

MECCANO MAGAZINE

TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS

Editorial

Thanks, boys!

I want to thank all you boys who have written me such nice things about the first number of our Magazine. Many of your letters are replied to in this number, but I appreciate those which I have not been able to deal with just as much. Every letter which you send me is carefully read, and, if I think it will interest the other boys, it will be replied to in the Magazine.

The New Manual.

Every post brings me enthusiastic letters of praise for the splendid prize-winning models which the 1916 Manual contains. To get full value from his outfit every Meccano boy *must* have this Manual.

Secure your Meccano.

Do not put off buying Meccano this year. Owing to great scarcity of materials and labour, the supply is limited, and many boys are going to be disappointed, I am afraid. Buy early—that is the only way to be sure of your outfit.

Meccano and the Air Raids.

Did you notice how many of the daily papers referred to the resemblance between the Meccano parts and the constructive parts of the recently wrecked Zeppelins? We are told that one boy asked his father why the Government allowed the Germans to buy Meccano from us.

The New £200 Competition.

The new competition is going very strong and entries are beginning to flow in. Don't be afraid to send in your new ideas, even if you only have one of the lower-priced outfits. A small model, if it contains a novel idea, stands just as good a chance of winning a prize as a big one.

Meccano Cheers up the Prisoners of War.

We have sent over a number of Meccano outfits to Prisoners of War in Germany. Time drags heavily with most of our poor fellows over there, and a number of them have asked us to send them a good outfit for the use of their camp. I shall have some very interesting things to tell you of these incidents a little later.

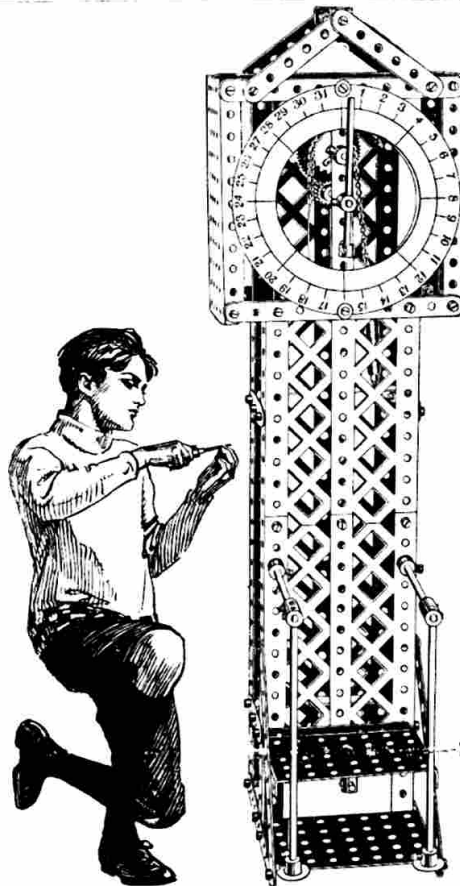
Boys who Hold the Record.

In our last issue I gave an instance of a boy of seven who had been a keen Meccano boy for two years. I have received a large number of letters from boys who tell me they commenced Meccano model-building at the age of 5, and now comes one from G. A., Rock Ferry, who says: "I think I can beat the record of G. T. I started Meccano when I was four, and I am now thirteen." That, I think, is a record which is not likely to be beaten. Perhaps some of the older Meccano boys will tell me how long they have been building with Meccano.

Novel Uses for Meccano.

The main purpose of the Meccano parts is of course to build working models, but I hear of many novel uses to which they have been put. The other day I saw a boy wheeling his little brother in a pram, the broken parts of which had been neatly repaired with Meccano strips. Certain Meccano parts have lately been used for a very serious purpose in connection with the war. I should like any of my readers who know of any strange or useful purposes to which Meccano has been applied, to write me.

The Editor



The Meccano Automatic Weighing Machine

This is a splendid new model, easy to make and most useful. The inventor, who is a very ingenious Meccano boy, was awarded a good prize for it in our last Grand Contest. The model can be scaled to weigh small parcels accurately. Full instructions for making it will be found in the New Meccano Manual.

More Prizes for Meccano Boys

We often receive very interesting letters from enthusiastic boys telling us of the pleasure they derive from their Meccano outfits, and some of these letters show unusual literary merit. We now offer a prize of a No. 2 Meccano outfit for the best essay on "Meccano as a Toy," and a similar prize for the best essay on "Meccano as a help to the study of Engineering." The essays should not consist of more than 500 words, and must be received by us not later than January 1st, 1917. Any user of Meccano may try for these prizes.

The following well-known publications are offering Meccano outfits as prizes in the competitions which they are running this winter:—

"Pearson's Weekly," "Everywoman's Weekly," "The Scout," "Home Notes"

Some of you clever Meccano boys should have no difficulty in securing these outfits.

Our Next Issue.

A number of very interesting and useful articles on Meccano are crowded out of this number, and will have to be reserved for the next issue, which we hope to have ready early next year. Readers who desire to have the *Meccano Magazine* sent to them regularly should send us stamps to the value of 2d. to cover postage for the next four issues.

Meccano Fifteen Years Ago

BY THE INVENTOR OF MECCANO.

I suppose that to most of you boys, 15 years looks a very long time. Well, that's exactly how old Meccano is. I marketed it for the first time in 1901, under the name of "Mechanics Made Easy," and I can assure you that compared with Meccano of the present day it was a very crude article. There were no rectangular or sector plates, or cranks or couplings, and only a few patterns of wheels. The strips were made of tin and no attempt was made to display and box the parts as you see them nowadays. The foundation of the system was there, however, and has in no wise changed. The standardisation of the whole system, the equidistant holes, are the same now as they were then, and without these features the Meccano system would fall to pieces.

Experts who ought to have known, gentlemen who had sold toys all their lives, consulting engineers of some repute, whilst commending the idea assured me that the possibilities were so limited that the system would die an early death.

Still I pushed on, my greatest encouragement coming from boys like yourselves, strong sturdy boys, studious boys, weakly and ailing boys, who used to write and tell me how the hobby amused them, helped them, or relieved their dark hours of suffering. I believed in my invention and felt that its development was certain, and dependent only on its merits becoming understood. I improved all the parts, devised new ones, had others suggested to me, and with these I invented new models and improved the old ones, and greatly enlarged the scope of the hobby.

This constant and steady improvement had a great effect on the minds of the sceptics who had at first prophesied disaster, and by degrees their voices were hushed and they ceased to shake their heads over what they considered my folly. Boys and parents had been my staunchest friends from the beginning, but now engineers began to give me encouragement and prophesy great things for Meccano.

Dealers in toys woke up to the fact that a new era in toys had commenced; that boys were no longer contented to play with something which gave pleasure for an hour and was then thrown away, or which broke even before it had ceased to have the power of giving pleasure; that boys had brains and could be interested in things which stimulated serious thought and which called forth powers of invention and ingenuity hitherto stifled for lack of an outlet. They commenced to study the hobby for themselves, and with study came appreciation. They became as eager as I was to get as much of it into British homes as they could, and as confident as I was that it would become part of the family life wherever there were boys in the home. All the leading dealers in London and in the Provinces co-operated with me in a manner which was most gratifying, to make Meccano as widely known as possible, and I number amongst my best friends many of the keen-brained men in this country who have built up successful toy businesses.

In future issues I hope to tell you some interesting things about our patents and registrations, how our Manuals have come to be improved so greatly, the wonderful evolution of

the models, and the still greater possibilities which the new Meccano parts have opened up. I want to tell you also of my experiences in advertising Meccano, how we came to know and use the wonderful boys whom you see so busily working at the models in our Magazine advertisements and in our booklets. I should like to take all Meccano boys through our manufacturing departments and show them the fascinating processes by which our raw materials are converted into the beautiful parts which they build with, but our factory, big as it is, would never hold them all. Still, I hope very shortly to tell you many interesting things about this side of our business.

J. Hornby

Managing Director, Meccano Ltd.

The New Meccano Manual of Instructions



Have you secured your copy of this fine new Manual yet? No Meccano boy should be without it. It means happy evenings the entire winter through. If you were to commence now to make the 326 fine models which it contains, it would take you years to get through them. It establishes the superiority of Meccano once and for all, and it puts every other toy in the shade. It contains a large number of prize-winning models in the last two Meccano competitions, the work of boys, who have shown most extraordinary genius. It trebles the value of any outfit purchased last year or earlier. Get your copy at once from your regular dealer, or from us if you have any difficulty. Price, 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d., post free.

The "Evening News" says Meccano is First Favourite

In September this year the "London Evening News" offered prizes to its boy readers for a description of their favourite toys. The following extract from their issue of Sept. 30th shows what happened:—

To-day I am giving the result of the recent competition set for Section A, the members of which were asked to describe their favourite toys.

The prizes have been won by two boys, whose entries are most tidy, and the writing excellent in each case.

With few exceptions the favourite toy among boys is Meccano, with which the most wonderful toys may be constructed. I recently saw a fine bridge which opened, and a large windmill. I have also seen a crane.

So the first prize is awarded to a persevering nephew, Dennis Chaddock, who values his Meccano set more than anything else in the world. This is what he says:—

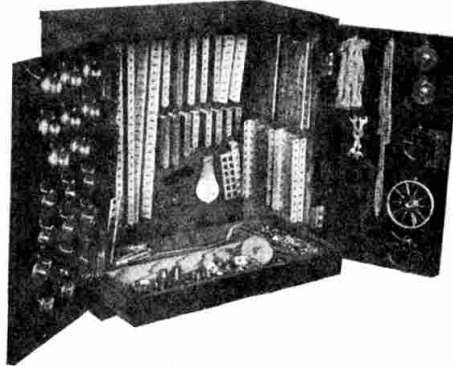
"My favourite toy is called Meccano, to build up real models and make them work. It is made of steel and brass, no wood. There are angle girders, steel plates, long and short strips, with holes in them to put nuts through and bolt them the other side.

"There are different sorts of wheels—flanged and grooved wheels, pulley wheels, worm wheels, and cog wheels of three sizes, contrate wheels, and bush wheels.

"A Meccano clockwork motor was given to me on my birthday to drive the models."

Meccano Storage Cabinets

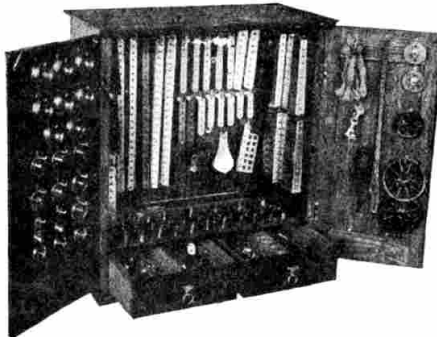
These are just what Meccano boys require to store their Meccano parts in when not in use. The cardboard boxes in which most of the outfits are supplied, whilst strongly made, will not bear hard usage, and, if they become damaged, the parts are liable to get scattered or lost. The Meccano Cabinets provide strong, orderly accommodation for good supplies of each part and add to the comfort and pleasure of model-building.



No. 1 CABINET.

Splendidly made and finished in cypress, with accommodation for the contents of any outfit up to No. 6. There are suitable hooks for the strips, girders, plates, wheels, &c., and a sliding tray with divisions, to hold the smaller parts. The dimensions of this Cabinet are 16½ in. high by 16 in. wide by 8 in. deep. It is fitted with lever lock and key.

No. 1 Cabinet, 35s.



No. 2 CABINET.

This Cabinet is made in oak, beautifully finished, and an ornament in any house. It stands 18 in. high by 17 in. wide by 8½ in. deep, and is fitted with lever lock and key. It holds the contents of any outfit up to No. 6, with suitable hooks for the strips, girders, plates, &c., and studs for the wheels. There is good drawer space for the nuts and bolts and other small parts. This Cabinet, well stocked with parts, is something for the Meccano boy to be proud to possess. No. 2 Cabinet, 60s.

Our illustrations show the Cabinets stocked with Meccano parts, but of course these are not included in the prices given.

New Meccano Boys, Please Note

Each Meccano outfit is complete with all parts and tools necessary for building models. Full instructions are included and the youngest boy can commence to build at once without study. An accessory outfit may be purchased at any time enabling bigger and more interesting models to be built. Additional parts may also be purchased separately, at prices given in our published lists.

Remember that though boys play with Meccano for pleasure, and though they get more genuine fun from it than from any other toy, it also gives them a sound knowledge of engineering. Through playing with Meccano, many a bright boy has been started on a prosperous career in one of the most important and profitable professions—engineering and mechanics.

Meccano in Other Lands

As our readers will readily believe, the distribution of Meccano amongst boys who reside abroad is fraught with great difficulties just now. Before the war, German and Austrian boys were very fond of Meccano, which they purchased in large quantities through our branch in Berlin. This business is all stopped now, of course, and we have information that the German Government have appropriated all our assets in that country. Our Berlin manager was interned in Ruhleben for 12 months, and was sent home as an invalid last December. That, however, is another and very interesting story, which we hope to tell you in a future issue. In the meantime, all business with enemy countries is at an end.

In France and Italy, in common with all toys, Meccano can only be imported after a special license has been granted. The boys in these and in all the allied countries are playing with Meccano in increasing numbers. The *Meccano Magazine* is published from our branch in Paris, and the letters we receive from boys on the Continent show us that they are second to none in their enthusiasm for Meccano.

Colonial boys are keen Meccano boys, and we export plenty of Meccano to them. They take the greatest interest in our new models, and are becoming formidable competitors in our Prize Contests. We get letters from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, where we have Meccano depôts; and in India and all the smaller Colonies Meccano fires the mind and brightens the play hours of thousands of boys.

The Neutral Countries have long succumbed to the fascination of Meccano, and in America, Holland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark the demand grows greater year by year.

Meccano literature is published in fifteen languages, and there are seven distinct editions of our big Manual of Instructions, for various countries. Wherever there are civilised boys, there you will find Meccano. The little Dutch boy in his wide trousers and funny little wooden shoes is building windmills with Meccano after the pattern of those which make his country so quaint and picturesque; the little Chinese boy in pigtail and gown is fitting together his Meccano parts after the fashion of the wonderful pagodas which abound in his land; the American boy builds model skyscrapers, wonderful creations fitted with elevators to raise the passengers up to the dizzy heights. Boys in every land build models peculiar to their country, and all get their pleasure and fun from it in their own way.

Meccano Sprocket Wheels and Chain

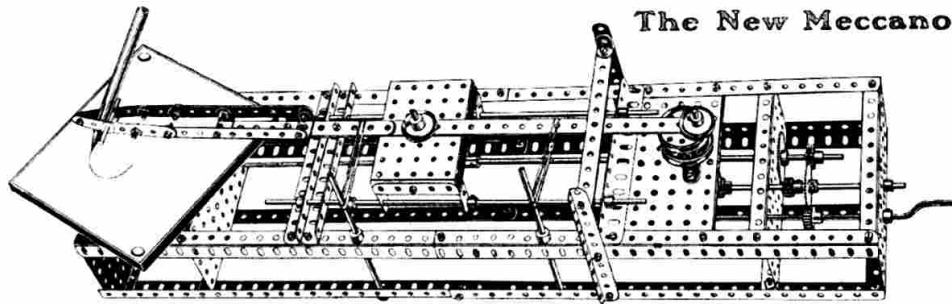
These are new Meccano parts which every boy will find useful. The old way was to use two pulley wheels with a cord. After a little use, the cord stretched a little and commenced to slip, causing the model to stop. By using the sprocket wheels and chain you get a positive drive without fear of slipping and the model runs with the greatest certainty. The cost of the 2 in. sprocket wheels is 6d. each, and the 1 in. wheels 4d. each. Sprocket Chain, 9d. per yard length.



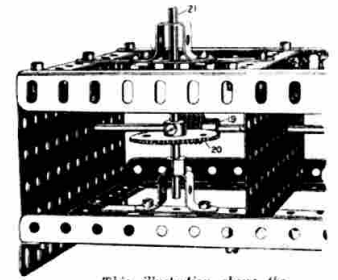
A New Meccano Wheel

These are most useful when constructing Motor Cars, Trucks, Carriages of all kinds. They are 3 in. in diameter, and they greatly improve the appearance and working of the models. Finished in black. Price, 1s. 4d. set of four.





The New Meccanograph



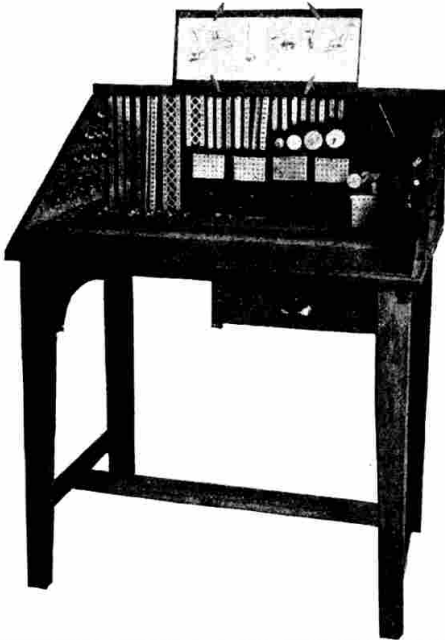
This illustration shows the mechanism for rotating the table.

As we hinted in our No. 1 issue, we have been devoting considerable attention to this model, as we consider it to be one of the very finest which Meccano makes. The model which is now illustrated is an improvement on the one in our Manual of Instructions, which it supersedes. We have endeavoured to show the construction as clearly as possible, and we do not think that any boy will experience difficulty in building it. Care should be taken to oil all the working parts and to see that the handle turns smoothly and easily. In making designs the best plan is to use a fine, hard, fountain pen, and good, hard, smooth paper. It will be noticed that elastic bands are used to hold the arm steady. These are necessary in a transverse movement of the arm. They also keep the arm steady in a

slidable movement. A small weight placed on the arm just behind the pencil is also effective for this purpose.

Every Meccano boy should make and enjoy this model; the designs which it makes are beautiful and without limit. We are issuing a special Meccanograph Manual, which will be ready very shortly and which will show in detail the various types of designs obtainable, and how the Meccano standardised parts enable definite results to be obtained. The cost will be 6d. or 8d. post free. This should be ordered at once.

As already announced, we offer a prize of a No. 3 Meccano Outfit for the best set of 12 designs made with the Meccanograph sent in to us before January 31st, 1917. Mark envelopes "Meccanograph."



The Meccano Bench

This bench will be more than welcome to every Meccano boy who has accumulated a large number of Meccano parts. Each strip, plate, wheel, &c., has its proper place, and there are receptacles for the nuts and bolts and other small parts. The Manual is held conveniently for reference. Although there is ample room for making the biggest Meccano models, the bench is compact and does not take up a large space.

The measurements are 3ft. 10in. high (without Manual holder), 3ft. 2in. long, and 2ft. deep.

It is very strongly made of the best materials, and the finish is of the highest grade.

Price of bench (without parts) £5.

Paragraphs which we want all Meccano Boys to Read

THE TEST OF SUCCESS. If you want to know whether you are destined to be a success or not, you can easily find out. The test is simple and infallible. Are you able to save money? If not, drop out. You will lose. You may think not, but you will lose as sure as fate, for the seed of success is not in you.—James J. Hill.

NEAR SUCCESS. It is the people who do a little more than others who walk away with the prizes. In a competitive examination the marks of the two highest competitors differed by the fraction of one per cent. The winner was given a travelling scholarship, entitling him to a year in a foreign university with all expenses paid. The other got nothing.

Some people are fond of telling by what a narrow margin they have missed success, and if they get any consolation out of the practice they should take it, for that is all they do get. To come near to succeeding is only failure, after all.—"Young People's Weekly."

Chaff

The Editor of the *Meccano Engineer*, the American edition of the *M. M.*, when writing us of some of his experiences recently, says:—

The other morning we handed to our shiny-faced negro messenger two bottles of gum to try out. "Here, John," we said, "try these and see which is the stickiest!"

John did not show up at the office again till next day. He approached our desk, and gingerly deposited thereon the two bottles of mucilage.

"Well, John," we asked, "which did you find the stickiest?"

"It wuz lak dis, boss," was the reply. "Dis one gummed up my mouf de most; but de other one, de taste lasted de longest."

And that reminds us that once when we were taking a walk through a very small village in Kentucky, we dropped across an old negro who was fishing with a rod and line in a pool of water in the middle of the road. We said to him: "You won't catch any fish there, Jake."

"Ah know dat, boss."

"Why, that's only a pool of water left there by the rain this morning."

"Ah know dat too, boss."

"Then what are you fishing there for?"

"Well, it's lak dis, boss. I see jes showing my old woman dat ah ain't got no time to tu'n de mangle."

A New

£200 PRIZE CONTEST

1st Prize £50 in Cash. 140 other prizes

Another grand Meccano Contest has started, and we want every boy to have a try for one of the big money prizes. These contests help the Meccano fun along and make model-building worth while. If you invent something new you prove yourself to be an original thinker, and if there is merit in it you get well paid for your work. The first thing to do is to study all the models which you make from the Manual of Instructions, and think out improvements on them. This gets your brain at work on new ideas, and it is just those ideas which we want. If you are contented to simply copy the Meccano models as you see them, you will never be successful in inventing anything new. Get to work now. See what the other fellows have done in the last two big competitions, and then go to work on something better. Do not forget the entry form; your dealer will give you one or we will post one to you on request.