



BOOK OF RECORDS
RECORDING THE
LIVES OF THE
MECCANO
MAGAZINE
9

February 2024

In this issue

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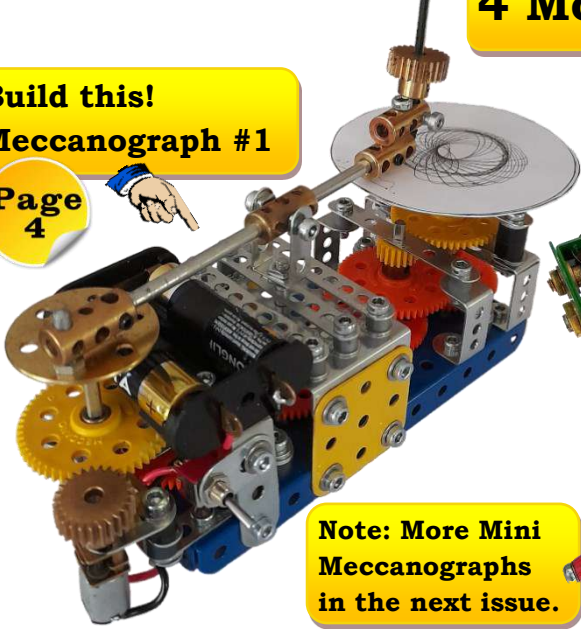
4 Model Plans!!

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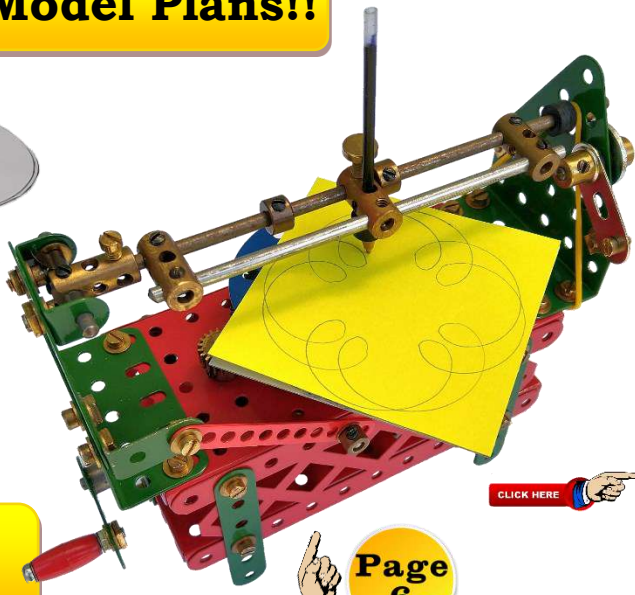
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Build this! Meccanograph #1

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Note: More Mini Meccanographs in the next issue.



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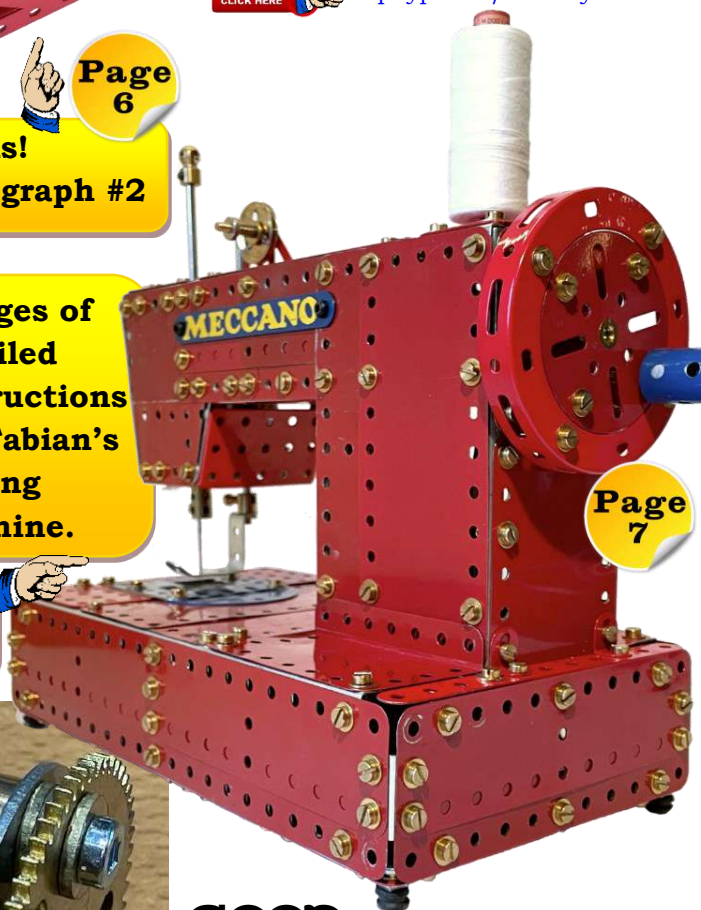
Build this! Full model plan for Enclosed Diff.

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Build this! Meccanograph #2

3 pages of detailed instructions for Fabian's Sewing Machine.

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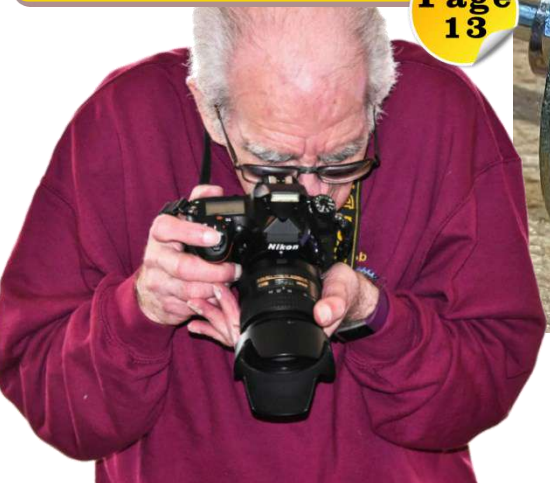
It really works!

Build this! Full model plan for Parallel Diff.

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This Month's Meccanoman. Bob Thompson - UK

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Brilliant

GOOD IDEAS DEPT

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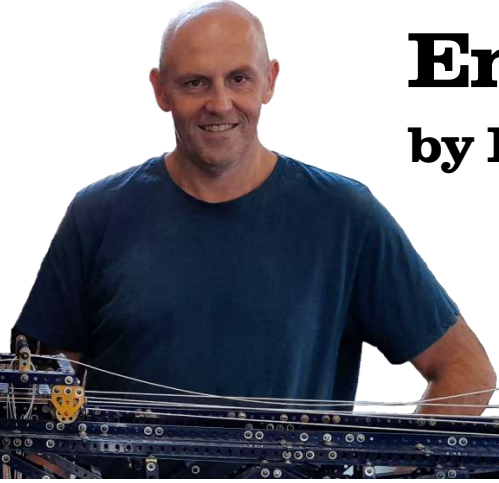


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Enclosed Diff

by Matthew Auger - Oz



The challenge was to build a differential that could be enclosed inside Boiler Ends and this required a centre drive to allow the input shaft to fit in the gap between the Boiler Ends. Tim Gant offered up several brilliant ideas that have been published in various magazines and newsletters, so I thought I'd have a go at designing my own.

| Part No. | Description | Qty |
|----------|---------------------|-----|
| 15a | Axle Rod 4½" | 1 |
| 15b | Axle Rod 4" | 1 |
| 18c | Axle Rod 1¼" | 1 |
| 19b | Pulley 3" | 2 |
| 26n | Pinion 11t Diecast | 2 |
| 28 | Contrate 50t | 1 |
| 29 | Contrate 25t | 1 |
| 48a | DAS 2½" x ½" | 8 |
| 59 | Collar | 2 |
| 109 | Face Plate 2½" | 2 |
| 115a | Threaded Pin long | 2 |
| 162a | Boiler End | 2 |
| 212a | Rod Strip connector | 2 |
| 235g | Narrow Strip 3 hole | 3 |

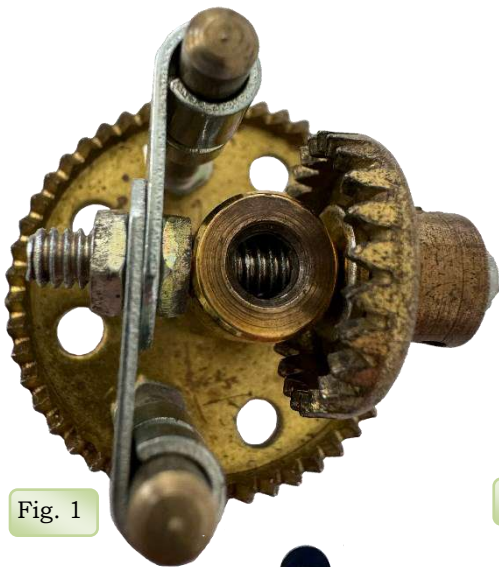


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

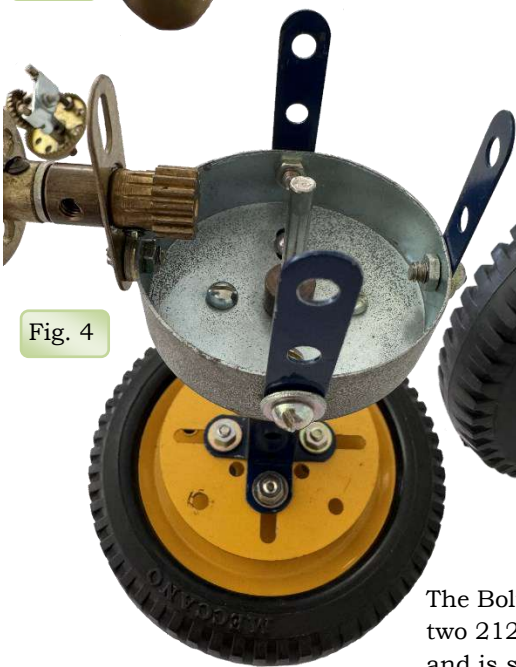


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Attach two 1978/79 115a long Threaded Pins with hex Nuts to the large Contrate with a two hole gap. (Note: Earlier Threaded Pins are longer, so you'll only be able to bolt the Double Angle Strips in Fig. 6 to the outer extremities of the Boiler End slotted holes.

Mount a small Contrate with a dome headed 111d Bolt, a Washer a Collar via threaded holes and a Hex Nut tightened against the Collar ensuring the sides of the Nut are parallel with the sides of the Collar.

The Bolt then passes through two 212a Rod Strip Connectors and is secured with a second hex Nut. This unit slides onto the Threaded Pins mentioned earlier.

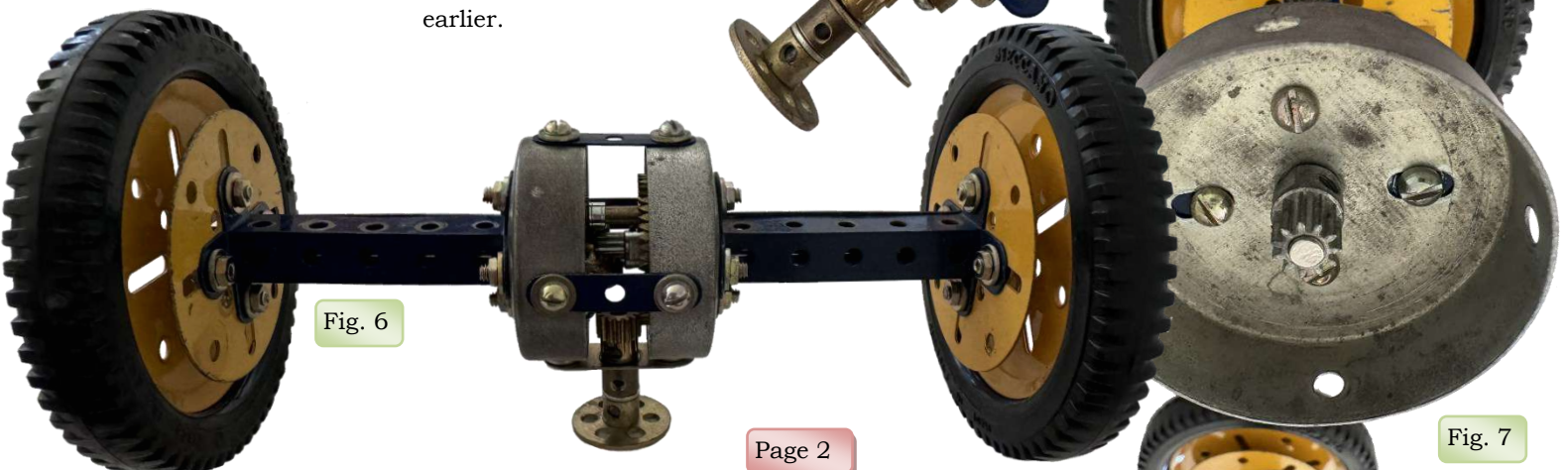
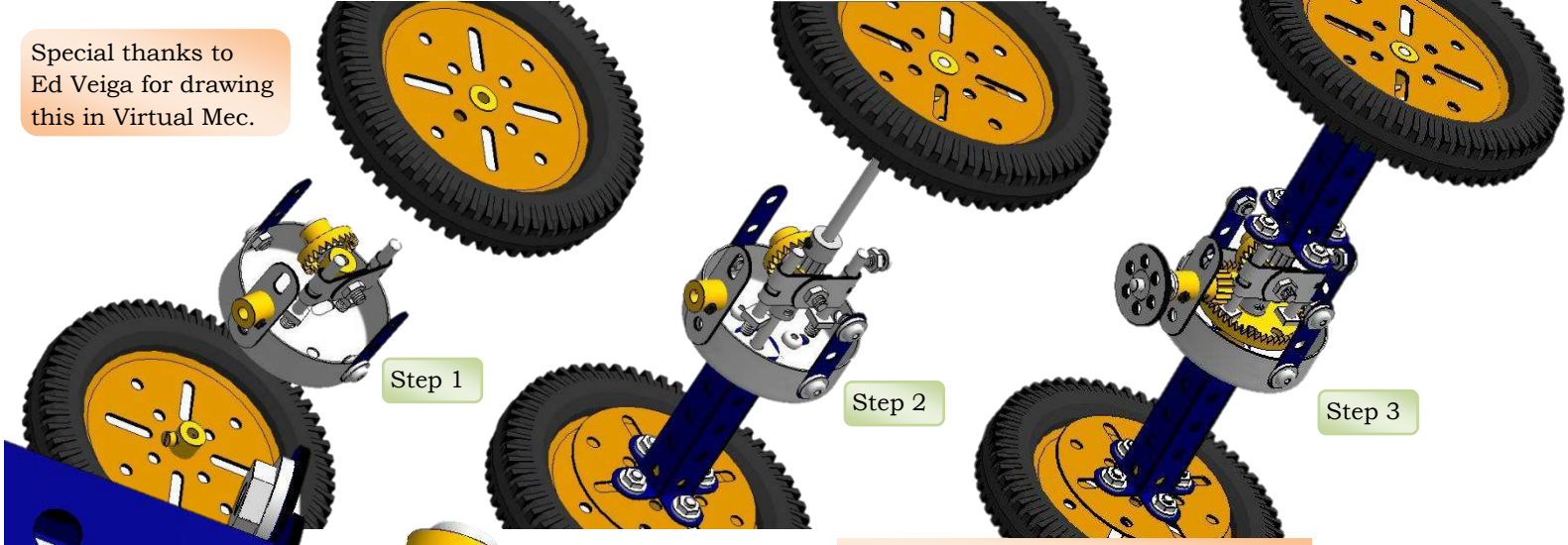


Fig. 6

Fig. 7

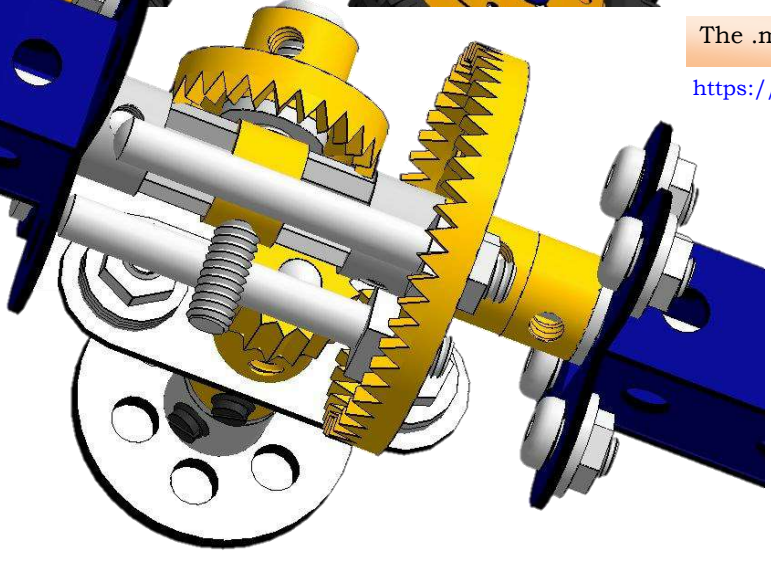
Special thanks to Ed Veiga for drawing this in Virtual Mec.



The .mdl file can be downloaded here..

<https://meccanoindex.co.uk/Virmec/index.php>

Fig. 8



Attach an 11t Pinion (I used the die-cast version found in Evolution outfits) to each long Rod with approximately 1mm of Rod protruding past the Pinion. This should engage in the sides of the Collar. You may need to adjust the Collar or the Threaded Pins up or down a small amount to ensure smooth running of the Rods. Place a Collar on the Rod outside the large Contrate for spacing purposes.

Note: Virtual Mec does not have the slotted head dome Bolts that Matthew used so Ed has done the best he can with hex head bolts.

The differential cage is constructed by assembling the crown gear side with three 1.5" Narrow Strips attached to the rim of the Boiler End and a Double Arm Crank with two Washers in the fourth hole on the Boiler End rim. Four Double Angle Strips are attached as shown with a Face Plate attached to the other end.

The other side of the differential cage is constructed similarly without the Crank and Narrow Strips attached. Insert the differential into the Boiler End with the Narrow Strips attached and then slide in and bolt up the other Boiler End assembly. The driving Pinion is then attached on a short Rod passing through the boss of the Crank.

Watch it on YouTube 

YouTube <https://youtube.com/shorts/sQpVRYiGOKY>



Fig. 9

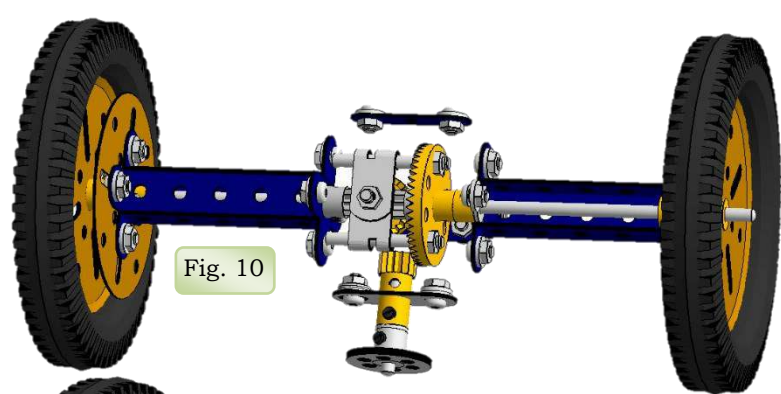


Fig. 10

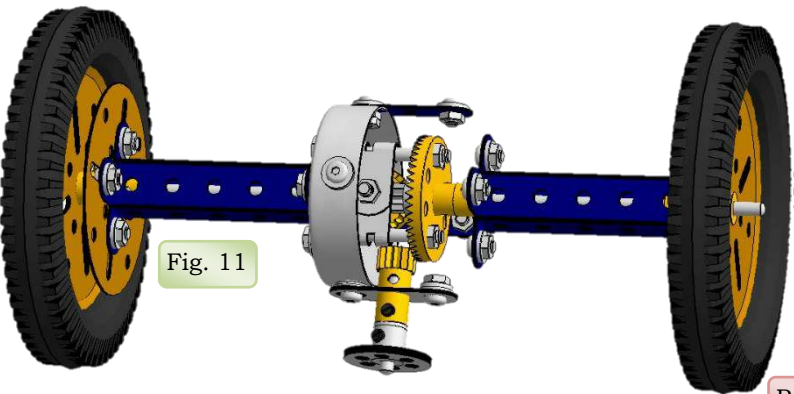


Fig. 11

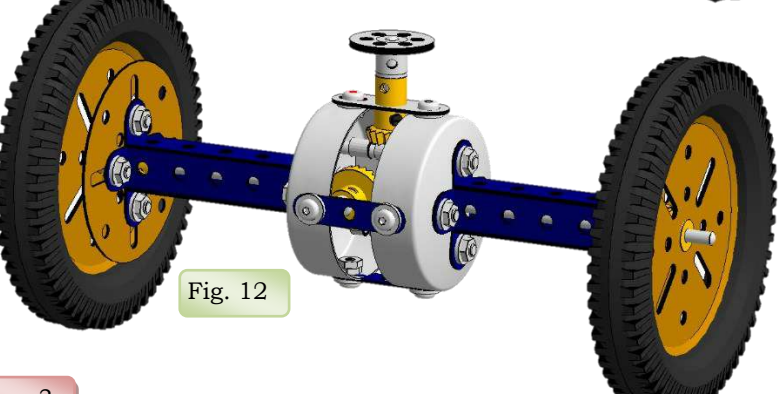


Fig. 12

Hand-held Meccanograph

by John Burke - Oz

Our club challenge (and the Spanner Christmas Challenge) was suggested by Paul Dale. The exact rules were:
 1. It must fit in one hand & operated using the other.
 2. It must be able to draw more than one different design.

I'd never built a Meccanograph before, so I started researching how they worked and one thing that caught my attention was the central pivot point. This got me thinking about a matrix of holes that would allow you to change the location of the central pivot point. So, I got a base plate and added 3 of the 1/4" spaced Narrow Strips and the rest of the model just followed from there.

YouTube
 Click on the image.


| Part No. | Description | Qty |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----|
| 2 | Strip 11 hole | 1 |
| 9f | Angle Girder 1 1/2" | 2 |
| 10 | Fishplate | 2 |
| 15a | Rod 4 1/2" | 1 |
| 18b | Rod 1" | 1 |
| 24b | Bushwheel | 1 |
| 25 | Pinion 25t plastic | 2 |
| 26 | Pinion 19t plastic | 1 |
| 26p3p | Pinion 19t TriFlat | 2 |
| 27a | Gear 57t plastic bossed | 2 |
| 27ap3p | Gear 57t plastic TriFlat | 5 |
| 38a | Plastic Spacer large | 11 |
| 38b | Plastic Spacer small | 8 |
| 47 | DAS 2 1/2" x 1 1/2" | 1 |
| 48e | DAS 1" x 1/2" | 4 |
| 52 | Base Plate | 1 |
| 59 | Collar | 3 |
| 63 | Coupling | 4 |
| 74 | Flat Plate 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" | 2 |
| 109 | Face Plate bossed | 1 |
| 115a | Threaded Pin long | 1 |
| 115b | Threaded Pin short | 1 |
| 147d | Pivot Bolt 9/16" | 3 |
| 235 | Narrow Strip 5 hole | 6 |
| 316a | Rod Triflat 2 1/2" | 1 |
| 318c | Rod Triflat 1 1/4" | 1 |
| 710 | Battery Box | 1 |
| 811a | Double Bracket narrow | 1 |
| C771 | Narrow Strip 9 hole 1/4" spaced | 8 |
| | Toggle switch | 1 |
| | AA battery | 2 |

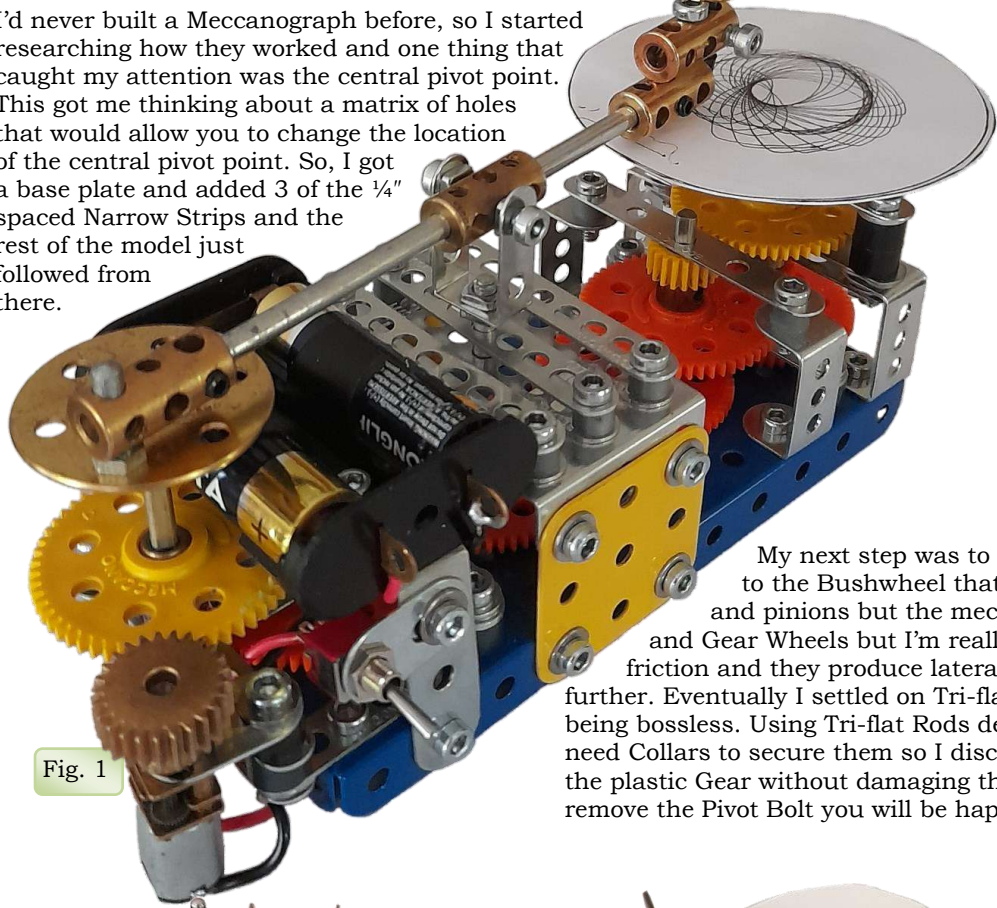


Fig. 1

My next step was to think of a way to connect the paper platter to the Bushwheel that drove the arm for the pen. I tried Contrates and pinions but the mechanism got too high so then I tried Worms and Gear Wheels but I'm really not keen on worms as they have too much friction and they produce lateral thrust which decreases the efficiency even further. Eventually I settled on Tri-flat plastic gears as they have a low profile being bossless. Using Tri-flat Rods defeated the purpose of bossless gears as you need Collars to secure them so I discovered that you can screw a Pivot Bolt into the plastic Gear without damaging the Tri-Flat hole. It's a very tight fit but if you remove the Pivot Bolt you will be happy to see the hole is relatively undamaged.

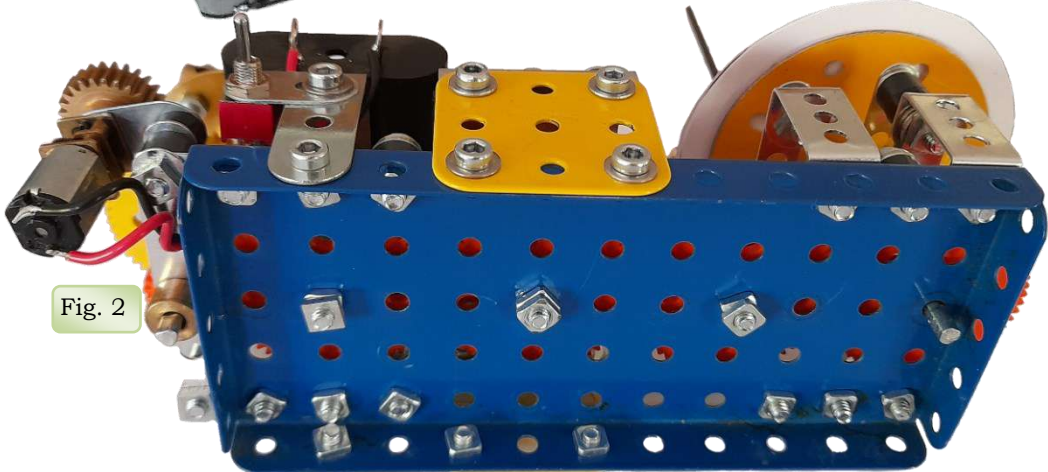


Fig. 2

It's a simple process to locknut the Pivot Bolts but you must take care that they are screwed into the plastic Gear just enough to allow the Gear to turn freely. Too tight and the Gear will be locked to the Strip.

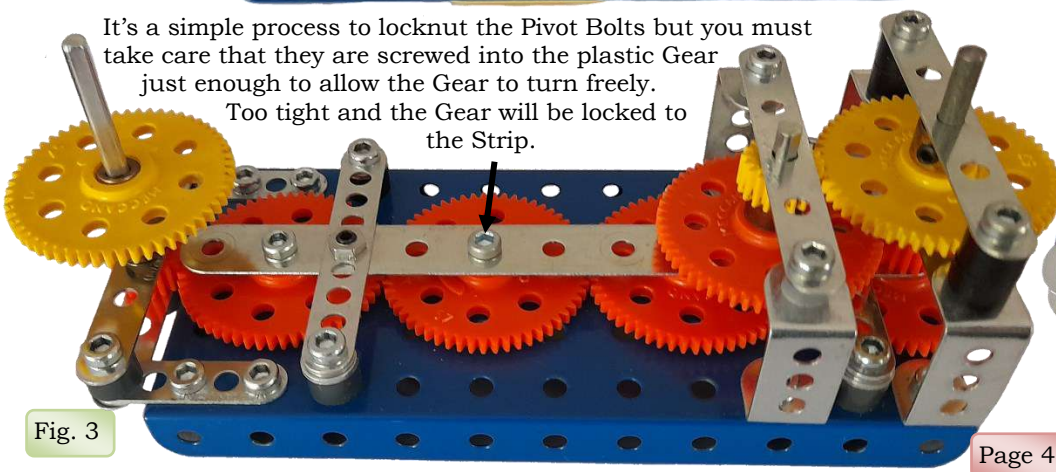


Fig. 3

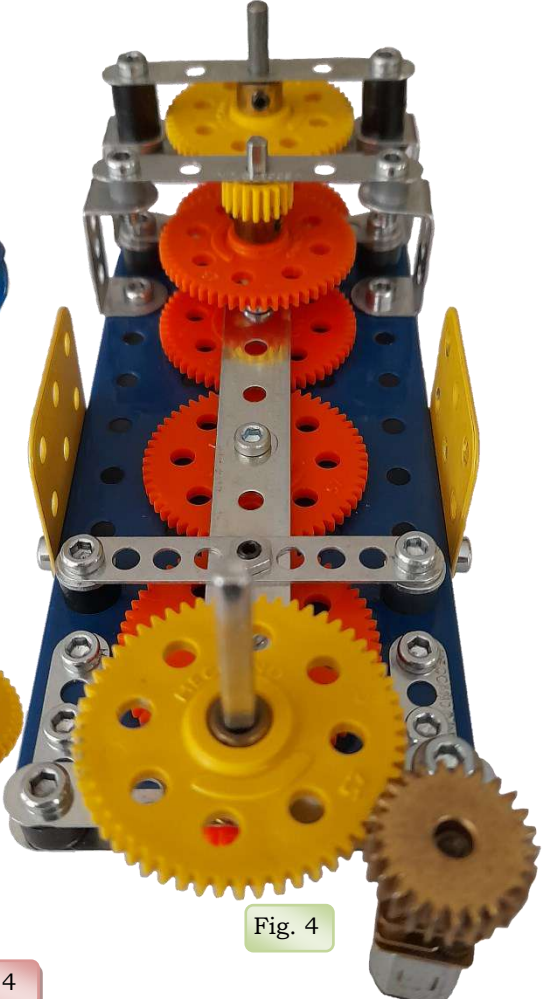


Fig. 4

Adjust the height of the paper platter to match the height of the driving Bushwheel (or Face Plate in my later version). It may take a bit of fiddling to get it all lined up.

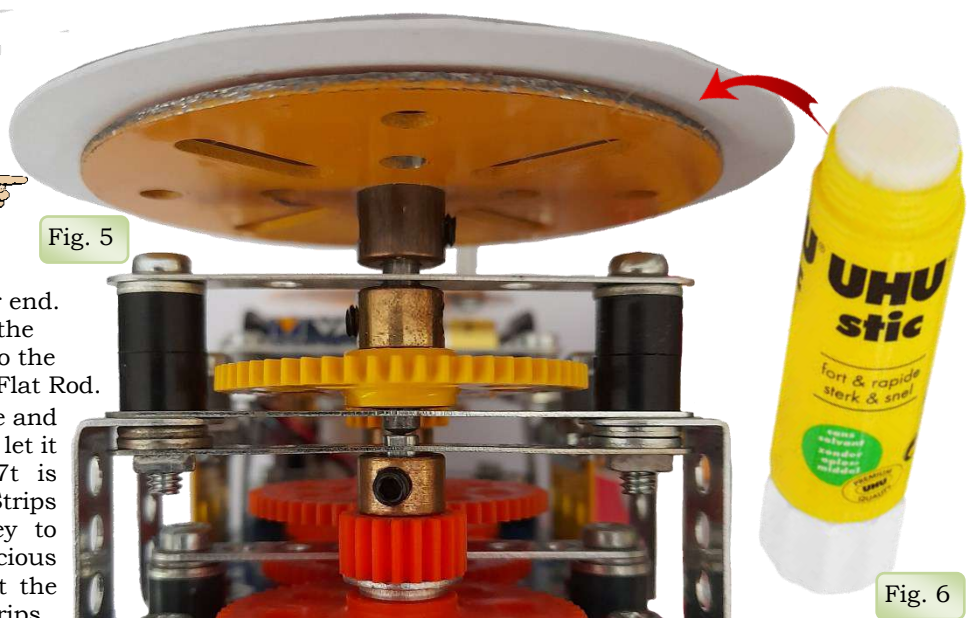


Fig. 5

Fig. 5 is a view of the paper platter end. Look closely and you will see that the bottom 57t Tri-flat gear is locked to the 19t Tri-Flat Pinion using a 1/4" Tri-Flat Rod.

A Collar is used to lock them in place and Washers are strategically selected to let it turn freely. The yellow plastic 57t is bossed and journalled through the Strips using a standard 1" Rod. The key to getting all this to run freely is judicious use of varying sized washers to get the optimal gaps between bosses and Strips.

Just a bit of weight. Anything will do.



Fig. 7

Steve B suggested I use Bic Cristal fine pens and of course he was correct. My cheap biros didn't work!

Note: After building this model I changed the Bushwheel for a Face Plate and used the slotted holes to move the Threaded Pin in and out. This gives you more adjustment and a larger diameter pattern.

Experiment. Try all the holes and see what happens.



Fig. 7. The arm is designed to lift off easily and be relocated into any of the holes in the matrix formed by the 1/4" spaced Narrow Strips. The 4 1/2" Rod slides freely through the centre coupling. The Narrow Double Bracket is secured with Nuts locked to the Coupling making sure the Rod is not fouled. Use 1/2" Bolts so that the Coupling is free to turn in the manner of a gimble. The Threaded Pin is a bit sloppy in the holes of the Narrow Strips but I'm reliably informed that slop and backlash is ok in a Meccanograph as long as it's consistent slop. Use your problem solving skills to improve it if you want. Perhaps use 2 x narrow strips on top and offset them using 'wobble room' to tighten up the hole size for the threaded pin.

I've used a drop of hot glue to fix a thick circle of cardboard to the Face Plate, but the circles of paper are simply attached with a glue stick.

Fig. 6

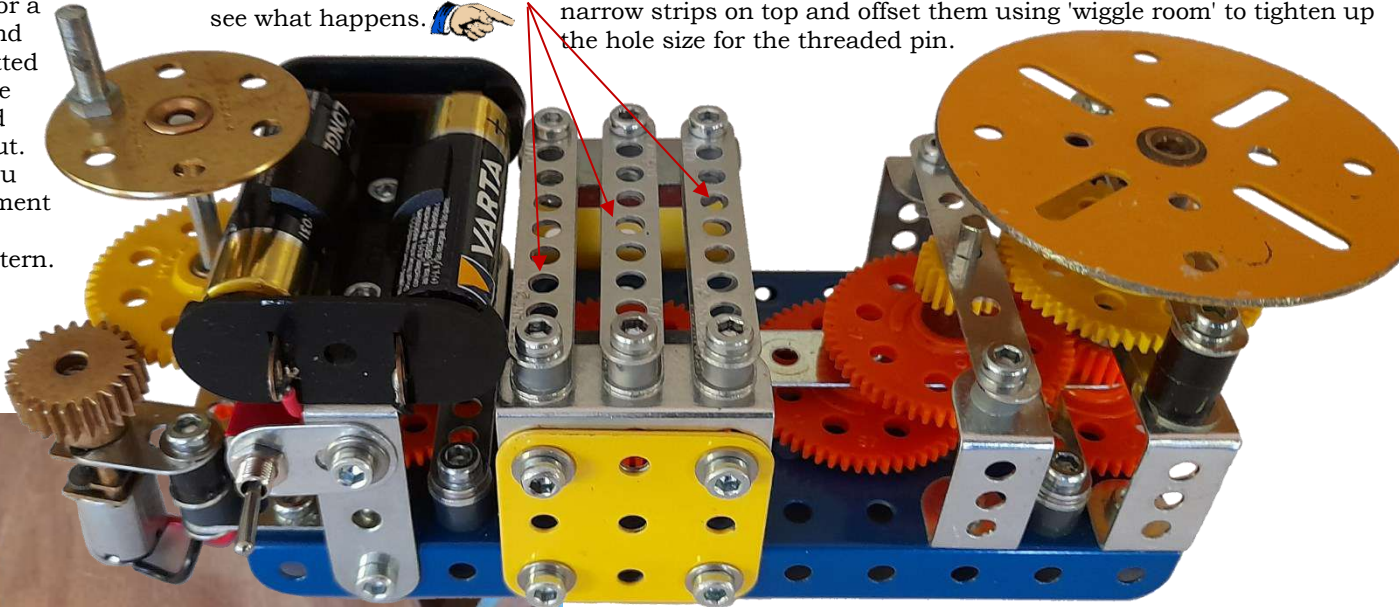


Fig. 9

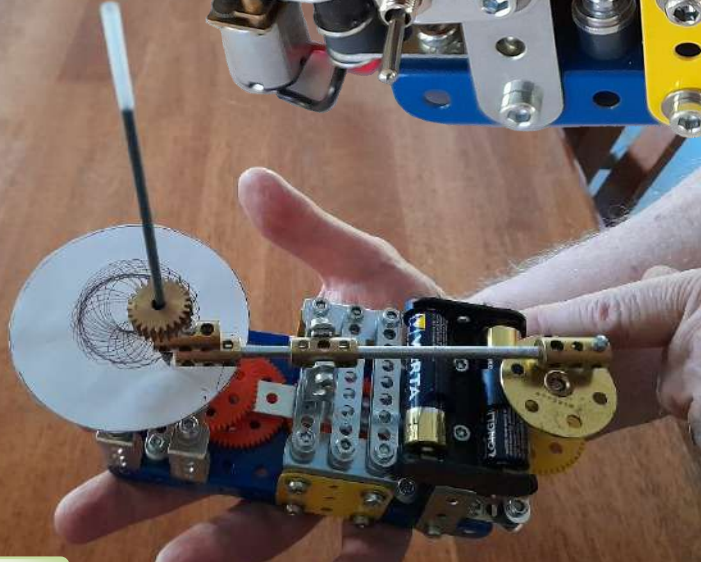


Fig. 8

Hand-held Meccanograph

By Graham Jost - Oz



 Click on the image.



| Total Number of Parts: | | 230 | | Different Parts: | | 48 | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|------|----|------|
| 4- | 4 | 1- | 27c | 2- | 62 | 1- | 147g |
| 1- | 6 | 1- | 27d | 4- | 63 | 1- | 544 |
| 2- | 9d | 1- | 27j | 1- | 63d | 1- | 548 |
| 1- | 12b | 2- | 30 | 26- | 69a | 8- | 561 |
| 1- | 14 | 1- | 31 | 2- | 76 | 1- | 806b |
| 1- | 14a | 2- | 35 | 1- | 80c | 1- | 8698 |
| 1- | 16 | 34- | 37a | 2- | 100 | | |
| 1- | 16b | 31- | 37b | 4- | 103f | | |
| 1- | 17 | 58- | 38 | 1- | 109 | | |
| 1- | 18a | 5- | 38a | 1- | 109a | | |
| 2- | 18b | 3- | 38b | 2- | 111 | | |
| 1- | 23c | 1- | 48e | 1- | 111b | | |
| 1- | 26 | 2- | 52 | 1- | 131 | | |
| 1- | 26c | 7- | 59 | 1- | 136a | | |

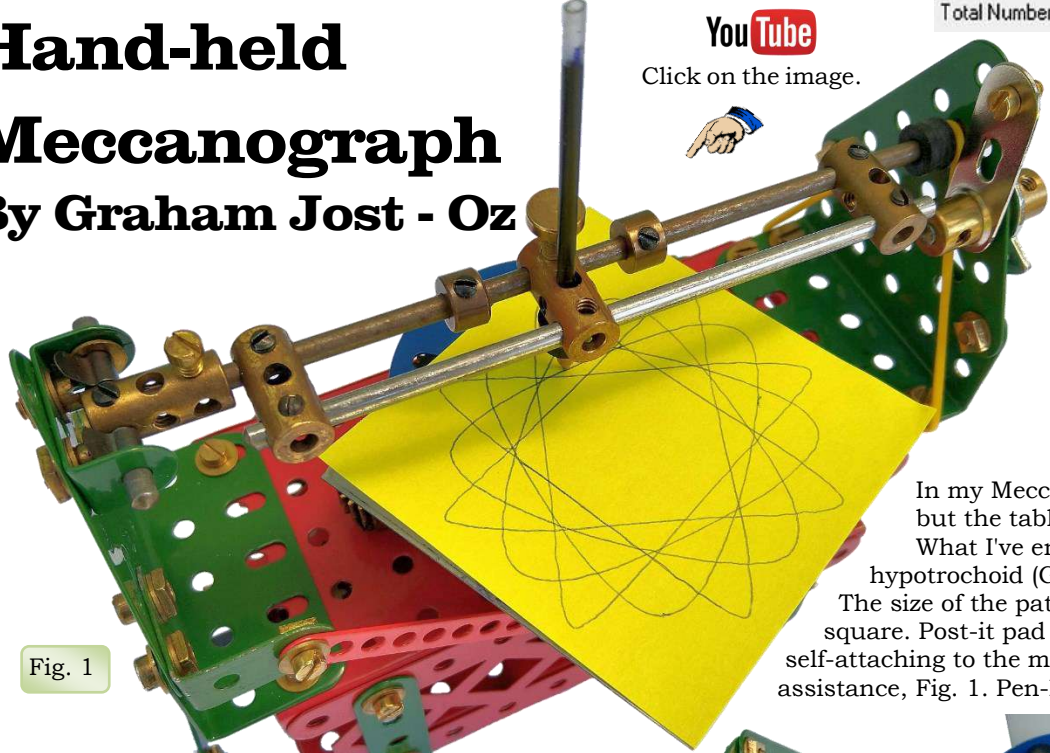


Fig. 1

In my Meccanograph the pen is not mechanised, but the table rotates and circulates as well. What I've ended up with is a hand-cranked hypotrochoid (Google it) drawing machine – of sorts! The size of the pattern is limited by the size of paper: 3" square. Post-it pad paper was ideal, and with one edge self-attaching to the metal platen there is no need of further assistance, Fig. 1. Pen-lift is provided, Figs. 1 & 3.

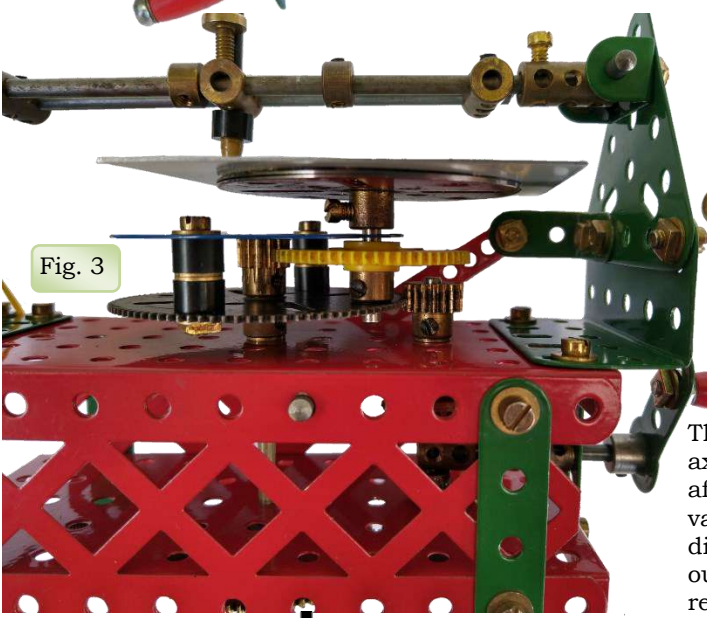


Fig. 3

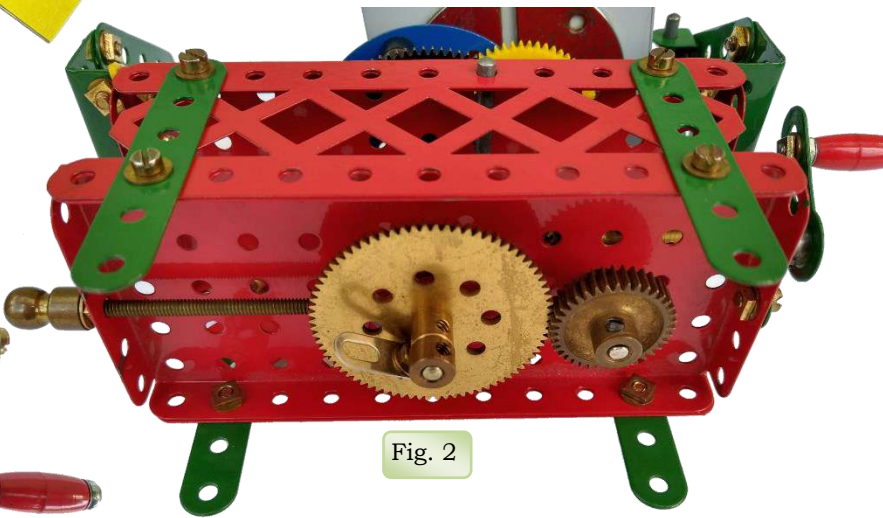


Fig. 2

The table rotates and its supporting structure also rotates about a central axle. There is 1:4 fixed gearing in there, Fig. 3, and the pattern repeats after having drawn four loops. Altering the pen location provides variations. But the requirement was that it could draw two (significantly?) different patterns, and so the main axle can be driven to provide different outcomes: see the underside in Fig. 4 where the gear ratio is 1:2. The resulting patterns from this option are quite different: See front page.

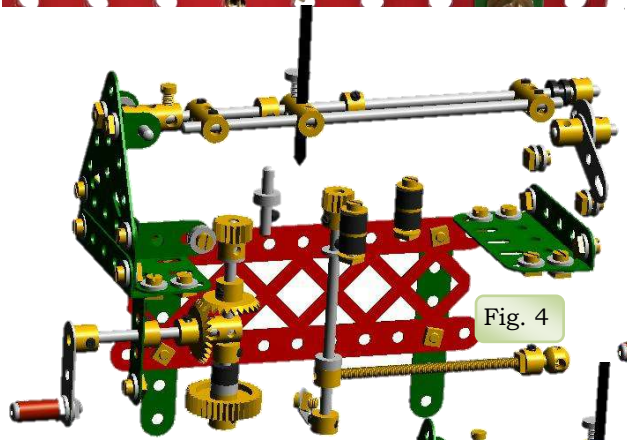


Fig. 4

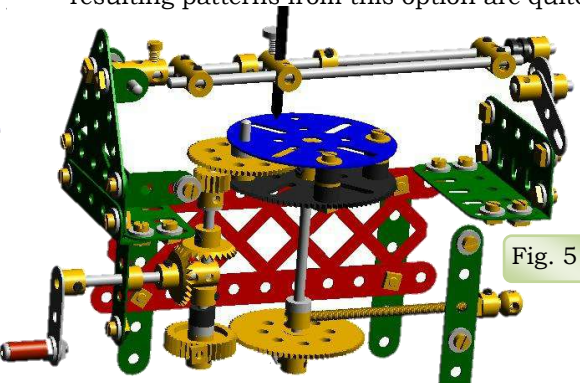


Fig. 5

Watch it on YouTube



<https://youtu.be/KIRC1AM2D1Q>

Special thanks to Ed Veiga for drawing this in Virtual Mec.

Timothy Edwards has kindly agreed to host the .mdl files on the MeccanoIndex. You can download them from the link below.

<https://meccanoindex.co.uk/Virmec/index.php>

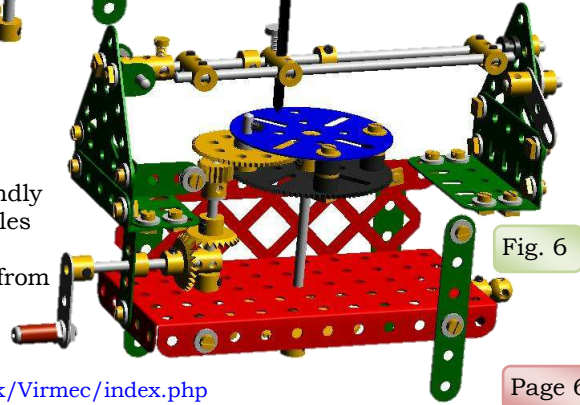


Fig. 6

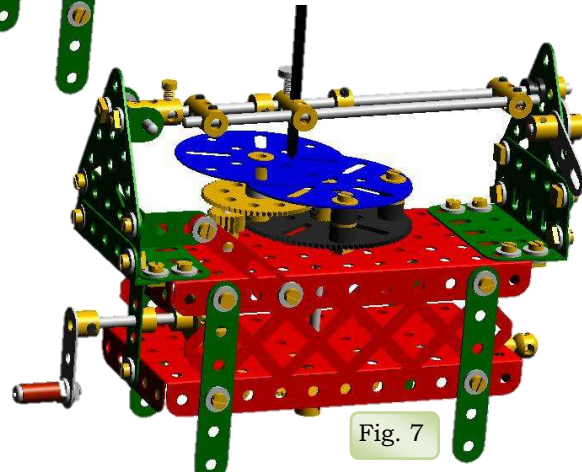


Fig. 7

Fabian Kaufmann



Sewing Machine



<https://youtu.be/3tZQHFxdNdY>

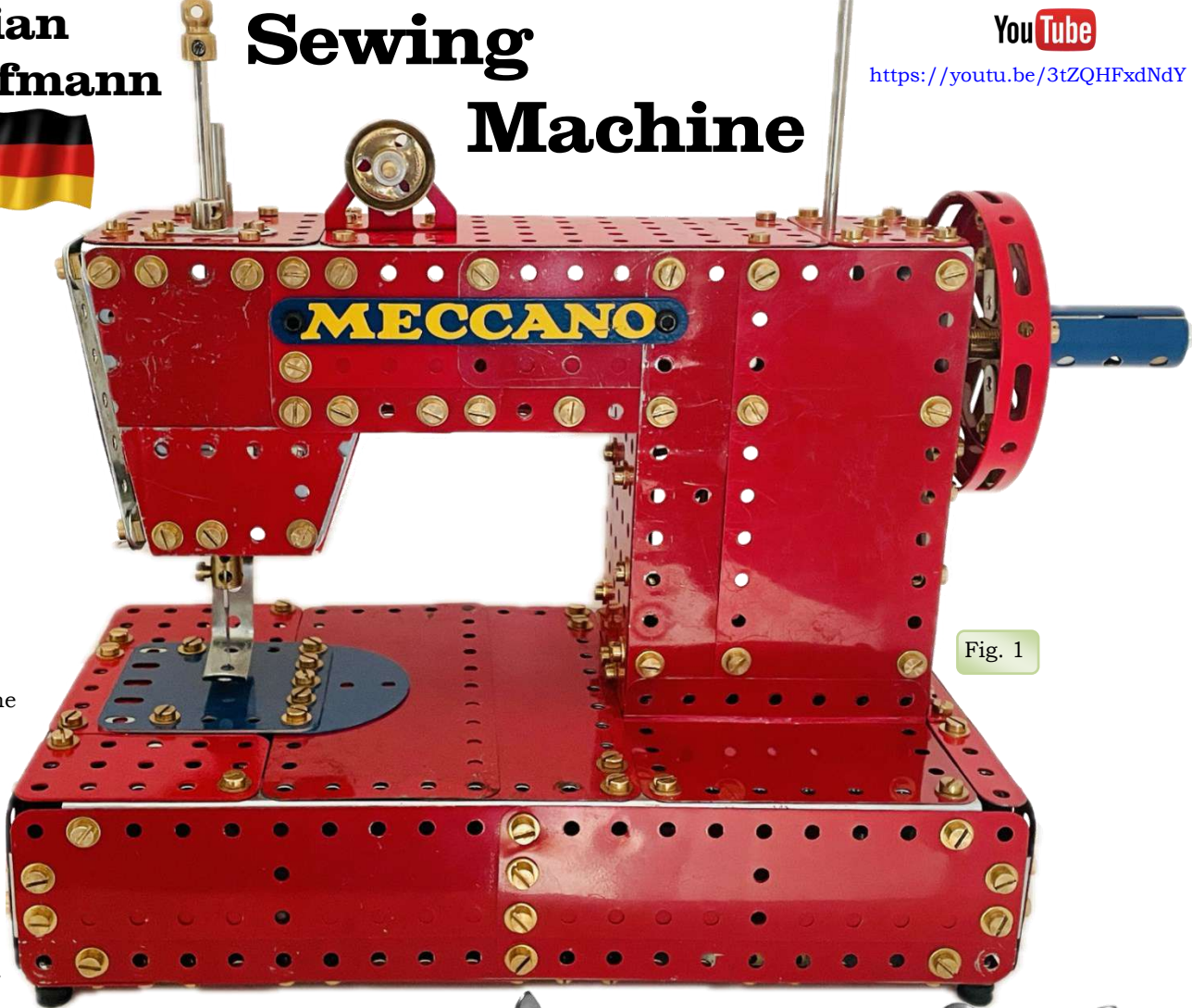


Fig. 1

As a men's tailor by profession, I found the construction of a sewing machine particularly exciting, as I know the construction and function of sewing machines very well through my professional practice.

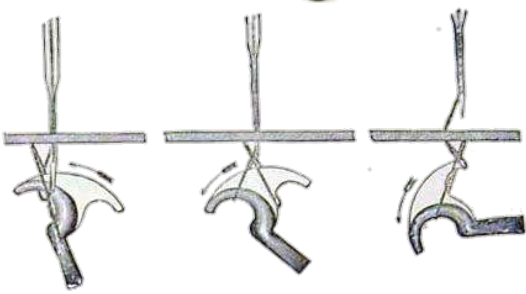


Fig. 2

Fig. 2. I decided to build a single-thread chainstitch machine. These are technically simpler than the two-thread lockstitch machines commonly used today. The patent for this comes from James Edward Allen Gibbs (1829-1902) and is dated 2 June 1857. This type of machine has a specially shaped looper.



Fig. 3

Fig. 3. Since the looper cannot be realised with Meccano parts, I decided to get a real machine looper from JUKI (Sewing machine manufacturer).

Fig. 4. The counterpart to the looper is the needle. Unlike a hand sewing needle, it is not simply a very fine steel pin with a point at one end and an eye at the other. Instead, the eye is positioned directly above the point, and it also has a shank at the upper end for screwing to the needle bar. Just above the point and eye, there is a groove on the side facing the looper as a passage for the looper point and a long groove on the opposite side as a guide for the sewing thread.

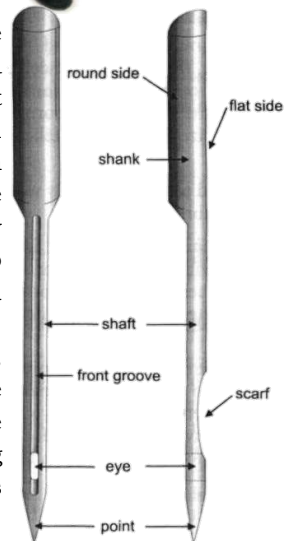


Fig. 4



Fig. 5. The third essential part of the machine is the feed dog. Two eccentrics control this movement and are set so that a flat circular movement results. Up and forwards (transport phase), and back and down, etc.

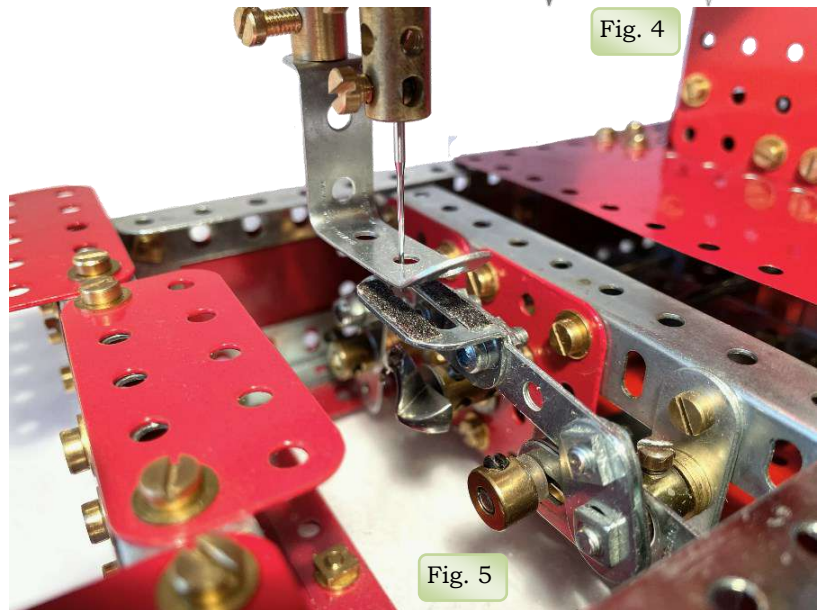


Fig. 5

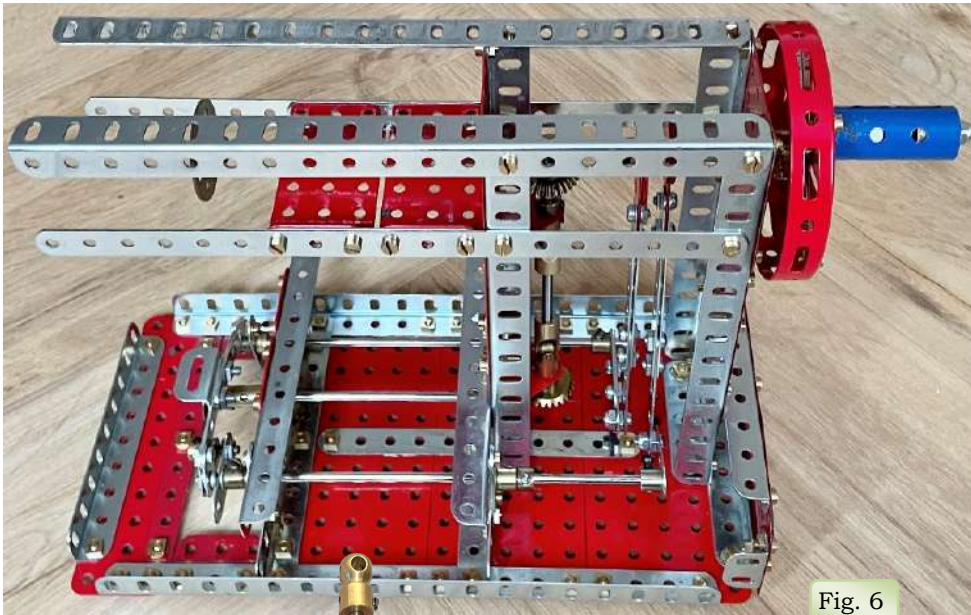


Fig. 6

Fig. 6. To get a precise machine, I had to design a housing that was as stable and torsion-resistant as possible. I started with the base plate made of flat plates and a frame made of 19- and 9-hole angle-girders. In the centre of this I built a frame of four 11-hole angle-girders as bearings for the feed dog shafts and the looper shaft. I then attached four 15-hole angle girders vertically to this for the vertical housing of the machine on the right-hand side. The upper section is formed by two 19-hole angle girders and several flanged 3x5 hole plates as supports and bearings for the main shaft and the front eccentric.

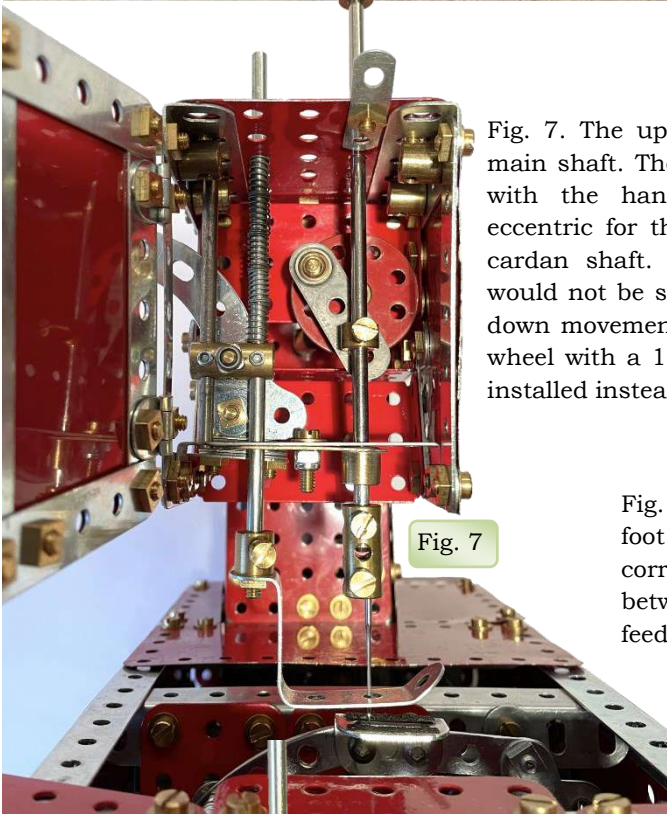


Fig. 7

Fig. 7. The upper section houses the main shaft. The shaft is set in motion with the handwheel. It drives the eccentric for the needle directly via a cardan shaft. As a 12.7 mm stroke would not be sufficient for the up and down movement of the needle, a bush wheel with a 1" bolt circle diameter is installed instead of an eccentric.

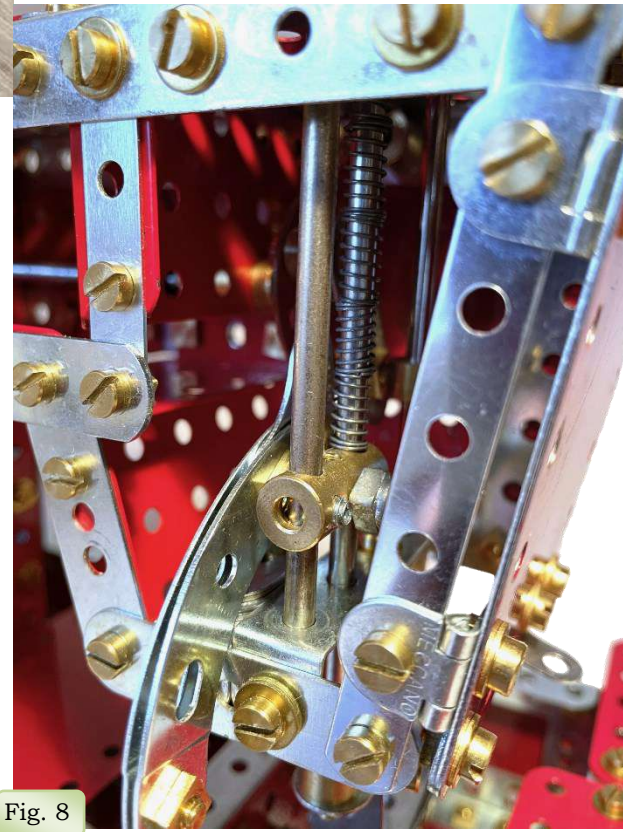


Fig. 8

Fig. 8. The spring-loaded foot presser bar ensures the correct contact pressure between the foot and the feed dog or throat plate.

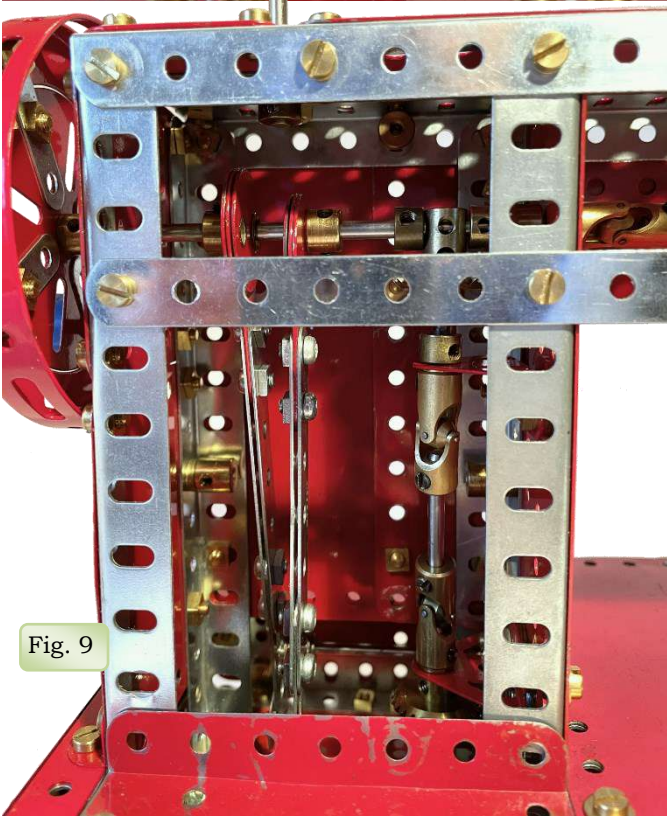


Fig. 9

Fig. 9. Also mounted on the main shaft are two small eccentrics for controlling the feed dog via rockers.

Fig. 10. The characteristic chainstitch can be seen here on the underside.



Fig. 10

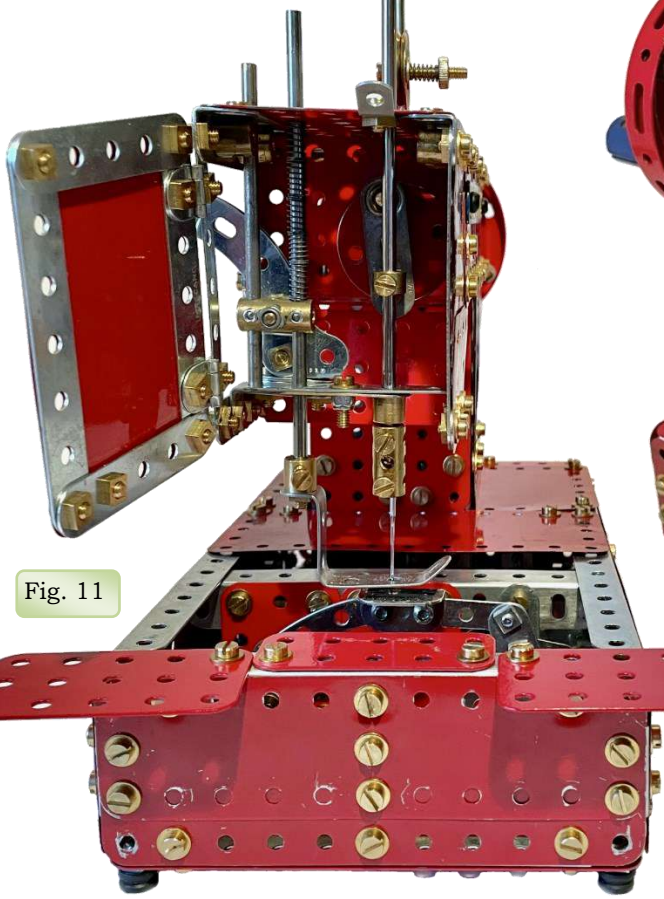


Fig. 11

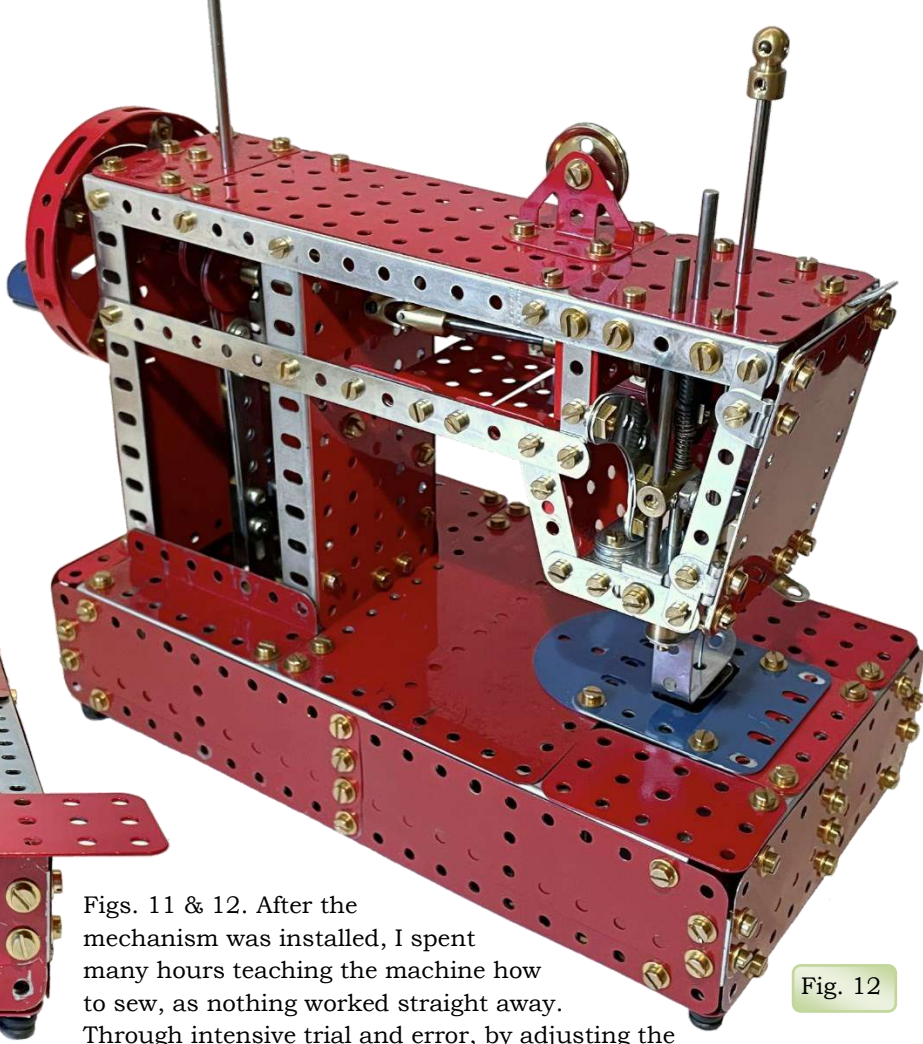


Fig. 12

Figs. 11 & 12. After the mechanism was installed, I spent many hours teaching the machine how to sew, as nothing worked straight away. Through intensive trial and error, by adjusting the

feed dog lever, by turning the looper, by adjusting the needle bar and its top and bottom dead centres and by repeatedly realigning the looper with the groove of the needle, I eventually managed to get a clean seam.

Watch it on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/3tZQHFxdNdY>



Or click the image

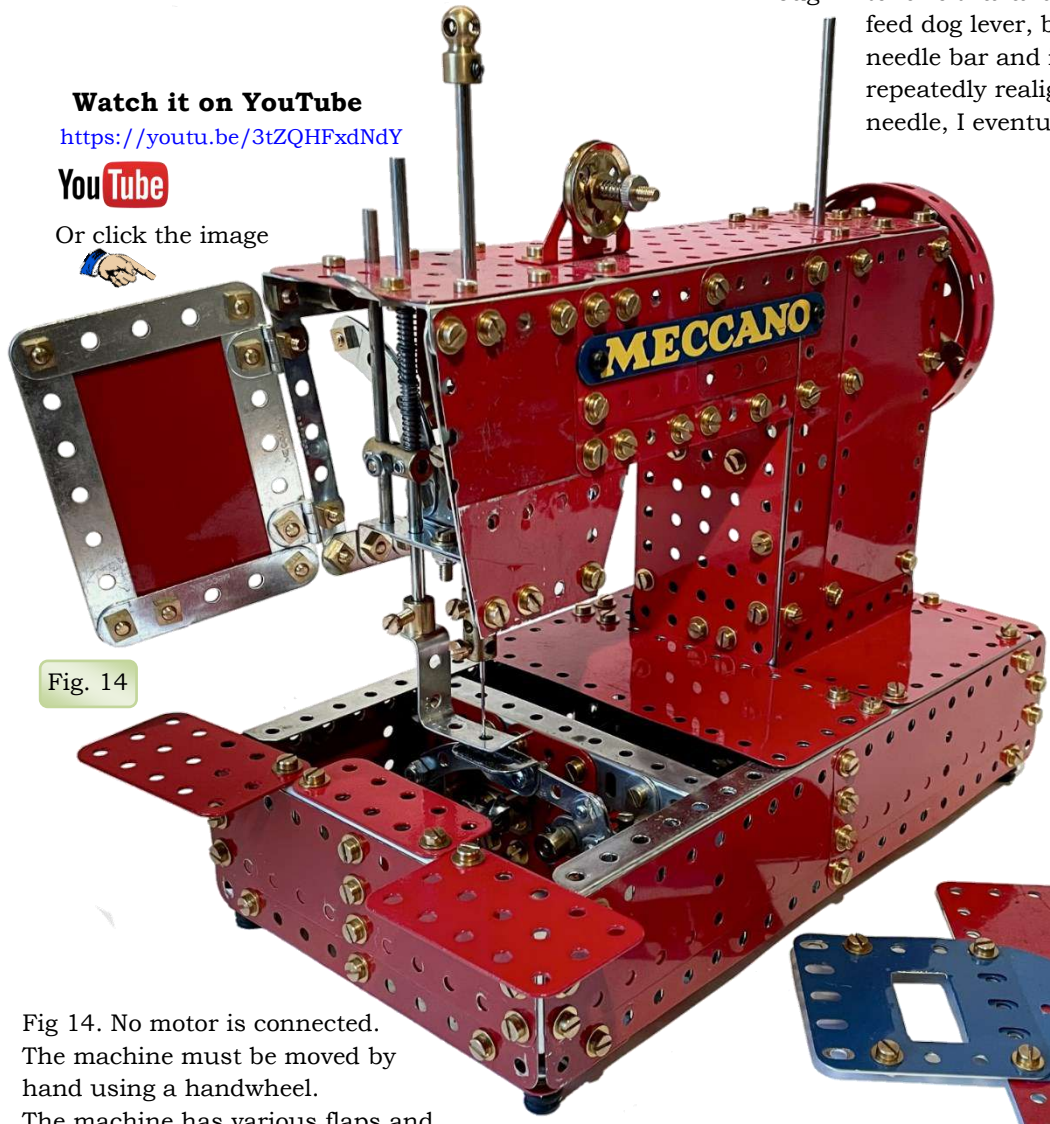


Fig. 14

Fig 14. No motor is connected. The machine must be moved by hand using a handwheel. The machine has various flaps and openings for easy access to all mechanical parts.



Fig. 13

Fig. 13. The single-thread chainstitch seam looks the same on the top as a two-thread lockstitch seam.

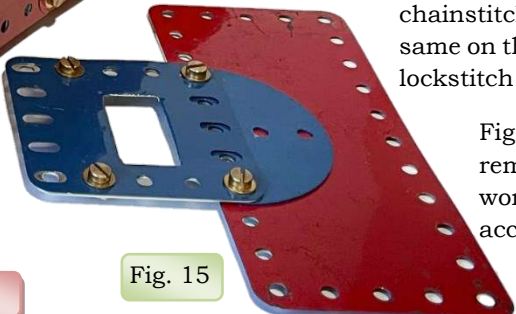


Fig. 15

Fig. 15. The base plate removed to show the workings and allow access for threading etc.

Parallel Diff - Tim Gant



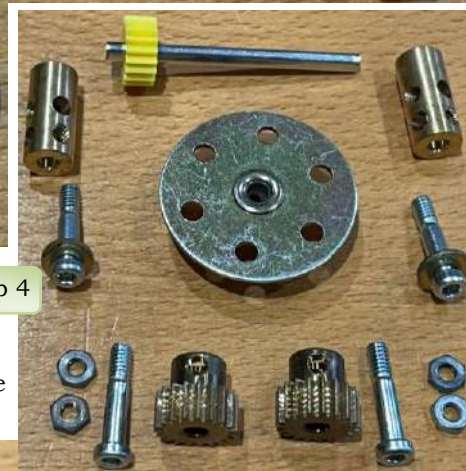
Parts



Step 1

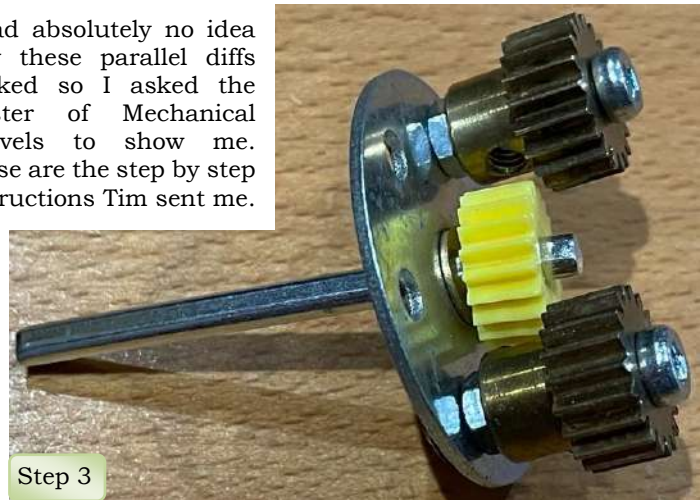


Step 2



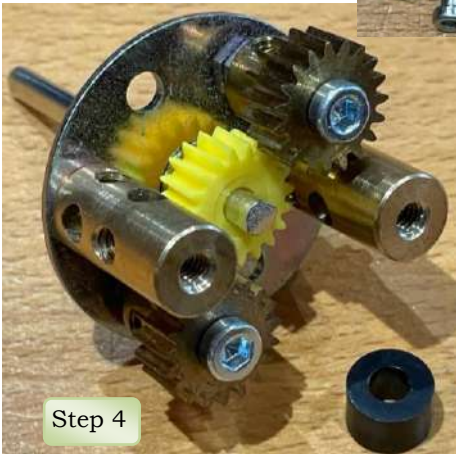
Parts for Step 4

I had absolutely no idea how these parallel diffs worked so I asked the Master of Mechanical Marvels to show me. These are the step by step instructions Tim sent me.



Step 3

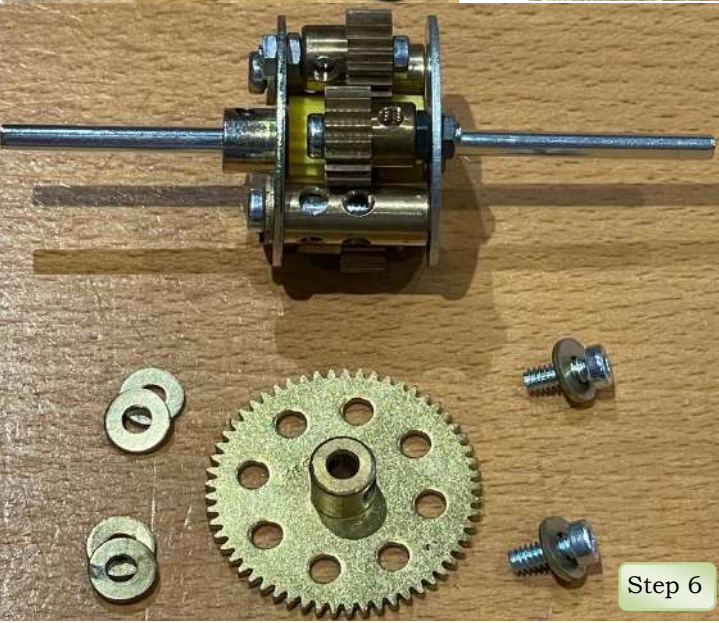
Note: The 3/4" Pivot Bolts go partly into the thread of the Threaded Couplings.



Step 4



Step 5

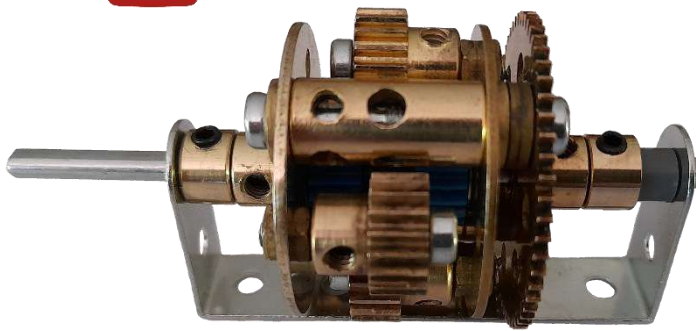


Step 6

See my notes on the following page to see my method of juggling these parts to assemble the completed diff with minimum swearing.



Step 7

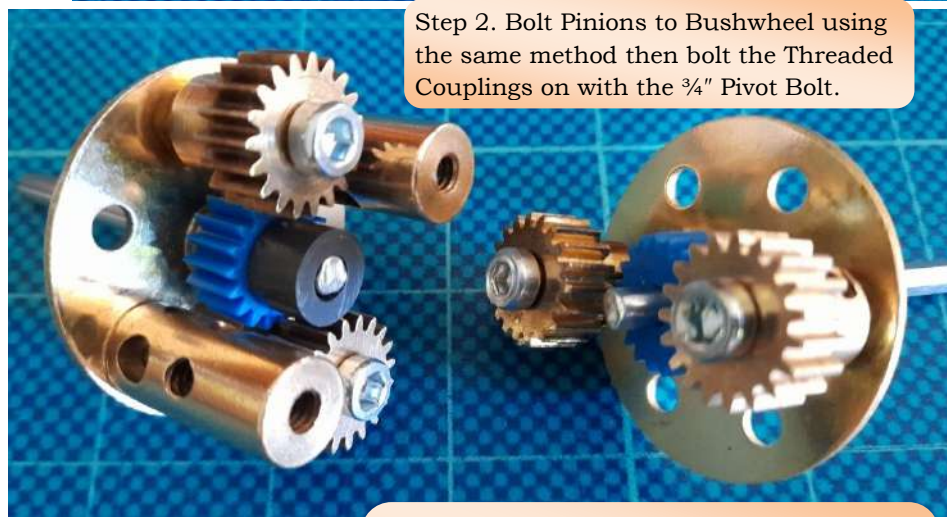


Step 1. Bolt Pinions to Wheel Disc using BC2 method making sure they spin freely.

Parts list excluding mounting parts.

| Part No. | Description | Qty |
|----------|----------------------|-----|
| 24b | Bushwheel 6 hole | 1 |
| 24c | Wheel Disc 6 hole | 1 |
| 26 | Pinion 19t | 4 |
| 26p3p | Pinon 19t TriFlat | 2 |
| 24 | Bush Wheel 8 hole | 1 |
| 27a | Gear 57t | 1 |
| 37a | Hex Nut | 8 |
| 38 | Washer | 8 |
| 38a | Plastic Spacer large | 1 |
| 63c | Threaded Coupling | 2 |
| 111a | Bolt Allen head 1/2" | 2 |
| 147f | Pivot Bolt 3/4" | 6 |
| 317 | Axle 2" TriFlat | 2 |
| | Washer thin SS | 1 |

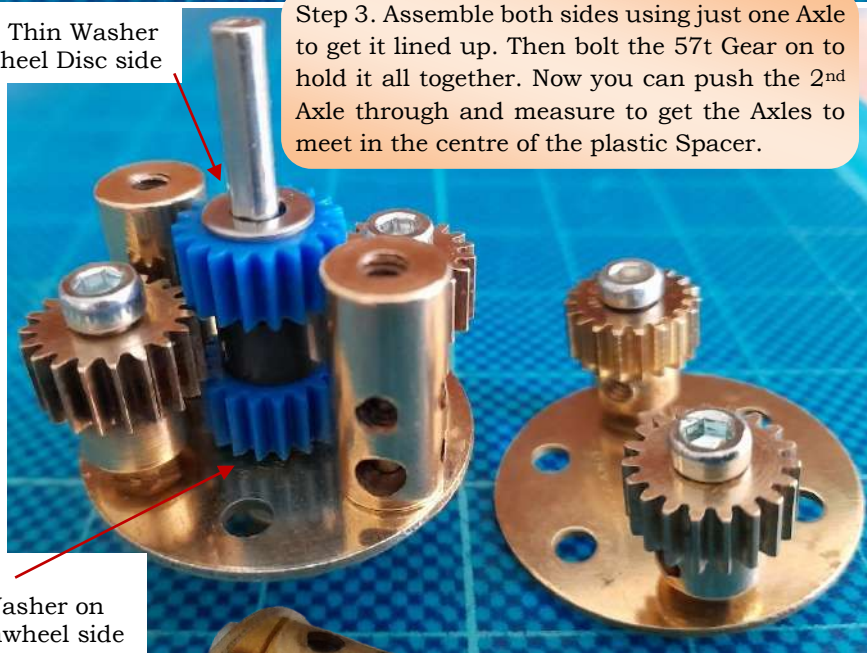
To make assembly easier, I pushed one of the tri-flat Axles all the way through then, after it was all together, I pushed the 2nd Axle through making sure the two axles met exactly in the middle of the black plastic Spacer. I measured 37mm of Axle from the Wheel Disk and 30mm of Axle from the 57t Gear boss.



Step 2. Bolt Pinions to Bushwheel using the same method then bolt the Threaded Couplings on with the 3/4" Pivot Bolt.

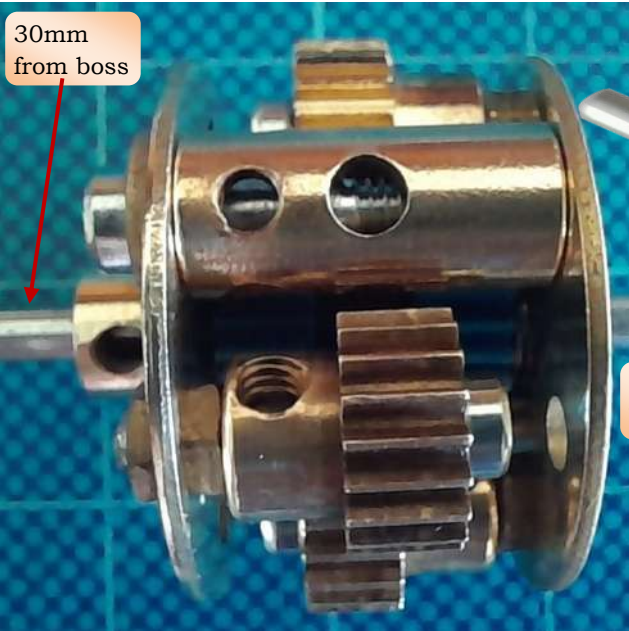
Note: Thin Washer on Wheel Disc side

Step 3. Assemble both sides using just one Axle to get it lined up. Then bolt the 57t Gear on to hold it all together. Now you can push the 2nd Axle through and measure to get the Axles to meet in the centre of the plastic Spacer.



Note: No Washer on Bushwheel side

30mm from boss



37mm from Wheel Disc

Step 4. I used a Grub Screw to hold them together for the photo.

Step 5. Bolt the 57t Gear on and put it all in a frame.

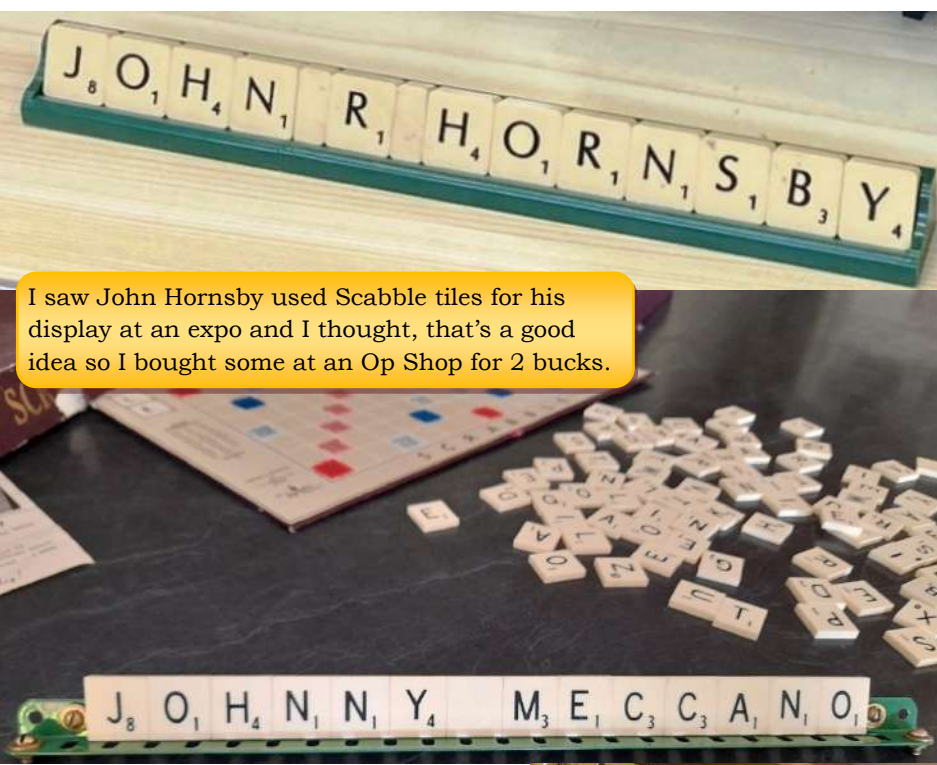
FROM OUR GOOD IDEAS DEPARTMENT



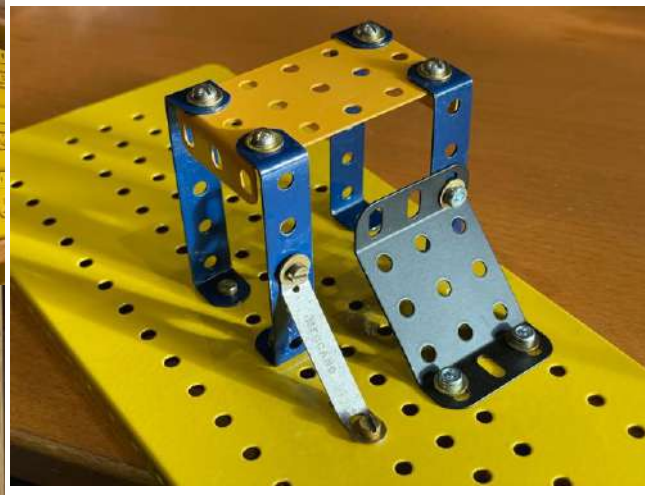
From Tim Gant - UK. For those fortunate enough to have Aeroplane Constructor part P30, they make great obtuse brackets!



I saw John Hornsby used Scabble tiles for his display at an expo and I thought, that's a good idea so I bought some at an Op Shop for 2 bucks.



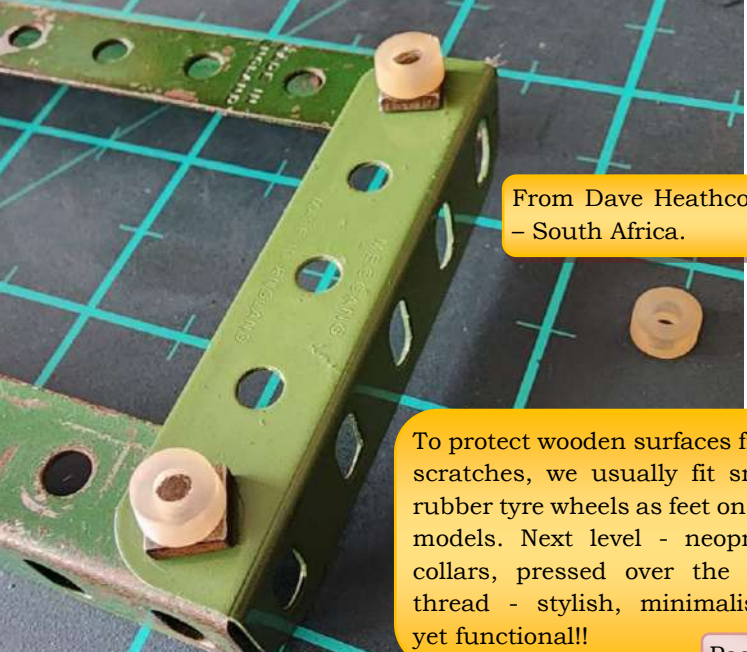
From Tim Gant - UK. Use suitably themed parts as knobs to identify the type of parts in the Meccano storage cases. Part 237 box and 236 lid.



From Simon Coultas, Oz. Use your ten set as a bedside table. He has one on each side!



From Dave Heathcote - South Africa.



To protect wooden surfaces from scratches, we usually fit small rubber tyre wheels as feet on our models. Next level - neoprene collars, pressed over the bolt thread - stylish, minimalistic, yet functional!!

This Month's Meccanoman

I've finally bowed to peer pressure and changed Meccanoboy to Meccanoman.

Bob Thompson - UK

When and where were you born?

I was born in Handsworth, Birmingham UK, June, 1945. I was an only child, brought up by my mother.

You seem to be Bob in some places and Rob in others. Which do you prefer?

Born Robert, but never keen on it, only time it was used was by my mother when I was naughty.

Where did you go to school?

I was lucky enough to pass the 11+ exam and went to Handsworth Grammar School. I left after 6 years without any qualifications. The only subject I was any good at was Maths.

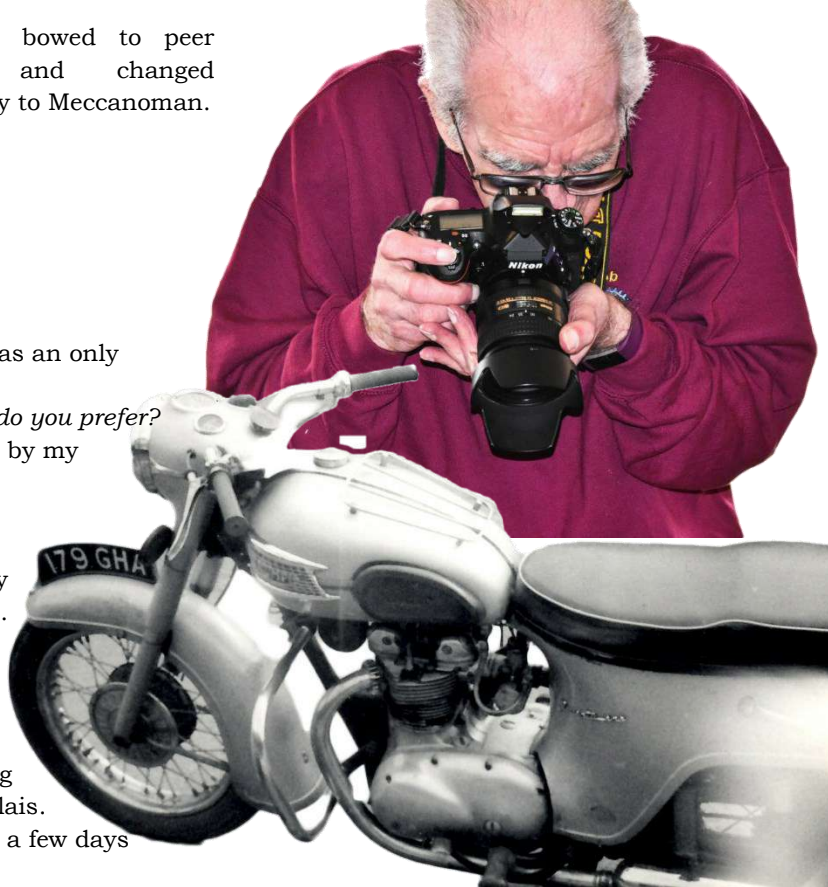
Did you have Meccano as a child? Some secondhand Meccano but my love at the time was Dinky Toys.

Have you travelled much?

In 1963 a friend and I set off intending to travel the south of France on my motorbike, a 350cc Triumph. We were camping but due to high wind and rain only travelled 110km from Calais.

We spent most of the time in a café in Calais, returning after a few days to the UK. In 1971 Paula and I went to Ibiza

I THEN WENT 47 YEARS WITHOUT OWNING A PASSPORT!



Are you married? Any kids?

I met Paula in a coffee bar in 1966, and married her in 1968 and had a boy, Steve (1972) and a girl Jenny (1976). To celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in 2018, we decided to try a 3-day cruise, and we loved it! This year we commemorated our 55th wedding anniversary.



Paula has been in charge of catering at the Society of Advanced Meccano Constructors for the last 35 years.

What was your first car?

After 17 motorbikes I got married in 1968 and bought this Ford 5cwt van for £6.00. I then had the engine reconditioned for £10.00. In 1992 I bought a Ford Sierra Estate to carry my Meccano, and on Sept 11th, 2001, I bought my first Volvo V70, second-hand, then another Volvo V70 diesel, and last of all a V60 diesel estate purchased in 2017, which I still own. Three Volvos in 22 years!

What did you do for a living?

I worked for British Telecom as a telephone engineer installing [Strowger](#) exchanges. After 30 years' service I was offered voluntary redundancy in 1992 and retired at 47, getting my works pension at age 50. In 1999 I did a desktop publishing course and started a printing business working from home.



Proud young man

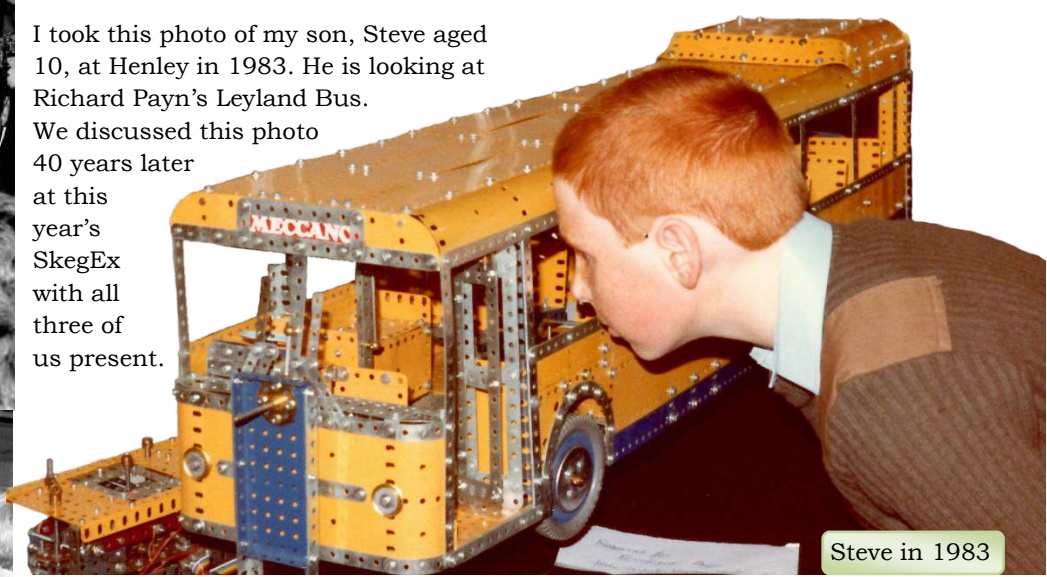


Society of Advanced Meccano Constructors - 7th April 1990.
Back Row L to R: Alan Covel, Bob Latten, Jim Gamble, Chris Shute, John Brown, Eric Baldwin, Ralph Clark, Colin Goodman.
Front Row L to R: Sid Beckett, Bob Thompson, Mike Cuff, Bert Love, John Palmer, Mike Hooper, John Evans.

How did you get involved in Meccano? My son Steve was in the Cubs and every time I visited Akela (Cubmaster), he was building with Meccano. His name was Sid Beckett. This was the start of a friendship that has lasted over 40 years, and although still alive (now in his nineties), Sid is almost blind and unable to build models anymore. Luckily for me there was a Meccano club less than a mile from my home called The Society of Advanced Meccano Constructors, which was run by Bert Love. I went along to my first meeting in April 1983, and after a period as Treasurer, I became Secretary in April 1993. After Bert died in April 1999 it was voted to change the name from SAMC to South Birmingham Meccano Club as it was thought the previous title was elitist and didn't say where the club was located in the UK. It has remained with that name, and we have just celebrated our 100th meeting.



I took this photo of my son, Steve aged 10, at Henley in 1983. He is looking at Richard Payn's Leyland Bus. We discussed this photo 40 years later at this year's SkegEx with all three of us present.



Steve in 1983



In 1987 Princess Anne visited the Town & Country Festival at Stoneleigh. She is seen here being introduced by MMG Secretary Ernie Chandler to Pat Edkins who displayed amongst many models, a model of a Fabergé Egg.

I see you take lots of photos of Meccano at meetings and expos. Have you been to many Meccano expos?

Yes, I have been lucky enough to go to many exhibitions. The Midlands Meccano Guild exhibited at the Stoneleigh Town & Country Festival from 1973 – 2009. These were held over three days, Saturday, Sunday & Monday of the August Bank Holiday, where up to 150,000 visitors came. One year we had a display from the Red Arrows. In 1987 Princess Anne visited the Meccano stand.

Some time ago I had been given thousands of photographs taken by Robin Schoolar which I said I would scan and upload to the NZMeccano website; also, many from Ken Wright and Bert Love. Around about 2015 I invested in new camera equipment, backing cloths and lighting, and with inspiration from Stefan Tokarski, Roelf Valkema and Georg Eiermann, I vowed to produce better photographs.

Spanners at SkegEx 1999.



Back row: Allan Nixon, Nick Rodgers, Rod Purdie (Aus), The Jolly Fisherman, Reg Hall, John Evans, Paolo Caravani (It), Bob Thompson, Ken Ratcliff. Front row: Peter C. Barnard, Han de Haas (NL), Alan Esplen, Wes Dalefield (USA), Kees Trommel (NL), Max Ferranti (It), Alan Jardine.

Tell me about your involvement in VirtualMec.

I very much enjoy using this program, but it doesn't work well with an Intel integrated graphics card. Giorgio Vecchi designed it to have all parts of a No. 10 set and vast numbers of other parts have been added, but one of the drawbacks is you cannot add your own parts to the program. If you can use it, it's a great help with creating model plans. Edmundo Veiga (Brazil) and I help each other with VirtualMec. Adrian Browne (UK) helped me a lot with his knowledge of the system but sadly he died earlier this year.

How did you end up with NZMeccano gallery superpowers? Simple answer to this, I was made a 'showgoer' so that I could upload to the Exhibition Gallery. It certainly does help after uploading in excess of 50,000 photos. I have also been able to help many members sort their Galleries out.



Members of the Midlands Meccano Guild

In 2017 the Midlands Meccano Guild celebrated its 50th anniversary and I spent a lot of time studying the history of the photos of models and their makers; over 100 meetings and all their model reports. The North Midlands Meccano Guild has held SkegEx at Skegness from 1982 to date. Of 40 exhibitions, my family and I have attended 36. We used to go from Sunday to Sunday as this was our summer holiday. As the years have gone by, we reduced this to three days, and for the last few years we have only visited on the one day. Photos are taken every year of the members of the Spanner internet group at SkegEx and are shown on the NZMeccano website.

<https://www.nzmeccano.com/image-13606>

The Henley exhibition has been running from 1972 to date. I have uploaded many photos mainly taken by Robin Schoolar and Ken Wright to NZM. I am hoping to get many slides, taken by an enthusiast who has just died, and scan them in January 2024.

The only Henley Exhibitions I have attended were in 1983 & 1984.

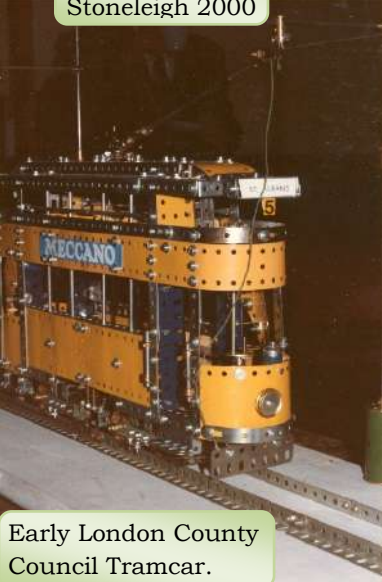


Tricky Track at Stoneleigh 2000

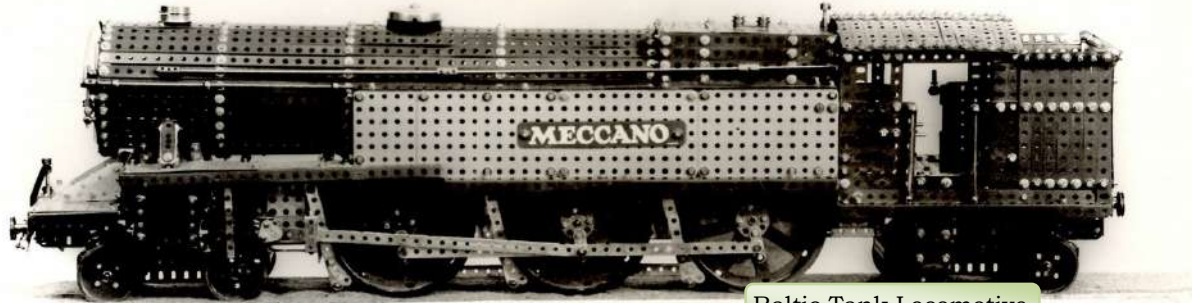
What other hobbies and interests do you have?
Computers, Photography, Meccano history, (models & their makers).
The History of Birmingham (Books & photos), West Bromwich Albion F.C and of course, going to Meccano meetings.



Bob as auctioneer at Midlands Meccano Guild



Early London County Council Tramcar.



Baltic Tank Locomotive

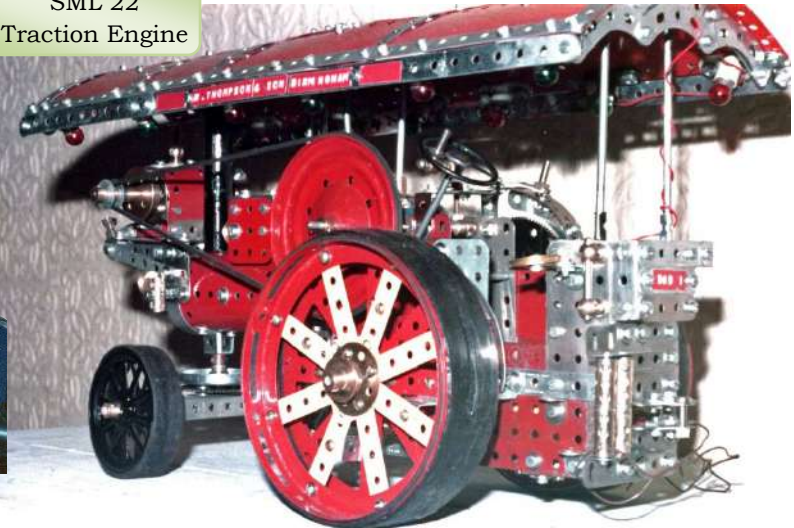
What type of models do you prefer to build?

When I did build it was always from a plan. I was not clever enough to build from scratch, but I admire those who were able to do so. See photos for examples of my past models but as I've lost interest in building with nuts & bolts, I've sold all my Meccano. I do however still enjoy VirtualMec, taking photos of Meccano and helping out with photos and documentation in the NZMeccano gallery. You can see my gallery here. <https://www.nzmeccano.com/image-45357>



Penguin Staircase shown at SkegEx 1985

SML 22 Traction Engine



16th October 1993 SAMC 40th meeting



No. 10 Double Decker Bus



Bert Love President

Bob Thompson Sec

Chris Shute Chairman

We are John & Johnny. A father and son team who like Meccano. We're nothing to do with Spin Master who own the brand. Contact us at

MeccanoNews@gmail.com

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UK

- <https://tims.org.uk>
- <https://nelmc.org.uk>
- <https://nmmg.org.uk>
- <https://www.selmec.org.uk>
- <https://southwestmeccano.org.uk>
- <https://londonmeccanoclub.org.uk>
- <http://www.hsomerville.com/wlms>
- <http://www.northwestmeccano.co.uk>
- <https://northeasternmeccano.org.uk>
- <https://www.meccanoscotland.org.uk>
- <http://www.corlustmeccanoclub.co.uk>
- <https://runnymedmeccanoguild.org.uk>
- <http://www.midlandsmeccanoguild.com>

Other Countries

- <http://club-amis-meccano.org/>
- <http://www.meccaninfos.com.ar/>
- <http://www.meccanogilde.nl>
- <http://meccano.free-bb.fr/>
- <https://www.aceam.org/es/>
- <https://www.metallbaukasten-forum.de/>
- <http://www.amsclub.ch/>
- <http://www.meccanoweb.es/>
- <http://www.la-roue-tourne.fr/index.php/le-meccano/notices-et-plans>

USA and Canada

- https://www.spinmaster.com/brand.php?brand=cat_meccano
- <https://www.usmeccano.com>
- <http://www.meccano.com>
- <http://www.cmamas.ca>
- <http://www.bcmeccanomodellers.com/meccano-in-canada.html>
- <http://www.meccanoquebec.org/index2ang.html>
- <http://www.melright.com/meccanosales/>

Australia & New Zealand

- <http://www.nzmeccano.com>
- <http://www.nzfm.com.co.nz>
- <https://www.facebook.com/MWT-Meccano-Club-1476153515979522/>
- <http://www.mmci.com.au>
- <http://www.sydneymeccanomodellers.org.au>
- <http://www.webjournalist.com.au/maylands/index.html>

South Africa

- <https://www.facebook.com/Meccano-Club-of-South-Africa-464753870326296>
- <http://www.mecworld.co.za/cmrf/>

Personal pages

- <https://neilsmeccanoandstuff.jimdofree.com/neil-s-meccano-models>
- <http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/dms/meccano>
- <http://www.dalefield.com/meccano/index.html>
- <https://www.alansmeccano.org>
- <https://www.meccanoindex.co.uk>
- <http://www.meccanokinematics.net>
- <https://meccanocreations.in>
- <http://www.meccano.us>
- <https://mecca-clocks.fr/>
- <http://mattgoodmanuk.com/links/Meccano.html>

Meccano suppliers

- <http://www.meccanohobby.co.uk>
- <https://www.meccanoshop.co.uk>
- <http://meccanoman.co.uk/catalog>
- <https://www.meccanospare.com>
- <https://ralphsshop.com>
- <http://www.meerlu.com.au/>
- <https://tinyurl.com/AshokBanerjee>
- <http://www.hsomerville.com/mwmailorder>
- <http://www.metalconstructiontoys.com>

How many Edisons does it take to screw in a light bulb?

Who cares. He stole the idea and doesn't deserve his own joke.



Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming "Wow! What a Ride!" – Hunter S. Thompson.



A woman didn't come home one night. The next morning, she told her husband that she had slept over at a friend's house.

The man called his wife's 10 best friends. None of them knew anything about it.

A man didn't come home 1 night. The next morning, he told his wife that he had slept over at a friend's house.

The wife called her husband's 10 best friends. 8 of them confirmed that he had slept over and 2 said he was still there.

You'll have to think about this one.



Two scientists walk into a bar. "I'll have H2O," says the 1st. "I'll have H2O, too," says the 2nd. Bartender gives them both water because he is able to distinguish the boundary tones that dictate the grammatical function of homonyms in coda position, as well as pragmatic context.

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife went to counselling. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the years they had been married. The complaints mentioned neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and more.

Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched – with a raised eyebrow. The woman shut up and quietly sat down as though in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said: "This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?"

The husband replied, "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I have my Meccano club meetings."

Teacher: "If you had one dollar and you asked your father for another, how many dollars would you have?"

Johnny: "One dollar."

Teacher: "You don't know your arithmetic."

Johnny: "And you don't know my father!"

Little Johnny asks the teacher, "Can I be punished for something I haven't done?"

The teacher is shocked. "Of course not, Johnny! That would be very unfair!"

Johnny is relieved. "That's good to know," he says, "because I haven't done my homework."

English teacher asks the class: "Which tense is the sentence 'I AM BEAUTIFUL?'"
Little Johnny replies, "Clearly, past tense."

The teacher was terrified to hear little Johnny swear. "I never want you to use language like that again. Where on earth did you pick it up?" "From my father," said Johnny. "Well, he should be ashamed of himself. And it's no reason for you to talk like that. You don't even know what it means." "I do," said Johnny. "It means the screwdriver slipped off the grub screw".

Meccgear Jeff Clark New Zealand
sales@meccgear.co.nz No website yet but a pricelist with photos can be downloaded here <http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-151916>
Bespoke parts from Corlust Meccano Club
Ian Wilson bespokecraftshack@gmail.com
Mike Rhoades. Link to price list below.
<https://www.nzmeccano.com/image-165106>

Well? Was it worth the price of a cup of coffee?

