



BIG PRIZES FOR SMALL MODELS

THE Model-building Contest this month has been organised on new and original lines and will form an interesting test for every Meccano boy who enters it, no matter what his age may be or how big the Outfit he possesses. The title of the Contest—"Simplicity"—has special bearing on the type of model that is to be entered.

In previous contests we have found that while many of the larger models submitted have been designed on efficient and practical lines, their construction was unnecessarily complicated. It is quite a common occurrence for even the best model-builders to err on the side of using too many parts, where fewer and simpler parts would fulfil the required functions efficiently, and to prove that the average Meccano boy can make good use of his inventive ability we are organising this contest.

The Importance of Resourcefulness

The engineer's true merit is best shown when he is endeavouring to construct a mechanism with a minimum of material or with parts that are not most suited to the purpose. Similarly the inventive genius of the Meccano boy will be more readily brought out when he is "up against it," that is, when he has not every desired article and implement at hand with which to construct his model.

Do not imagine, however, that, in entering this Contest you are restricted to any specified number of parts. You may use any number or variety of parts that you wish, but the prizes will be awarded to those boys who succeed in constructing the most ingenious models with the *smallest number of parts*. Neither should you think that this Contest is for the owner of a small Outfit only, as it is possible to employ in the construction of simple models and mechanisms many Meccano accessories such as Cranks, Gear Wheels, Couplings, etc., that are not to be found in the smaller Outfits. The competitor who submits the smallest model will not necessarily obtain the First Prize.

It is possible, of course, to bolt together two or three Strips and a few Pulleys, and call the finished model a motor car (or even an aeroplane!) but such a machine would have little chance of obtaining a prize! You should first choose a prototype and then build your model with the smallest number of Meccano parts consistent with a realistic effect.

There is another factor that gives every model-builder, no matter what his age, an excellent chance of carrying off a prize, and that is originality. Every Meccano boy has a certain originality, which he naturally expresses when he is designing and building his model. Hence, a long-experienced Meccano boy may submit an excellently designed and neatly constructed model, but the latest recruit to the Meccano family might quite easily hit upon a really novel idea for a model and carry off

the prize! There is therefore quite an element of excitement in the contest, and we predict plenty of fun and friendly competition amongst model-builders.

Rules Governing Entry

When you have completed your model, the question arises as to what particulars and illustrations should be submitted. Whilst a good photograph is preferable to a drawing, it is far better to forward a clear drawing if the photos turn out indistinct or are too small to enable the essential features of the model to be discerned. It is usually advisable to submit a short description of the model, although in the case of a very simple model a description might be superfluous. Photos or drawings need not be your own work, but the model itself must be entirely the result of your own unaided efforts.

No entry forms are needed, but you must take special care to see that your name, address and age appear on the back of each sheet of paper or photograph that you submit, and also the Section in which your model is to be entered. Address the envelope containing your entry "Simplicity" Contest, Meccano Ltd., Old Swan, Liverpool.

Your photograph or drawings, if unsuccessful, will be returned provided that a stamped addressed envelope of the necessary size is enclosed. It should be noted, however, that photographs of prize-winning models become the property of Meccano Ltd.

More than one model may be entered in the Competition, but all entries from any single competitor must be sent under the same cover. No single competitor can win more than one prize; if he sends two or more models they will be considered jointly.

Entries will be divided into three Sections: Section A, for competitors over 14 years residing in Great Britain; Section B, for those under 14 years residing in Great Britain; Section C, for readers of all ages residing Overseas.

Home and Overseas Closing Dates

Although in previous contests we have been compelled to reject numerous entries because they were received a day or so after the closing date, there can be no excuse for the tardy model-builder this time, for the closing dates for the "Simplicity" contest have been specially extended.

30th April, 1929, is the last day on which entries may be received from competitors entering in the Home Sections (A and B). Overseas readers entering in Section C must forward their entries so that they reach Liverpool not later than 31st July, 1929. The ample time allowed for construction, coupled with the original and interesting nature of the contest itself, should produce a record number of outstanding entries and we trust that Meccano boys will once more live up to their reputation!

THE PRIZES

The Prizes to be awarded in Sections A and C are as follows:—

First Prize: Meccano products to value three guineas.

Second Prize: Meccano products to value two guineas.

Third Prize: Meccano products to value one guinea.

Six prizes, each consisting of Meccano Double Headphones, or Meccano Crystal Receiving Set.

Twelve prizes, each consisting of Meccano products to the value of 5/-.

A limited number of Certificates of Merit and complimentary copies of "Meccano Standard Mechanisms" Manuals will be awarded in each Section.

The Prizes in Section B are as follows:—

First Prize, Meccano products to value two guineas.

Second Prize: Meccano products to value one guinea.

Third Prize: Meccano Double Headphones, or Crystal Receiver.

Six Prizes, each consisting of Meccano products to the value of 5/-.

Twelve Prizes, each consisting of a Complete Instructions Manual.