

COLLECTORS' CORNER


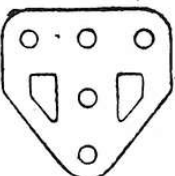



F LYWHEELS



BERT LOVE LOOKS AT MECCANO FLYWHEELS, INCLUDING AN EXCELLENT
REPLICA PRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF THE TRANSVAAL MECCANO GUILD



Fig. 1, below, a reproduction of an advertisement which appeared on page 3 of Meccano Magazine No. 20 for September/October 1921, showing the original Meccano Flywheel, Part No. 132. As can be seen, the Flywheel sold for two shillings and three pence!

111A.	Bolts		s. d
		1/2"	2 for 0 1
126A.	Flat Trunnions		each 0 2
132.	Fly Wheels		2 3
		2 1/4" diam. "	
133.	Corner Brackets		each 0 3
134.	Crank Shafts		1" stroke " 0 3

THANKS TO the efforts of genuine Meccano enthusiasts over the past five or six years, a whole range of hitherto obsolete Meccano parts have become available as replica parts made to original Liverpool specifications, and these have allowed modellers all over the world to reproduce many of the old and very popular Super Models of the 1925 - 35 decade. In each case it has been sheer enterprise on the part of overseas Meccanomen in most instances in getting hold of original designs and recruiting local and personal skill to get these rare items reproduced to the required standard.

The most recent replicas to appear on the scene are Meccano Part No.132 Flywheels which have been produced by the Transvaal Meccano Guild under the direction of Peter Matthews and a few devoted club members. A batch of three such replicas arrived at the author's home at Easter time this year and they are all illustrated in Fig.3. Three colours are available, namely the original black enamel, blue and red.

Fig.1 gives some idea of how long ago the original Meccano Flywheel arrived on the scene: it was announced with a whole range of other "New" Meccano parts in the Meccano Magazine for September/October 1921. Like all bossed wheels of the time, only one tapping was available for Set Screw fixing on the original design, but other than that, the design remained virtually unchanged until this part dropped out of production shortly after 1941, never to be re-instated by Binns Road. Both the original and the excellent replica parts illustrated here, are lovely pieces to handle and they certainly gave a real "engineering" touch to models of the period. There is a substantial 'weightiness' about the Meccano Flywheel hinting at an alloy with a high lead content to give weight and with other metals to increase the strength of the spokes. (Today, of course, the alloy chiefly used for die-cast toys is Mazak which is almost pure zinc with one or two other trace elements. Lead is not included, not