



BOOK OF MODELS
NORRISLEIGHMOCK
LORD OF THE MOHAWK
MORRISLEIGH
LORD OF THE MOHAWK
LORD OF THE MOHAWK
LORD OF THE MOHAWK

April 2020

For those Meccanoboy
who like to tinker with
electronics we have a
special project.

ELECTRONIC

Round-The-Pole Helicopter

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**Nigel
Pope
celebrates 50
years since
the moon
landing**

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Show us your
Meccano room

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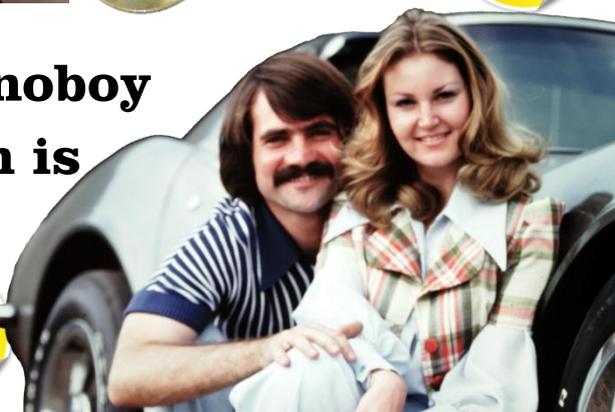


NEW!

We hit the road
and visit

Our Meccanoboy
this edition is
Joel Perlin
USA

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Bebra – Germany

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Runnymede – UK

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Sandown – Oz

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and Kyneton - Oz

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Plus so
much
more

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Round-The-Pole Helicopter

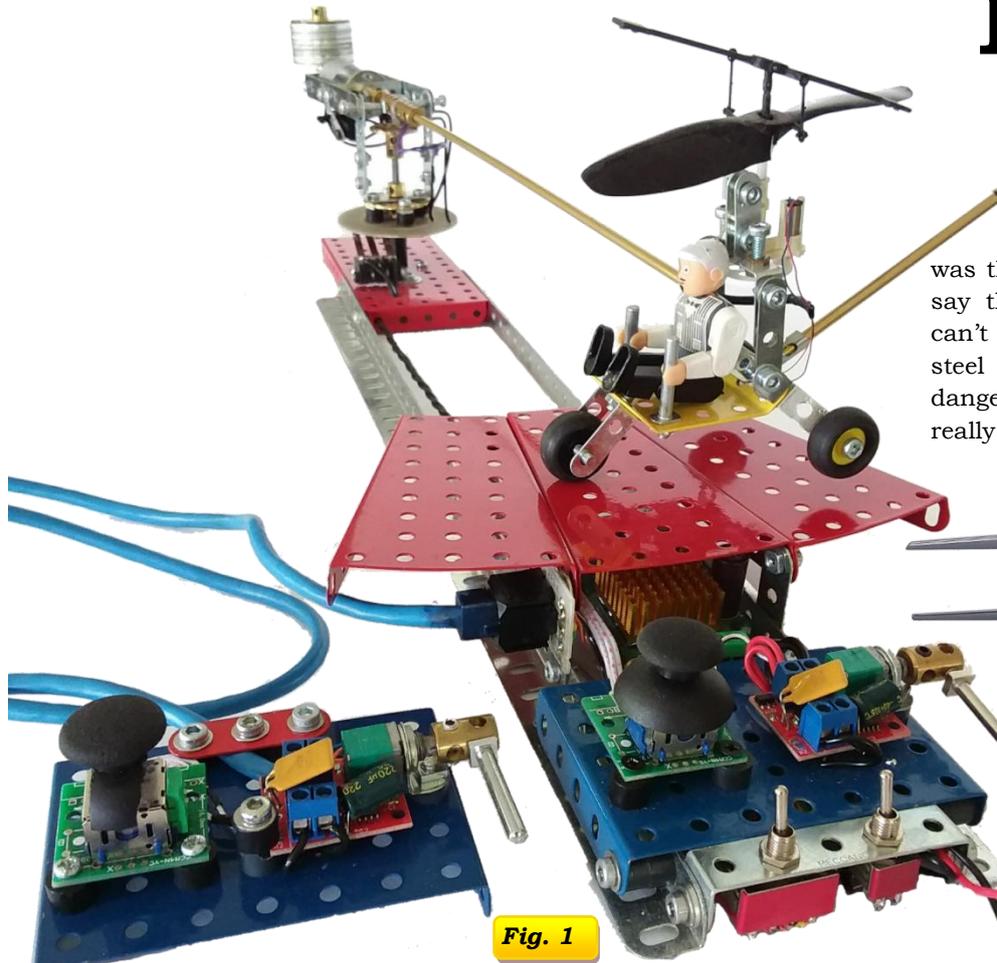


Fig. 1

You need the plastic gears because the motor's RPM is too high to run a rotor directly. These helicopters come in many different shapes and styles with most having the 2 rotor design (Fig. 2) however, to keep things simple, I used a single blade rotor. A pair of side cutters was used to trim the plastic mount before wedging it between 2 Narrow Strips (Fig 3.) There will be many different options to mount the motor and gears depending on what toy helicopter you use but the main thing is to make sure it's balanced so that the overall weight is centred over the 4mm brass mounting tube.

There is also a 4mm brass tube for the tail rotor. Use tube, not rod to allow the tiny wires to run through the centre. The motor for the tail rotor is a very handy 4mm in diameter so it's simply mounted on a part 212 Rod Strip Connector with a part 38b spacer glued either side. Fig 10. You could also part 59c Small Rubber Collars. The motors for both the main and tail rotors are wired together in parallel and soldered to the 2 wires that run up the main brass tube. These motors have tiny enamelled brass wires that require the enamel to be scraped off with a sharp knife or blade before soldering.

That takes care of the 1st challenge in making it safe so now I had to come up with a way to allow the kids to take control and have a go at flying it. This meant something different to the usual mechanical method of a Socket Coupling being manipulated with rods and levers to control the pitch of the helicopter. After trying a small N20 geared motor with limited success I realised that there

was nothing to be gained by miniaturising the pitch control as I needed the weight as a counter balance. The Chinese geared motors are available in many different RPMs and voltages and I've stocked up on 12V in varying RPMs. There was a 10RPM in my box so I used that with great success. Fig. 4. The motor is mounted on a part 46a Double Angle Strip. A part 63 coupling connects the shaft with the brass tube and a pair of part 147d Pivot Bolts are lock nutted in the centre taps to actuate the limit switches. The brass tube is free to turn on the centre Coupling which also has lock nutted Pivot Bolts but the 3rd Coupling is only there to strengthen the brass rod where a small hole is drilled to allow the wires to exit through the centre holes of said Coupling.

There are a few of these Round-The-Pole Helicopters around but I wanted something a bit different.

The first thought I had when I discovered these was that some jobsworth is going to come along and say that due to health and safety regulations you can't exhibit this. A powerful motor and a genuine steel Meccano propeller does seem a little bit dangerous. My second thought was that it would be really nice if kids could have a go at flying it.



Fig. 2

These little RC helicopters are getting very common and can often be found in pound or dollar shops, reject shops and eBay for as little as \$10. We had a few laying around so I broke one open and salvaged the main rotor with its gearbox and motor as well as the tail rotor and its motor.

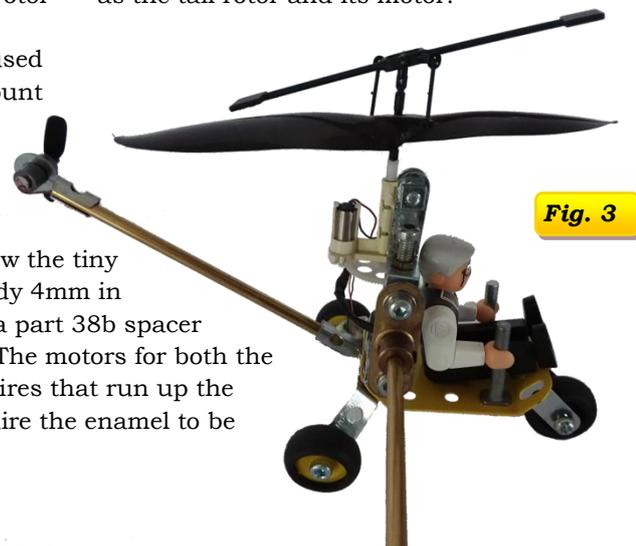


Fig. 3

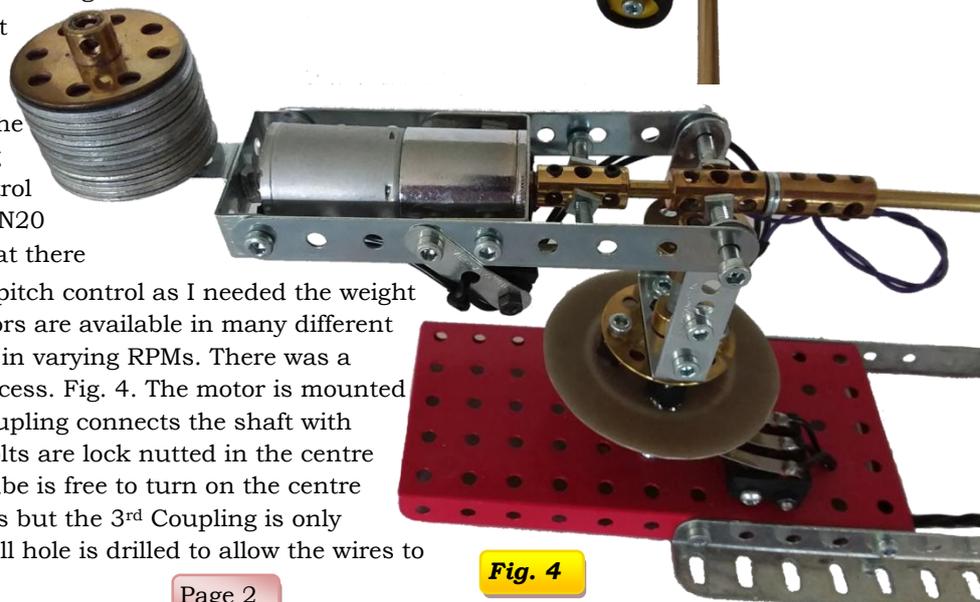


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

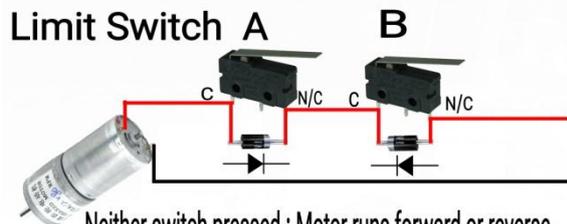


Fig. 6

Neither switch pressed : Motor runs forward or reverse
 A pressed down : Motor runs forward only
 B pressed down : Motor runs reverse only

The limit switches are wired up as shown in Fig.6 and are mounted on Narrow Strips using 3mm bolts. It's worth noting that some microswitches come with 3mm holes and others with 2.5mm holes. I've found that I can drill the 2.5mm holes out to 3mm without damaging the microswitch. In Fig. 5 you can see the wires exiting the brass tube through the Coupling. One wire is terminated to ground using a lug. This is to reduce the number of wires through the commutator to 3 as the helicopter has one wire through ground and one wire through the commutator. The big geared motor for pitch control has both wires through the commutator. This is because it's not possible to share a common ground because the pitch control has to be reversed whereas the helicopter motors are always in the forward direction only.

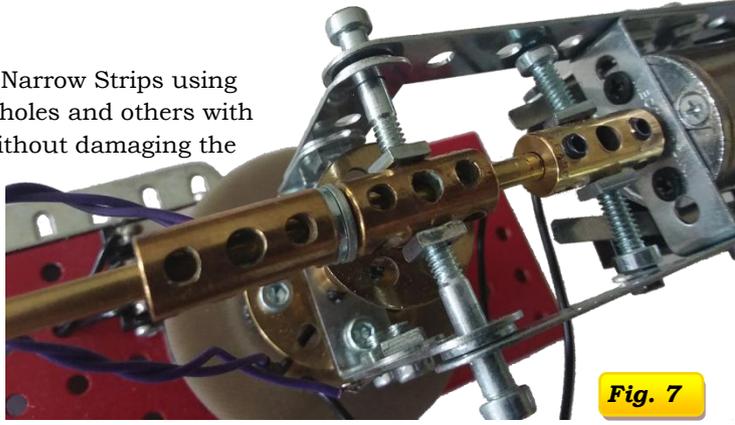


Fig. 7

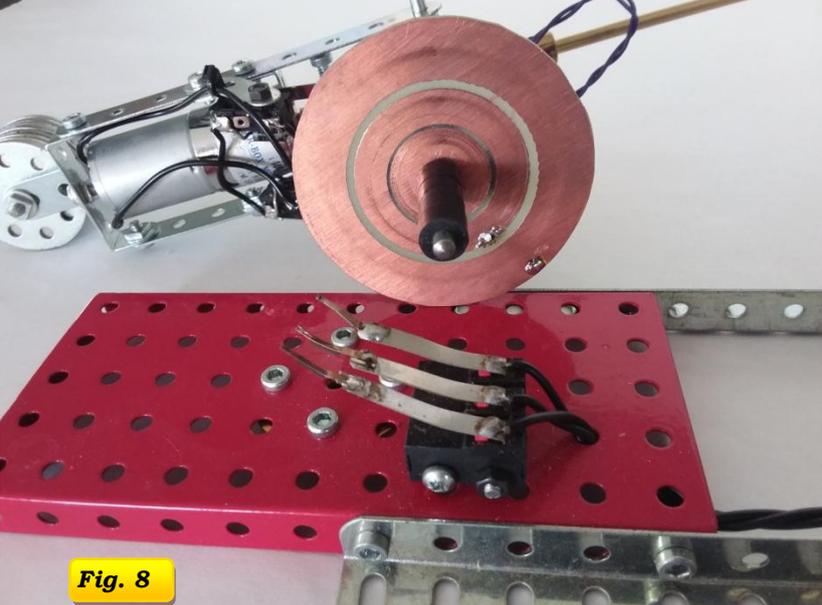


Fig. 8

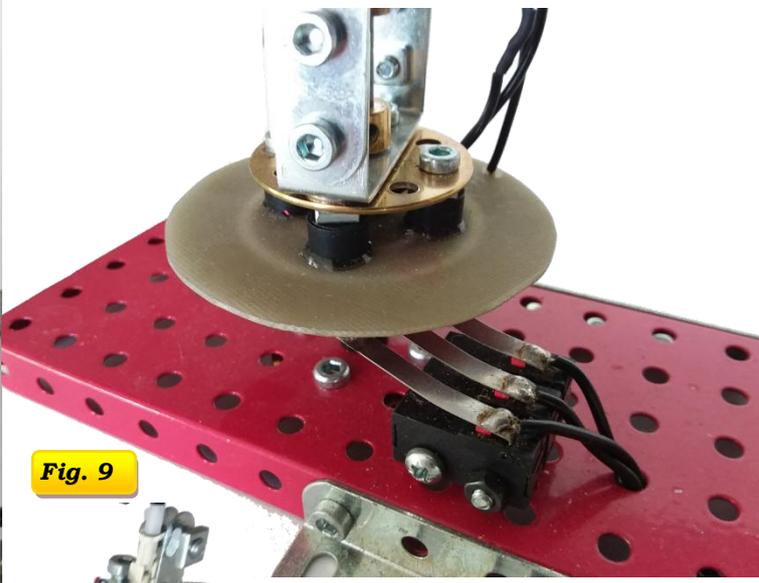


Fig. 9

A 3-track commutator is required so I traced around an Elektrikit commutator to make a template using copper clad board readily available at electronic shops and eBay.

It's the same size as an Elektrit Commutator but without the mounting tabs as this home-made commutator was mounted onto a Bush Wheel using 4 x Plastic Spacers glued on with Araldite. Fig. 9.

The 4 bolts locate the Bush Wheel onto the commutator allowing it to be lifted off. There is a Bush Wheel bolted under the Base Plate. The whole commutator assembly is free to turn on the fixed vertical Rod and is locked in place with a Collar. The 3 tracks are formed by spinning the commutator while holding a sharp screwdriver where you want to separate the tracks. You could use Elektrikit wipers but I find they wear away the copper track too easily so I've used wipers salvaged from old motors. Fig. 11. I have soldered them onto microswitches to use the spring action. The actual switch is not used so the lugs for the switch can be cut off. To solder the levers on these microswitches you need to file the ends a bit and use Baker's Fluid to get the solder to 'take'.

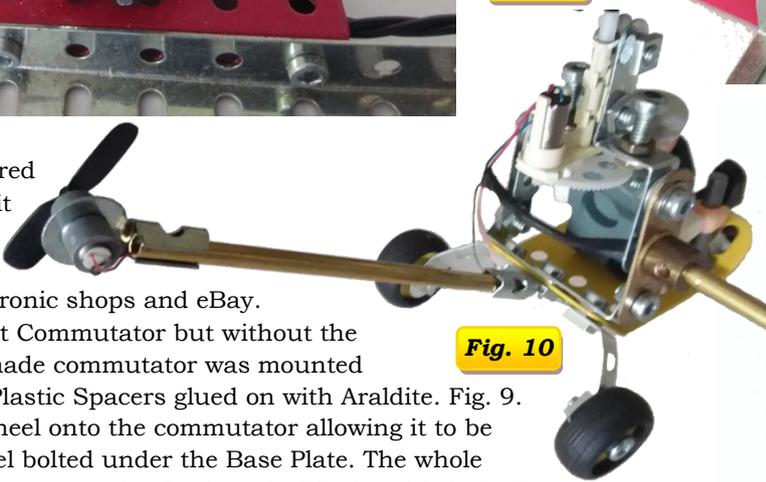


Fig. 10



Wipers

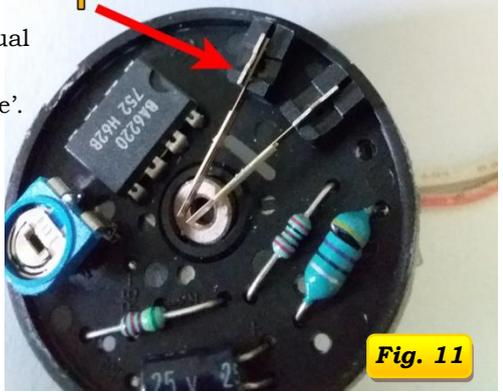
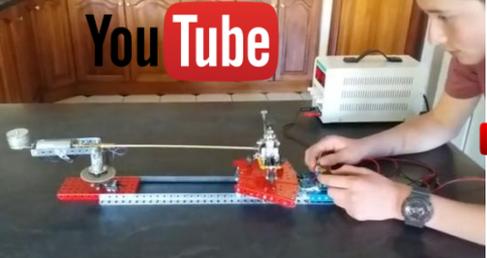


Fig. 11



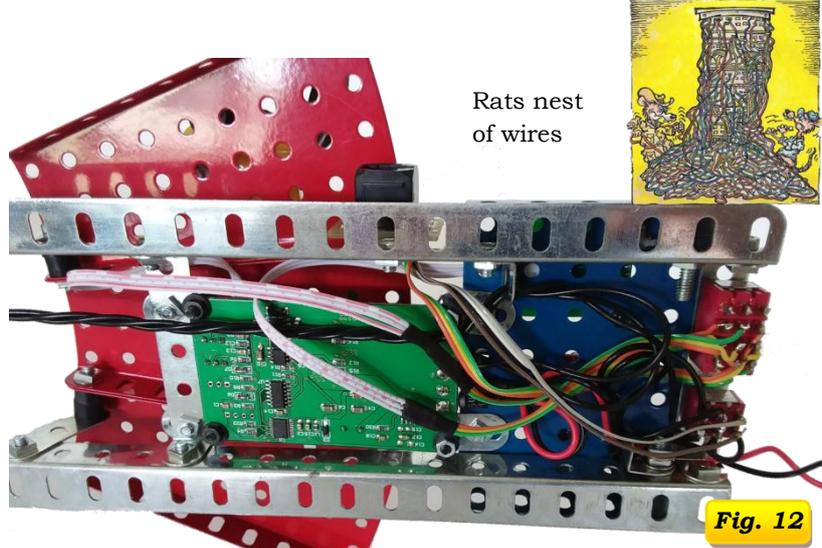
YouTube

See it here.
 A rather unsuccessful first attempt. 😊

CLICK HERE >> <https://youtu.be/srx9uAW7TaM>

Now that the commutator is done you will have 4 wires, one of which is the ground, and you need to control the speed of the helicopter rotors with a Pulse Width Modulator as shown in Fig 16. The PWMs come with a potentiometer that has a 6mm splined shaft. You can file the shaft down to 4mm so that it fits inside a Coupling but it's necessary to pack the split shaft with a piece of steel to stop it getting squashed when you tighten up the grub screws. I used a Fishplate. The pitch control needs both speed and direction control so I've used a joystick controller that has a centre-off position as shown in Fig 15. These joystick controllers don't work reliably under 12v and the helicopter motors draw a lot of current (up to 3A) so I've used 12V 3A regulated power supply that I picked up at a garage sale for 2 bucks. Fig. 13. The wiring of the PWM and the joystick controller is straightforward. Give each a 12v supply and run the output of the PWM to the helicopter rotors and the output of the joystick controller to the pitch motor. Once you have it all working it's time to move on to the dual control.... if you dare! The joystick controller is expensive at 20 bucks minimum and it's a bit finicky about being powered off and on repeatedly so I had to think outside the square. Rather than have 2 controllers I decided to simply use 2 joysticks as they are nothing more than an XY potentiometer with 3 wires connecting it to the controller. They are readily available on eBay and electronic shops that sell Arduino/Picaxe etc. This model has just one controller, permanently powered up and I use a 4 Pole Double Throw (4PDT) toggle switch to change from one to the other. (4 poles because 3 poles are scarce). Sorry about the rats nest of wires in Fig. 12 but you should be able to see that I've taken the 3 white wires from the joystick controller and extended them with the green/yellow/red wires and soldered them to the centre lugs of the 4PDT. I've then done the same thing to each of the XY pot boards and soldered them to the forward and reverse positions of the switch.

The remote unit requires 3 wires for the pot, 2 wires for the PWM output and 2 wires for the PWM power so that's a total of 7 wires. I've used an RJ45 8 way modular connector because they're common, reliable and cheap. The versions that are used in household wall plates are available at any electrical shop (and probably most hardware shops). They have a printed circuit board on the back that has Krone type connectors. I desoldered them and took advantage of the PC board to mount the socket. Fig 13. To switch operations over to the kid you need to toggle both switches. This is mainly because I couldn't find a suitable 7 pole switch and it suits me to give the kid control of the speed or pitch or both. In fact if it's a very young child you can surreptitiously take control without them knowing! Have fun!



Rats nest of wires



Fig. 12



12V 3A Regulated

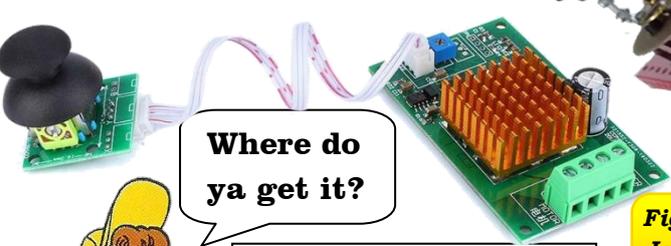
Fig. 13

Header pin/socket

RJ45 socket

Bob Thompson has loaded a number of versions of the Round-The-Pole helicopters in the NZM gallery. Click the link below

<http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-146881>



Where do ya get it?

The Pulse Width Modulators are easy to find on eBay and cost about 2 dollars. Just search for

Fig. 15 Joystick Controller



5A PWM DC Motor Speed Controller

Fig. 16 PWM

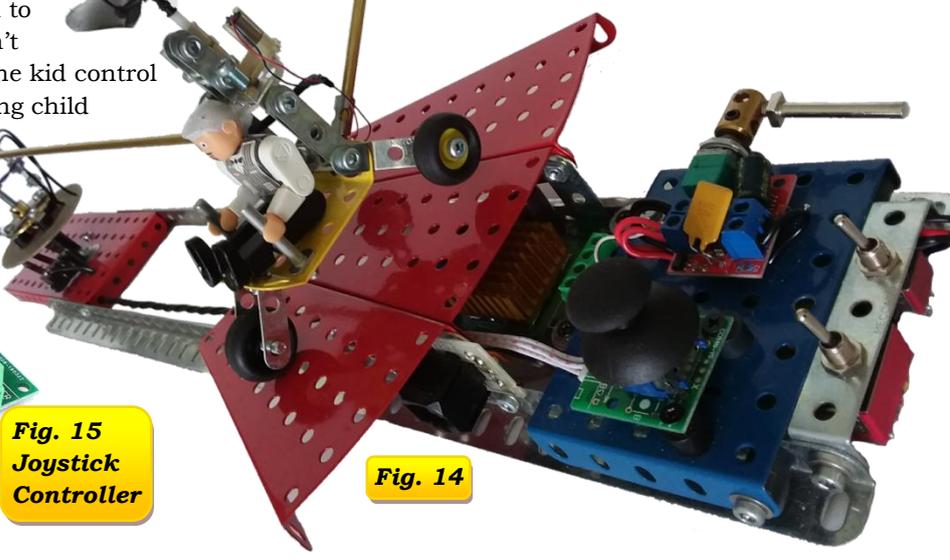


Fig. 14

The Joystick Controllers are a little more difficult to find. Make sure it has centre off and looks the same as my picture Fig 15. Try a Google search for

DC12-30V 6A PWM Motor Speed Controller Speed Controller Joystick

Paul Dale flies



around the world to visit

Bebra - Germany

A work trip had me to travelling to Nuremberg, Germany, for a week and my wife decided to tag along for a quick vacation. Due to the very short notice I was given, I added a couple of days before and afterwards in an attempt to see some of the country.

I quickly arranged to visit our German exchange student and her mother in Kassel. On impulse a week or so later, I asked Georg Eiermann if we could meet up with him. This resulted in a response to the effect of: yes, you would be most welcome to visit but it isn't possible because the German Friends of Metal Construction Sets annual gathering is on then. That settled it, we had to visit the gathering.

Flying into Frankfurt is long and tedious from Oz, watching too many movies in succession isn't good for remembering them. Once we arrived, we hired a car and drove to Kassel. The Autobahn was a surprise, so many cars whooshing past so quickly. Of course we sped up which resulted in the comment from my wife: "I'm doing 170 km/h now, they aren't pulling away so quickly anymore." Our first time on the German Autobahn was quite eye opening, the left lane has cars doing well in excess of 200 km/h and they flash their lights as they approach from behind (very quickly). The right lane or two is full of trucks going relatively slowly at about 100 km/h. The fast lane also needs to be continually ready to brake quickly when someone slow pulls out in front of them. Having to drop close to 100 km/h didn't seem all that infrequent. The most surreal moment was a truck overtaking a truck being overtaken by a car pulling a caravan which caused quite a stall in the fast lane. After a couple of days in Kassel, we headed down to Bebra and the much anticipated gathering, just an hour away. Driving this leg was scary, it was late afternoon, the sun was low and it was raining. There were lots of roadworks reducing the road to two narrow lanes and visibility was sufficiently poor that we couldn't make out the lane markings on the road. One lane was full of trucks, the other was full of cars still trying to do 200 km/h or above.

When we arrived at the venue, the Hotel Sonnenblick, the gathering was well and truly started on the Thursday with beer and banter flowing in abundance. There were models using all manner of construction systems. The hall was close to capacity. Post-war Germany produced a myriad of different systems, the raw materials and skilled workmanship being readily available. The models covered the usual subjects: traction and steam engines, cranes, tractors, trucks. Also dealers and some novelty models: a nice rendition of the late Alan Partridge's ball roller (refer to Newsmag 29 June 1982), Bernard Périer's Flat Tyre by Guy Kind, a large wheel powered by a toy locomotive and more. The model that caught my attention the most was a wonderful model aquarium. It was made by a young lady using Eitech parts and it was completely unlike my aquarium being more energetic and having more aquatic animals. The same but completely different.



Georg Eiermann



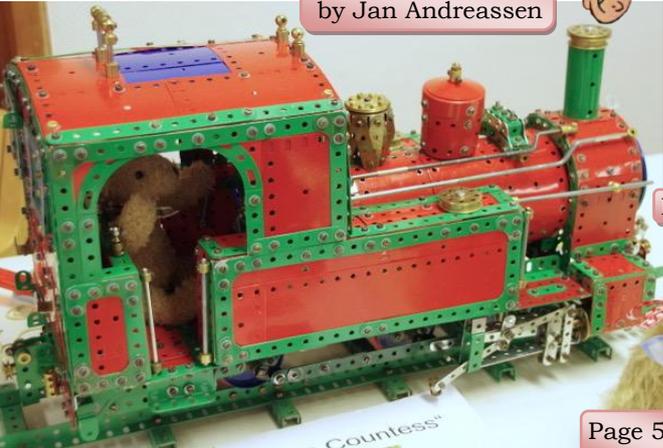
Triax robot Klaus-Werner Auerswald



Georg Eiermann selfie



Whirligig



The Countess Loco by Jan Andreassen



Rike Ahlbrand Aquarium



Mignon outfit



Wilfried von Tresckow Wheel

The gathering continued until the Sunday and we were made very welcome by everyone and the language barrier wasn't a problem. It was great putting faces to names I've seen in various publications over the years. On Sunday morning, we headed off to go to my work meetings in Nuremberg, twenty minutes later we realised that we still had the keys to our room in the hotel and that we hadn't paid the bill. A quick U-turn and more driving than we'd planned fixed this.

Richard Payn visits Runnymede UK

Photos by Richard Payn and Mick Burgess

The 1st February dawned dry and bright for the Runnymede Meccano Guild's first meeting of 2020. It is an easy trip of around an hour for me, provided the M25 motorway behaves itself. Today was one of those days, so I left home around 11:00 with just a few mechanisms to show. I knew my good friend Tim Gant would be there, along with Simon Walker and his "Meccano magnet reviving gizmo", so I took all of my Elektrikit magnets along for a refresh. On arriving at the hall, I quickly found my spot, as Pete Wood had done his usual excellent table plan, based on who said they were coming.



Chertsey Hall



Simon and his Magnet Gizmo.

Simon was already there, so I rushed over with my magnets and he went to work. They were tested on a small container full of Meccano washers before and after the treatment. Once remagnetised, they picked the complete contents out of the small container. Mick Burgess had an interesting Meccano storage box full of packeted parts and a couple of motors. I was interested in some dark yellow plates but ended up buying the whole lot. You can never have too much Meccano! There was an auction of members' surplus Meccano at 2pm. Nothing of interest to me but there were plenty of bidders, with the auction being expertly conducted by Frank Paine. The final highlight of the day was the slap up tea, prepared by club founder Nick Rodgers' wife Eva, ably assisted by his two daughters. With everyone well fed, the meeting closed by 5pm as modellers packed their constructions back into their cars. I just happened to notice some cross eyed wheels on the underside of Peter Goddard's Railway Crane base. It turned out the model had fallen off the trolley on the way in. Peter was very nonchalant about it. "They'll be fine, I'll straighten them when I get home!" he said.



Mick Burgess

Good crowd

One final drama for me on departing. When I pressed the start button on my car, it wouldn't go. I had to call the breakdown repair people, who arrived in about forty minutes. They weren't able to fix the problem (possibly a sensor fault) so I ended up being towed home, getting there some three hours later than I would have expected. At least I had that new box of Meccano to go through to cheer me up. – Richard Payn.

Link to NZM gallery more pics from Richard

CLICK HERE >>

<https://tinyurl.com/Payn-Gallery>

Link to NZM gallery for more pics from Mick

CLICK HERE >>

<https://tinyurl.com/Mick-Gallery>

Just how many grub screws there were in a 1949 Ten Set continues to be the subject of vigorous debate.

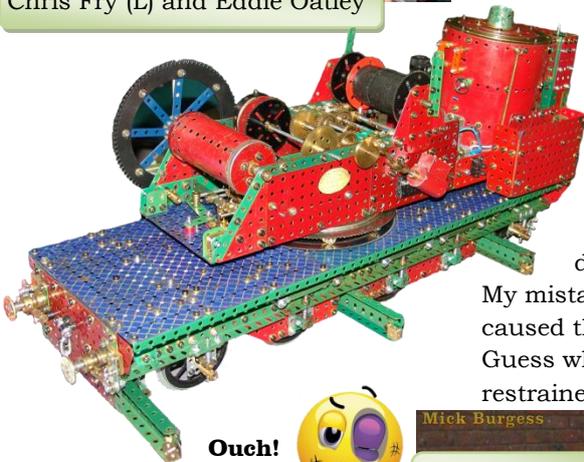


Chris Fry (L) and Eddie Oatley



Grignion Clock by John Sharp

Railway Breakdown Crane by Peter Goddard



I took my model of the Craven 35ton Railway Breakdown/Pile Driving Crane to the Runnymede Meccano Guild Meeting last Saturday 1st Feb. 2020, and loaded it onto my 4 wheel trolley to get it from the car to the hall. I had decided not to tie down the load because there were only 2 containers and they were not too heavy! My mistake, as I went over the crossing which was ribbed to stop people slipping, the ribs caused the trolley to bounce a bit and the model fell off. I picked it up and crossed the road. Guess what? The same thing happened again! So for the return journey, they were restrained by an elastic cargo net. – Peter Goddard.

Ouch!



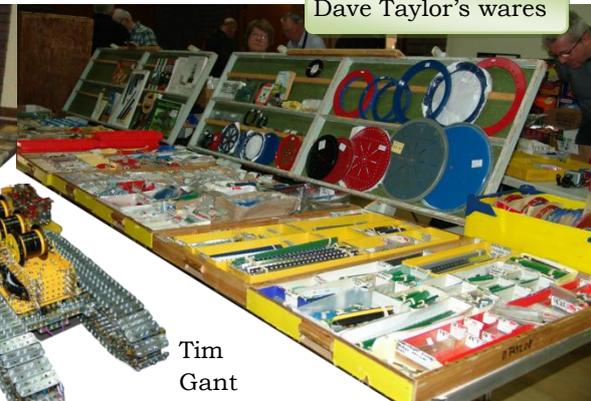
Frances on duty at Mick's stand

Mick Burgess



Kobelco Crawler Crane Base

Dave Taylor's wares



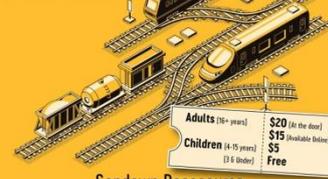
Tim Gant

2020 TRAIN AND HOBBY SHOW

Incorporating: **The F1 Air Race Ultimate RC**
All Hobbie Swap Meet Australia

OVER TWO LEVELS & OUTDOORS
Still the largest Model Train Exhibition in Australia
 plus Radio Control, Cars, Trucks, Tanks, Planes, LEGO, RC Drift, Rock Crawlers, Train Rides, Meccano, Trade Stands & More

VIC LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND
 Saturday (7th March) 10am-5pm,
 Sunday (8th March) 10am-5pm
 & Monday (9th March) 10am-4pm



Sandown Racecourse,
 591-639 Princes Hwy, Springvale. Enter via Princes Hwy (Melways p80, C10)
www.trainandhobbyshow.com.au or www.fb.com/trainandhobby

Adults (18+ years) \$20 (at the door)
 \$15 (available online)
Children (4-15 years) \$5
 (3 & under) Free

Sandown Train and Hobby Show

March 7,8,9

This would be the biggest event in Australia for the number of people that see Meccano on display. There's usually 10,000 people per day for the 3 days but numbers were down a bit this year, probably due to fears of the coronavirus. The crowds started queuing up an hour before the gates opened.



So armed with a good supply of alcohol based hand sanitizer we headed off to Melbourne and took our chances with the crowds of runny nosed kids and adults who insisted on shaking hands. I tried to resist but one bloke plonked a big box of Meccano (including a Mec1 steam engine) on the table and extended his arm. I just couldn't say no to that! Ric Green, top right, was great with the crowds and chatted away with everyone. He had to climb a few flights of stairs to get to our display which was located on the top floor but the views from our table were worth it!

Chris Curnick, right, with his Skip Truck and JCB Teletruk built from Tony

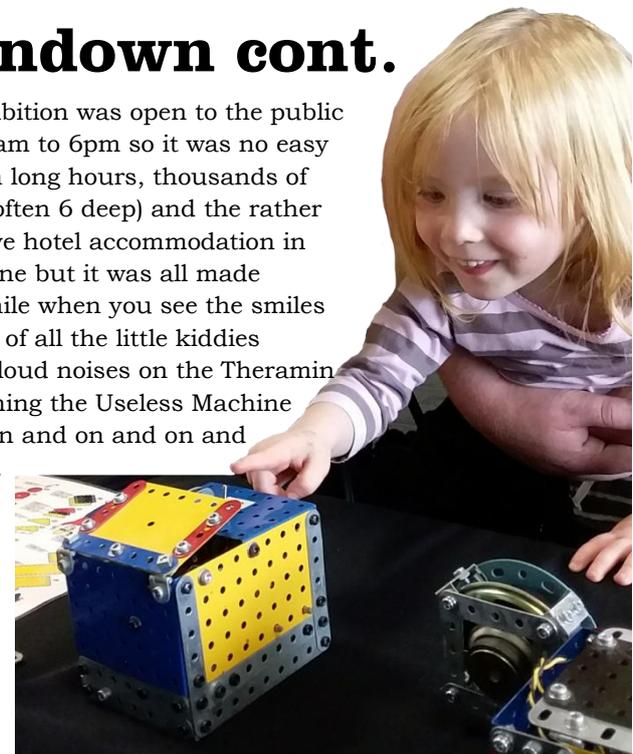
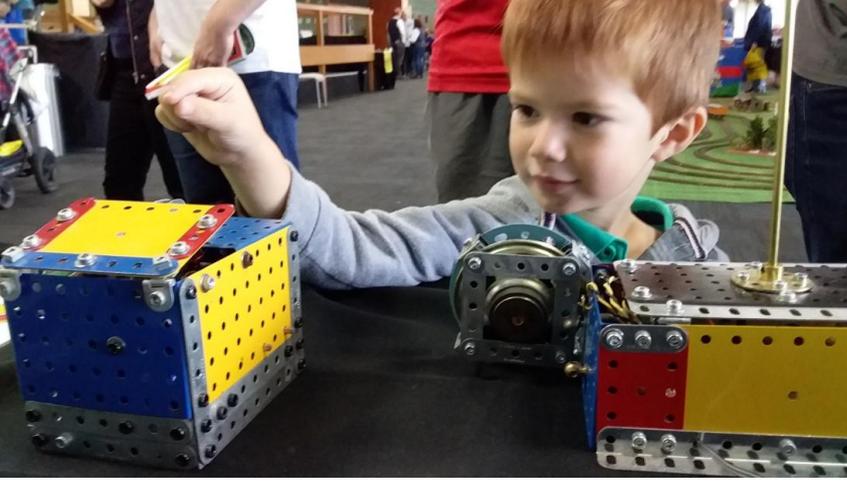
James model plans. Chris also had a Garratt loco built from another model plan by Peter Matthews from South Africa. The Skip Truck has been improved by replacing the 6 speed Power Drive Unit with a Chinese geared motor.



View of racecourse

Sandown cont.

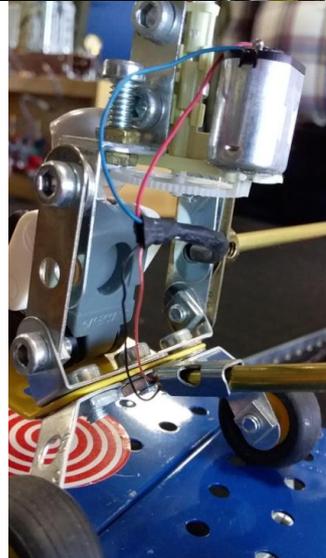
The exhibition was open to the public from 10am to 6pm so it was no easy feat with long hours, thousands of people (often 6 deep) and the rather expensive hotel accommodation in Melbourne but it was all made worthwhile when you see the smiles on faces of all the little kiddies making loud noises on the Theramin and turning the Useless Machine switch on and on and on and on.....



I'm amazed that the battery on the Useless Machine is still hanging in there with some kids flicking the switch non-stop for half an hour!



My Electronic Round-The-Pole Helicopter was working nicely and the kids loved being able to fly it until a puff of black smoke signalled the demise of the tiny little motor that was only 4mm in diameter. I had a few spare N20 motors that are bigger at 12mm diameter and hopefully will be more sturdy. Another interactive model was the BuzzFeed Skill Tester and kids tried over and over to beat it.



Kyneton March 7,8,9

by Graham Jost

Not many of our members care for three-day shows, but four of us did this year. Dave Denner and Mike Maloney joined Mary and myself for this long weekend at Kyneton. The day dawned bright and beautiful, and remained so until ... only an hour or so to travel 2 km through roadworks on the way rather spoiled things. Then the same again, but this time rather shorter. Why do local councils choose holiday weekends to carry out roadworks? The show was excellent though. A nice sprinkling of visitors throughout all days - not too busy, and not too quiet either. The Macedon Ranges model train folk do us proud each year providing lunches, this year more sumptuous than ever, a BBQ evening meal one day, their famous "Swindle", an aptly-named fund raiser to pay for the hiring cost of the hall AND a generous financial donation to our Club as well. Can't ask for more than that! Another most enjoyable weekend, and yes, we've been invited back again next year.

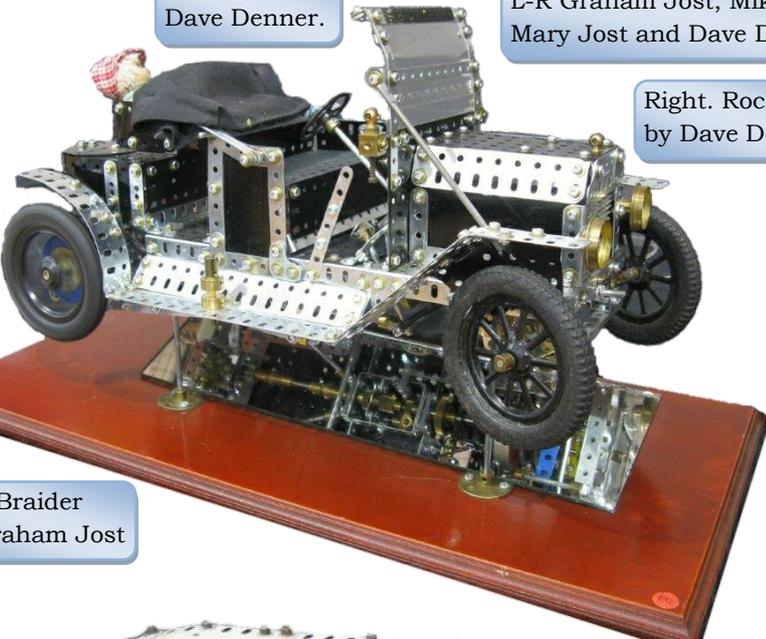


Free lunch!

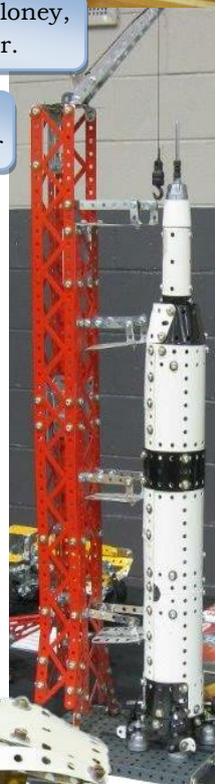


L-R Graham Jost, Mike Maloney, Mary Jost and Dave Denner.

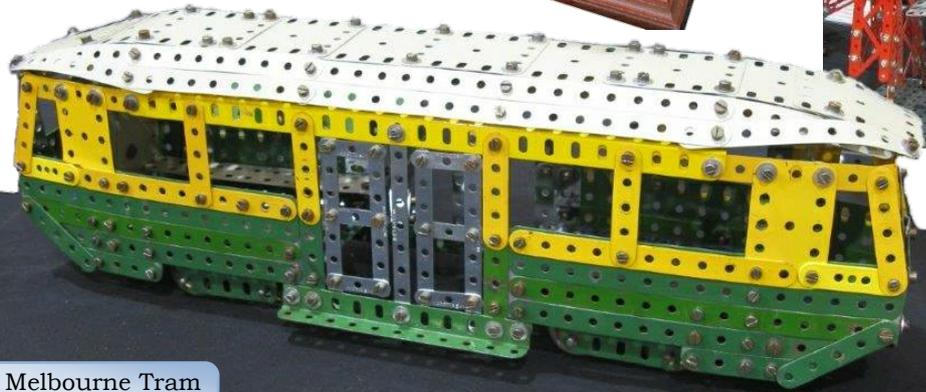
Model T by Dave Denner.



Right. Rocket by Dave Denner



Left. Braider by Graham Jost



Above. Melbourne Tram by Mike Maloney

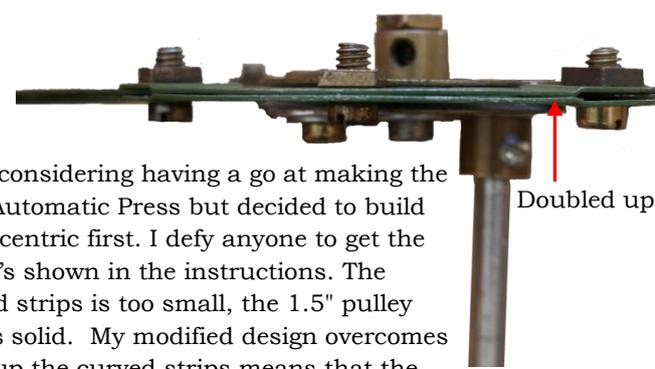
Below. Consul the Educated Monkey by Graham Jost



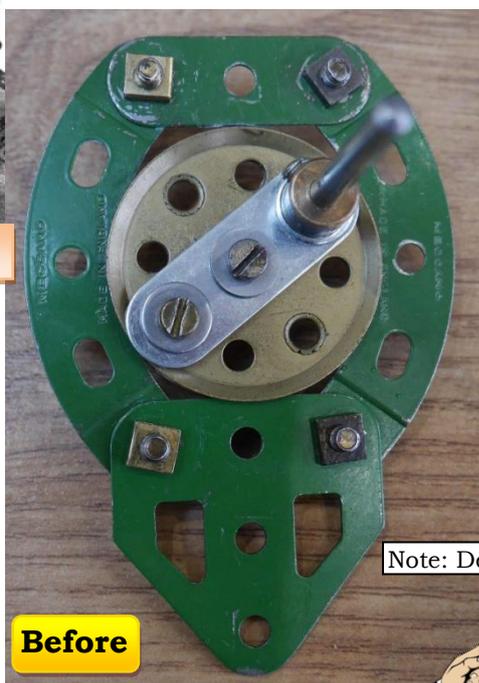
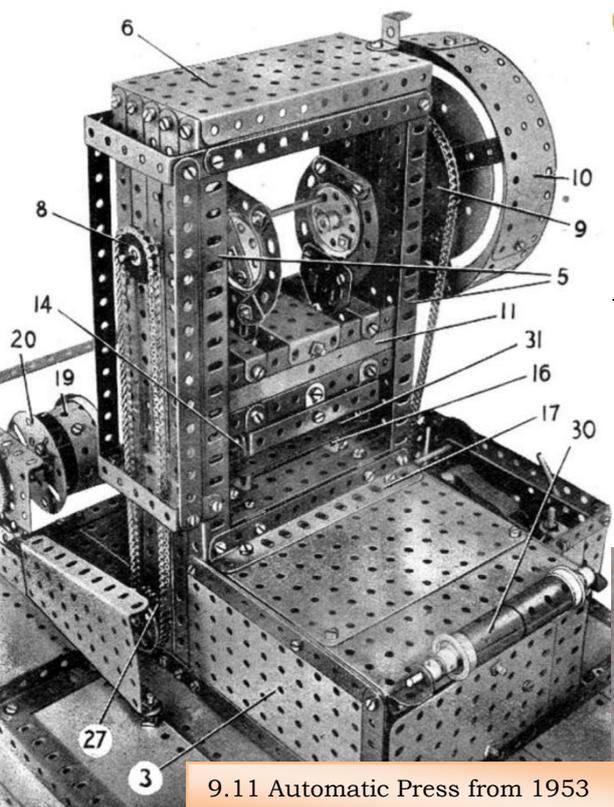
1 in 4 men are happy



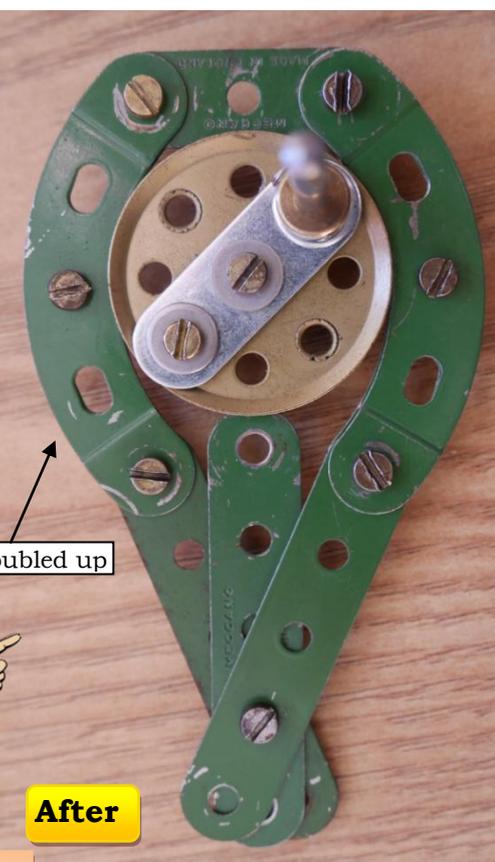
Clever ideas



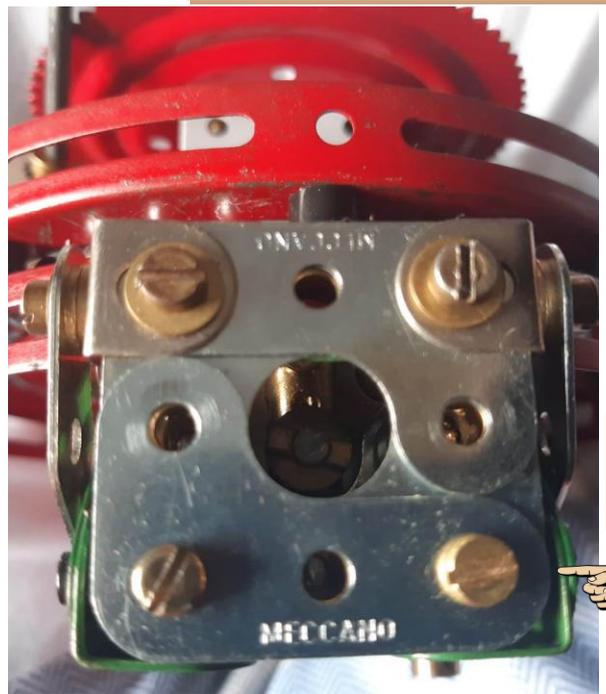
I had considering having a go at making the 9.11 Automatic Press but decided to build the eccentric first. I defy anyone to get the thing to run smoothly as it's shown in the instructions. The spacing between the curved strips is too small, the 1.5" pulley moves to one end and jams solid. My modified design overcomes these problems. Doubling up the curved strips means that the strips do not go too deep into the groove on the pulley and this prevents jamming. The steps on the curved strips are used to sandwich the 1.5" strip as shown in the second photo. An additional bolt in the middle of the curved strips is added to pull the strips together and prevent them springing apart. Unfortunately this means that the spacing between the curved strips is now even tighter so the arrangement of 2.5" strips was used to replace the flat trunnion. This gives a longer throw than the trunnion so I'll have to see how this works in the model when I build it. The centre 2.5" strip keeps the pulley in the right position to turn freely, and now turns remarkably freely. - **Keith Campbell**



Before
From Keith Campbell in Northern Ireland. Double up the curved strips to stop them getting stuck in the pulley.



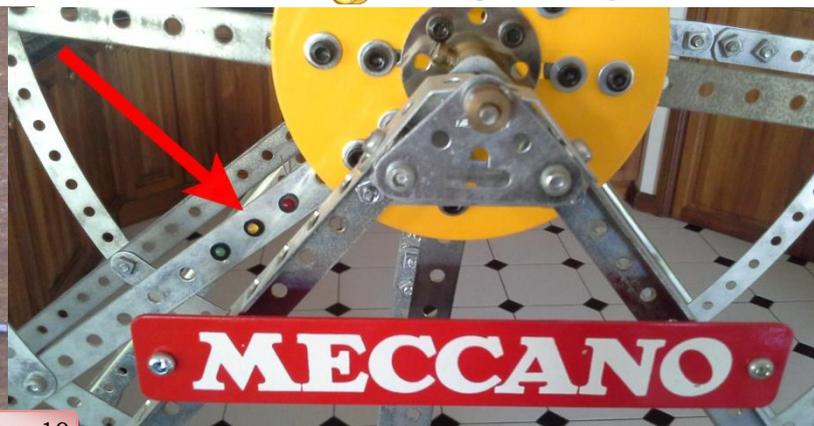
After
Note: Doubled up



From John Ozyer-Key in England. You can use 4 x part 133b Corner Brackets to make a half inch hole.



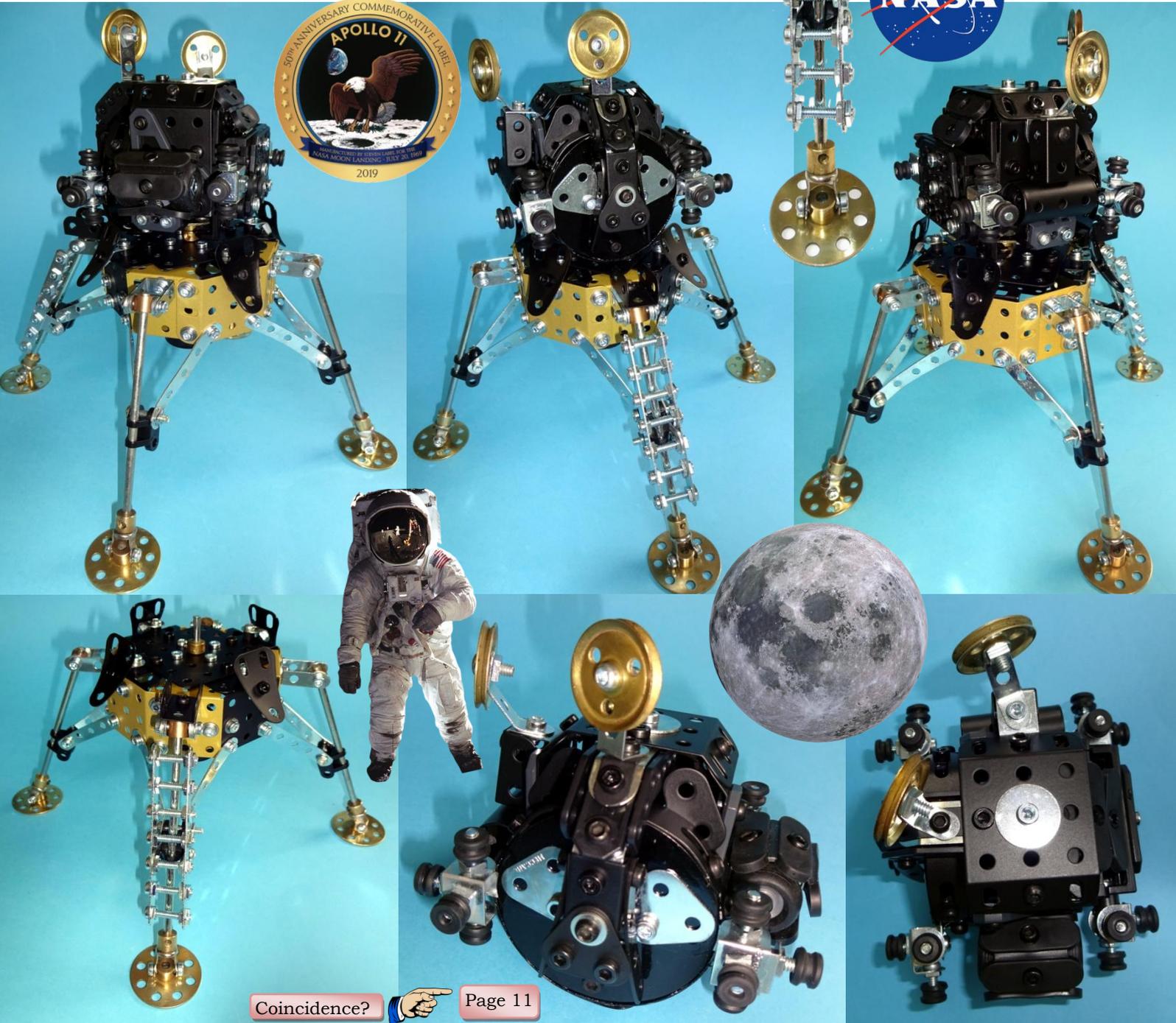
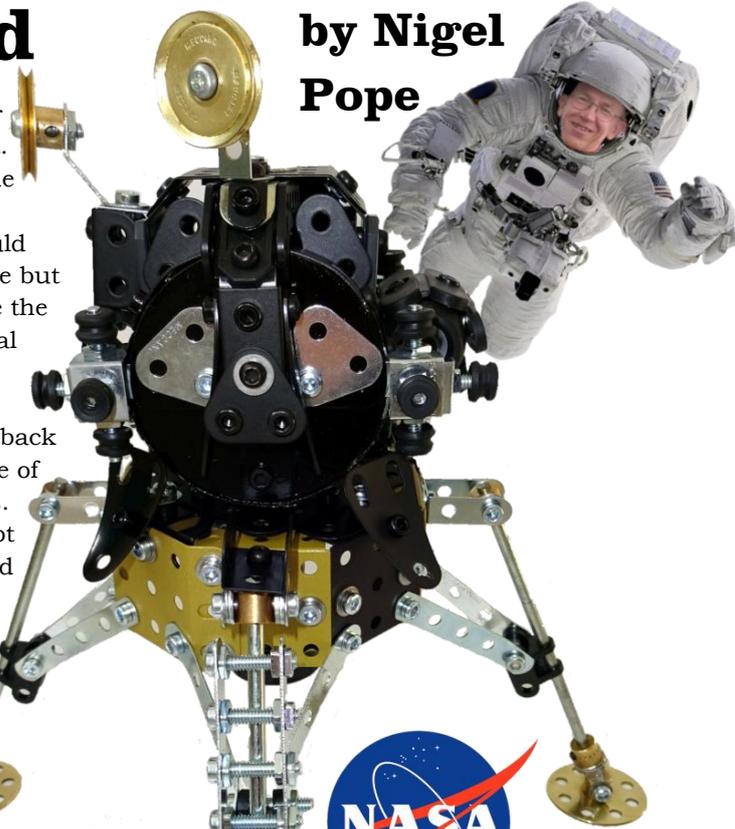
The most common round LEDs on the market are 3mm and 5mm. Any other size is a bit of a rarity. Plastic bezels are easy to find and are cheap as chips. It so happens that the bezel for a 3mm LED is made to snap into a 4mm hole. Perfect for Meccano!



The Eagle Has Landed

by Nigel Pope

It's been 50 years since the Eagle landed on the Moon. I was a teenager then and followed the exploits of the Apollo missions with keen interest. Then recently I saw a model of the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) made by Antoni Gual. I was impressed by the way he had captured the very difficult shape of the LEM on quite a small scale and so I thought I would have a go. My model is based on Antoni's and is the same size and scale but I decided to make quite a lot of changes. In particular, I wanted to have the descent and ascent stages made so that they could separate like the real thing. I feel sure that this very much increases the play value of the model. The two parts push together for the descent and landing and, after exploring the Moon, the ascent stage simply pulls out for the ride back to lunar orbit. I have redesigned the ascent stage quite a lot making use of modern Meccano parts to simulate those very awkward angular shapes. The LEM was designed to operate in the vacuum of space and so did not need any streamlining. Everything possible was done to save weight and that's why it always looked rather like a collection of bits thrown together. The descent stage is more like Antoni's but I added things like the ladder and the plume deflectors. The descent engine nozzle is a bit from a Thunderbird 2 set. The descent stage is octagonal and on the LEM was covered with a sort of gold foil apart from one quadrant which was black. That's why I used those gold coloured parts. It's a fiddly model to make but good fun when completed.



Show us your Meccano room



Keith Campbell
Northern Ireland



John Bader - UK



Daniel White - UK



Stan Knight - USA

Check this out!



Iron Man
Stuart Weightman - UK
More on next page....





Cheers!

Stuart Weightman - UK



Andrew Dean - UK



Arup Dasgupta - India



Andy Ripley - UK

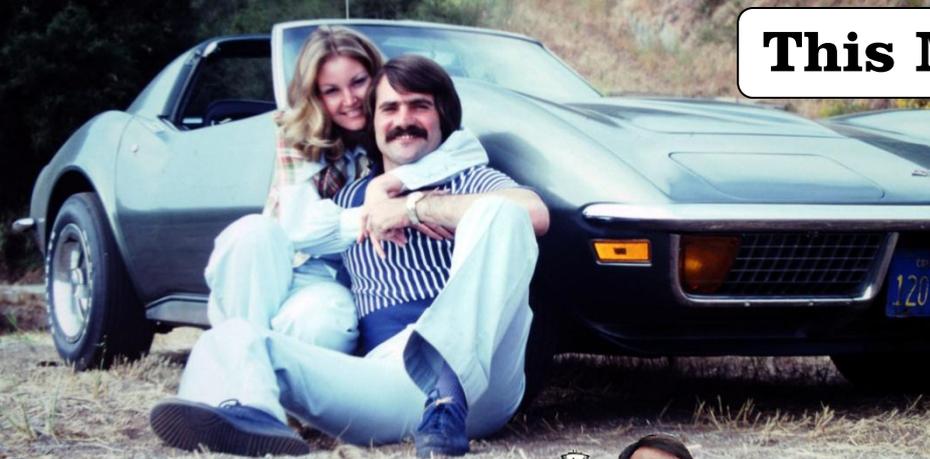


Douglas Hedgley - UK

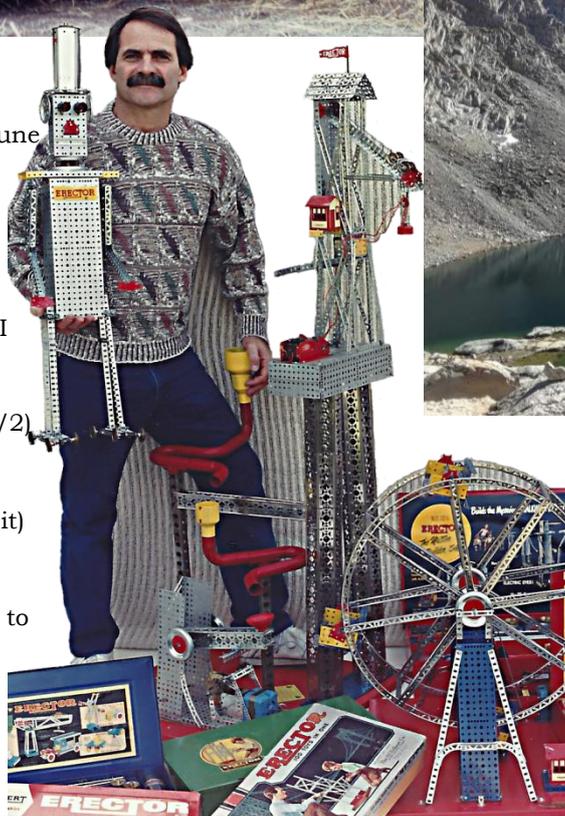
This Month's Meccanoboy

Joel Perlin - USA

Where were you born? What schools did you go to? Born (1945) and raised in Chicago, Illinois. My family moved to California just prior to the beginning of my senior year in high school. Attended Santa Barbara City College, University of Tennessee, University of Maryland.



Joel on the Father/Daughter mountain climb at Mt Whitney in November 2019.



Here's a loaded question. Which is best, Erector or Meccano and what are the pros and cons?

Meccano is the most popular and well known system in the world today. Much has been written about and many highly advanced models have been constructed using the proven Meccano system. Erector by contrast, is a system little known (and I believe underutilised) outside of the United States. Erector produced many special themed sets containing unique parts not found in other systems. Examples are zeppelin parts, Hudson locomotive, truck hoods and fenders, merry go round horses, parachutes, clam shell bucket, etc. Advanced mechanical movement parts such as cams, helical gears, cone pulley, slotted crank, mitre gears, universal joint etc were introduced into the system. These parts were only included in the largest sets and were (sadly) discontinued after a few short years. There were never any advanced model plans utilising these parts so they are somewhat unknown (and quite rare) today. This is great for collectors, but for advanced model builders, I think the more they learn about the complete history of the Erector system, the more they will appreciate and hopefully utilise it in their models.

Is it true that school kids get the whole summer off in America?

Summer vacation is generally from mid June until early September. This is a holdover from when America was mostly an agrarian society. The children were needed on the farm to care for and harvest the crops. Today, families look forward to summer vacations together so I believe this tradition will continue.

When did you discover Erector?

Received my first Erector Set (set No. 8 1/2) for Christmas when I was 9 years old.

Acquired an additional larger set from an older, neighbor boy (who had "outgrown" it) and additional parts directly from the AC Gilbert company via mail order. The cold Chicago winters left plenty of indoor time to happily build every model in the large instruction books.

Was there Meccano as well as Erector in America? As a child growing up in the 1950s, Meccano was completely unknown to me in the USA.

Pictured to the right is Joel with Elmer Wagner. Whenever Elmer would call, Joel's daughter Amanda who was 3 years old at the time would answer and say "Daddy, EggNog Wognog is on the phone!"



You have a website When did that start?

In 1991 I acquired the very large collection of Meccano and Erector from the family of the late Dr. Clyde T Suttle (founder of the Southern California Meccano and Erector Club). I instantly became a "dealer" as well as a collector and model builder. During the 1990's I became the "official" western United States parts distributor for Meccano, France. I still maintain my website and supply customers throughout the world.

<http://www.metalconstructiontoys.com/>

Who's the love of your life?

Of course my wife of 44 years, Beth.



Joel Perlin
Metal Construction Toy Specialist

Hello Boys!

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Machina Sets and Spare Parts

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- ERECTOR SET No. 10
- MECHANICAL WONDERS
- TRIX BUGATTI
- FOR COLLECTORS

Many SPARE PARTS available for antique Gilbert Erector sets. email your order directly to me. Highest quality, rare, antique and collectible GILBERT ERECTOR SETS. Replica parts and replica manuals available from time to time.

*NEW! Visit my EPHEMERA pages. HUDSON LOCOMOTIVE SETS! See! CLIMAX Of Erector Glory

Joel Perlin
Metal Construction Toy Specialist
joel@metalconstructiontoys.com
Phone: (805) 985-5498
FAX: (805) 382-7665
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THE SANDLOT



I heard there was a movie called *The Sandlot* that featured some of your models? Yes, "The Sandlot", was a movie produced in 1992. I was approached by people from the "Sandlot Productions" prop department. and also from special effects. I supplied several models and Erector sets seen in the movie including a very cool robot and a special coal loader model with electro magnet and catapult mechanism of my own design. This movie has remained quite popular and has earned the title as a '90's "cult classic". During the 1990's and early 2000's there was somewhat of a resurgence of interest in construction toys here in the United States. Most likely because Meccano France had acquired the trademark to the name "Erector" and began to actively market their Meccano sets here in the US as "Erector Sets". I was often approached by various US national television networks who wanted to highlight my collection and the history of Erector Sets in the United States in their shows. I would be interviewed and parts of my collection filmed at my home. The film crew and celebrity host would spend the whole day and then edit the results down to generally a 15 minute segment on TV. These were US shows and may not be known worldwide. One of the shows I've appeared in was the Arts and Entertainment Network's "The History of Toys and Games" hosted by John Ritter. This great show can be viewed on YouTube. My short segment begins at 1:07

YouTube

[CLICK HERE >> https://youtu.be/rIFbbNx0Bfc](https://youtu.be/rIFbbNx0Bfc)



More recently I was in Hollywood to help in the production of a Meccano promotional video. I built most of the models and got to work behind the scenes with famous producer Steven Charles Jaffe (Ghost). I was the wrangler who kept the lines clear as the camera zoomed and panned. I also worked with the late artist Chris Burden (and supplied the parts) for his numerous bridge projects including the Tyne Bridge, Hell Gate and his giant Skyscraper model that was displayed in Rockefeller Centre in NY.

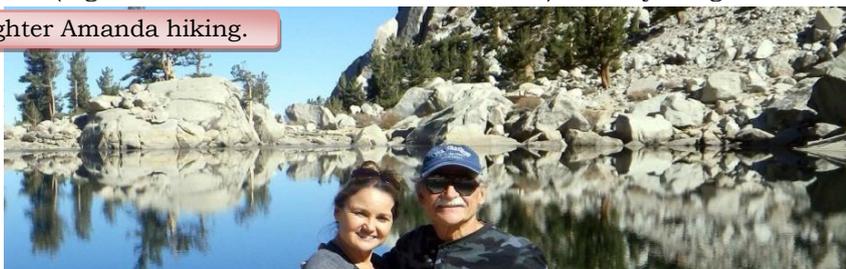
What did you do for a living? I see lots of fast cars on your Facebook page.

My grandfather owned a Buick dealership in Chicago. I followed in his footsteps and had my own independent car dealership in Santa Barbara, California until my retirement in 2005.

Have you travelled much and if so where are your favourite places?

Yes, my wife and I enjoy travelling. We have seen most of the US, Canada and have travelled extensively in Europe. During my tour of duty in the Air Force, I spent 2 years in Japan (where I completed a night climb of Mt. Fuji, reaching the summit in time to witness the rising sun). The United States is still my favourite place with its seemingly endless beautiful places to visit. We also enjoy waterskiing and hiking. I recently hiked the Mt. Whitney trail (highest mountain in the continental USA) with my daughter.

Joel and daughter Amanda hiking.



How has Erector and Meccano featured in your life?

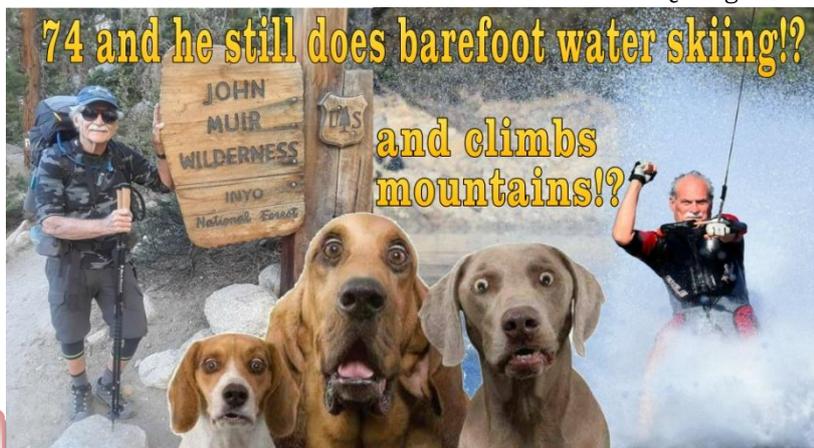
I think I was always a builder and naturally mechanically inclined. I loved building model airplanes and had model trains. Erector taught me much about how things work and to not be afraid to take something apart to repair and have the confidence to know I could put it together again. I drifted away from building at around 13 or 14 years old (sports, girls?) When my son reached the age of around 8 years old I thought it would be a good idea to get him an Erector set. I found a nice old 1929 Truck set at a swap meet. Having grown up in the 1950's, I was not aware of these beautiful old wooden box sets, so I brought it home. My son did not share my mechanical interests and liked video games instead. I remember using the Erector set as a form of punishment for him. If he did not clean his room, I would threaten to make him build an Erector model! His room stayed clean and he went on to obtain an electrical engineering degree. But I was hooked. I became a collector and commenced to acquire every old set I could find.

What's your advice for any up and coming young builders and what's your view on modern Meccano?

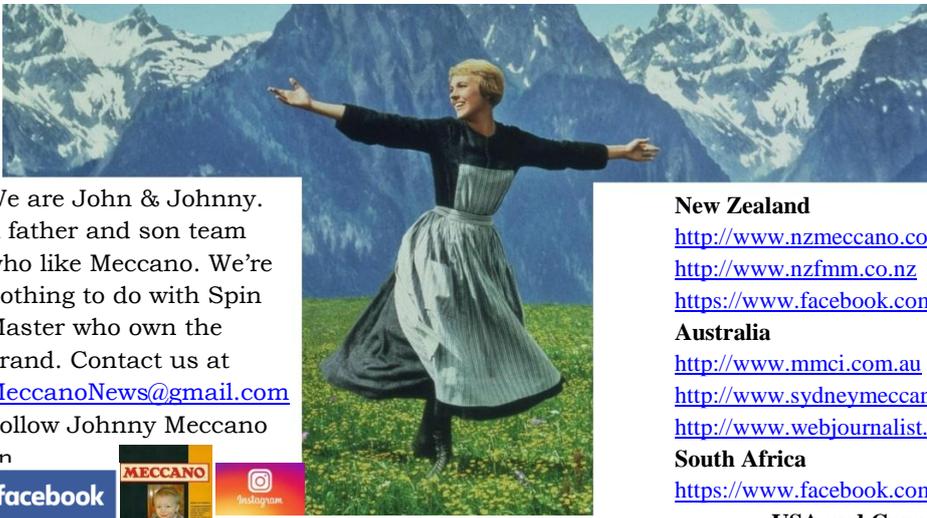
For mechanically inclined youth, I think the modern Meccano sets are still a wonderful learning tool. As long as Meccano continues to adapt to the computer age, they will endure. As for me, I still enjoy the old sets and like to restore a rare gem to its former glory.

Are you in any Meccano/ Erector clubs?

I currently am a member of the AC Gilbert Heritage Society. I was the president of the Southern California Meccano and Erector Club from July, 1986 until Jul 2017 and I was an ISM member. I have written numerous articles for the Southern California Meccano & Erector Club Newsletter as well as several articles for CQ Magazine.



74 and he still does barefoot water skiing!?
and climbs mountains!?



A few of my favourite things.



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



New Zealand

<http://www.nzmeccano.com>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/MWT-Meccano-Club-1476153515979522/>

Australia

<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>

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>

France

<http://www.meccanogilde.nl>

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

UK

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

<https://londonmeccanoclub.org.uk>

<http://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://southwestmeccano.org.uk>

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

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

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

<https://nmmg.org.uk>

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>

<http://www.meccanokinematics.net>

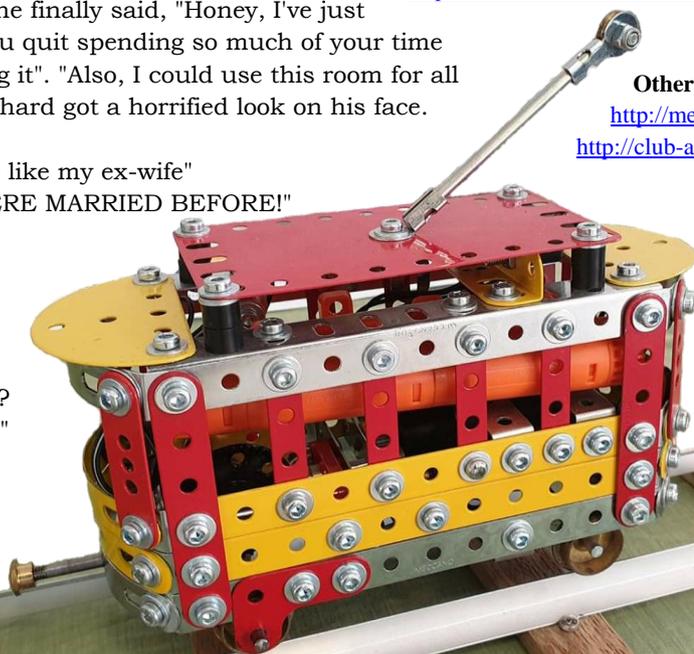
Other Countries

<http://meccaninfos.com.ar/>

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

Tram by Daniel Milbert - France

Antonio Valero riding his Harry Potter Magic Bus



Meccano suppliers

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

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

<https://www.meccanospars.com>

<https://ralphsshop.com>

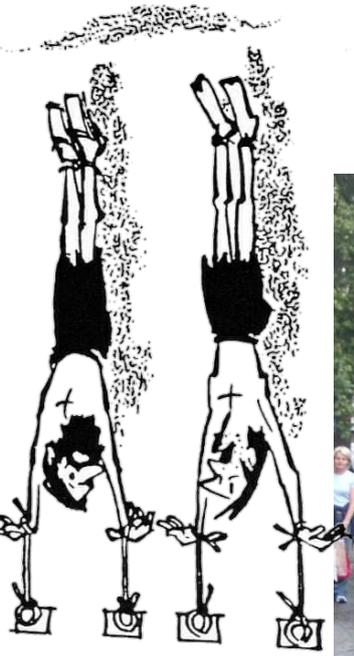
<http://www.hsomerville.com/mwmailorder>

<http://www.metalconstructiontoys.com>

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

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

I swapped shoulder bolts for set screws and thought the buyer wouldn't notice



Fireside Fun

One evening, after the honeymoon, Richard was working on his latest Meccano model in his Meccano room. His new wife was standing there by the bench watching him. After a long period of silence she finally said, "Honey, I've just been thinking, now that we are married, maybe it's time you quit spending so much of your time playing with Meccano. You should probably consider selling it". "Also, I could use this room for all the sewing and mending I'm going to be needing to do". Richard got a horrified look on his face.

She said, "Darling, what's wrong?"

He replied, "For a minute there, you were starting to sound like my ex-wife"

"Ex-wife!?" she screamed, "YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU WERE MARRIED BEFORE!"

Richard replied, "I wasn't."

JM - Melbourne

This guy goes into a dentist's surgery and exclaims, "You've got to help me! I keep thinking I'm a moth!" The dentist replies, "I'm sorry to hear that sir, but I can't help you; you need to see a psychiatrist! Why come in here?" The guy blurts out, "But I had to come in - your light is on!"

RiotMachineMark5 - England

A priest, a Rabbit and a Minister walk into a bar.

The Rabbit says, "I might be a typo".