

Single and Double Flyboats

The two Meccano models described in this leaflet represent popular pleasure fair attractions. When set in motion by means of the Meccano Electric Motor they present a very realistic appearance, and are entirely automatic in operation.

VERY boy will be familiar with the huge roundabouts, scenic railways and oscillating swing boats which form such prominent features at most seaside resorts and country fairs, and he will no doubt have many pleasant memories of happy hours spent riding first on one and then on another of these jolly machines. It is doubtful, however, if he will be equally familiar with the very enjoyable ride that may be had in a car of such a machine as the Revolving Flyboats, a model of which is shown on this page. This device, although not so much in evidence as various other mechanical amusements, is nevertheless a warm favourite with thousands of boys and girls in some parts of the country. It is perhaps principally on account of its necessarily huge size that it is not met with more frequently.

It is indeed an exhilarating experience to step into one of the little cars and to be carried high into the air and then as the car descends to the ground, to see the earth apparently rushing out to meet it! A typical structure of this nature stood for many years at Blackpool, in Lancashire, but unfortunately it has recently been condemned as unsafe and has had to be dismantled. It was known as the "Big Wheel" and during its long life it has been a source of pleasure to countless thousands of holiday makers. It formed a very conspicuous landmark that could be seen from many miles around.

The construction of the Blackpool Big Wheel was commenced

in February, 1896, and the following August saw the giant structure thrown open to the public. The erection was carried out by Lieutenant W. B. Bassett, R.N. and a staff of 250 men. Most of the metal used in the various ties and struts was Scotch Steel, while the spokes and driving cables were manufactured from Lancashire steel cable. From the ground to the topmost girder the height of the structure was 220 feet—the tip of the wheel being 260 feet above sea level! The total weight of the wheel with its 30 cars attached was 1,000 tons, while its superficial area for painting purposes was estimated at 2,000 square yards!

The vast size of this great wheel may perhaps be better realised when it is learned that 2½ tons of paint were necessary in order to apply two coatings to the steelwork! Each of the carriages weighed 3 tons 3 cwt., and was capable of carrying 30 passengers—giving a grand total of 900 passengers

that could be carried at one time.

The

steel

The rim of the wheel itself was built of steel girders bolted together and was suspended from the axle by 120 wind ties and spokes of steel cable. For rotating the wheel giant steel cables were used, the total length of which was 3,132 feet, or 3 of a mile! The splicing on these two cables was recognised as the longest spliced joints in the

Although differ in some

world.

massive

tons!

huge wheel was

mounted on a

axle, the cir-

cumference of

which measured

6 feet 10 inches,

the axle having

a weight of 30

Fig. 2. Base of the Single Flyboats. Meccano The construction of the Approach model Flyboats and Gangway is shown quite clearly.

respects from the structural design of the Blackpool Wheel the underlying principle is the same as that on which most Big Wheels and Flyboats are designed. We would refer those boys who wish to build a more accurate model of the Blackpool Wheel to the Meccano Instructions Manual, which contains illustrations and constructional details for building a model that is fashioned to a great extent on this famous pleasure wheel (see Model No. 6.6). Construction of the Single Flyboats

It is convenient when constructing a model of this description to commence

by building up the base, which is shown in Fig. 2. It is of quite simple design and will give little trouble to the builder. The two 12½" Angle Girders 1 are bolted to the edges of a 12½" Braced Girder 2, care being taken to ensure that the flanges of the upper and lower Angle Girders project in opposite directions as indicated in the illustration. Four complete sides are required, and when built these may be bolted together in the form of a square, by means

of 2" Angle Girders bolted at each corner. The base is filled in by $3\frac{1}{2}$ " $\times 5\frac{1}{2}$ " and 41"×21" Flat Plates 5 and 3 respectively and these should be secured rigidly in the positions. shown.

Having completed the construction the base, the approach and steps may receive attention as follows. A $5\frac{1}{9}'' \times 3\frac{1}{9}''$ Flat Plate 6 is bolted to a 51" Angle Girder that is in turn secured to the base. To the upper edge of the Plate 6 a second 5½"

Angle Girder is bolted and this in turn carries a $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ Flat Plate 6a. At the rear end of the Plate 6a is a 21 Angle Girder supporting a 21 Braced Girder

9, and a second $5\frac{1}{3}'' \times 2\frac{1}{3}''$ Flat Plate 8 bolted in the position shown carries two $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders 10. To these latter the 3\frac{1}{2}" Braced Girders 7 are to be bolted.

6A

The approach steps 4 are built up from eight $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders bolted together in the manner shown, the upper end Angle Girders of the stairway when complete being bolted to the Flat Plate 6a.

Details of the Main Standards

Referring to the general view (Fig. 1) of the model it will be seen that both the main vertical standards are of similar construction, so it is only necessary to describe the construction of one of them.

The standard (see Fig. 3) is built up from two 181" Angle Girders 13.

to which are bolted two $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Flat Girders 14 overlapped one hole as shown in the illustration. The four columns 13 when completed are joined together at the foot by means of two $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders 12, bolted one at each side of the columns. At their upper ends the two centre columns are connected by means of Girder frames 16 and the outer "inclined" columns are secured in position by 1" Triangular Plates 17 that are bolted to the ends of the Girder Frames.

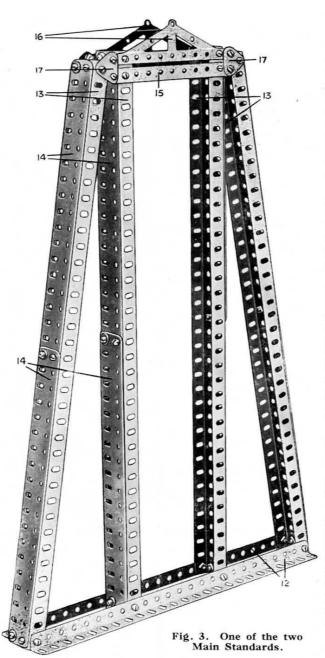
Building the Wheel and Cars

The revolving wheel that carries the eight cars is shown in Fig. 5. Each side is composed of eight arms, each of which consists of a $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip 18 that is secured by means of two Bolts to a centre Face Plate 21. $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips 20 bolted to the Strips 18 serve to hold the whole rigidly together.

After building two similar sides as described they may be joined together by means of 3\frac{1}{3}" Double Angle Strips 19, which are secured in position between each opposite pair of Strips 18. It is important that care is taken to ensure that the bosses and central bores of the two Face Plates are directly in line so that the wheel will revolve quite true about its axis when the various parts of the model are finally assembled. To correctly align the Face Plates it is advisable to place a length of Meccano Rod through their bores and then carefully re-adjust the Double Angle Strips 19 until the wheel runs free and true on the temporary axle. A little care is all that is necessary to construct a perfectly balanced wheel.

Altogether eight cars are required and each of these is constructed as follows (see Fig. 4). The lower portion is composed of $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$ Double Angle Strips 23 to the ends of which are secured 3" Strips 24 and 2" Strips 22. The backs and seats are constructed from further $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$ Double Angle Strips 23 while $2\frac{1}{2}''$ small radius Curved Strips 25 complete the sides of the cars.

Each car is provided with four $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips 26 that are bolted at one of their ends to the ends of the Curved Strips 25. The latter are held in the positions shown in the illustration by means of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips that are bolted to the ends of the upper Double Angle Strips 23.



Assembly of the Single Flyboats

Having completed the various portions of the model it remains now to assemble them in their respective positions. The first step is to attach to the base the two vertical standards (Fig. 3) that support the wheel. As will be seen from the general view the standards are bolted one at either side of the base. The bolts securing each standard pass through the Angle Girders 12 (Fig. 3) and through the fourth and seventh holes of the Flat Plates 5, counting the holes from the sides of the base (see general view).

To ensure perfect rigidity it is advisable to further secure each standard to the base by means of bolts and nuts passed through the Girders 12 about midway along their length. Having made sure that the main standards are perfectly secure, attention may be given to the moving parts of the model.

The wheel (Fig. 5) revolves on an 11½" Rod and to place it in position between the standards, the Rod should first of all be passed through the apex holes of the Girder Frame 16 (Fig. 3) of the outer standard. The Wheel may now be placed between the standards and the 11½" Rod passed through the Face Plates 21 (Fig. 5) then through the apex holes of the Girder Frames capping the opposite standard. It is held in position by means of two Collars secured to the Rod one at each end and placed against the faces of the Girder Frames 16.

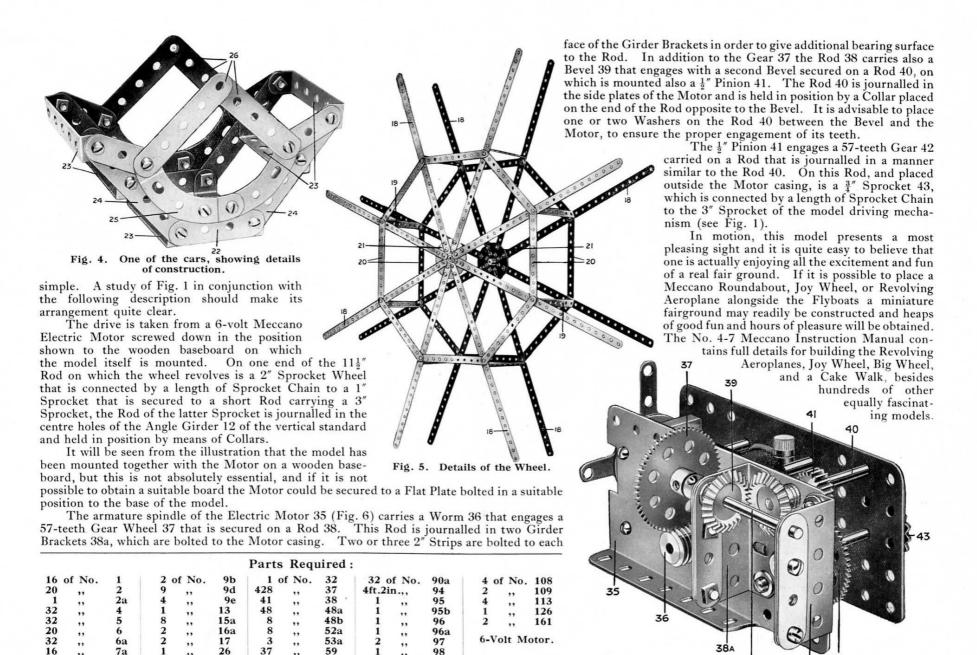
The wheel should be secured centrally on the Rod by tightening the set-screws of the Face Plates 21.

The next step is to attach the cars to the arms of the wheel. The method of doing this is illustrated in the general view (Fig. 1).

Each car is suspended pivotally on a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Rod that is journalled in the end holes of the Strips 18 (Fig. 5) that form the arms of the wheel. This Rod passes through the upper end holes of the Strips 26 (Fig. 4) and is held in position in the arms of the wheel by means of two Collars. As all the cars are suspended freely on their respective pivot Rods it will be found that as the wheel is rotated the cars maintain a horizontal position.

The Chain Drive Mechanism

The mechanism for rotating the wheel is very



3 Page 4

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27a

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3

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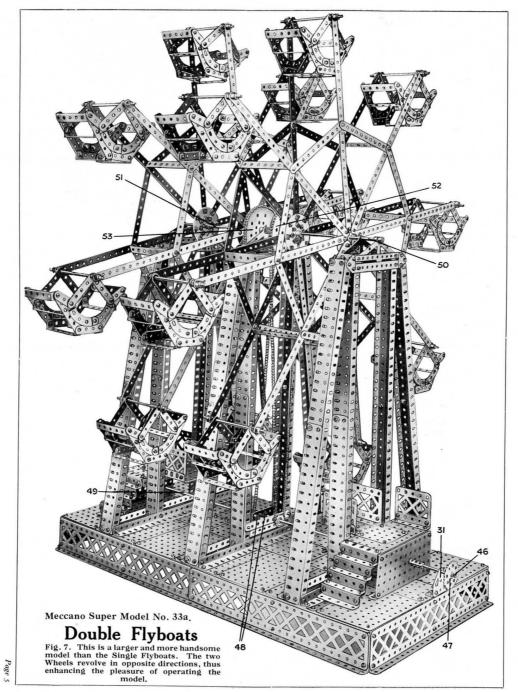
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103a

Fig. 6. View of the

Electric Motor unit and gearing



Meccano Super Model No. 33a

Double Flyboats

TITH certain exceptions the constructional details of the Double Flyboats (Fig. 7) are the same as those of the Single Flyboats. Two wheels (Fig. 5) are of course required and an additional main standard (Fig. 3). The design and construction of the cars is identical with that of the smaller model, as also is the arrange-

ment of the Electric Motor unit (Fig. 6). The base, however, is larger and the driving mechanism differs considerably from that of the Single Flyboats.

Fig. 8. Base of the Double Flyboats, showing the two Approaches.

are bolted to the base, one Trunnion being secured at each end of the base in the position indicated.

In this model each of the two wheels revolves on a separate axle 50 and 51 (Fig. 7). Each of the axles is journalled in the Girder Frames 15 (Fig. 3) of one of the outer vertical standards and its inner end is journalled in one only of the Girder Frames 16 of the middle standard. Collars on the inner and outer ends hold the Rod in position. Each axle carries at its inner end a 3" Sprocket 52 and 53 and these are connected by Sprocket Chain with 1" Sprockets that are carried on the Rods 46 and 49. These latter are journalled at their inner ends in 4½" Strips that are bolted to either side of the central

columns of the centre standard while their outer ends are journalled in Trunnions 31. Two 1" Pinions 48 are carried on the Rods 46 and 49, the Rods being journalled in suitable holes in the 41" Strips to enable the

Pinions 48 to engage.

It will be observed from Fig. 7 that the Rods 46 and 49 are both composed of a long and a short Rod joined together by means of a Coupling and that they pass through the Flat Plates 29 (Fig. 8) of the approaches.

The drive from the Electric Motor is imparted to the model by means of a 3" Sprocket 47 (Fig. 7) carried on the outer end of Rod 46, the Motor being mounted on the baseboard in a

suitable position to allow the Sprocket 43 (Fig. 6) to be connected by Sprocket Chain to the Sprocket 47 (Fig. 7).

Alternative Drive Incorporating Intermittent Motion

With the aid of the ingenious yet simple mechanism shown in Fig. 9

The base is constructed as follows: two 241" Angle Girders 27a (Fig. 8) to which are bolted two 121" Braced Girders 27 overlapped two

holes, form each of the larger sides of the base. Each end is formed from two 121" Angle Girders 32a and 121" Braced Gir-27A ders 32. The two sides and ends are connected together to form an oblong frame by means

of 2" Angle Girders used as corner pieces. The whole framework so formed may then be partially filled in with $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$ Flat Plates 34 bolted to each side of the frame. A space down the centre remains uncovered and this is filled in with six $4\frac{1}{3}$ " $\times 2\frac{1}{3}$ " Flat Plates overlapped one hole at their ends and also

overlapping the $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$ Flat Plates by one hole.

Double Flyboats: The Approaches

Each of the approaches is supported by a $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ Flat Plate 29 (Fig. 8) that is bolted to an Angle Girder secured to the base. A 51" Angle Girder supports the landing platform and the gangway 30, the Girder being bolted to the upper edge of the Flat Plate 29. Three 21" Braced Girders secured in the positions shown add to the appearance of the approaches.

As in the Single Flyboats the "steps" are formed from 21" Angle Girders The two Flat Trunnions 31 are bolted to 11/2" Angle Girders that in turn it is possible to make the operation of the Flyboats much more interesting and spectacular. It is a device by means of which intermittent rotary motion may be given to the Flyboat wheels, with the result that when set in motion the Wheels make one revolution or so and then come to rest for a few seconds as though to allow passengers to alight or embark. After this pause the wheels make another revolution, when the process is repeated

automatically and entirely without attention. This intermittent motion gives the model a very realistic appearance and is well worth the little extra trouble required to incorporate it in the model.

The photograph shows a convenient arrangement of the gearing, although of course the layout and general assembly of the necessary apparatus may be altered as desired to suit individual requirements. The Rod 1 forms the driven shaft, which conveys intermittent motion to the model. The drive from the Motor is led to a Worm Wheel 2 that meshes with a 57-teeth Gear Wheel 3, in the face of which two Threaded Pins 4 are secured as shown. For driving the Flyboats it is advisable to use one pin only and the other shown in the photograph should be removed. In the illustration the Gear Wheel 3 is secured to a short Rod journalled in a footstep bearing consisting of a Double Bent Strip bolted to a base plate.

Either the Single or the Double Flyboats may be fitted with the device and this will entail several minor alterations in the constructional details of the driving mechanism previously described. The necessary alterations are the same for both the Single and the Double Flyboats, and are of such simple character that no difficulty should be experienced.

To incorporate the intermittent mechanism into the Double Flyboats it will be necessary to remove the large Sprocket 47 (Fig. 7) and to replace it with a ½" Pinion that is driven by a Worm secured on a long Rod at right angles to Rod 46. The Rod of the Worm may be journalled in any suitable manner and must be long enough to project beyond the side of the model. This Rod carries on the opposite end to the Worm a 3" Sprocket that is connected by a length of Meccano Sprocket Chain with the 1½" Sprocket on the Rod 1 (Fig. 9) of the intermittent mechanism. These are the only alterations required to the standard layout of either the Single or Double Flyboats. This arrangement will result in the transferring of the Electric Motor from the position shown in Fig. 1 to the left (as seen in that view) of the base.

Automatic Operation of the Intermittent Mechanism

As the 57-teeth Gear Wheel 3 (Fig. 9) slowly rotates the Threaded Pin 4 alternately presses against the end of a $3\frac{1}{2}$ Rod 5, which is secured in a Coupling

mounted on a suitable pivot 6. On this Rod 5, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the Coupling, is mounted the boss of a Swivel Bearing, which forms a pivotal connection between the Rod 5 and a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Rod 7. This Rod 7 carries a Crank 8, through the end hole of which is journalled the driven shaft 1. The latter slides in its bearings and carries on its inner end one section of a Dog Clutch 9, the corresponding clutch section being secured next to the Worm 2 on the driving

Rod 2a. The Clutch is normally held in engagement by means of a Compression Spring mounted on the driven shaft and pressing against a Collar 10. This Spring, while retaining the Clutch in engagement, also tends to hold the lever 5 against the boss of the 57-teeth Gear Wheel 3.

When the Pin 4 strikes the lever 5, the Rod 7 is pushed back in its bearings. This movement is conveyed by means of the Crank 8 to the Rod 1, the Spring thereon is compressed and the clutch members 8 disengaged. The model is thus thrown out of gear and the Motor is free to rotate independently. It continues to do so until the movement of the Gear Wheel 3 has carried the Threaded Pin far enough to allow the Rod 5, through the action of the Spring on the Rod 1, to slip back into its normal position, when the Clutch is re-engaged. The Motor is now connected to the model and the latter is operated until the Threaded Pin again presses against the Rod 5. The cycle of operations is then repeated.

Fig. 9. The Intermittent mechanism. One of the Pins 4 should be removed when using this mechanism in connection with the Single or Double Flyboats.

Adjusting the Frequency of Operation

The speed ratio between the Motor and the Gear Wheel carrying the Threaded Pin has a direct bearing on the rapidity with which the cycles of operations take place. An

increase in the ratio will result in a corresponding increase in the time taken to complete each cycle, and vice versa. Hence, by altering the gear train attached to the Motor, it is a simple matter to vary the length of the periods during which the Model is at rest or in motion.

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