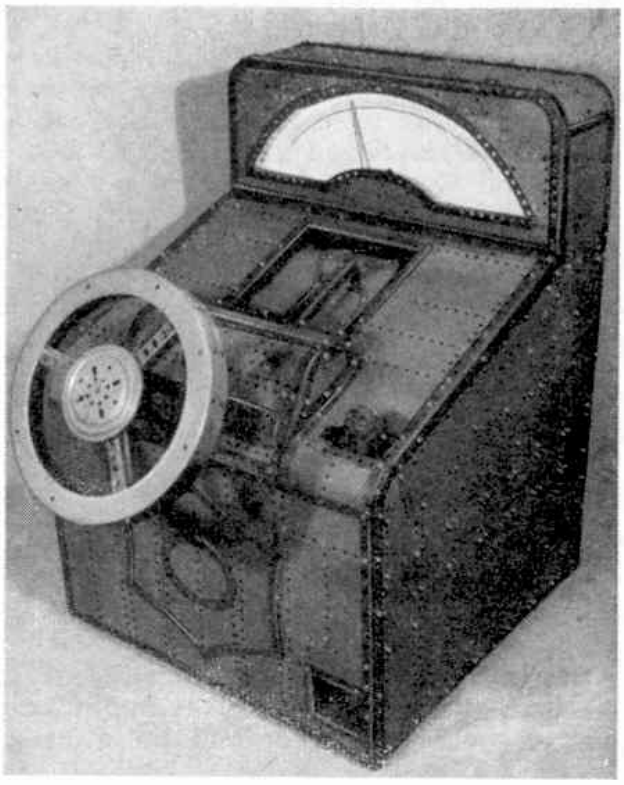
Ideas and Suggestions for Meccano Experimenters

Compiled by "Spanner"

MANY model-builders lucky enough to have a good assortment of parts at their disposal are very successful in finding "off the beaten track" subjects to model. One of these that has come to my notice recently is John Sturrock, Dundee, who has built a most attractive Driving Skill Machine. It is based on the popular "Driving Test" machines found in many amusement arcades, and a picture of the model is shown on this page.

The machine consists of two main features, a winding road outlined by Sprocket Chain fixed to an endless moving belt, and a contact arm, representing a car, which is manœuvred along the road by a steering wheel. When the machine is in action, the winding road moves rapidly under the contact arm and it is the task of the operator to steer the "car" along the curves of the road without touching the sides formed by the Chain. The Chain and "car" form part of an electrical circuit and if the "car" touches the Chain the circuit is completed and a "fault" is registered on a dial fixed at the back of the machine.

The machine is made "live" by placing a penny in a slot provided. This operates a mechanism that switches on the Motor that drives the "road", and any one of three speeds can be engaged, according to the wish and skill of the operator. When the Motor is stopped, the contact arm is raised clear of the road, and if less than five faults are recorded on the dial, the penny is returned. After 20 seconds the dial resets itself to zero.



Here is a fine model for advanced constructors and one that will provide much pleasure and amusement when completed. It is a "Penny in the Slot" Test Your Skill Machine, and brief details of it are given on this page.

There is plenty of scope for applying your ideas and model-building skill in assembling models of this kind—so what about having a go you advanced model-builders? I shall be very pleased to receive details and photographs of any other models of this type built by readers of these notes, and if you are on the look-out for an unusual subject here is just the thing for your attention.

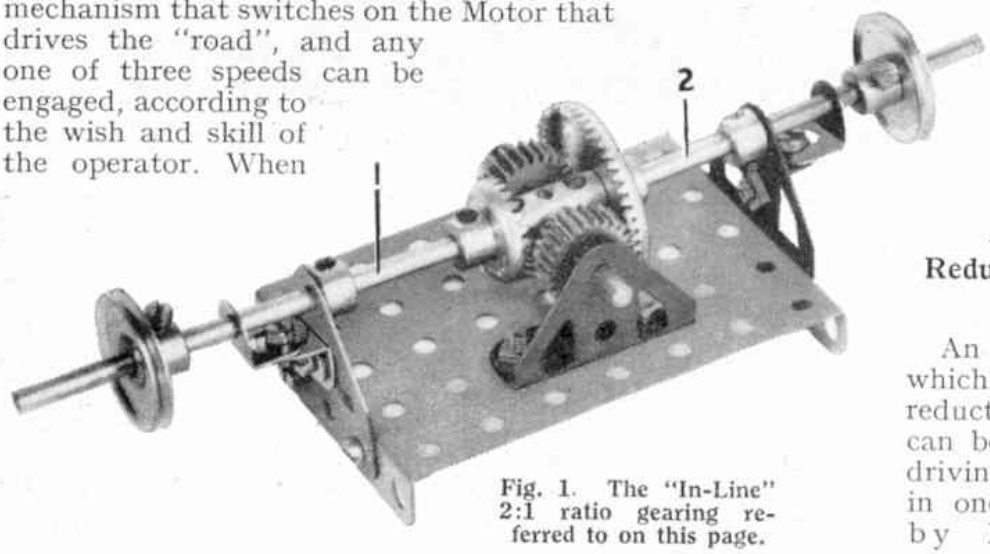


Fig. 1. The "In-Line" 2:1 ratio gearing referred to on this page.

An "All in Line" Reduction or "Step up" Mechanism

An arrangement by which a "step up" or reduction in driving speed can be obtained with the driving and driven shafts in one line, is suggested by H. H. Taylor,