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August 2019

Meccanoboy of the month.



Robin Rye

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CAM Expo.



Michael Molden

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Chris Clinkx from Belgium made some decals for his Sea Plane that was featured in the last magazine and I was so impressed I set about making my own.

Step 1. Trying to source the waterslide decal paper was difficult. Google searches were only showing a few eBay listings and the major stationery shops didn't list it. I walked into Officeworks and our local printers but neither had heard of this type of paper. Eventually I went with the eBay listing that showed a Sydney location. They offered Inkjet and Laser options and as our inkjet printer is usually out of ink I chose the laser printing option thinking that Officeworks would print on it but they turned me away saying they were only allowed to print on their own paper.



Page 1

How to make waterslide decals



Step 2. Prepare your artwork. I specifically wanted some Tin Tin decals for my Sea Plane and the words Cha Cha for my latest build. Google images provided the pictures and I used an app called Background Eraser to make them transparent .png images which I then put into a Word document. The Meccano ten set artwork was on the NZMeccano website and after I removed the blue background it was easy to re-size the images in the Word document. Printing it was not easy as we don't have a laser printer but I cajoled my wife to print one A4 page at her work. I'm not convinced that I needed to do this. Even though the eBay sellers offer the option of inkjet or laser, I suspect they may be the same. You could probably print on either paper with an inkjet printer but it's likely to smudge so it's preferable to find a laser printer.

Step 3. This is important. As you're going to soak this decal in water it must be sealed after printing. I used White Knight Crystal Clear acrylic spray shown left because it was recommended on the eBay seller's listing. I sprayed vertically and horizontally a few times then waited 3 hours for it to be touch dry.



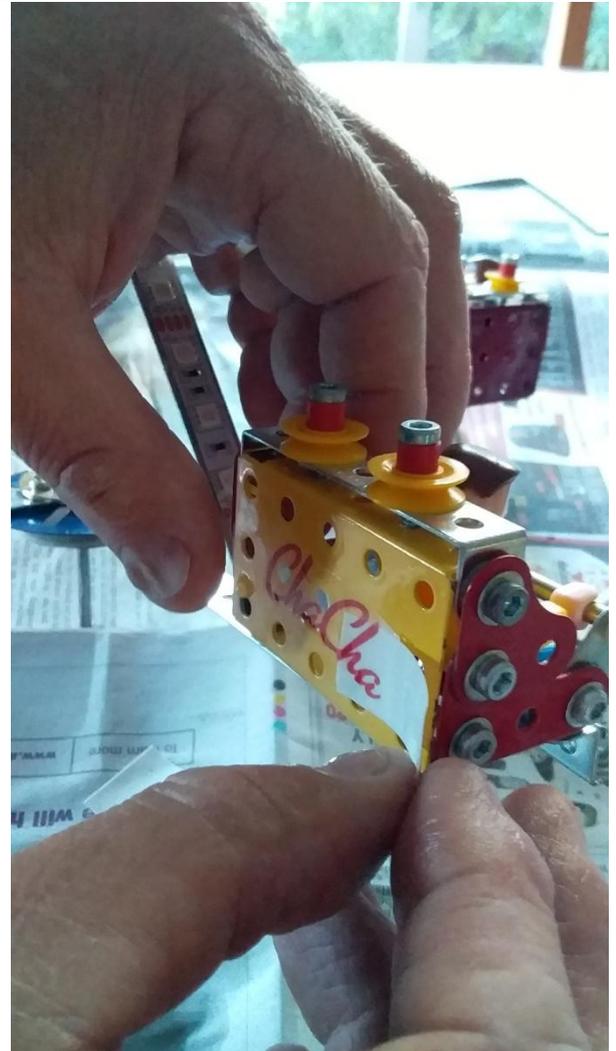
Tip



Make sure the surface is clean.

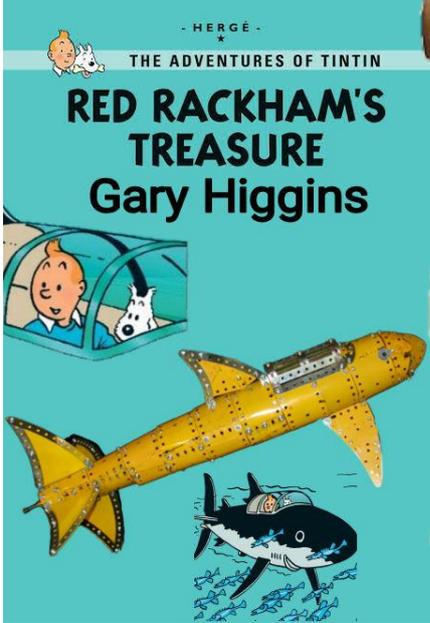
Step 4.

After it was dry, I cut out the decal with scissors and soaked it in a dish of tepid water. Some tore when I was trying to slide them off so I suggest leaving them to soak for at least a minute. Experimentation revealed they curl up when they first go in the water then uncurl when they're saturated.

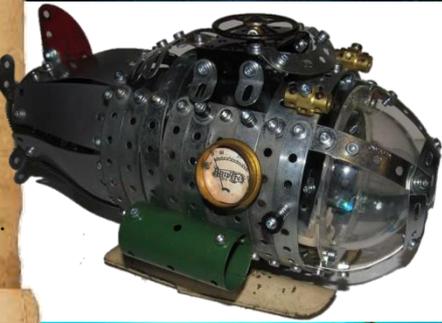
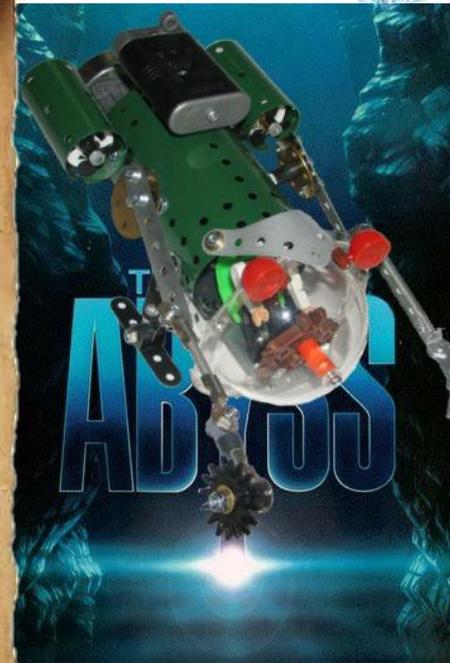


Step 5. I placed the decal roughly where I wanted it and pushed it onto the surface with my thumb while I gently slid the white paper away from behind. Don't worry if it's not exactly where you want it because you can still slide the decal around while it's wet but be careful. They do tend to tear. You can slide the bit of paper over the clear decal to coax any bubbles out and then dab it gently with a dry tissue. As you can see I've got a problem with the holes so more care needs to be taken to ensure your decal is going to fit! Practice makes perfect. After it's dry I've found that they can be easily scratched off so I would recommend another coat of the clear acrylic spray.

GARY HIGGINS - NAUTICAL MECCANOBOY



Meccano did a prototype mock-up of the Crazy Inventors Nautilus Sub but it was never released for sale due to possible issues with copyright of the Nautilus name and the cost of set parts. I had seen one picture of the model early on but then heard nothing until a French Meccanoman, Philippe Bovas, found two on sale in a bric-a-brac store in Paris France. He sent me photographs and I built mine from that. The Abyss Explorer was made using the plans of the 1998 Master Connection set 0040. I modified it using the plastic dome and adding an extra motor to the rear with a fan as the prop. The original had a yellow boiler but I used a green one. The Tin Tin Shark Submarine was my own design based on a picture from the Tin Tin books and partly from another model made by Philippe Bovas. The Steampunk Submarine was based on a fibreglass model called a Steampunk Nautilus Submarine. My model is very similar to the original in design. I removed the flashing colour changing LED from the original and used it in my submarine. I have yet to add a few more features to complete this such as a ladder to the access hatch seats and controls and an engine to drive the prop. I have always had an interest in submarines and have built one from the Meccano train set and another small German U Boat. I am also currently building the Terrorfish from the Stingray series. I have to finish the belly plates and spines. I need to motorise the tail and fins and add missiles to be fired when the mouth opens. I will also add LED lighting to this model.



Steampunk Submarine

Inglewood NZ

Meccano Magazine visits the expos



On The Road

Group photo by Bruce Geange



The mysterious and culturally significant Mount Taranaki provided a magical backdrop to the historical Inglewood Town Hall. You can see Robin Rye's life-size Meccano picnic tables out front.

NZFM Meccano Biennial Convention 2019

Every 2nd year the New Zealand Federation of Meccano Modellers puts on an expo hosted by one of its member clubs. This year it was the Manawatu, Wanganui and Taranaki (MWT) Meccano Club.



Robin Rye's Simpsons caricature welcomed visitors at the door.

COME AND SEE THE NATIONAL
MECCANO EXHIBITION
EASTER 2019
 Inglewood Town Hall
 CUTFIELD ST, INGLEWOOD
 Saturday 20 April & Sunday 21 April 10am-4pm
POPULAR FAMILY ENTRY PRICES
 Family \$10.00 Adult \$5.00 Child free (under 15)
LARGE DISPLAY OF WORKING MECCANO MODELS
 Telephone 06 753 7414 for further information

Made it into the newspapers!

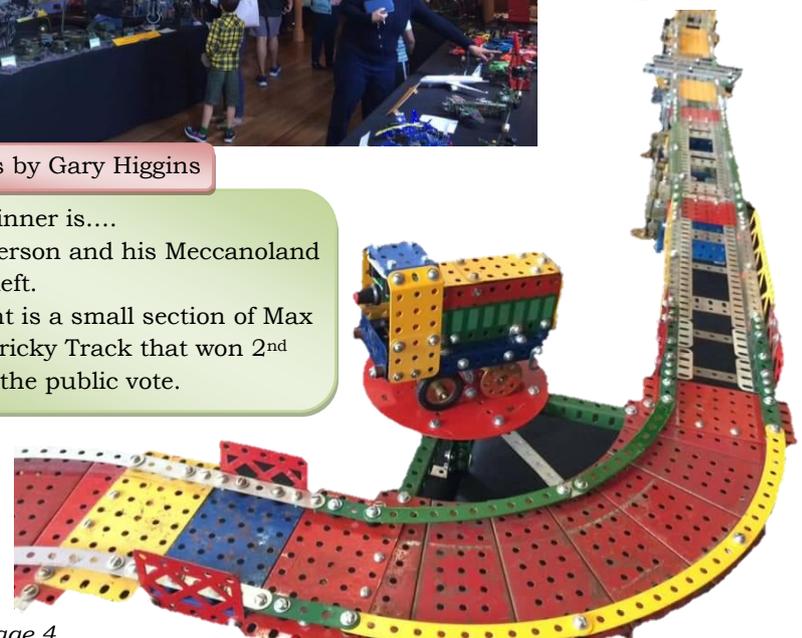


Daryl Anderson's Big Wheel and part of his Meccanoland below.



Photos by Gary Higgins

And the winner is...
 Daryl Anderson and his Meccanoland Diorama, left.
 To the right is a small section of Max George's Tricky Track that won 2nd prize with the public vote.



Le CLUB des AMIS du MECCANO – CAM 2019

La Ferté-Macé France



Photo credits Michael Molden



Roger Thorpe

Haute Couture
Jacques Cavallaro
won 1st prize



Roger Thorpe's clocks



La Loco
Italienne E550
by Guy Kind



Jean-Pierre Veyet



Westland CH-109
Rescue Helicopter by
Jean-Marie Jacquel



CITROËN
Marc Bizet



Stuart Weightman's Robotic Car Constructor

YouTube

<https://youtu.be/BMsRugNUfs>



Watch Stuart's amazing Robotic Car Constructor

The world-famous Iron Man of Meccano, Stuart Weightman, writes:

I made the original model a couple of years ago. I spent a great deal of time and thought on it and didn't take it apart. I decided to modify and improve it when I came up with some new ideas. Some of the modifications were as follows:

Powerful magnet (instant) instead of relatively slow action gripper. The magnet can lift really heavy items with no problem. No need to have a gripper tab on each car module to suit the gripper. This also freed up another motor output to allow another axis i.e. it can now rotate the part it is holding which enables more complicated part handling. A counterweight was added to assist both upright and reach motions at full stretch. There is (or was) a great strain on motors/gears etc. The counterweight is an improvement. Reduced the stepper motors step to make the robot faster although some axes did need to have slower acceleration due to the inertia (starting and stopping too quickly would slip steps). Removed some zeroing micro switches (these are required at start to enable the motor and programme to know the starting position.) These were getting bent and out of calibration occasionally. I zeroed them at rest on a stop. The car base on which it is constructed is rotated by a two sprockets and a chain out of sight under the main platform. This caused a few problems initially as when the car progressed it became very heavy so I had to gear the turn down. I did intend to have each wheel placed onto the car individually but found my wheel turn drive system wasn't up to scratch. I changed it to two wheels already fitted on an axle.

Magnet type 12V DC 55.lbs 25kg Electric Lifting Magnet Electromagnet Solenoid Lift Holding Current about 700mA (£7 on eBay)

Motors / controls.

The motor controller is a Trinamic TMC2100 (6 axis stepper motor controller). It has the ability to control simultaneously movement of 6 motors with individual motor parameters (at anytime): speed, drive current, stationary current, acceleration and deceleration, step angle resolution, motor position zeroing, digital outputs / digital and analogue inputs and more. A very versatile good priced unit which was a Meccano boy's dream for me as my models are normally of an automated robotic type.

Motor No.1 has a 167c large tooth pinion which directly drives the 12" roller bearing. The bearing gives good stability and can easily handle the weight of the robot.

Motor No.2 has a pinion 26 driving a 3" 27b gear wheel which is probably doing the most work on the robot. This drives the two vertical upright parts of the robot forwards and backwards. When reaching forward and whilst the upper part of the arm is extended the counterweights and springs are needed otherwise the motor would not have enough power.

Motor No.3 moves the top arm. Again a pinion 26 driving a 3" 27b gear wheel.

Motor No.4 is actually used as a counterweight to assist motor 3.

Motor No.4 has a direct drive through the cylinder 216 which turns the hand through a full 360 deg. I am considering modifying this and fitting an electrical slip ring to enable unlimited revolutions.

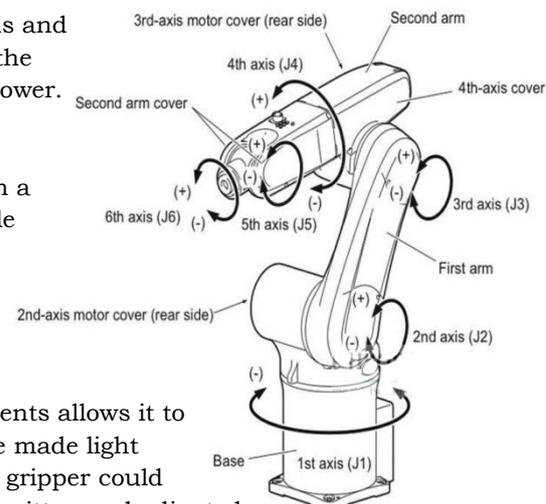
Motor No.5 is also direct drive. The motor shaft is fixed to a bush wheel 28 and moves the hand up and down through 180 deg.

Motor No.6 which did operate the gripper mechanism in the original model is now used to rotate the magnet 360 deg. (holding any Meccano part required).

Normally robots are designed to carry out limited specific tasks. Having 6 axis movements allows it to be more versatile for example whilst assembling the six modules of the car which were made light enough for the robot to carry. Each had to have a handle type assembly to ensure the gripper could get a firm hold, but now the magnet makes it much more versatile. The program was written and adjusted to place each module in exactly the correct position when assembling the car.



Stuart Weightman made it into the French Newspapers!



This diagram of a similar robot shows the motor actions as explained above.

SkegEx 2019

John Hornsby Gottwald Crane



Each year the North Midlands Meccano Guild holds an international exhibition in the UK seaside town of Skegness about 3 hours drive from London. Meccanomen from all over the world attend not only to display their models but also to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Meccanoboy in a holiday setting with the opportunity to not only trade stories and tall tales but to also trade Meccano parts and perhaps pickup a few bargains at the dealers tables. Over the years the costs have been creeping up so, to keep costs down, this year the expo was held over 2 days mid week rather than the previous 3 day long weekend.

Photo Credits:
 Roelf Valkema
 John Ozyer-Key
 Bob Thompson

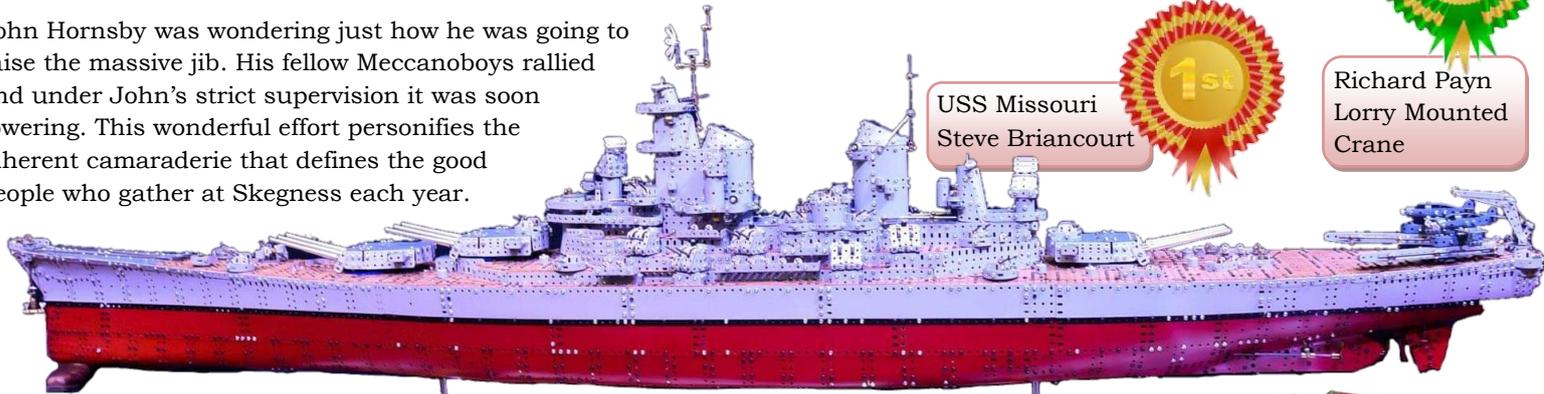


John Hornsby was wondering just how he was going to raise the massive jib. His fellow Meccanoboy rallied and under John's strict supervision it was soon towering. This wonderful effort personifies the inherent camaraderie that defines the good people who gather at Skegness each year.

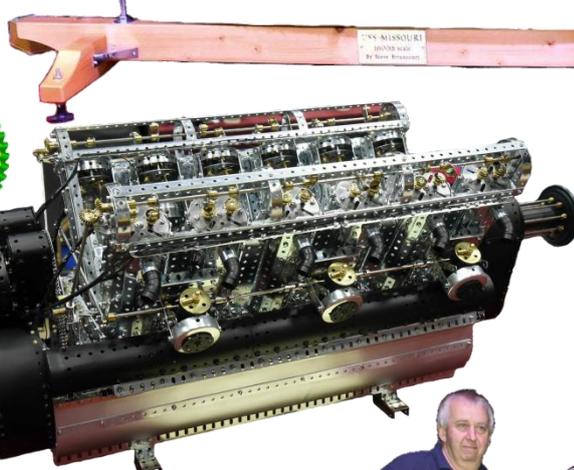
USS Missouri
 Steve Briancourt



Richard Payn
 Lorry Mounted
 Crane



Hispano Suiza
 12 cylinder
 aeroplane engine
 Brian Chaffer



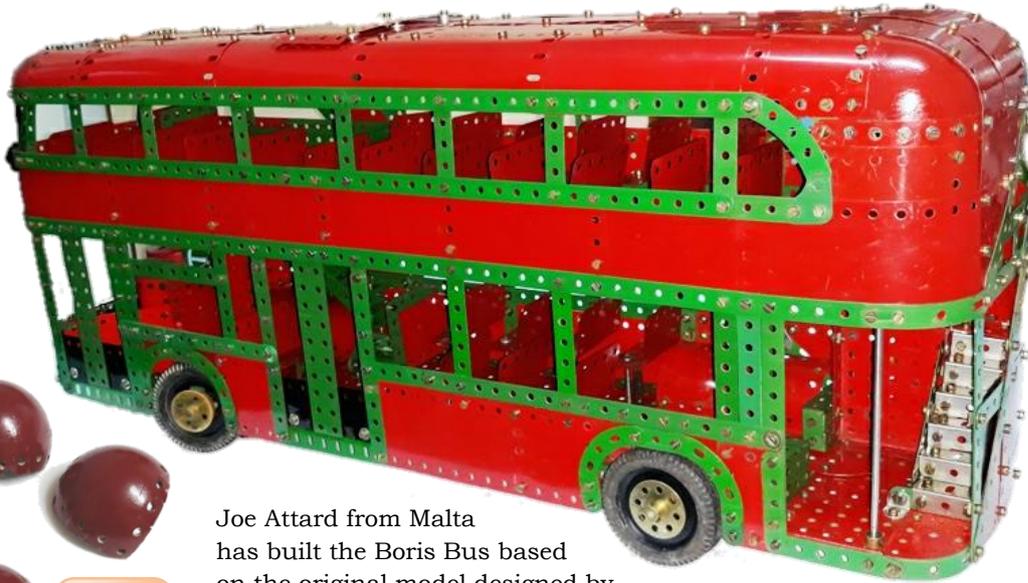
Editor's mention:
 John Ozyer-Key



Lawnmower
 Man
 Andy Knox



Joe Attard – Boris Bus



Skin the tennis balls.

Joe Attard from Malta has built the Boris Bus based on the original model designed by Geoff Wright and meticulously described by Michael Walker in CQ 119. Joe found a way to model those difficult corners using tennis balls rather than the usual triangular plates.

Cut, drilled and painted.

Make sure it fits before painting.



I'll get you Butler.

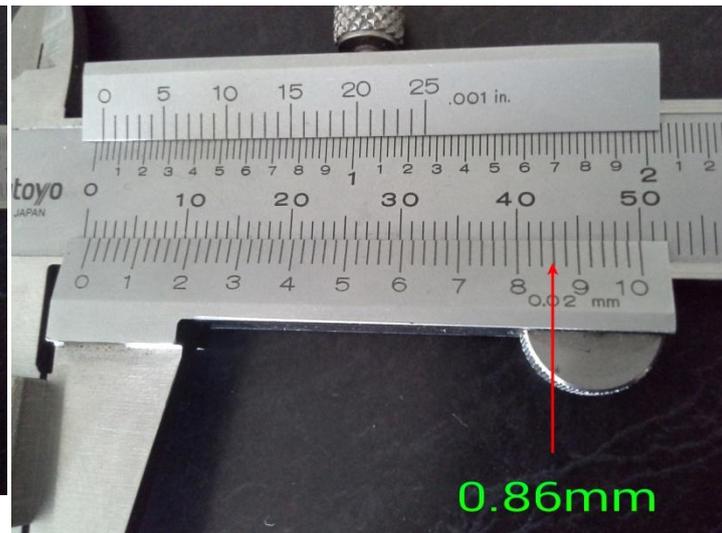
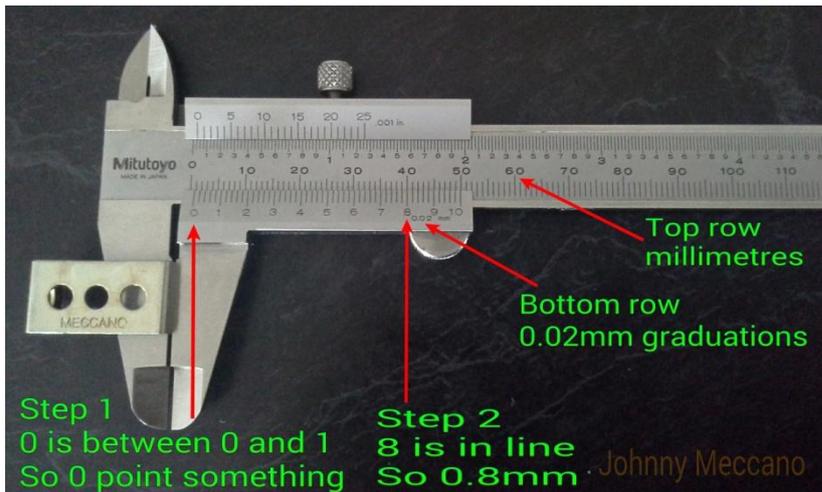


The result is much better than triangular plates albeit an affront to the purists.

Joe says:
 "I guess every model made by someone can be modified by re-builders. As I progressed with the building, I appreciated more and more the beauty of its design. But those corners filled with small triangular plates bugged me. It was my intention to try something different very early on, and the solution I chose seems to have worked. I just hope that it does not lead to an increase in the price of tennis balls due to an increased demand."



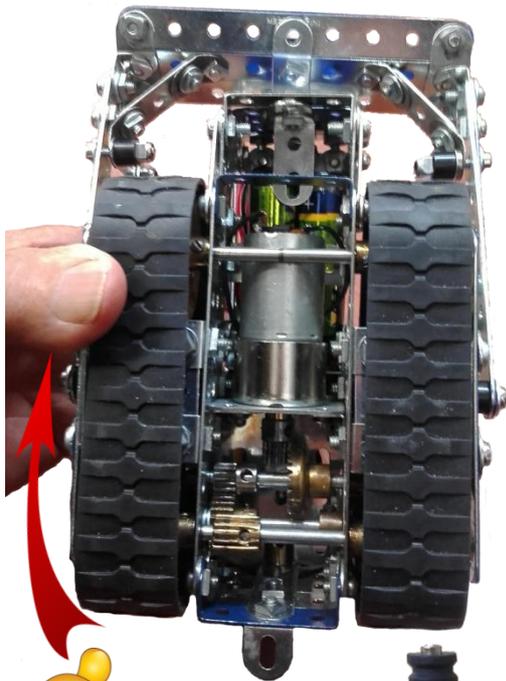
How to read a Vernier Caliper



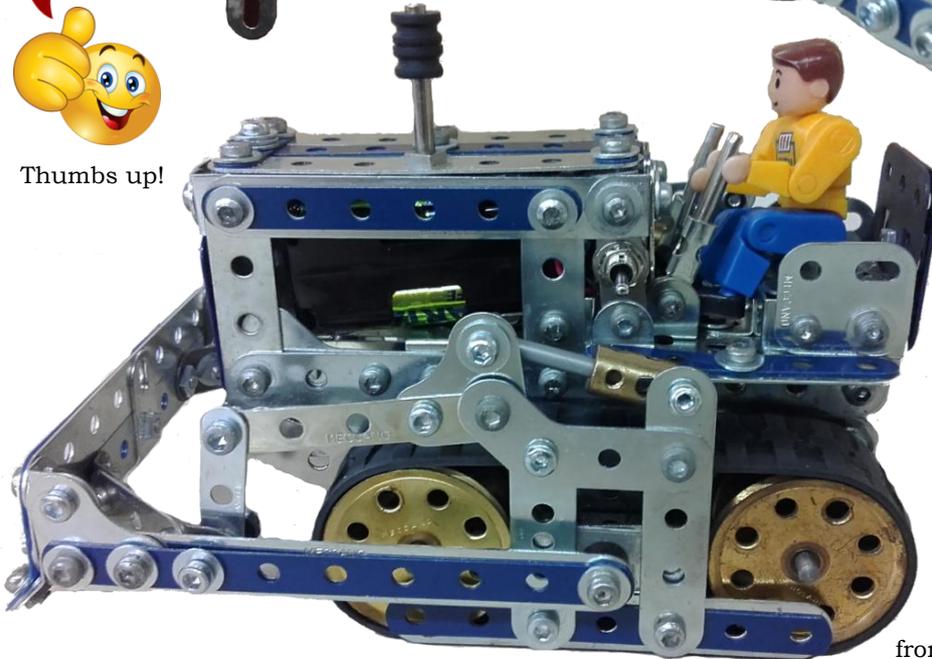
Jim Osborne - Bulldozer



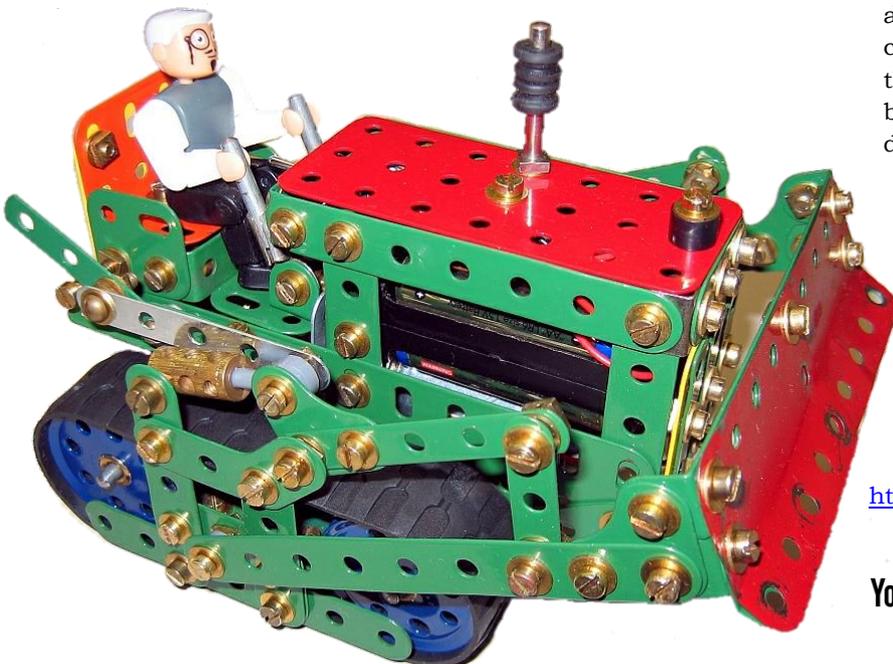
Jim Osborne
from the Sydney
Meccano Modellers
Association Inc. built
this awesome looking bulldozer.



Thumbs up!



Jim writes: Details of this model appeared in CQ101 Sep 2013. It was designed and built in New Zealand by Bruce Geange whose excellence in the field of small vehicle models is well known. I first saw the constructed model built by Alan Middleton in Melbourne, and just HAD to build it. I think it is the finest of many models which Bruce has conceived. The model photographed is identical externally with that published except I have applied my own preferred colour-scheme, and as I did not possess exactly the same motor as the designer, the gear train which I have employed, is therefore a bit different too. This difference cannot be seen unless photographed from beneath. The model operates easily by means of a switch which is mounted beside the driver's left control lever. Children can operate it with ease therefore it's most appropriate for exhibitions where battery changes can be effected easily because of the designer's clever foresight.



Graham Jost

from the
Melbourne
Meccano
Club Inc. also built
one in Red/Green and his
video can be seen on YouTube.

See my version
on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/b7k5EfJENqg>

YouTube



David Couch - Arduino

David is a brilliant Meccanoboy from Nelson in New Zealand. He has embraced the electronics side of Meccano and has written many articles detailing how Arduino computer software and hardware can be used to enhance your Meccano models.

Hint



It depends on the browser you're using to view this document, but you should be able to simply click on the links to go to the pages with David's documents on the NZMeccano website.

Read David's Arduino documents in the NZMeccano Documents section.



Introducing the Arduino Microcontroller

<http://www.nzmeccano.com/Documents.php?show=100>

Buying and Building an Arduino System

<http://www.nzmeccano.com/Documents.php?show=101>

Arduino Programming Reference

<http://www.nzmeccano.com/Documents.php?show=102>

The Little Tram

<http://www.nzmeccano.com/Documents.php?show=117>

David's gallery of other builders using Arduino.

<http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-136281>

There are an increasing number of Meccanoboy using Arduino and David has compiled a gallery of photos showing all the magical creations that he knows of. There are far too many to show all of them here so I've selected a few thumbnails with a brief description. If you want to see them all go to David's page in the NZM Gallery here.



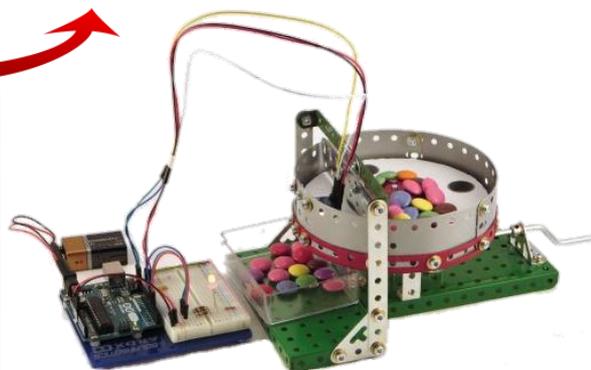
Kumihimo Braider by David Couch

A hook, moved by a stepper motor and servo controlled by an Arduino lifts one thread at a time, moving it across the centre. The Arduino is programmed with 20 braiding patterns.



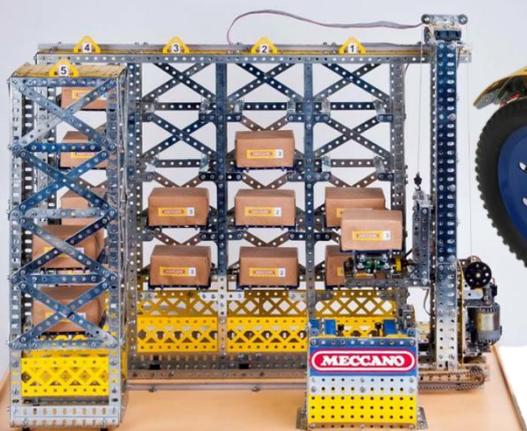
Tower of Hanoi by Russ Carr

Another simple robot arm, but now with the Arduino programmed to solve the puzzle known as the Tower of Hanoi.



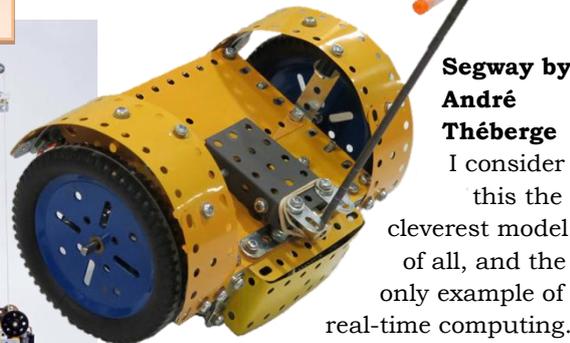
Candy Sorter by Wayne Hortensius

The picture shows a preliminary model built to test the separation of the sweets and recognition of their colour.



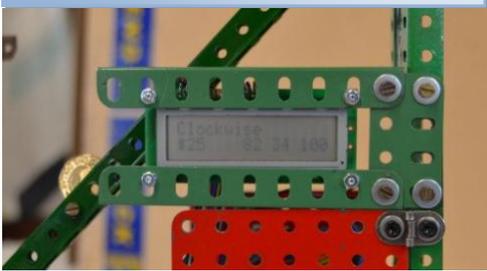
Automated Storage System by Sebastià Atserías

This clever model featured in CO 109



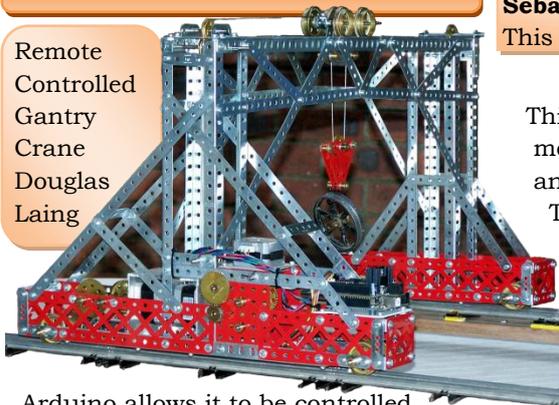
Segway by André Théberge

I consider this the cleverest model of all, and the only example of real-time computing. The model balances on its two wheels, using an accelerometer to detect when it tilts and moving the wheels to bring it upright.



Coin Counter by Richard Feltham

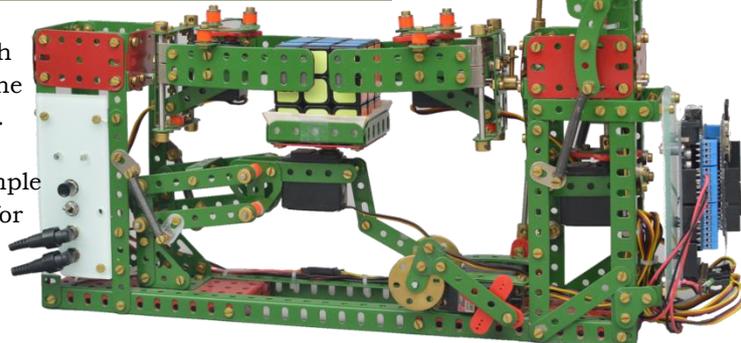
Remote Controlled Gantry Crane Douglas Laing



Arduino allows it to be controlled with a TV remote.

Rubik's Cube Solver David Couch

This took David several months to program with an implementation of the T45 solving algorithm. It demonstrates that the Arduino has ample computing power for any Meccano application.



Build your own USELESS MACHINE

With sound!

Part No	Desc	Qty
2a	4½" Strip	4
3	3½" Strip	9
5	2½" Strip	1
6	2" Strip	2
9e	2" Angle Girder	1
10	Fishplate	2
12	Angle Bracket	10
12a	Angle Bracket	1
12b	Angle Bracket	1
23c	Rubber Pulley	1
24	Bush Wheel	1
25	25t Pinion	1
26	19t Pinion	1
27	50t Gear Wheel	1
27a	57t Gear Wheel	1
38a	Plastic Spacer	1
53	Flanged Plate	3
53a	Flat Plate	2
59	Collar	3
90a	Curved Strip	6
114	Hinge	2
125	Angle Bracket	1
133a	Corner Bracket	1
315b	4" Tri-axle	2
	dpdt toggle switch	1
spdt	microswitch	1
	60rpm motor	1
	9v battery snap	1
	soundcard	1
	speaker	1



Fig. 1



Some soldering skills are required for this project.

NOTE: The final step is to put the trapdoor on. It must be loose and free to drop down with gravity only. I found that the hinges jam if they are bolted on tightly so I've used locknuts to keep it nice and loose. See Fig. 1.

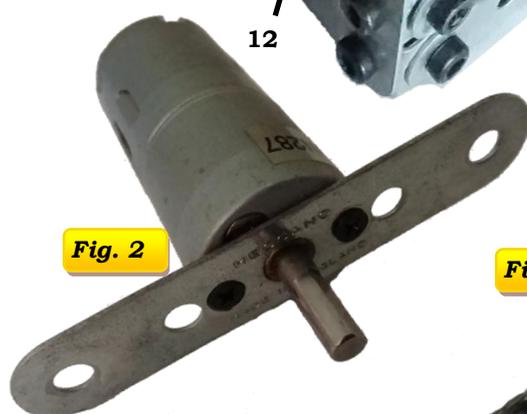


Fig. 2

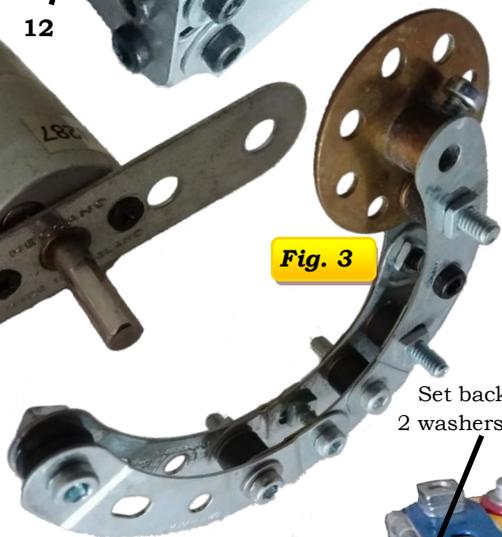


Fig. 3

First step is to gather the Flat Plates, Flanged Plates and the Strips to build the box without the trap-door on top. That comes last. Figures 1 and 4 have black lines pointing to the bolts that hold internal parts such as the battery, switch and speaker mounts. The numbers represent the part number that the bolt is holding. You will notice in Fig. 1 that the Flanged Plates have to be offset joined as one won't fit inside the other. The flanged plate on top keeps the box square but as there is no base, a Corner Bracket is used to keep the bottom square. See Fig 4, 5 and 6. The curved arm consists of 3 Curved Strips on each side are separated by Plastic Spacers with a Rubber Pulley on the end to contact the toggle switch. Count the holes to make sure you overlapped them correctly. The arm should be 10 holes long. Your motor should be 60 to 100RPM and mounted on a 5 hole Strip. See my instructions on how to mount these geared motors on page 7 of the June issue of this magazine.

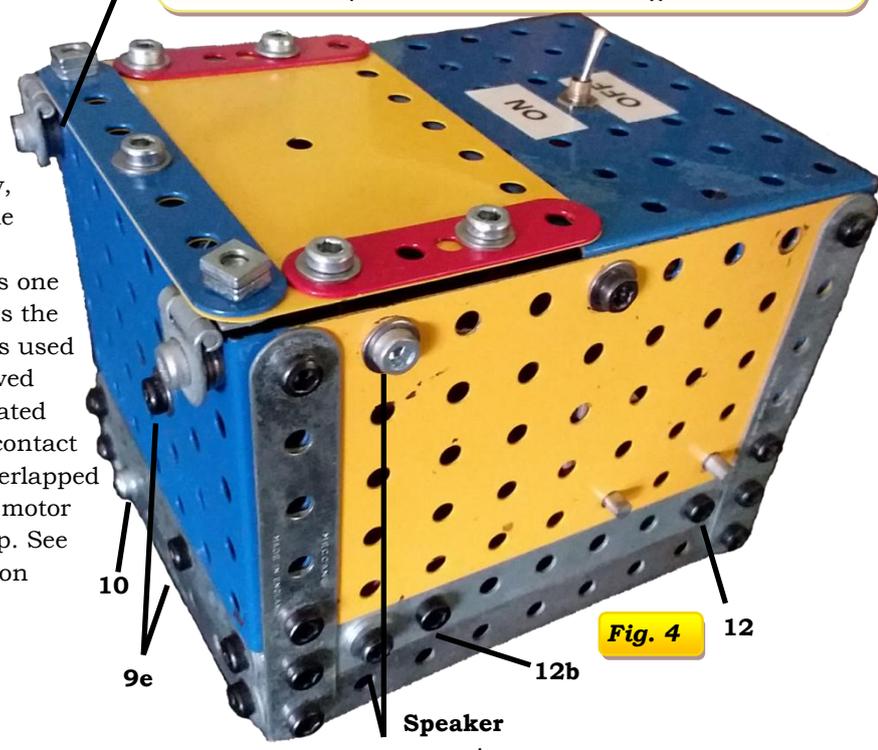


Fig. 4

Mount the motor by putting one end of the 5 hole Strip through the Tri-axle with a Collar on each side for alignment and the other end is bolted to the box with a part 12a Angle Bracket. The motor has a 25t Pinion that meshes with the 50t Gear Wheel on one end of the 1st Tri-axle which also has a 19t Pinion on the other end. The 2nd Tri-axle has a 57t Gear Wheel on one end with a Collar on the other end to keep it in place. Looking closely at Fig. 5, 6 and 7 you can see the drive train and the motor mount. With the Tri-axle being journaled through the 5 hole Strip on the motor mount there is no adjustment required as the spacing is exactly 1". There is also no chance of the Pinion jumping out of mesh with the Gear Wheel. This machine has proved indestructible over the years, despite many malicious attempts at hastening its demise by naughty boys at expos and I attribute its resilience to my use of the Tri-axes which prevent slippage.



Fig. 5

. The micro switch is mounted on a 12b Angle Bracket with a Fishplate to allow adjustment. It's better to use a micro switch with a long lever that extends past the body as this allows for more adjustment by bending the lever.

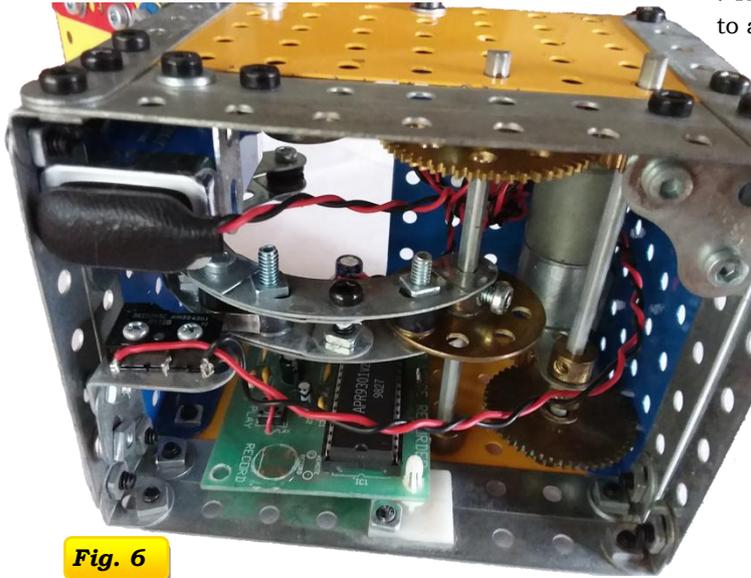


Fig. 6

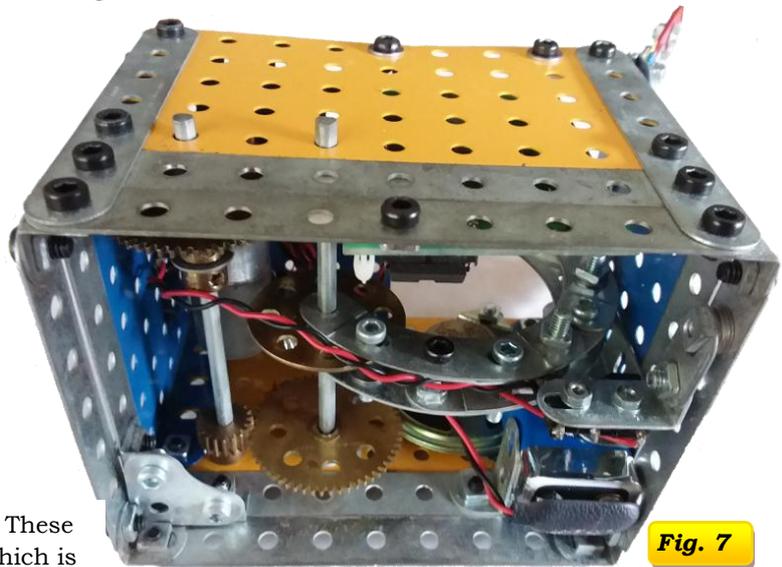


Fig. 7

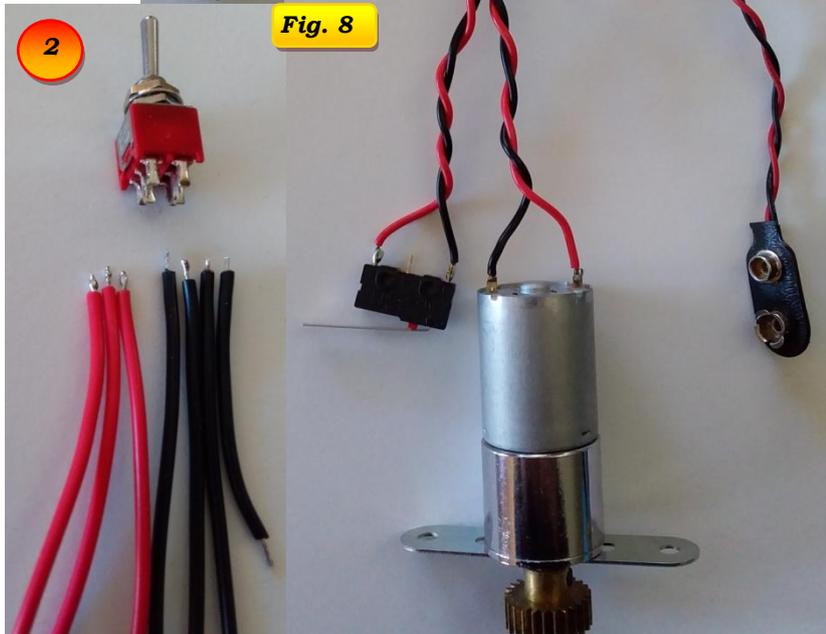
Mount the toggle switch in the Flanged Plate as shown in Fig 1. These mini toggle switches usually come with 1/4" mounting shafts which is going to require mutilation of your precious Flanged Plate but if you shop around you will find some with 11/64" mounts which is 4.36mm. I took a file to the thread of my switch and I was able to screw it into the hole in the centre of my Flanged Plate only damaging the paint. The switch must be labelled On Off as this completes the illusion that the person is switching the machine on and it automatically switches itself off, which is not entirely true. In its resting state the arm is holding the micro switch in the Open (Off) position. When the toggle switch is moved to the on position power is applied to the motor directly from the battery in a forward direction. The arm moves up and the micro switch is now in the Closed (On) position. When the arm moves the toggle switch to the other position that is labelled Off the power is now applied to the motor in the reverse direction but this time through the micro switch. The arm now travels back down until it pushes the micro switch back to the Open (Off) position which turns the power off. The toggle switch is nothing more than a reversing switch so the On/Off labels are an important illusion.

3 quick and easy steps for experts.

- 1 Get your switch and 3 lengths of red, 3 lengths of black at 6" and 1 short length for the 5/2 crossover.
- 2 Tin the ends of the wire and the lugs. Solder the short wire between pins 2 and 5 on the switch.
- 3 Solder microswitch to 1 & 6, motor to 3 & 4, battery snap to 5 & 6. See next page for more details.



Fig. 8



1. Solder the jumper wire between pins 2 and 5 on the dpdt toggle switch.
2. Solder 2 wires between the motor terminals and pins 3 and 4 on the dpdt toggle switch. there's no easy way to know which way around so if the motor is going in the wrong direction, reverse the 2 wires at the motor end.
3. Connect pin 1 on the dpdt toggle switch to N/C on the microswitch.
4. Connect pin 6 on the dpdt toggle switch to C on the microswitch.
5. Solder a red wire from positive on the battery snap to pin 6 on the dpdt toggle switch.
6. Solder a black wire from negative on the battery snap to pin 5 on the dpdt toggle switch.

It's neater to twist the 3 groups of wires from:

- a. The motor to the dpdt toggle switch.
- b. The battery snap to the dpdt toggle switch.
- c. The dpdt toggle switch to the microswitch.

To make sure you don't confuse them try to use the colours shown in Fig.9.

Optional Soundcard

My useless machine gets a laugh because it gruffly announces "Go Away!" the moment the switch is turned on.

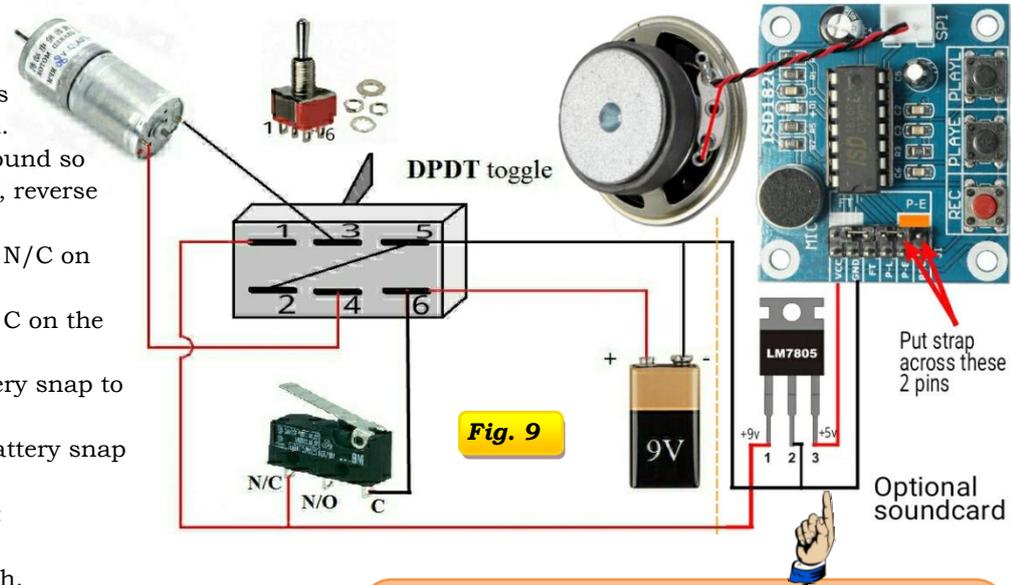
There are many soundcards available on eBay. Mine was purchased a long time ago and runs on 9-12V however times have changed and they all seem to be 3.5-5V to make them compatible with Arduino and other similar systems. This presents a problem because with limited space my Useless Machine was designed to run off a 9V battery and a 12V geared motor so the circuit diagram below will fail if you use a 5V soundcard. As a quick work-around I've used a 5V voltage regulator as shown in Fig 9. It allows you to reduce the 9V to 5V and costs around \$2. To keep it simple I've made the soundcard play the recorded voice immediately on power-up so you need to Record your message first by holding the REC button down. The methods to do this vary between cards but the instructions for this ISD1820 card can be downloaded from the nzmeccano gallery.

[nzmeccano.com](http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-140018) <http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-140018>

This particular card comes with straps which are tiny connectors or jumpers that join the header pins together as required. The setting to make it play automatically on power-up is P-E. This card comes with 2 straps in neutral positions that can be seen on the right hand side of the row of header pins. You move one of the straps to join the 2 pins on the bottom right labelled P-E. I have highlighted the strap location in orange. If you get a card without the straps, you can solder a wire across the PLAY button and it should still work.

[YouTube https://youtu.be/TvEyhL_14js](https://youtu.be/TvEyhL_14js)

See the Useless Machine on YouTube
Turn your sound on!



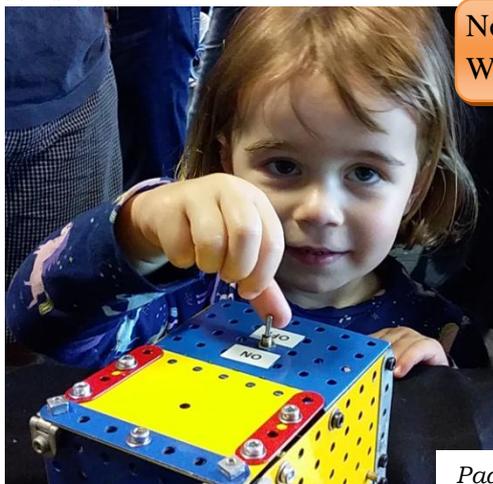
How to modify a 5v soundcard to run on 9v.

I've highlighted the strap connection in orange to set it to play immediately on power up. The voltage regulator is LM7805 but can be any voltage regulator that is 5v out.

Some tips for soldering

- Your soldering iron should have a conical tip set to 700f (370c).
- Keep the tip of your soldering iron clean by wiping it on a wet sponge after each joint.
- Use 1mm resin core solder. Any thicker and you'll get large blobs of solder on the lugs. Any thinner and the joint will get too hot while you're trying to feed enough solder.
- Tin the lugs and the stripped wire ends first. Noun: Tinning. The application of a thin layer of soft solder to the ends of wires before soldering them "careful tinning of the ends of wires results in a better joint when you solder them"
- After tinning, heat the lug not the wire. The instant the solder becomes molten, drop the wire onto it and remove the soldering iron at the same time. It's important to be quick or the heat will melt the insulation on the wire. You should be able to do each joint in this project in less than 1 second.
- Use multi-strand wire. Solid conductor wire such as telephone or some data cable will break but multi-strand is flexible.
- Be consistent with the gauge of your wire. This project only requires very light gauge wire. I've used 13 x 0.12mm hook-up wire which means 13 strands with each strand 0.12mm thick.

Not really useless is it!
Wondering minds.



This Month's Meccanoboy: Robin Rye NZ

The land of the long white cloud



Robin Rye was born into farming and has spent his entire life on the beautiful land under the auspicious aura of Mt Taranaki. After the success of the New Zealand Federation of Meccano Modellers' recent Expo we asked Robin a few questions.

Where were you born? Eltham, NZ Feb 1954. **Family?** One sister, Leonie. I've never married or had kids. **First model?** I received a 00 in the late 1950's. There were a few random pieces of my father's Meccano in the toy box that had escaped being sold. About 1963 a Number 3 arrived and that extended with accessory sets to a Number 8 over the following years. The first model built with the Number 3 was a truck. I had instructions to not bend my Meccano. Being a farmer, farm machines were a favourite to build. I liked to add a front end loader or 3 point linkage to my Fun Ho Farmall tractor. I must do that again! I crossed off one item on my bucket list about 1988. I bought a brand spanking new French made number 10.

First club? I was a foundation member of the gathering that became MWT Meccano Club.

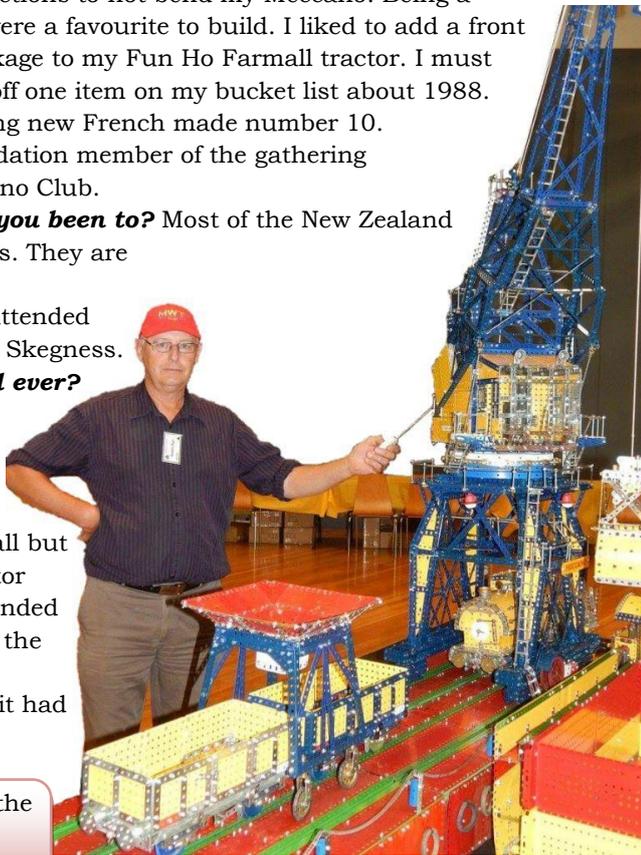
How many expos have you been to? Most of the New Zealand ones since the mid 1990's. They are held every second year.

Any overseas expos? I attended the 2016 Skegex Expo in Skegness.

What's your best model ever?

Always someone else's. My Burrell Showman's engine has fine detail and remains a standby model to display. My small but intricate articulated tractor model was highly commended in an ISM competition in the 1990's. My Spitfire may still have been around if it had been made in modules.

Dockside Crane at the Te Papa Expo in Wellington



Robin hiding behind the wing of his 1/6 Spitfire in 1991



What was your first exhibition? MWT held a show in Wanganui 1991, my first show for which I made my one sixth scale Spitfire model.

Any failures? Not so much failure but I am very prone to giving away a build before finishing it and moving onto something else. I have unfinished builds sitting on my shelf for nearly 20 years. I tend to over complicate my builds wanting them to be a scale model and colours frustrate me also. I do not enjoy a model of hotchpotch colours. I like yellow but it is a colour I have trouble painting. I developed the system of painting with Royal Blue because it covers everything. One regret is that I did not go to Binns Road when I was in England in early 1977, but recent reading suggests there may have been little to see if even made welcome there at that time. I did not know of MW Models business at that time to visit there either!

What's your current club and positions held? MWT Meccano Club. Secretary/Treasurer. I was once long ago Chairman of MWT.

Latest achievements? At age 65, I have made a dedicated Meccano room with a building bench. I have always been a build on my lap type bloke. My small bench was always covered with the parts being used and the tools of the trade.



Burrell Showman's Engine

How did you get into farming? Born into a dairy farm and continued. There is always money in milk. Actually milking the cows is a bit of a bugbear and it's a huge responsibility looking after livestock. I loved to drive the tractors and continue to do so even though it is low frequency jolts and vibration from tractors that have injured my back over time. I still call myself a dairy farmer even though I no longer own dairy cows. I get half the milk cheque from the cows on my farm.

Robin surrounded by all his New Zealand Meccano friends.



How much Meccano do you have? There are always pieces you need more of and once it is a model, you don't have that piece anymore. I especially like taking models apart. I am a collector of Meccano to build with. I have few boxed sets. I recently made up a set 9 and sold it. I have a set 10 made up for sale. I have examples of many of the world's Meccano Magazines but not always full sets. Recently some South African magazines came my way.

Favoured type of models? I like a variety of models. Turn the handle things for children, large complex, small and intricate. Reproducing a machine in miniature interests me. I like ashtray tires. I have wheel barrow size (400x8) cleated tyres waiting to be made into a tractor or similar. The previous time I used wheel barrow size I was frustrated with Meccano Axles not being up to the task. I have since bought large size axle Exacto and Ashok pieces...not yet used.

Any other interests beside tractors? Apart from Binns Rd Meccano products my other great hobby is collecting (read buying) International Harvester equipment sales literature majoring on agricultural machinery. Facebook is now a big part of my life especially on the International Harvester themed sites of which I manage several. I have tended to avoid Meccano on Facebook although I am increasingly participating on the Meccano Nuts Facebook page. I also have the MWT Meccano Club Facebook page but I dislike the format of it.



Search Facebook for MWT Meccano Club



Robin with his Pivot Steer Tractor at SkegEx 2016



Robin's outdoor setting.

Robin's new Herd Home



This massive Herd Home is perhaps Robin's crowning glory. The digging commenced in December 2017 and the builders started work in June 2018. It's still not finished but is well on the way and currently provides shelter for most of the cows. Robin says year round milking is now possible (but not with a full herd) and it will change the farm dynamics and evolve over the coming years. The pastures getting thrashed by cow feet during continuous wet weather should be considerably reduced.



How much did it cost?
Don't ask.



Once a week Robin meets up with Daryl and Rose Anderson for dinner at the South Taranaki Club and afterwards they go back to Daryl's house where they retreat to the Meccano room.

Meccano friends after a big night.





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>

Quote from the Online Parts Museum.

Binns Rd Chainmaker has a new home. It's languishing in a shed in Alberta, Canada.

Binns Road was equipped with two Chain making machines which lasted until the end of production. I should imagine wear on the machines would have affected the form over the years. Geoff Wright bought one of the machines on closure in a non-working state. It is still floating around the hobby somewhere. This of course meant that post Binns Road production needed to be made somewhere else.

Clive Weston



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://southwestmeccano.org.uk>

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

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

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

<https://nmmg.org.uk>

Other Countries

<http://www.meccanogilde.nl>

Meccano suppliers

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

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

<https://www.meccanospares.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

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>



Can you help?

Hello Johnny Meccano, Attached you will find 17 photos showing the chain making machine previously owned by Geoff Wright. Any suggestions on how we can repair this machine would be greatly appreciated. The mechanism to tighten and release the wire slips. The position of the knife seems to be unaligned with the wire guide. The knife does not move back and forth smoothly after each link is formed. The position of the knife to cut off the wire – there is a gap (should it be there or not?) the wire bends rather than cutting it off flush. The chain produced is stiff and not flexible. (is the die that I'm using too small to make it more flexible?)

In a length of chain 10 links should be produced but only 9 are being formed. I would appreciate any advice that you have.

All 17 photos can be seen here: <http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-139835> Regards John Overeem: mechatrix2000@gmail.com