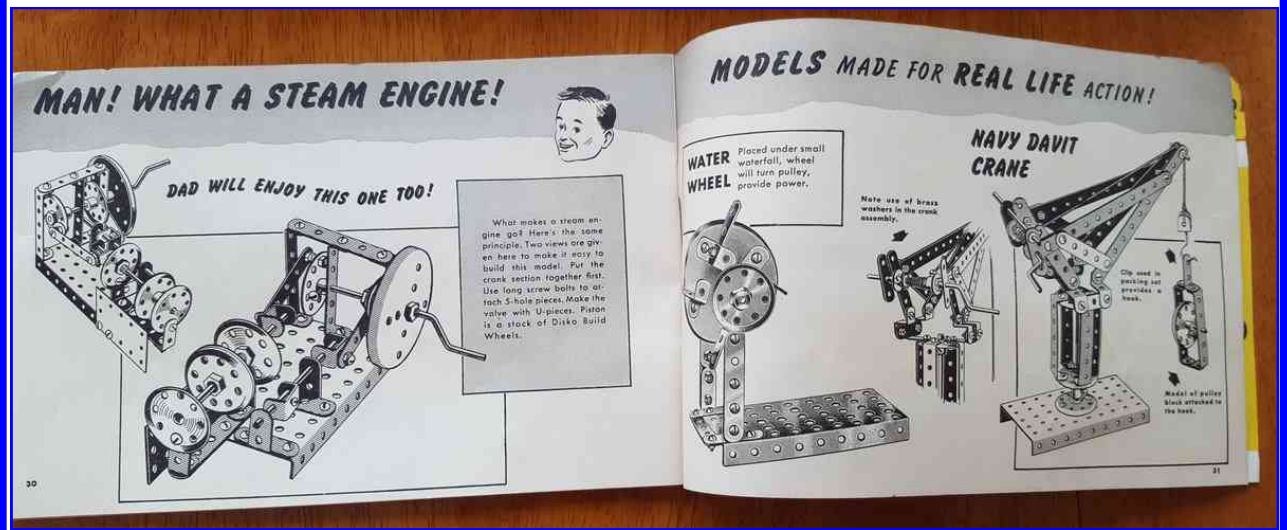




In this issue of 'DOS' we continue our world tour of metal construction systems, this time landing in America. Erector the most popular system there will be the subject of a future article, as in the USA, like all countries, there were many manufacturers. This time the subject is *BUILD*. This appears to be a short lived system as research has turned up very little information but must have been sold in quantity as the manual print runs state 40,000 copies.

I've at least two sets in the collection, an outfit with steel parts dated 1945 and another with aluminium parts, dated 1946, the part dimensions being the same. The sets were designed and manufactured by Mr Weston Farmer, a naval architect. So it seems this was his business after the war and guessing steel being in short supply, changed to aluminium. The hole spacing and the strip width are 1/2". Hole and thread diameter are smaller than Meccano, hole size 0.140" (9/64") or 3.6 mm. The thread is #6 UNC, 32dpi (same as Meccano) but smaller diameter being 0.147" so Meccano bolts don't screw into *Build* bosses or pass through the holes.

My later #400 aluminium set cost \$3.95 new, the largest #1500 set was \$14.95 with other outfits in-between - made by the *Build* Company, Minneapolis. As usual, the pictures complete the story so when you come across parts that are not Meccano, don't discard them but save for future reference.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN TOYS AND MACHINERY



MECHANICS IN MINIATURE
This instruction book shows actual models built with Buildo and the Disko-Build element. Any boy can be his own toy maker, engineer and machiner, expert using the pictures in the Buildo Book as an inventive guide to ENDLESS HOURS OF FUN!

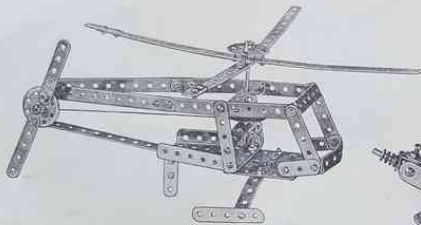
The **Buildo** BOOK



THE STEEL TOY-BOYS
BUILDS
CRANES
CARS
BOATS
MACHINERY
AND OTHER TOYS!
SEE BUILDO BOOK INSIDE!



BUILD O ENGINEERING SETS OUTBUILD OTHERS TEN TO ONE



HELICOPTER

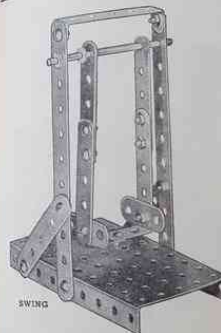
As the main rotor of this helicopter model is rotated the tail stabilizing rotor revolves, simulating the exact action of a real helicopter of the Sikorsky type.



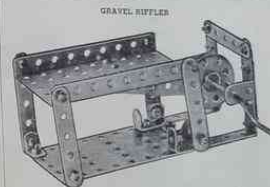
COAST DEFENSE GUN

Blades are 24 hole strips centered on shaft and secured by Disko-Build by long bolts.

A SCOW THAT FLOATS WILL PROVIDE FUN FOR ANY BOY



SCOW



GRAVEL SIFTER

A scow is the simplest form of boat. The model shown here can be used as a framework, and can be wrapped in cellophane sheet. This will enable you to float the scow in the tub and once Buildo is placed the water cannot reach the parts.

WRAP IT IN CELLOPHANE - IT FLOATS

Gazza's EBAY Column (Gary Higgins)

Up for grabs this issue we have:

A junior A1 plastic Meccano set, not complete but boxed selling at \$NZ 21.99.

An *Erector* (Meccano) boxed Windrider set, 032940. These must be pretty scarce in this condition, for \$NZ 33.58.



Just in time for the Star Wars film, a chance to have your very own Millennium Falcon spaceship, unboxed and made up. The model is by *Steel Tec* made by *Remco* in 1995 and sells for \$NZ 83.76.

A very presentable 1A box from about 1919, complete with parts, selling for \$NZ 44.03.

A number of Meccano space sets have featured on recent Ebay sales namely:

Meccano Hyper space set made in France with small cast figures. Box is in poor condition but is complete with parts and manual selling for \$NZ 54.95,

Meccano Mission the Universe space Xplorer set 4840 at \$NZ 40.00,

Meccano Mission the universe Energy station set complete, selling at \$NZ 54.93,

Meccano Space 2501 set complete selling at \$NZ22.02,

A selection of space parts, rockets, astronauts, cockpits etc., good value at \$NZ 109.97.

A Meccano banjo oil can, not for the faint-hearted, reached \$NZ 191.73.

Meccano USA 2x set with manual and most parts, boxed selling at \$NZ 213.38.

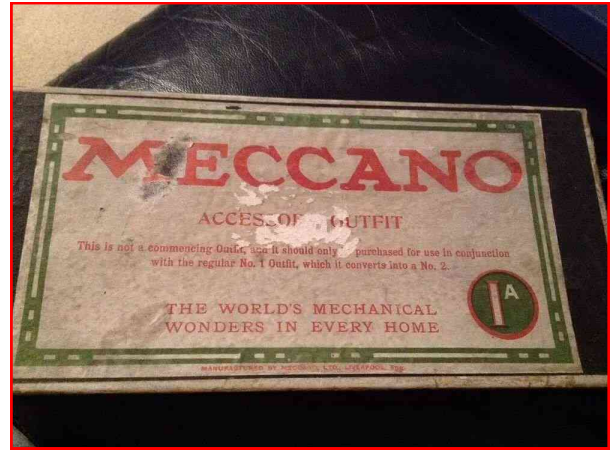
A nice example of a 1921 Meccano set, lid damaged but box mostly intact with parts selling for \$NZ 55.22.



A very nice condition unboxed blue and white Meccano no 1 Aero Constructor set at \$NZ 204.74.

Another rarity is the Meccano container and lorry set no 6203. In this set the container is made from folded cardboard. By the look of this set it has never been used. Yours for \$NZ 15.23.





If you are into Märklin here is your chance to get their biggest sets selling at \$NZ660.43 for the 1034 and 1035 Märklin sets.
 An unusual set is the Texas Wheelie set by Meccano selling at \$NZ 44.01.



There is a Meccano F1 set which was reboxed for UK sales only and is the F1 from the Mechanical Workshop set, an unusual set selling at \$NZ25.05.

And a *Trix* No. 1 set, unboxed, with manual and motor selling for 99 Pounds.

To finish here is a bargain you will all want to be in on, a single Meccano nut (I kid you not) selling on Ebay (*Erector-Meccano Square Nut, Part A337 (37A)*) for the generous price of \$NZ 1.51; don't all rush to buy one. That would make the average Meccano set good value if we can all sell them at that price!





Meeting Report

Date:
13th
November
2015

Reporter: Max George

Meeting Date: Held at Laurie Webb's place.
Present: Keith McCallum, Laurie Webb, Lou Nichols, Max George, Robert Vale, Simon Moody, Stan Baker.

Apologies: Brian Petersen, Campbell Morrison, Niki Donaldson, Reg Barlow.

Models:

Simon Moody –

Brought along the boom and tower for a large Tower crane similar to the new *Spin Master* model but larger.

Lou Nichols –

Has constructed the new Tower Bridge model from *Spin Master*.



Max George –

Displayed the Commander of the Dark Pirates from the Space Chaos series –unfortunately, a couple of the unusual pieces are missing as it was bought from an Op-shop.



Model building:

A discussion was held about the lack of models brought along to meetings and as to why that was happening. When we first started as a club we met every 2 weeks and most of us brought along a model every meeting. Possibly it is because now we all have lots of Meccano and try building large models. How about having a theme for each meeting and building smaller models for a change?

The Eiffel Christmas Tree Set

From the Editor

We decided not to have a Christmas tree last year and I decided to then construct the new *Spin Master* Eiffel Tower as our festive tree.

I was impressed with this set: the instructions had very few errors, if any, it went together well although a strong set of fingers were required at times and it definitely looks the part. The curved profile is excellent, far better than the 3 straight lined profile you often see in Meccano models.

The LED lights aren't great but slightly improved the impression I was seeking of a Xmas tree. A fuller report on this model has been promised for the May issue, so I will say no more.



The Eiffel Christmas Tree.

Christchurch Meccano Club

(Est. 1929)

Bits & Pieces from November 2015

to February 2016

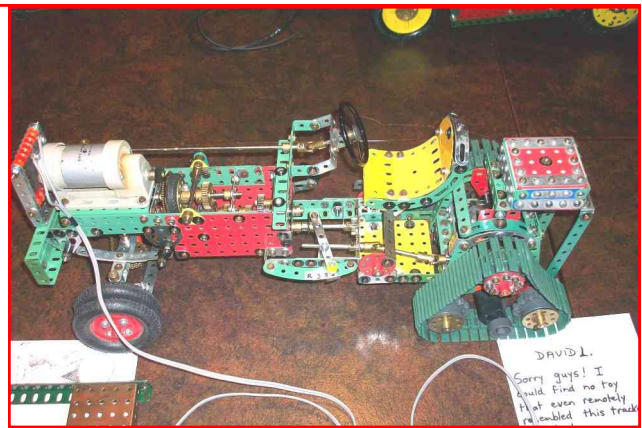
Mike Howse

With the Christmas & New Year periods' now behind us serious thought is being given to finishing off model displays for the Meccano Exhibition which will be held over Easter at the Stoke Memorial Hall, Friday 25th March, Saturday 26th March and Sunday 27th March, All Meccano folk are invited to attend; you can display a model or two, or, just sit around and discuss things Meccano or Hornby Trains. Setting up is on Thursday 24th from about 2pm. Public times are 10am-4pm on all 3 days.

If you are thinking of heading Nelson way over Easter, there's no cost to display models. Drop a line or email to **John Stark** in Nelson if you need power to operate your models.

Whilst we are on the Christmas & New Year subject, the CMC again held a members and family B-B-Q at Treasurer **Donald Mackenzie's** home. There was a very good turnout of members and families which in turn led to a fun day.

As it has been quiet Meccano wise over the last couple of months I have included a selection on model pictures taken at a CMC meeting late last year. We hope to see as many Meccano folk as possible in Nelson at Easter.



DAVID L.
Sorry guys! I could find no toy that even remotely resembled this truck



MECCANO
The Meccano Club
Christchurch



Sam Lang
SAM.
Monster Truck
"El Toro Loco"



Neil Pluck
MECCANO

MATCHBOX
NEW
58
FARM
DUMP TRUCK

Models from a recent CMC meeting. Sorry some of the builder's names are not obvious. The requirement was to build a model like an actual toy model.



The Tauranga Group Meccano Promotion from David Shand

From the 7th to the 11th January the Tauranga Group did a great job of promoting the Meccano name.

We had a display at the *Tauranga Model Engineer & Marine Club's International Convention* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in Tauranga; a grand showing of Meccano models.



A Shay oil fired locomotive, the A B Passchendale 1914 -1918 engine; a Grand Father clock; a Meccano display revolving motor chassis; an early Meccano steam engine; a silver and gold traction engine; a small Thomas the Tank Engine on a track; a working display Meccanograph; a walking Meccano robot and a large silver Eiffel Tower.

There was also a display of early red and green sets and the modern kits, the NZFMM Magazine and 2 volumes of the 1961 Meccano Magazine.

The whole display created quite an interest in Meccano, with the help of **Dave Shand, Wally Gillford, Barry Babbage, Brian Whitehead, Barry McKey** and from out of town **Chris Morton**.



New Zealand Club Diary 2016

Auckland Meccano Guild

President: David Wall, Tel. (09) 426 1965

Secretary: Peter Hancock, Tel. (09) 535 5355

Meetings at 2pm on second Saturday every third month. The next meeting will be held on **Saturday 14 May** at David & Elizabeth Wall's 45 Kath Hopper Drive, Orewa starting at 2pm.

MWT Meccano Club

Chairman: Chris Morton

Vice Chairman: Robin Rye

Secretary: Daryl Anderson, Tel. (06) 278 7666

Meetings at 2pm. Next meeting: **Saturday 13 February** at St. Luke's Church Hall, Corner Cornfoot and Manuka Streets, Wanganui.

Wellington Meccano Club

President: Stan Baker, Tel. (04) 566 7150

Secretary: Max George, Tel. (04) 232 4200

Contact: Lou Nichols, Tel. (04) 297 1515

Meeting at 7:30pm on first Friday every second month. Next meeting: **Friday 4th March** at Simon Moody's, 1122 Blue Mountain Rd, Upper Hutt. Bring fish & chips to eat first. Theme: Anything that Flies.

Christchurch Meccano Club

President: Neil Pluck, Tel. (03) 389 8134

Secretary: Roland Jaspers, Tel. (03) 358 1357

Meetings at 7:30pm on first Friday every month (except January) at Papanui RSA Club, 55 Bellvue Ave or No. 1 Harewood Road, Christchurch.

Additional Meccano Contacts

Hamilton: Don McClelland, Tel. (07) 843 4198

Tauranga: Barry McKey, Tel. (07) 576-1623

Hawera: Daryl Anderson, Tel. (06) 278 7666

Kapiti Coast:

Napier: Trevor Adam, Tel. (06) 843 4837

Palmerston North: Bruce Geange, Tel. (06) 357 0566

Nelson: John Stark, Tel. (03) 545 1025

Articles, etc. for the May 2016 issue of NZFMM Magazine should be sent to Les Megget before the **15th April 2016**. **NOTE EARLY DEADLINE.**

Back Numbers: NZFMM Magazines from April 2001 are available. Please contact Bruce Geange.

Buy, Sell, Auction & Exchange

Advertisements in this section are free.

First insertion will be printed in full.

Subsequent identical insertions (max. 1) may be abbreviated to fit space available.

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- Fast Delivery – By far the most extensive range of new parts in the region. Over 4000 different parts ex stock.
- NZ & Australia Distributor for **Ashok Banerjee Parts**
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- Payment to Australia or NZ bank account in or via PayPal.
- Will dispatch by courier or mail to anywhere in the world.
- Increasingly diversifying into Meccano associated items including:-
- Range or powerful small super efficient motors.
- Digital tachometers.
- 6 channel radio control systems with servos and speed controllers to suit the motor range.
- Parts fitted with miniature roller bearings.
- Bowden Cables. Ashtray tyres.
- Variable Power supplies.
- Wireless remote switches (on off and forward reverse).
- Rechargeable Batteries and holders for 5x AA batteries (6 volt).

If you need a new Meccano related item, chances are that others will too, so ask.

Money back guarantee if not satisfied.

Price list in PDF, Excel or by printed copy (30 pages) .

Contact Stan Baker nzmeccanoman@gmail.com
Phone +64 4 566 7150 Evenings or +64 21 421 750 mobile

The Nelson & Christchurch Meccano Clubs

MECCANO EXHIBITION

"model displays to enthuse children of all ages"

Stoke Memorial Hall
548 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson

Easter Weekend 2016
Friday – 25th March
Saturday – 26th March
Sunday – 27th March
10am – 4pm

Adults \$5 – Children \$2 – Family \$10

MECCANO Models Hornby & LEGO Trains

Young Model Builders "Have-A-Go" Model Building Tables
EFTPOS at Door – Modern Meccano Sets for Sale – Free Car Parking



