

# Fun for the Christmas Party

By "Spanner"

## Novelties Made From Meccano

THE Christmas season offers a fine opportunity for model-builders to display their ingenuity in devising from Meccano amusing games to entertain their party guests, and this month therefore we describe one or two items that show the possibilities in this direction, and which should prove a big attraction over the holidays. The first of these is a modified form of the old fairground "Aunt Sally" game.

In the Meccano model, which is seen in Fig. 1, three amusing figures are pivoted on a horizontal bar so that they can be knocked over by a missile such as a Washer, skilfully fired from a Meccano gun. When one of the figures is hit its head and shoulders disappear from view, and its legs appear on the underside of the stall!

The framework of the base is made by joining four  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders together in pairs to form two compound 24" girders. These are then connected at each end by a  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girder, and at the centre by two  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips. The space between the girders is filled in with eight  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip Plates. One end of the base is raised by two  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders bolted to 1" Corner Brackets fixed to the sides. The  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders are braced by  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips as shown.

The upright Girders of the stall are  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders (see Fig. 2) and they are connected at the top by  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips and  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders. The sides are filled in by  $5\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Flexible Plates.

The supports for the figures are made by bolting a

$1\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $\frac{1}{2}$ " Double Angle Strip to a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Flexible Plate. A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip 1 is attached to each of the lugs of the Double Angle Strip. One of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips is held by a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Bolt 2. The supports are pivoted on a compound rod mounted in the sides of the stall. This rod consists of a  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " and a 4" Rod joined by a Coupling,

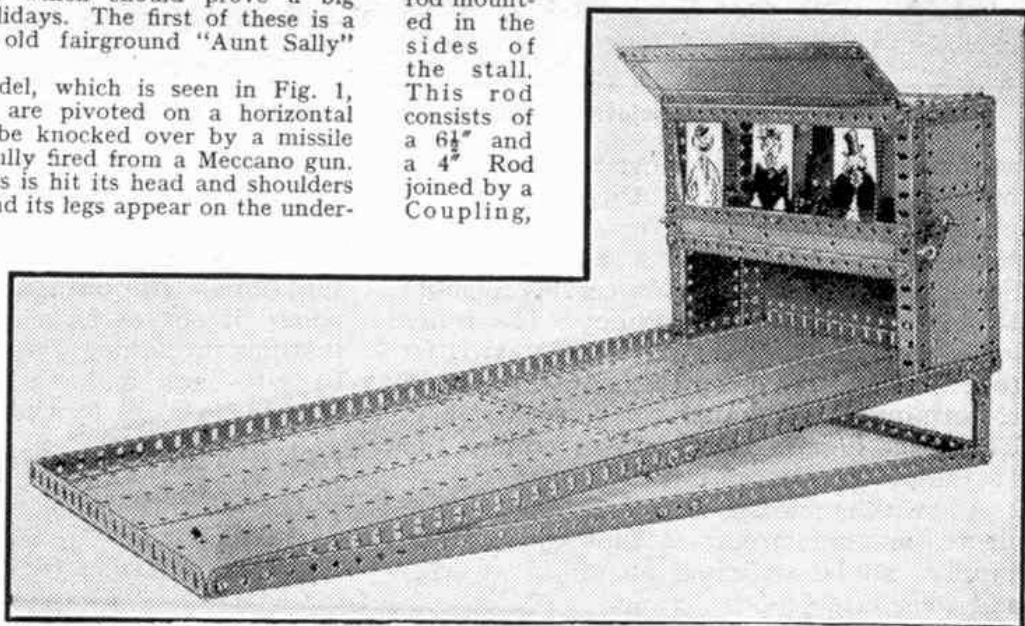


Fig. 1. An exciting Meccano Shooting Game based on the popular fairground "Aunt Sally."

and it is passed through the end holes of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips of the supports. The rod carries also three Cranks, arranged so that they engage the Bolts 2. A handle 3 is fixed at one end of the rod, and by turning this the supports and their figures can be raised to the required position for hitting.

The back of the stall is completed by bolting  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip Plates across the vertical Girders. The roof is also a  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip Plate, and a similar Plate is attached by Obtuse Angle Brackets to form an awning.

The construction of the gun is seen clearly in Fig. 3. The "barrel" consists of two  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders, and a Coupling 4 is fixed to the Girders by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Bolts. Washers are used to space the Coupling from the Girders. A 5" Rod is fixed in the Coupling, and a Collar 5 is free to slide on the Rod. A Spring is passed over a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " Bolt screwed into each of the tapped holes of the Collar, and the Bolts are fixed in position by nuts. The opposite ends of the Springs are held by  $\frac{3}{8}$ " Bolts fixed by nuts to 1" Corner Brackets bolted to the barrel.

The handle is formed by two  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips on each side of the barrel connected at their lower ends by a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip. Three Double Brackets are used to space the sides of the handle apart. The release mechanism consists of a 3" Rod 6 mounted in the barrel and in the centre Double Bracket of the handle. This Rod

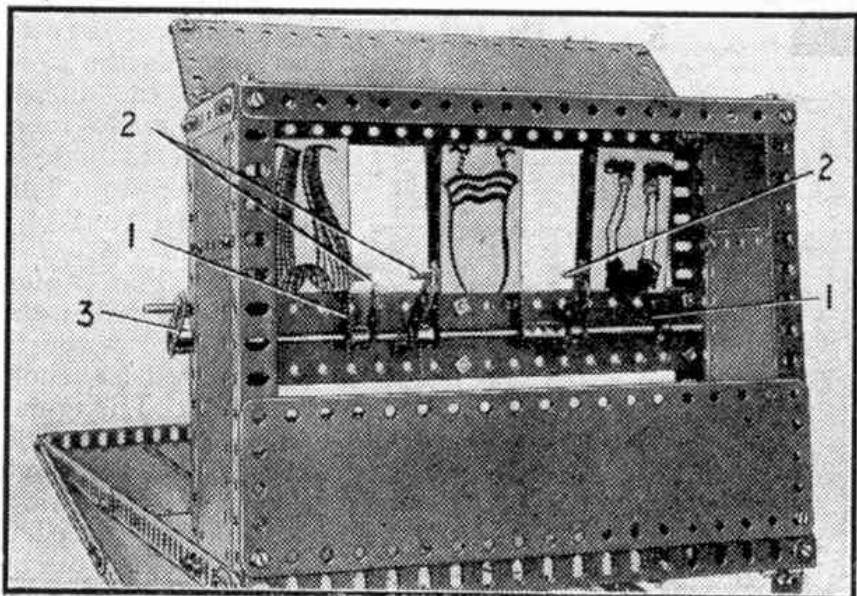


Fig. 2. A rear view of the Shooting Game, showing the arrangement for restoring the figures into position after they have been knocked down.

carries two Collars 7, and a Compression Spring fitted between the lower Collar and the Double Bracket normally forces the Rod upward. The Rod can be depressed by pressing a trigger formed by two Bell Cranks without bosses. These are lock-nutted to the handle and engage  $\frac{1}{8}$ " Bolts screwed into the upper Collar 7.

To load the gun the trigger is pressed and the Collar 5 pulled back against the Coupling 4. The trigger is then released and a Washer is placed on the Rod held in the Coupling 4. When the trigger is again pressed the Collar 5 is released and flies forward under the action of the Springs, so that it strikes the Washer and "fires" it towards the target.

The model is completed by drawing the heads and shoulders, and legs of three humorous figures on separate pieces of cardboard. The three cards depicting the heads are fixed to the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Flexible Plates of the stands by fine wire, and the legs are glued to Double Brackets bolted to the rear of the Flexible Plates.

Model-builders who do not possess sufficient Strip Plates to form the base of the model as described can replace these by a suitable sheet of cardboard the correct size, and Strips can be substituted for Angle Girders in the framework of the stall.

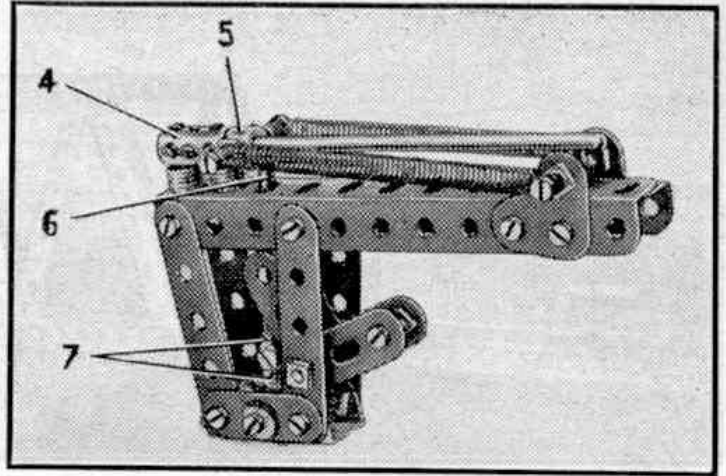


Fig. 3. The simple gun used with the Shooting Game.

chicken from diving too greedily into his food. Suitable figures should be drawn on paper and gaily coloured. The paper should then be glued to thick cardboard and the figures carefully cut out. They are bolted to the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips 1 as shown.

**MECCANO CHESSMEN**

Meccano has been used on many interesting purposes apart from ordinary model-building, and one novel application is shown in the useful set of Chessmen illustrated in Fig. 4. Meccano users who are also chess players will find this a good way of providing an emergency chess-set in the absence of the real thing! Although a game of chess is not a very suitable form of entertainment for youngsters at a jolly Christmas party, father and the older folks may be glad of a quiet game at the end of the evening. Here then is a chance for the Meccano boy to use his Outfit to good purpose.

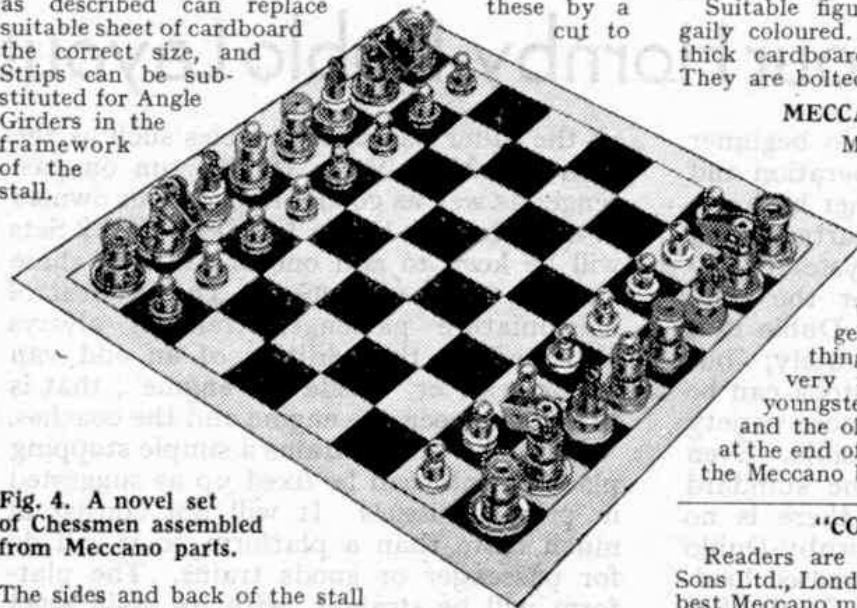


Fig. 4. A novel set of Chessmen assembled from Meccano parts.

The sides and back of the stall can be filled in with cardboard.

Parts required to build the Shooting Game:

- 4 of No. 1; 7 of No. 1a; 6 of No. 5; 8 of No. 6a;
- 4 of No. 8; 4 of No. 8a; 4 of No. 8b; 2 of No. 9;
- 2 of No. 9d; 9 of No. 11; 2 of No. 12c; 1 of No. 14;
- 1 of No. 15; 1 of No. 15b; 1 of No. 16b; 3 of No. 35;
- 110 of No. 37; 8 of No. 37a; 22 of No. 38; 2 of No. 43;
- 3 of No. 48; 4 of No. 59; 4 of No. 62; 2 of No. 63;
- 6 of No. 111a; 4 of No. 111c; 1 of No. 115; 1 of No. 120b; 2 of No. 127; 4 of No. 133a; 2 of No. 189; 2 of No. 190; 2 of No. 192; 4 of No. 196; 8 of No. 197.

**A NOVEL WORKING TOY**

A simple toy that can be easily and quickly assembled, and which will keep the younger members of the family amused, is shown in Fig. 5. This toy is operated by sliding the horizontal  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips in opposite directions. This causes the farmer's wife to fill the food trough and the chicken to attack his meal vigorously.

The  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips are connected by lock-nutted bolts to the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips 1, and the food trough is supported by a Trunnion bolted to the  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip. A Fishplate 2 is fixed to the lower  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip, and acts as a stop to prevent the

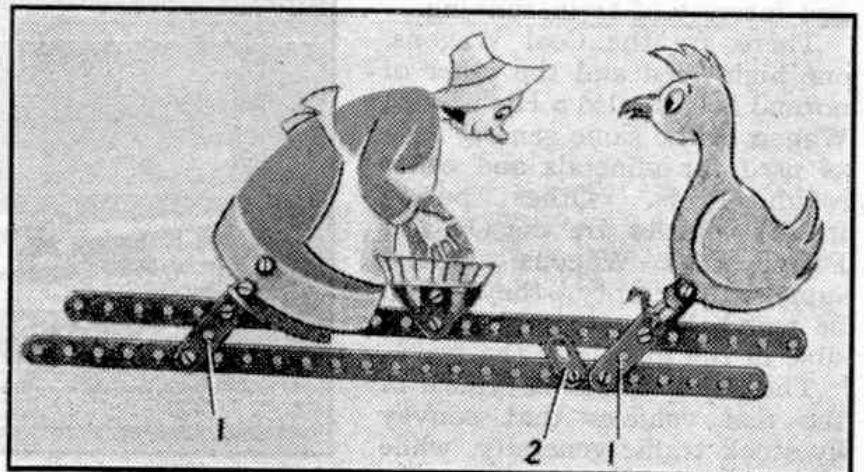


Fig. 5. This "Farmer's wife and pecking hen" toy forms an amusing novelty for a young child.

**"COLLIS TRUCK" CONTEST**

Readers are reminded that Messrs. J. Collis and Sons Ltd., London, are offering fine cash prizes for the best Meccano models of their well-known Collis Lifting Truck. Full details of this offer were announced in the November issue of the "M.M." The Competition is open to all Meccano model-builders, and is divided into Home and Overseas Sections. The Home Section will close on 31st January, 1949, and the Overseas Section on 30th April, 1949.

Entries for the Competition should be addressed "Collis Truck Competition, Meccano Ltd., Binns Road, Liverpool 13."