

Illuminating Meccano Models

Fascinating Effects with New Lighting Set

MOST Meccano boys are familiar with the fascinating appearance of the large models illuminated by electric lamps that are displayed at Christmas time in the windows of Meccano dealers. Similarly attractive effects can be produced by illuminating smaller models, and to enable this to be carried out there has been introduced the new Meccano Electric Lighting Set.

The parts contained in the Lighting Set are shown in Fig. 2. They consist of two lanterns, one stand lamp, two special brackets, and two pea lamps. The lanterns are intended for use as the head-lamps of model cars or for flood-lighting purposes. The chromium-plated fronts are detachable, and three pairs of celluloid discs are supplied to fit. One pair is coloured green, and another red; while the third pair is of clear celluloid to represent the anti-dazzle fronts that are often fitted to the lamps of present-day cars. Two special brackets are supplied for fixing the lamps in position, as desired, on Meccano models. The two pea lamps included are each fitted to a length of twin flex, and clips are provided for connecting them to a flashlamp battery. The clips grip the brass strips on the battery, and are fitted with terminals for connecting the wires from the lamps. The stand lamp, complete with shade, is intended for decorative purposes, and is particularly effective when used with models of various items of furniture.

An ordinary 4-volt flashlamp battery should be used for lighting the lamps. This battery is not supplied with the Set, but can be obtained from any electrician or cycle dealer. It is important that the lamps should not be connected to a battery with a greater voltage than 4.5. If desired, they can be lighted from the 3.5-volt output sockets on the Meccano Transformers T6A and T20A.

A few typical uses of the Lighting Set are illustrated on this page. The use of the lanterns as headlamps is seen in Fig. 3. Here they are attached by means of Flat Brackets to the radiator of the model car, the battery being housed quite conveniently beneath the bonnet. Each pea lamp is held in a slot in the back portion of the head-lamp, the bulb being inserted before the front of the headlamp is fitted in position. The front fits tightly over the back to hold in place both the celluloid disc and the

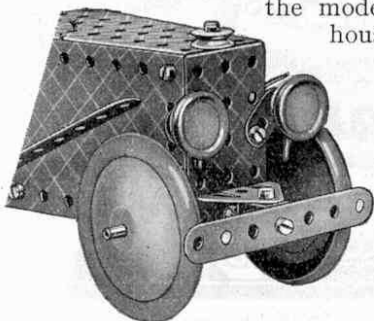


Fig. 3. Headlamps on a model Car.

pea lamp in its slot.

Fig. 1 shows a model drilling machine with an inspection lamp in position to light up the work table. In this case the lamp is attached by its special bracket to an Angle Bracket mounted on an extension of the frame of the drill. The small sleeve of the pea lamp can be seen protruding from its slot, and at the rear of the drill are two terminals and clips for connection to the battery.

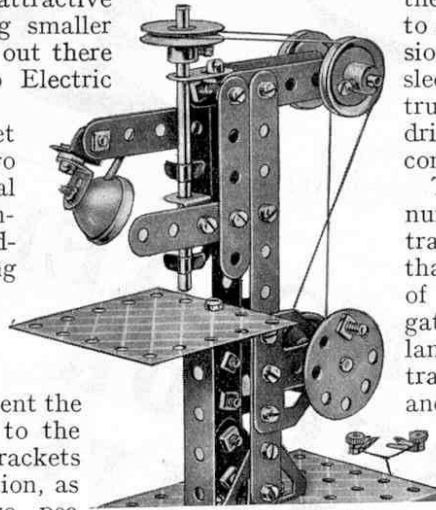


Fig. 1. An inspection lamp fitted to a model Drilling Machine.

The applications of these lamps are very numerous, and a few of them are illustrated in the Instruction Manuals. Models that are greatly improved by the addition of the lamps are buffers and level-crossing gates, in which the red front is fitted in the lamps to indicate danger to oncoming trains or road traffic. By mounting a red and a green lamp together a colour-light railway signal can be made, and great fun can be had from a complete signalling system arranged on these lines. Road traffic control signals can be made in a similar manner.

The coloured discs can be employed effectively also for the port and starboard lights of ships.

The lamps can be used in many working models, such as horizontal engines, etc., to illuminate the moving parts of the model, and a very striking effect is obtained when the model is set to work in a dark room and the lamps are lighted up. Lamp standards can be made for use on model railways or goods yards, and working model cranes can be fitted with flood-lights to light up the scene of operations. Other obvious uses for the lamps are in connection with such models as warehouses, railway stations, fairground models, motor buses and tramcars, etc.

A model watch stand provides a practical use for the Lighting Set, a lamp being arranged in such a manner that it shines on the face of the watch. Various novel uses for the pea lamps are indicated in the Manuals. For instance, in one case the lamps are used, separately, to represent the eyes of a model Spaniel; and elsewhere an ingenious representation of a blacksmith's fire is produced from opaque red paper under which a pea lamp is placed.

The applications of the table lamp will be understood from Fig. 4. In this case the lamp is placed on a miniature bedside table, and when it is illuminated adds considerably to the attractiveness of the model.

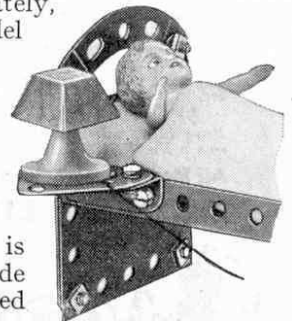


Fig. 4. Showing a use for the stand lamp.

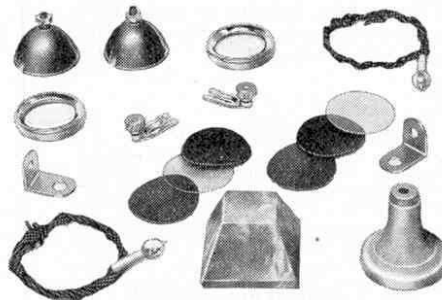


Fig. 2. The components of the Lighting Set.