



BOOK OF MODELS
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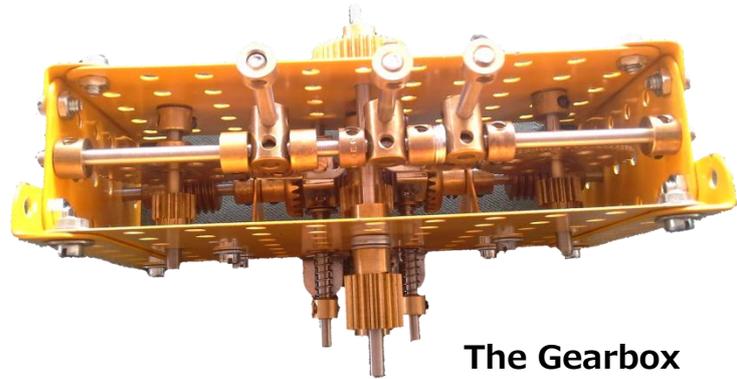
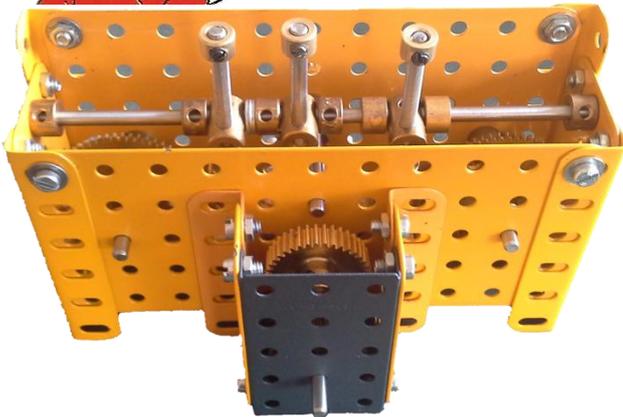
April

2019

Grader

By Ernie Morf

Based on the Canadian Special Model Number 5

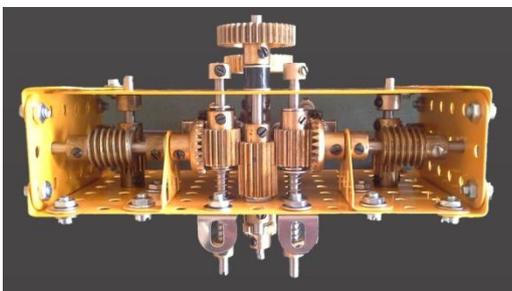
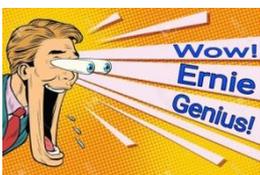


The Gearbox

Ernie has been working on this grader for some time and he brought along the gearbox to a club meeting where I managed to get a few detailed close-up photos. The finished model made its debut at the 2017 Melbourne Meccano Club Inc expo. Another Meccanoboy, Alan Keith, from Prince Edward Island in Canada is also fond of building Meccano graders and the magic of Facebook allowed me to pass on Alan's details to Ernie and the two started swapping emails. It's a wonderful World Wide Web that allows Meccanoboy's from opposite sides of the world to share ideas and certainly a lot faster than the old days of letters often travelling by ship! Ernie says the most difficult items to acquire were the tyres. A complete set of the Goodyear Power Torque ashtray tyres came at quite an expense and took several months to find on eBay, having to resort to purchasing them one at a time. Rick Collette from Eastern Canada was the original designer/builder and nothing short of brilliant in his efforts. The level of detail and accuracy in the overall model, coupled with cleverly designed mechanisms replicating the blade's functions, are indeed a tribute to a very skilled modeller.

The left and right levers are used to lower and raise the blade on either side. They make use of a 3/4" 19T (P25a) pinion engaging on either side of a small contrate.

The centre lever controls the wheel lean and makes use of 2 x 1" gear wheels and an additional gear wheel engaging to reverse the direction. All mechanisms are driven off a standard Power Drive Unit.



On The Road

**Meccano Magazine
visits the expos**

Geelong, Australia

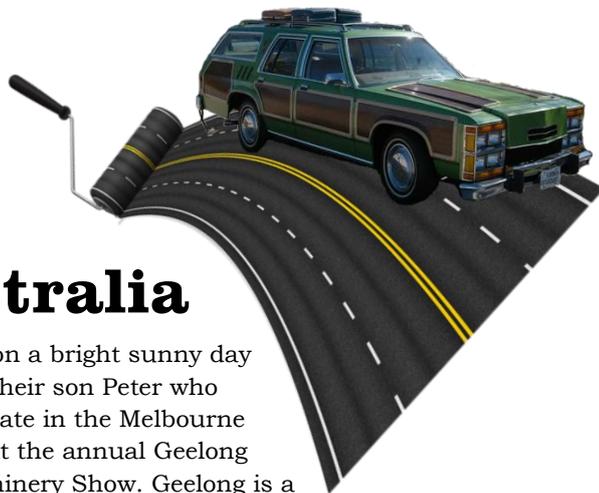
Graham and Mary Jost headed off on a bright sunny day to kill 2 birds with 1 stone: Visit their son Peter who lives in Geelong and to participate in the Melbourne Meccano Club's stand at the annual Geelong Classic Truck and Machinery Show. Geelong is a

big city, in fact the 2nd largest in Victoria, Australia with a population of 190,000. After catching up with Peter and Robyn, the Josts met up with Jack and Carol Parsisson, Chris Curnick, Mike Maloney and Barry McDonald to set up the display and cover it all with pink flannel sheets in readiness for the big day.

Saturday morning saw the show in full swing and thankfully this year the noisy truck fanatics with their occasional beep beep beep reversing sounds were located further away. What is it with those high pitched warning beeps for reversing? Why can't it be a less irritating buzzer? The show was very well attended this year, with a good natured crowd showing lots of interest in Graham's Ball Kicking Machine and French Knitting Machines. Mary had a lovely time producing and handing out Meccanograph designs. Mike Maloney brought along his beautiful Märklin stationary engine and Chris Curnick demonstrated the mysteries of our solar system and the universe in general with his Orrery. For anyone wondering, the answer to life, the universe and everything is 42. Barry McDonald showed a lovely collection of many of the latest small model cars and tractors and Jack Parsisson had his mechanisms demonstrator which is very educational. S.T.E.M is very important in expos these days and the more educational a Meccano model is the better - I'm not sure that steam engines measure up well in this climate these days, but there were plenty of those too. Carol Parsisson's hand-on models were very popular, some of which required attention after over-enthusiastic driving by small fry! After a most enjoyable weekend the Josts packed up and head across to the other side of Port Phillip bay to recover before fronting up to the next Meccano outing, whenever that is



Mike Maloney's Märklin stationary engine on display at Geelong.



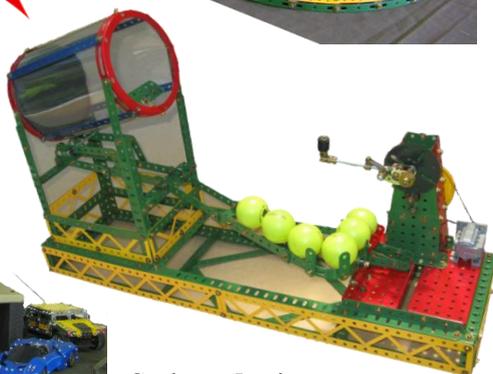
Graham & Mary Jost. The Ball Kicker is based on Rob Mitchell's Hole-In-One ball roller.



Engines by Barry McDonald



Barry McDonald



Graham Jost's Hole-In-One ball roller AKA "Ball Kicker".





Geelong cont..

Carol Parsisson above

Dave Denner left

North Midlands Meccano Guild OXTON UK

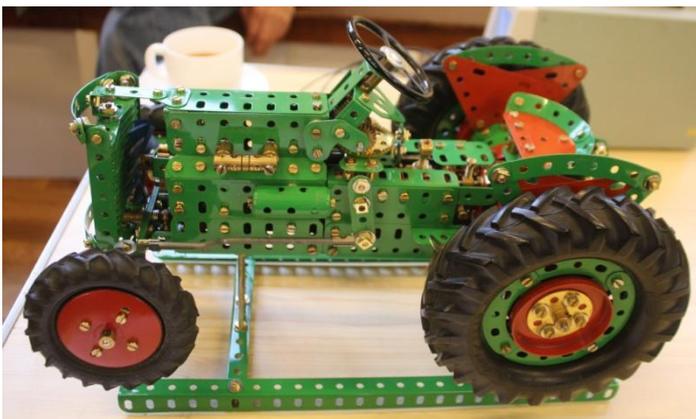
19 Jan 2019 by Rob Kirk



Saturday the 19th of January was a cold, grey Nottinghamshire morning and we planned to travel the 15 miles to Oxton for the North Midlands Meccano Guild meeting but suffering from jet lag we overslept! Our trip to America had taken its toll. Already late for the 10am start to the meeting we realised we needed petrol, so this delayed us even further. On arriving at Oxton village hall, the carpark was full and parking was on the road so we suspected it wouldn't look good for getting a table. We were right, it was full. We have never seen that many people showing their models and selling their Meccano. Not a space free. A lot of them were attending from the neighbouring Sheffield Meccano Guild. We decided we would just have a walk round, take some photos and videos and meet up with old friends and have a chat. There were a lot of models there we hadn't seen before. I was especially interested in one of the tractors. It had a lot of moving parts, hydraulics and PTO brakes. The builder had a few teething problems with it. He said it hadn't travelled well...I know how it felt!



Philip Webb's Dockyard Crane Photo Richard Payn



Tractor - Work in progress by Richard Smith



Cherry Picker by Matthew Shaw

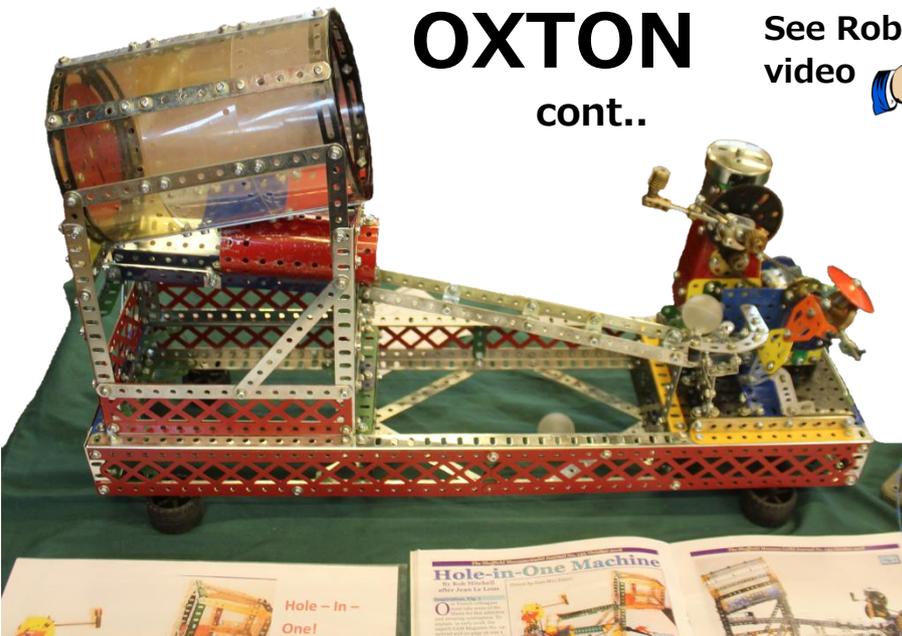
OXTON

cont..

See Rob's video 



https://youtu.be/_VVpTeC-zBM



There was a Brooklands garage. It wasn't as big as the model Pete Evans built but it was good nonetheless. Derrick Murdie's Meccano Meccaspider drew a lot of attention. Derrick is a prolific model builder and always turns up with something different. There was also a plate cutter, straightener and bender. The builder had based it on one he had seen at a steel works some years ago. Gerarde Nixon had brought his model of a "High-speed ship coaler" which was very impressive, a nice large working model. Philip Webb had two impressive models, a dockside level luffing crane and a 'beefed-up' bridge.

There was the inevitable 'ball-kicker' - only in stereo this time! Rob Mitchell's as usual and at the other end of the hall, Rob Miller's. We also noted that the Skegex Expo has moved dates for 2019. The dates are June 26th/27th with set up on the 25th. Check the official website for details here >>> <https://nmmg.org.uk/event/skegex-2019>

It was an awe inspiring meeting and in spite of the jet lag and lateness, we had a really good time.



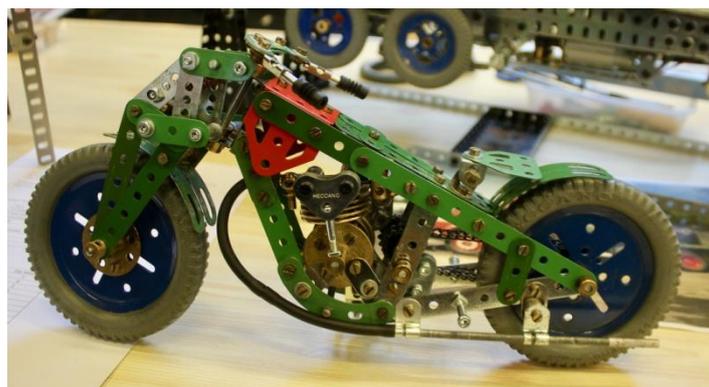
Loco in a Bottle by Harry Harker



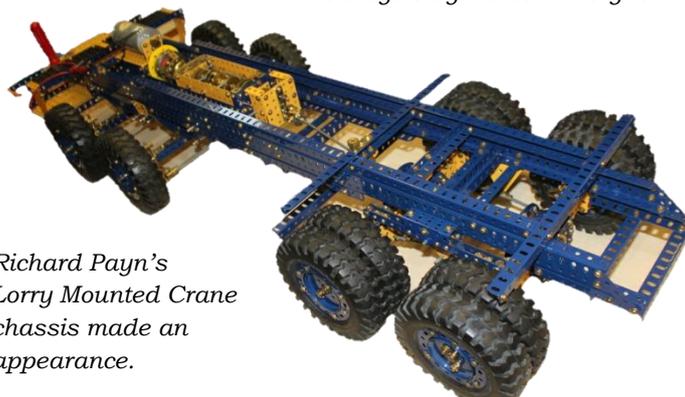
Bertie Bubbles by Alistair and Moira Cree



Brooklands Garage Scene By Tom and Matthew McCallum



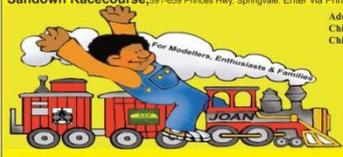
Motorcycle by Malcolm Bergner



Richard Payn's Lorry Mounted Crane chassis made an appearance.

Sandown Train & Hobby Show March 2019

TRAIN and HOBBY SHOW
 incorporating: The F1 Air Race, Model & Hobby Displays plus MORE
 Sandown Racecourse, 291-659 Princes Hwy, Springvale. Enter via Princes Hwy (Melway p80, C10)
 Adults (16+ years) \$15
 Children (4-15 years) \$5
 Children 3 & Under Free.
 Applications Open for Exhibitors, displays, clubs, layouts, traders, retailers, associations, racers, modelers & activities
 Sunday 10th March incorporates:
ALL HOBBIES SWAP MEET AUSTRALIA
www.trainandhobbyshow.com.au or www.facebook.com/trainandhobby




The annual Train and Hobby Show was held over the 3 day long weekend and drew crowds of over 10,000! They started queuing up at 9am and the Demolition Derby display was pumping out AC/DC Thunderstruck at thunderous volume while they stood in line. By 10am when the gates opened, everyone was well and truly hyped up and so began 3 days of the most exciting expo of the year. There were remote control cars that people were encouraged to crash until there was only one left. You can imagine the kids being allowed to crash and bash to their destructive little heart's desire!

Go for it kids. Smash 'em up!



Demolition Derby



Johnny with the Roller Derby



Chris Curnick left. Anthony Burkitt right.

Sandown cont.



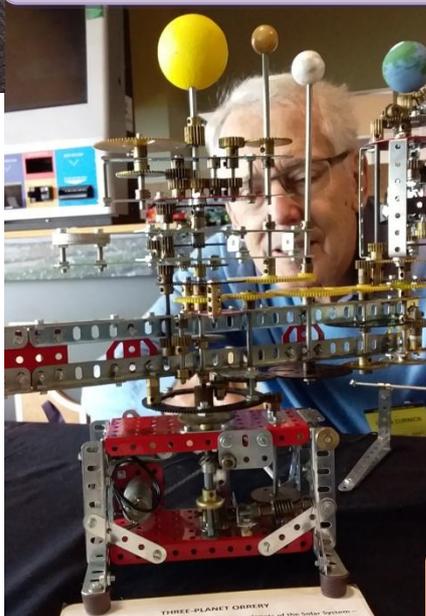
Well someone had to clean up the mess caused by Graham's knitting machine!



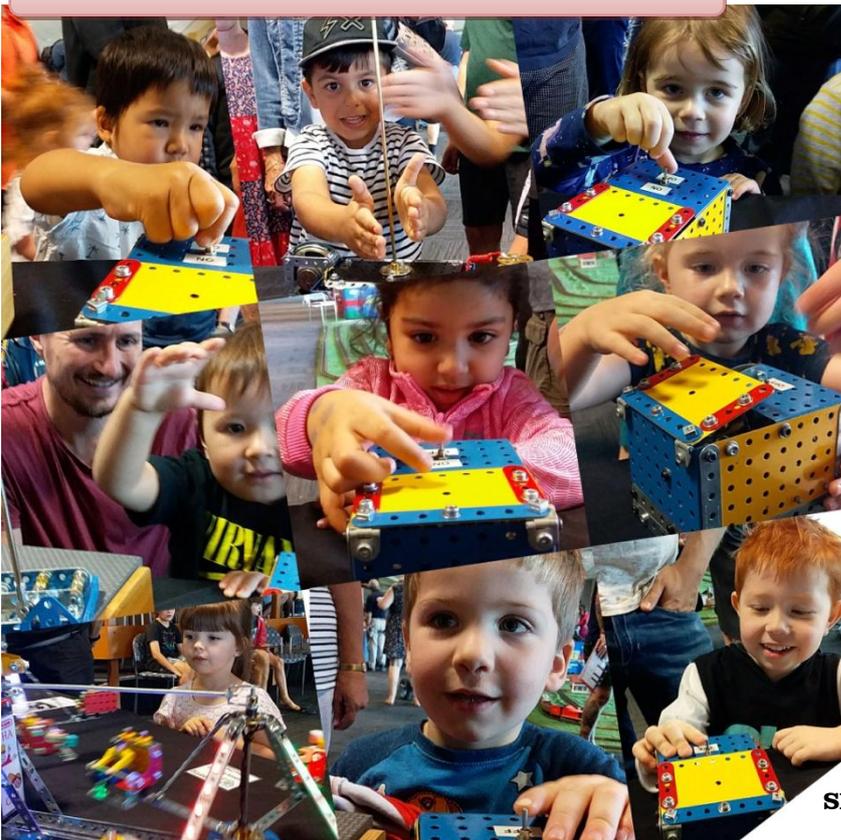
Graham and Mary Jost had the Pascaline, French Knitting Machine and Meccanograph plus Mary's beautiful display of butterflies. The kids loved the knitted bracelets.



The Theramin was extremely popular with the kids.



Anthony Burkitt, above, was kept busy explaining stuff to the kids while Chris Curnick, left, adjusted his Orrery.



The Cha Cha just kept going non-stop for 3 days.

Short video here



<https://youtu.be/mSvLIy9rHa8>

Auckland Meccano Guild NZ Sat 9 Feb

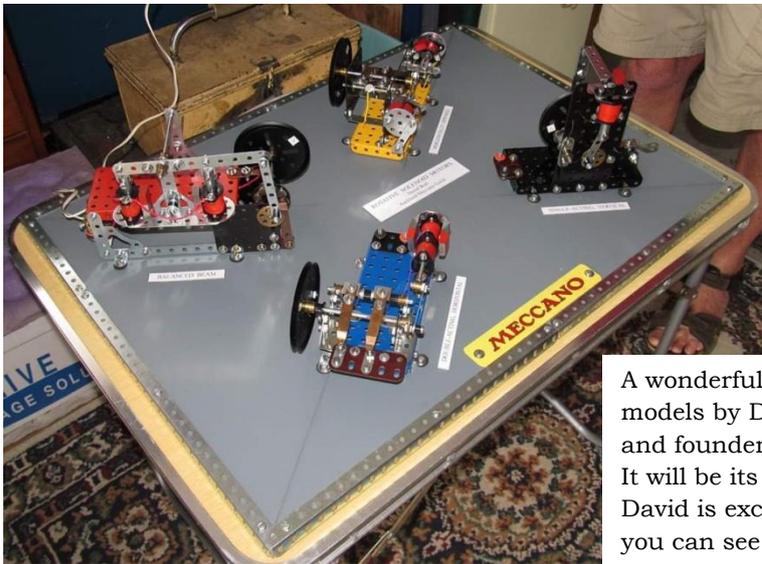
By Gary Higgins



An attraction of the display of Meccano at the 1953 British Industries Fair was a magnificent reproduction of coronation regalia made by the Meccano factory. Mostly made from Meccano parts with rubber balls substituted as orbs. A number of these sets were sent to Meccano stores throughout the Commonwealth and it is doubtful that many remain. This lot was gifted to one of our AMG members and has remained in his attic for many years. It is time they once again saw the light of day. For more details check Meccano Magazines 06/53, 07/53 and 07/37.

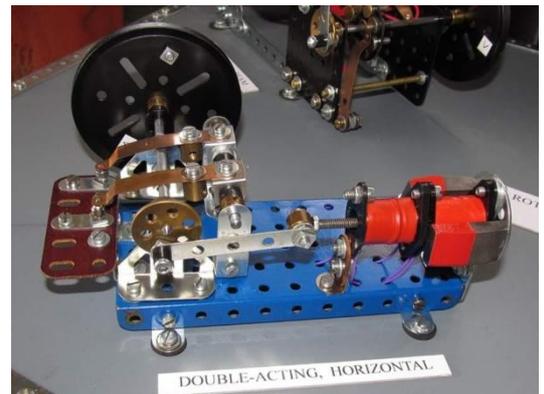
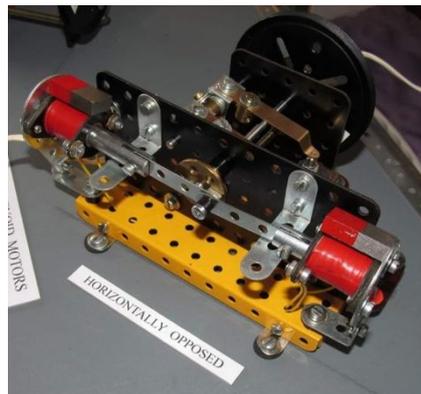
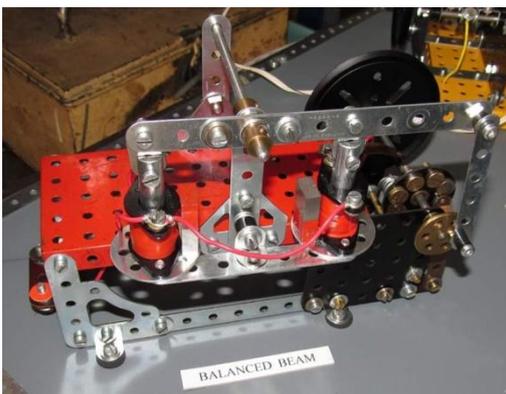
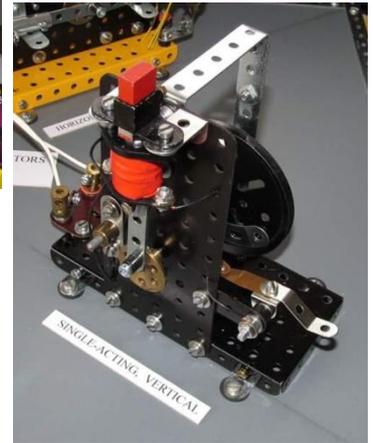


Neil Carey ex New Zealand railways engine driver and David Wall our club president brandishing the royal sceptres



Left. Forklift by William Irwin, keen collector of sets in pristine condition. The small boxed sets at left are his.

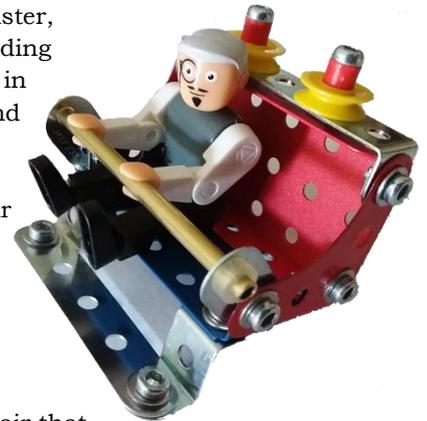
A wonderful presentation of ElektriKit models by David Wall who is the president and founder of the Auckland Meccano Guild. It will be its 45th anniversary this year. David is excellent at model presentation as you can see and they all run faultlessly.



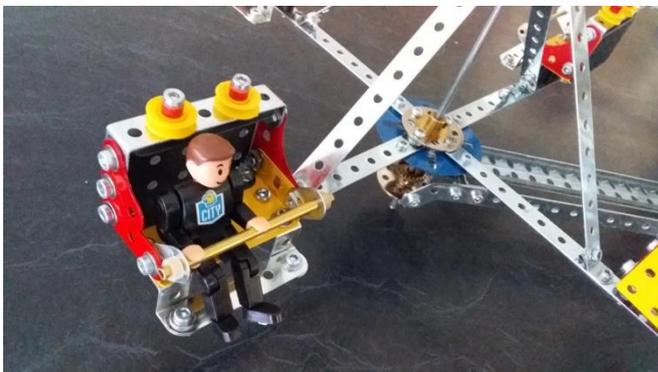
Cha Cha by Johnny Meccano



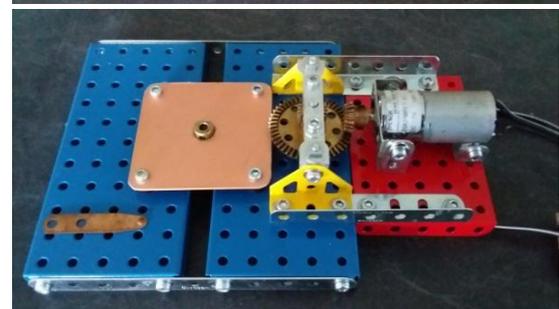
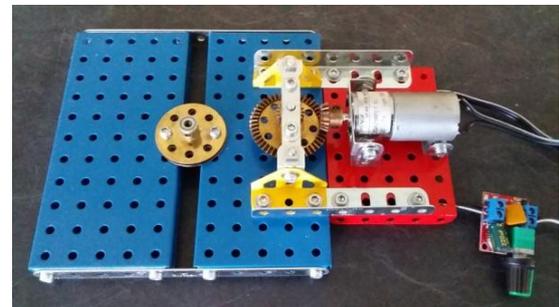
This fairground ride is called a Twister, a Merry Mixer or a Cha Cha depending on where in the world you are. I'm in Australia so here it's a Cha Cha and I (John Snr) took the photo on the left 30 years ago. That's Johnny's Mum on the left with the black hair and blue jeans. When Ralph Laughton started building his Merry Mixer I was enthralled but I never got to see it completed so I set about building it myself.

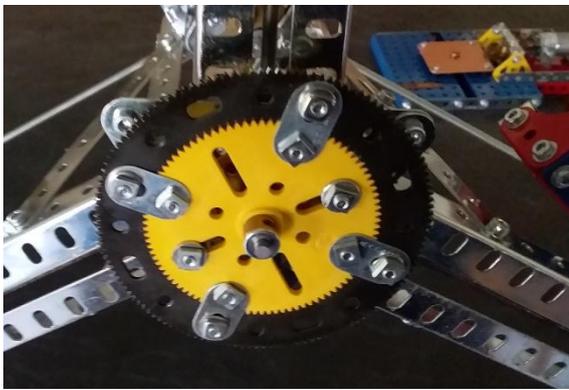


The 1st thing I did was copy the chair that Ralph and Sue built then handed it over to young Johnny and told him to build 11 more. It wasn't long before we ran out of parts. Ralph had used part B865 flexible gusset plates on the ends of the chairs as shown above with the professor. I found some but not enough. You can see in the chair to the left that one end is the red Flexible Plate and the other end is a part 133b Corner Bracket with a 133a Corner Bracket on top. It was a little heavier so to save weight I also modified Ralph's design by dispensing with the 2 angle girders he had for footrests and used part 125 Reversed Angle Brackets and a 5 hole strip instead. The hand rails are just 4mm brass tube cut to length.

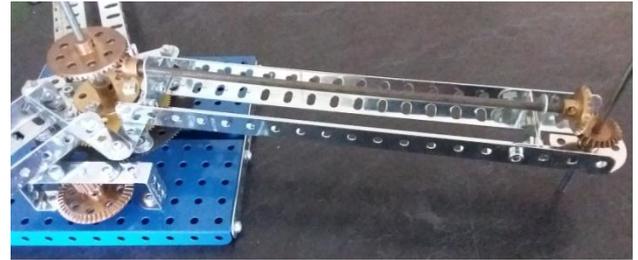


The base consists of a couple of part 52 Flanged Plates with a part 53 Flanged Plate to support the motor which is a 300 RPM geared motor with a 4mm shaft from eBay. The 4mm shaft presents a problem getting the small part 30a Bevel to run square as 4mm is slightly smaller than Meccano's Rod size of SWG8 which is 4.064mm. The loose fit means careful adjustment of the grub screws to get it just right. I found it best to avoid tightening a grub screw on the flat part of the D shaft instead using both grub screws evenly placed either side of it. The small bevel drives the large bevel which is locked to a part 26 19t Pinion by a Rod journalled through 3 Narrow Strips of varying sizes. They must be Narrow Strips to allow the part 180 Gear Ring of the main frame to drop down. In the bottom photo you can see my homemade commutator fashioned from copper clad PC board into the shape of a part 72 Flat Plate. The Elektrikit Wiper is there for show. More on that later. The motor is powered by a Pulse Width Modulator shown bottom right in the top photo. I originally tried to use a part 168 Thrust Bearing but I didn't like the idea of using chain horizontally so I went with the Pinion/Gear Ring arrangement especially after I discovered that a part 27c Spur Gear in yellow plastic fits nicely inside the Gear Ring allowing me to centre it on the central horizontal rod. The key to this working was balance.





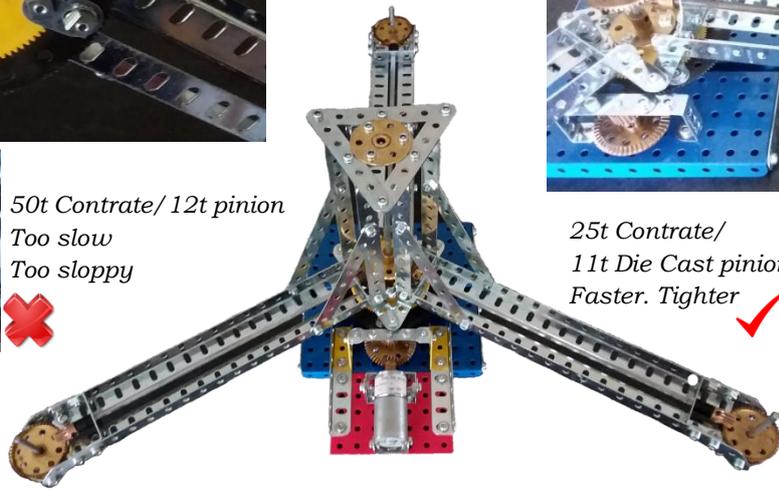
As the Cha Cha has 3 main radial arms a part 24b 6 Hole Bush Wheel was the obvious choice so I secured a triangle of 7 holes strips using Fishplates. My 1st thought was to use bevel gears but being rather rare and expensive I changed my mind and went for Contrates and pinions instead. Also the centre required 1 large Bevel and 3 small so that seemed a waste.



50t Contrate/ 12t pinion
Too slow
Too sloppy

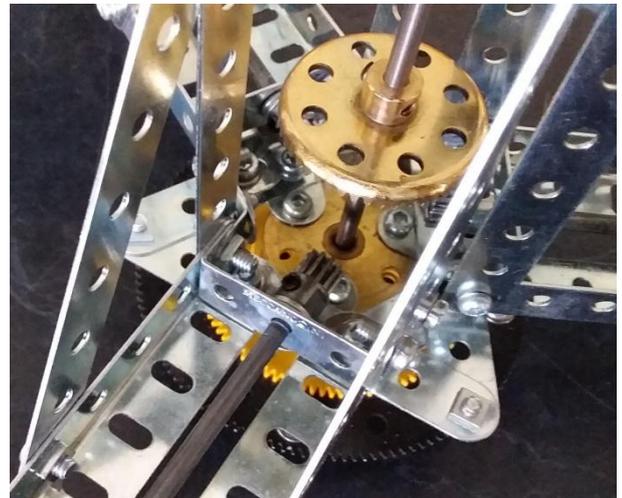


25t Contrate/
11t Die Cast pinion
Faster. Tighter



The 50t centre Contrate drops down onto the pinions to engage the outer arms.

If the mainframe is turning clockwise the cars must travel anticlockwise, or vice versa. The reason for this is the effect of being slung through the inside like a slingshot. Picture this. As the cars circle around the outside the riders are facing backwards in relation to the motion of the mainframe. When the rider is on the outside of the ride the forward motion of the rider's 4 arm frame is cancelled by the opposite motion of the mainframe. In fact from the rider's perspective they are stationary with respect to the ground. Then as their 4 arm frame turns they are suddenly catapulted forwards through the inside passing the centre at 4 times the speed in relation to the ground. The forward velocity of the car's frame is added to the forward velocity of the mainframe and instead of being stationary they are now travelling at the speed of the 4 arm frame added to the speed of the main 3 arm frame. Rob Kirk pointed out that the 4 arm frames must travel twice the RPM of the mainframe to achieve this effect. You can see in the close-ups of the outside Pinion/Contrate mechanism I have doubled the speed of the 4 arm frame by using a 50t Contrate/11t Pinion in the centre and a 25t Contrate/11t Pinion on the outside arms. This means the outer frames are moving at exactly twice the speed of the main frame. To get the outer arms turning in the opposite direction to the main frame the centre 50t Contrate must be on top of the Pinions and the outer 25t Contrates must be under the pinions or vice versa.



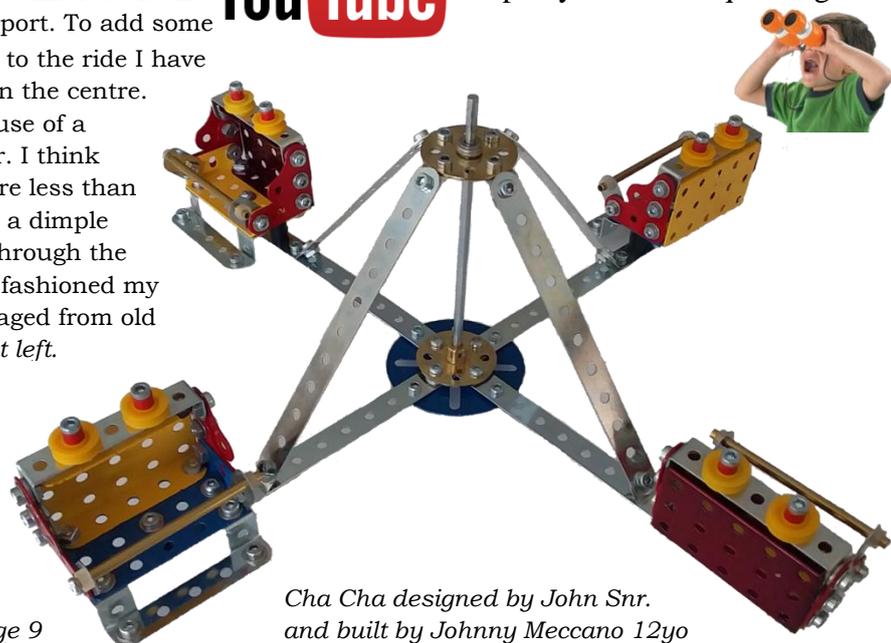
At the end of each of the 3 main frame arms I have used a 2" Rod and the 4 arm frames shown bottom right, simply attach to this rod via the boss on the part 109 Face Plate. They lift off for transport. To add some

You Tube <https://youtu.be/rPfq1YNPgml>

colour and excitement to the ride I have added strips of LEDs in the centre. This necessitated the use of a commutator and wiper. I think the Elektrikit wipers are less than adequate as they have a dimple that gradually wears through the commutator so I have fashioned my own using wipers salvaged from old motors. See close up at left.



Wipers



Cha Cha designed by John Snr. and built by Johnny Meccano 12yo



FROM OUR READERS

Chris Clinckx Belgium



Project '63, Model 5.20 Racing Seaplane. Lots of added details on this one. Very nice build. I'm really starting to like the 'old model designs' very much. To be honest, I think they look more realistic than the modern models.



MODEL: KAN WORDEN GEBOUWD MET DE MECCANO UITRUSTING NO. 5 (OF UITRUSTINGEN NO. 4 EN NO. 46)



S30 RACE-WATERVLIEGTUIG

DE FUSELAGE
De fuselage wordt uit de reeds vervaardigde gedeeltes door aan 10 en 11 en 12 en 13 en 14 en 15 en 16 en 17 en 18 en 19 en 20 en 21 en 22 en 23 en 24 en 25 en 26 en 27 en 28 en 29 en 30 en 31 en 32 en 33 en 34 en 35 en 36 en 37 en 38 en 39 en 40 en 41 en 42 en 43 en 44 en 45 en 46 en 47 en 48 en 49 en 50 en 51 en 52 en 53 en 54 en 55 en 56 en 57 en 58 en 59 en 60 en 61 en 62 en 63 en 64 en 65 en 66 en 67 en 68 en 69 en 70 en 71 en 72 en 73 en 74 en 75 en 76 en 77 en 78 en 79 en 80 en 81 en 82 en 83 en 84 en 85 en 86 en 87 en 88 en 89 en 90 en 91 en 92 en 93 en 94 en 95 en 96 en 97 en 98 en 99 en 100 en 101 en 102 en 103 en 104 en 105 en 106 en 107 en 108 en 109 en 110 en 111 en 112 en 113 en 114 en 115 en 116 en 117 en 118 en 119 en 120 en 121 en 122 en 123 en 124 en 125 en 126 en 127 en 128 en 129 en 130 en 131 en 132 en 133 en 134 en 135 en 136 en 137 en 138 en 139 en 140 en 141 en 142 en 143 en 144 en 145 en 146 en 147 en 148 en 149 en 150 en 151 en 152 en 153 en 154 en 155 en 156 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CONSTRUCTIE VAN HET STRAFTUIG

DE VLEUGELS

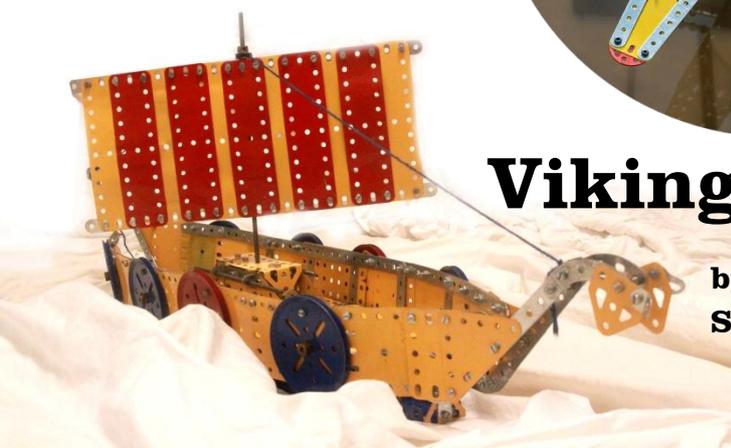
CONSTRUCTIE DER DRIVERS



Viking Ship

by Joseph Rimmer
Sydney, Australia

The Viking ship is constructed using an original plan that was drawn up by a naval architect in 1890. The plan was based on a Viking ship that had been buried for thousands of years. Following the plan I used frames which are placed evenly placed throughout the boat. Therefore a skeleton of the ship emerged, further bracing above and below the design kept it from warping. The mast block sits over the main section of the boat, allowing the mast to be supported throughout the top and bottom sections. To capture the feel of the Viking ship, I incorporated an old 1950s outfit number 7 that juxtaposed red strips into the yellow sail.



Hard Quiz

An Australian TV quiz show with our very own Charles Sherlock AM (Order of Australia).

Melbourne Meccano Club member Charles Sherlock appeared on a very popular quiz show called Hard Quiz and acquitted himself honourably, coming second in the tie-break. Below are just the questions that Charles was asked. The other contestants had questions specific to their own specialist categories.

Q1. Liverpool book keeper Frank Hornby patented the 1st Meccano kit and sold it under the name Mechanics Made what?

Charles: Easy

Quizmaster: Correct (If you made too much Meccano did it make you Hornby?) Audience laughs.

Q2. In 1932 Australian artist Margaret Preston used the insult 'Meccano Art' to describe which newly completed Sydney landmark?

Charles: It was a bank of traffic lights.

Quizmaster: Incorrect. Another contestant answers "Sydney Harbour Bridge". **Quizmaster:** Correct!

Q3. Seeking to expand the market Meccano added girls to its packaging in 1977 with this box depicting a girl building what domestic appliance? **Charles:** Sewing Machine.

Quizmaster: Correct. (And because she's a girl she can only watch the man having fun.)

Q4. Meccano is currently sold commercially in the US using the brand name of which former rival?

Charles: Erector. (Audience laughs)

Quizmaster: There's a big box of Erector there. (More laughs)

Q5. In 2015 Meccano released a high tech set called Meccanoid designed to build what machine that can dance and do kung fu?

Charles: A robot. **Quizmaster:** Correct!

Final round. Charles vs Katie

Q6. Enabling parts from different sets to be used interchangeably current standard Meccano strips are perforated with holes that are how far apart?

Charles: Well the interesting thing is first the..... **Quizmaster:** Well, I'll be the judge of that.

Charles: I get excited about this! Hornby made all his initial strips to be five and a half, six and a half, seven and a half, twelve and a half inches. And why is because if you add five and a half to five and a half with one hole overlap you get ten and a half but if you add a five to a five it wouldn't work. (Quizmaster rolls his eyes.) But the answer is, as you might have already guessed, is half an inch.

Quizmaster: Whatever it takes to make it stop. (Laughter) Correct!!

Q7. Included in the 1928 book of new models was an animal based design that used a rocking motion to descend a slope and had what made up name?

Charles: Ummmm. Oscillating.

Quizmaster: Incorrect. The answer is Meccangaroo. There it is there.

Q8. Erected as a tribute in the birthplace of creator Frank Hornby is a giant Meccano style statue made to resemble what Liverpuddlian symbol?

Charles: Well it's actually built on the site of the factory which for 60 years employed twelve hundred people and it's the liver bird.

Quizmaster: Correct. I believe it's pronounced liver bird. (Note: Charles pronounced it like the body part, quizmaster pronounced it as in 'to be alive'.)

Q9. Meccano parts are indexed with a number and a name. Parts 69 a, b and c are what specific objects?

Charles: Um, they were first marketed in 1912 (quizmaster groans) and the answer is, it's a coupling. A standard coupling, a strip coupling and a threaded coupling. **Quizmaster:** Incorrect. The answer is grub screws.

Charles: 63? **Quizmaster:** No, 69. **Charles:** Ohhhh, sorry, I misheard. **Quizmaster:** So if I said 72 you'd know what that is.

Charles: (Instantly) It's a triangular plate. (Charles assures us his hearing aid is being repaired!!)

Q10. In the 1930s scientists at Manchester University used Meccano to build a version of what precursor machine to the modern computer?

Charles: It's a differential analyser and you can see it today in the Museum of Transport and Technology in Auckland.

Quizmaster: Correct! Were there any grub screws in there? **Charles:** Oh, lots.

Tie break question.

Q11. This is the Meccano motor chassis super model number 1 from the 1930s. It accurately replicates which geometric steering principle?

Charles: Well it's been made and remade with different bodies right up to modern sports cars and I'm pretty sure it's rack and pinion.

Quizmaster: Incorrect. It's the Ackermann principle. The Ackermann steering is a geometric arrangement designed to turn the inner and outer wheels at different angles. I almost sounded more boring than you then didn't I. (Laughter).

Katie then answers her question on Alcatraz correctly and wins.



The answers spelled out Abba which got a laugh!



This photo was actually supplied to the show's producers by Richard Payn.

Girders

Long Angle Girders are the envy of most Meccanoboy. They mean BIG cranes and BIG bridges but not everyone has access to the enviable 24½” and 18½” Angle Girders.

The Magic Numbers

These are common sizes found in Meccano Angle Girders.

(Notice all the odd numbers above 6?)

49=25+19+5

37=25+6+6 or 25+7+5

So how can you make these long Angle Girders when you only have the more common short ones? Let's dispense with the inches and use the hole count to make things easier.

24½” = 49 holes

18½” = 37 holes

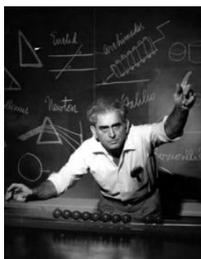
12½” = 25 holes

9½” = 19 holes

See the pattern? Double the inches and you get the hole count. Angle Girders can be joined with strips but if you allow them to overlap things start to get difficult. Not all Angle Girders are folded in EXACTLY the same place. Strips don't always fit

inside the Angle Girder using the holes. Sometimes it's necessary to use the elongated holes. To keep things straight and even it's best to butt the ends together flush and use strips to join them. The most common Meccano strip size is 5 holes but that would mean 3 holes on one side of the joint and 2 holes on the other. Most disconcerting, especially if you have OCD! Fortunately modern Meccano outfits have an abundance of 2 inch strips with the extra hole in the centre just to confuse things. When you're referring to strips by the hole count remember that 5 hole strips can be 2 inch or 2½ inch.

Why is it so?



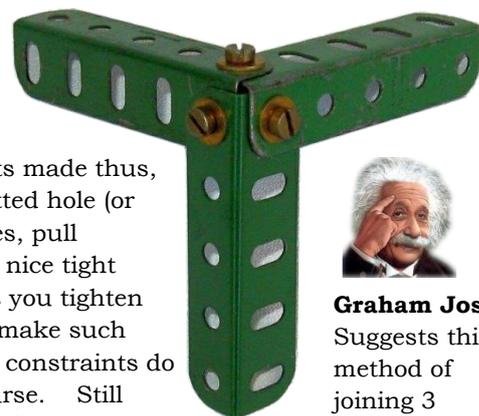
So why aren't there 10 hole strips or 12 hole strips. Why is it that strips longer than 6 holes always have odd numbers? Well after some research the best I can come up with is this quote from Roger Marriott's book **MECCANO**. (Google it.)

...the key feature of the invention was a standard building unit of a ½-inch-wide metal strip, with fixing holes spaced every ½ inch along the length of the strip. Hornby also realised the value of having an odd number of holes, thus providing a central fixing point, and so the strips were initially produced in three lengths: 2½ inches, 5½ inches and 12½ inches



Tip. To find the centre hole in a long strip just put a rod or screwdriver through what looks to be the central hole. The strip will be balanced if you guessed correctly!

Since you're joining girders together, you might like to consider the arrangement shown to the right. IF there are no other constraints, you will find that the girders of joints made thus, with round hole overlapping slotted hole (or vice versa) across all three planes, pull themselves into place to make a nice tight corner joint all by themselves as you tighten each fastening. I always try to make such joints thus, but sometimes other constraints do force you to do otherwise, of course. Still worth bearing in mind when freedom prevails!



Graham Jost Suggests this method of joining 3 angle girders.

Stuart Weightman



Our Meccano Iron Man



ED-209 RoboCop



The Iron Gauntlet

Stuart writes:

The hand control unit mimics your hand and arm movements which in turn rotate 6 potentiometers. These potentiometer signals are connected to an analogue multiplexer. The stepper motor control board polls the multiplexer via one analogue input. ie checks each potentiometer in turn very quickly. The computer control board has a program to position each motor as per its corresponding potentiometer position. The first French CAM exhibition I attended was Calais 2016 with my robotic arm. This assembled a car and stacked wooden blocks etc. It won 1st prize in the Open category. The next French CAM exhibition was Paris in 2017. I displayed my Iron man robot. An amusing model to watch but no prize. (win once and never again I expect :) In 2018 I displayed my Iron Gauntlet at the CAM expo in Larmor-Plage, Lorient. Unfortunately, no prize.



A proud Stuart at the CAM expo Lorient, France and below, the Iron Gauntlet on display in France.



https://youtu.be/9ujPmY_j4z8

Watch the Iron Gauntlet crush a can of Coke!



<https://youtu.be/UOrrs1AY3XI>

Another video of the Iron Gauntlet. This one is on the London Meccano Club's YouTube channel. **SUBSCRIBE.**



A happy Meccanoboy on the floor!



<https://youtu.be/AfYYx9gCjuA>

Iron Man video

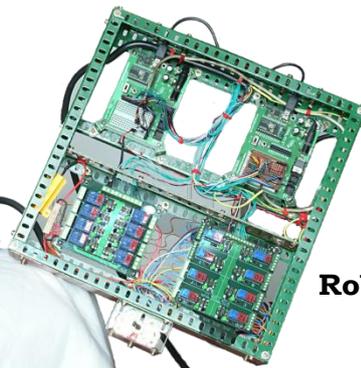


Iron Man

ED-209 RoboCop



Meccano ED-209



<https://youtu.be/Er4Pbq8Ap10>

RoboCop video

Stuart writes:

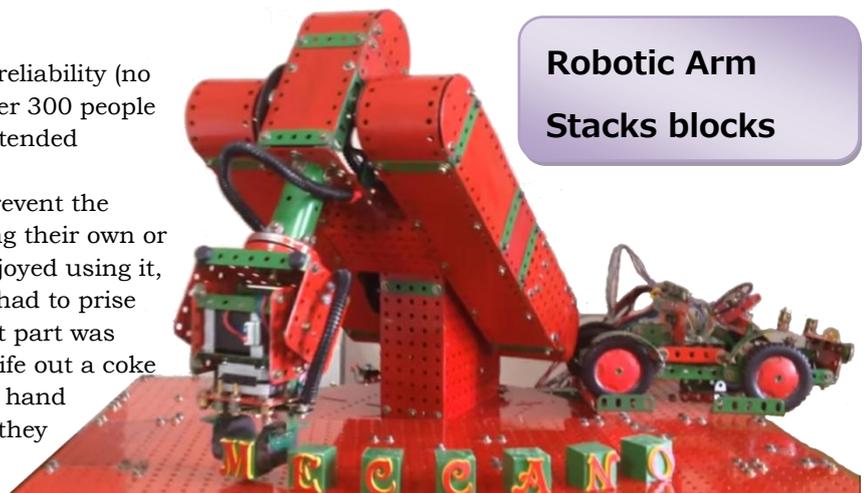
I was pleased with Iron Gauntlet's performance and reliability (no breakdowns) at the CAM expo in France. I reckon over 300 people must have had a play with it. This was a very well attended exhibition with hundreds coming in every day.

As you can see in the photos the base is angled to prevent the hand coming too far forward to stop someone clouting their own or some else's head. The children (and adults) really enjoyed using it, many coming back for several turns. Some mothers had to prise their children's hands off of it! Of course the funniest part was watching them grit their teeth as they squeezed the life out a coke can. I had to change the can regularly. The Meccano hand mimics the users own hand and arm movements as they move the control unit. The control unit moves 6 potentiometers, which after being processed by the computer programme control 6 stepper motors to give the desired hand position. During construction the hand became heavier than I first envisaged and hence I had to use heavy counter weights to balance it and a large cage for support. I do like automating Meccano and in the past have used Parallax basic stamps for input/output devices and to control DC motors. (as used in ED209 RoboCop).

However I found a 6 axis stepper motor control board which I find ideal for robotics. Relatively easy to control speed, acceleration and precision movement.

I'll be at the CAM and Skegness exhibition this year with my latest model which is in progress.

Robotic Arm
Stacks blocks



<https://youtu.be/O4FOxDvADiw>

Watch Stuart's Robotic Arm stack blocks to spell Meccano.



This Month's Meccanoboy

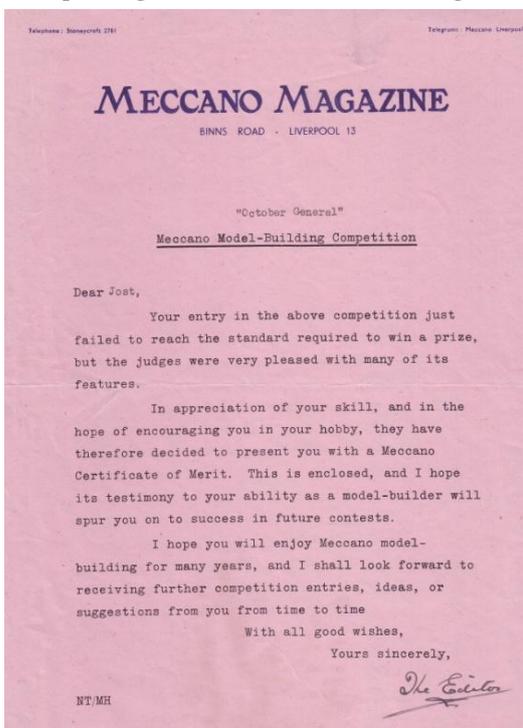
Graham Jost

As told to Johnny's MM

Once upon a time...



a long, long time ago in a faraway land called Oz there lived a boy called Graham Jost in the fruit growing area of Quantong. (So named due to the native Quandong trees that were cleared to make way for the orchards.) Quantong, being a tiny dot on the Australian landscape, had a population of only 300 people and was quite some distance from the large capital city of Melbourne so it was often necessary to make the arduous 300km road trip to visit relatives and stock up on the big city items which had become even more scarce during the World War II years of Graham's youth. It was on one such visit in October 1942 that what proved to be a life-changing event for him occurred. Having settled into his grandparent's house in Melbourne, Graham was diagnosed with measles and quarantined in a dark room with nothing to keep a bright 7yo occupied, and being 1942, the war was making it difficult to procure even the basics, let alone toys. Fortunately Graham's grandparents managed to find a Meccano set and Graham loved it! Requests for more Meccano followed and Xmas saw a brand new number 2 set under the tree. This was followed up by a number 5 Ezy-Bilt outfit which is a Meccano copy made in Australia for people who can't spell. There was a Meccano supplier in Melbourne called Herbert Small and Graham started buying parts in numerical order. Why? I guess it just seemed logical. It didn't take long for this savvy young Meccanoboy to realise that the less expensive Ezy-Bilt was being palmed off to him as genuine Meccano. We live and learn. In 1951 Graham received a Certificate of Merit from Binns Rd along with a letter so at the tender age of 16 Graham Jost had already etched his name into the annals of Meccano history. Fast forward through the customary teenage/young man hiatus and Graham has gained B.Mech.E and M.Sc. degrees, married Mary, a fellow university student, bought a house in Melbourne and is now the proud father of Peter when a fellow work colleague offered a number 9 outfit for the princely sum of 20 pounds. The ever resourceful Graham bought it on the basis that it was for Peter and the fact Peter was literally only a few hours old wasn't entered into the equation. As the years passed the Meccano was added to only occasionally and although Peter was mildly interested it was never for very long. In 1984 Wal Maynard was placing wanted ads in the Trading Post so Graham contacted him resulting in a few



Meccanoboy from Melbourne getting together for informal meetings at each other's houses and starting what has become the Melbourne Meccano Club Inc. Some of the founding members are still around but Graham remains the sole surviving member. Sadly most of the other founding members, including Wal Maynard have passed on.

Graham & Mary Jost's Meccano Expo travels.

- 1997 SkegEx
- 1999 Stoneleigh, Henley, Hainault, Brentford
- 2001 SkegEx, Upper Hutt NZ
- 2005 Henley, Brentford, Auckland NZ
- 2006 Kew Bridge, Ironbridge, Oxton
- 2007 Upper Hutt NZ
- 2008 SkegEx
- 2009 Leicester, Christchurch NZ
- 2010 Kew Bridge, Ironbridge
- 2011 SkegEx, CAM (St.Marcellin), Palmerston Nth NZ
- 2012 SkegEx, Oxton
- 2013 SkegEx
- 2015 Wellington NZ
- 2017 Christchurch NZ



Mary Jost
Graham's better half.

A few of my favourite things.

Most of this list was kindly provided by David Couch from New Zealand and is only a starting point. Over time I hope to expand it. If you know of a Meccano website that isn't listed please email it to MeccanoNews@gmail.com

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 Follow Johnny Meccano on

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New Zealand

<http://www.nzmeccano.com>

<http://www.nzfm.co.nz>

Australia

<http://www.mmc.com.au>

<http://www.sydneymeccanomodellers.org.au>

<http://www.webjournalist.com.au/maylands/index.html>

South Africa

<https://www.facebook.com/Meccano-Club-of...3870326296>

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/meccan...anada.html>

<http://www.meccanoquebec.org/index2ang.html>

France

<http://club-amis-meccano.net/>

<http://meccano.free-bb.fr/>

UK

<http://www.internationalmeccanomen.org.uk>

<https://londonmeccanoclub.org.uk>

<https://tims.org.uk>

<http://hsme.org.uk>

<https://nelmc.org.uk>

<https://runnymedemeccanoguild.org.uk>

<https://www.selmec.org.uk>

<http://www.hsomerville.com/wlms>

<http://www.midlandsmeccanoguild.com>

<https://nmmg.org.uk>

<https://southwestmeccano.org.uk>

<http://www.northwestmeccano.co.uk>

<https://www.meccanoscotland.org.uk>

<http://www.corlustmeccanoclub.co.uk>



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Send your questions or stories to:
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OUR MAIL BAG



In this column the Editor replies to letters from his readers, some of which he is unable to answer in detail. He receives hundreds of letters each day, but only those that deal with matters of general interest can be dealt with here. Correspondents will help the Editor if they will write neatly in ink and on one side of the paper only.

Ask questions.

Tell stories.

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<http://www.hsomerville.com/mwmailorder>

<http://meccanoman.co.uk/catalog>

<https://www.meccanospare.com>

<https://ralphsshop.com>

<http://www.metalconstructiontoys.com>

http://members.tripod.com/Ashok_Banerjee/Meccanoville/Welcome.htm

Personal pages

<https://www.alansmeccano.org>

<http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/dms/meccano>

<http://www.dalefield.com/meccano/index.html>

<http://www.meccano.us>

<https://www.meccanoindex.co.uk>

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