

In Search of New Models

The Fun of "Simplicity" Construction

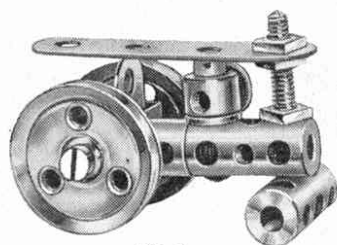


Fig. 1

FEW model-builders wish to desert their Outfits entirely during summer, and in any case it is certain that during the outdoor season there will be rainy days, the gloom of which can best be dispelled by a spell of active model-building. Yet sunshine calls us out of doors, and as less time is then spent in model-building than in winter we are drawing attention to the fun of building "simplicity" models. Models of this kind can be assembled in a few minutes, and the production of a successful effort is a matter rather of skill than of application.

The engineer's true merit is best revealed when he has to construct a mechanism with limited resources. This applies also to the Meccano model-builder, whose ingenuity and inventive ability is put to the test when he is called upon to construct his model with only a few parts. It is simple enough to bolt a few Strips or other parts together and call the finished model a locomotive or a ship, but it is not so easy to obtain a thoroughly realistic effect with the minimum of parts. Meccano parts have to be found that not only represent the outlines of the various sections of the prototype, but also are in keeping with the general proportions of the model, and it is in searching for the most appropriate parts that the fascination of this kind of model-building lies.

One great advantage of simplicity construction is that every model-builder can join in the fun. Trunnions, Flat Brackets and Cranked Bent Strips are included in all Outfits, and are particularly valuable parts for the construction of miniature models, while the range of the models themselves is unlimited, as the illustrations on these pages suggest.

An example of a small model ingeniously built up from a few simple parts is the racing car illustrated in Fig. 5. This has the right appearance, and is recognisable at a glance, although it is built up of a few Strips, with Angle Brackets and Double Brackets. The wheels are particularly well represented by Collars fitted with rubber tyres from a Dinky Toys Motor Car. There are several other Meccano parts that can be used with good effect as

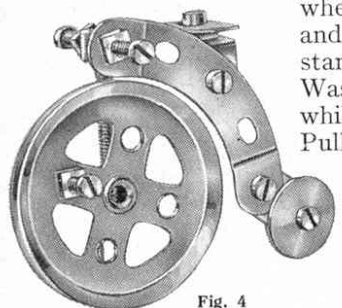


Fig. 4

wheels for simplicity motor cars and vehicles, however. For instance, in very small models Washers or Collars can be used, while for larger wheels the $\frac{1}{2}$ " Pulleys and $\frac{3}{4}$ " Discs are useful.

A realistic tyred wheel can be built up by fitting a Rubber Tyre from an Aeroplane Constructor Outfit on to the flange of a $\frac{3}{4}$ " Flanged Wheel.

An interesting racing scene can be arranged with several small cars of slightly different design, and a fine effect can be obtained by adding a simple Meccano stand on which are Dinky Toys figures to represent spectators. The cars can be shown either going round a corner on a steep bank, or approaching the finishing post in the straight. Miniature cars can also be used in garage scenes incorporating petrol pumps and oil bins. Small posters advertising various brands of petrol and oil can be placed on the garage walls, with excellent results, especially if they are printed in inks of different colours.

Couplings of different types have many uses in building simplicity models, as a glance at the models illustrated on this and the opposite page will show. The biplane shown in Fig. 7 contains both an Octagonal and an ordinary Coupling. The Coupling is used to form part of the fuselage, and two of the flat sides of the Octagonal Coupling provide convenient points of support for the wings, which are $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips. The propeller of the plane is neatly represented by two $\frac{3}{8}$ " Bolts screwed into the tapped holes of a Collar at the front of the fuselage.

Couplings are used for quite different purposes in the model "Rocket" locomotive shown in Fig. 9. In this case they are employed to represent the cylinders and the chimney. In the model warship shown in Fig. 10 the smoke stacks are Threaded Couplings held in place by Bolts.

Another part of great value in building miniature models is the Screwed Rod. This can be screwed into a Coupling or Collar, or fastened to a Strip by means of two nuts. In the model "Rocket" Locomotive a Screwed Rod forms the main support for the front end of the boiler. The Rod is screwed through the tapped hole of a $\frac{3}{4}$ " Flanged Wheel inserted in the end of a Sleeve Piece, and is secured to the undercarriage by two nuts. The rear of the boiler is supported by a $\frac{3}{4}$ " Disc, which is pressed into the end of the Sleeve Piece and fastened to the undercarriage by a $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Bracket. The cylinders are mounted on Hinges and oscillate in a most realistic manner when the model is pushed along.

A simplicity model in which a 2" Pulley is the central feature is the "penny-farthing" bicycle illustrated in Fig. 4. The Pulley forms the main wheel and is

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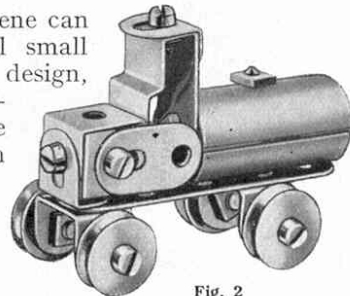


Fig. 2

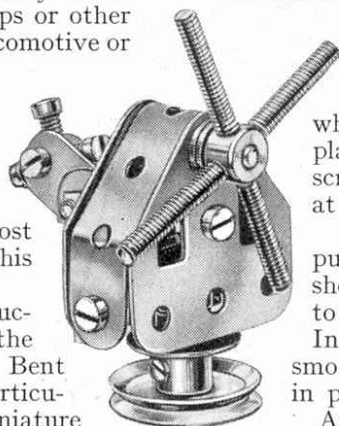


Fig. 3

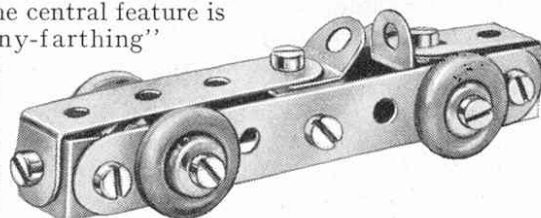


Fig. 5