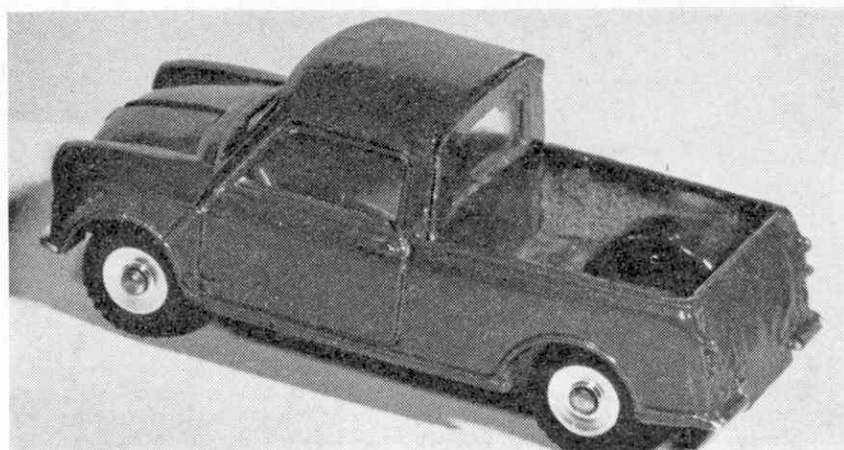
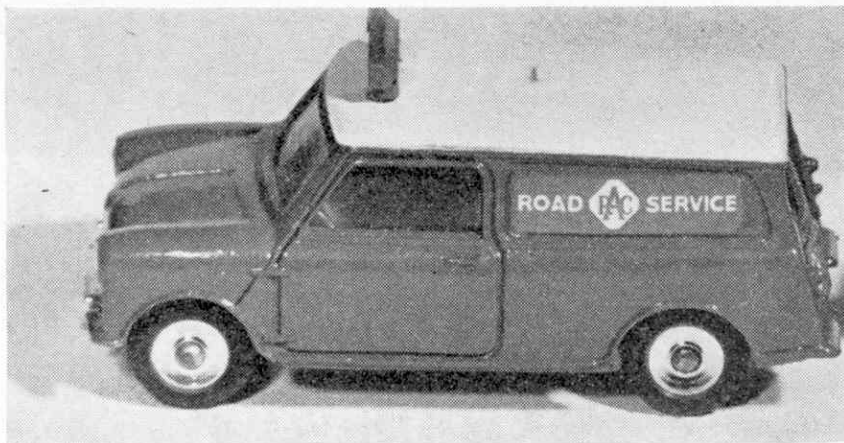


SHORT BACK AND SIDES

OF all the world's motor manufacturers, the British Motor Corporation produces one of the widest range of vehicles anywhere. Dozens of models are in current production, ranging from luxury limousines such as the Austin Princess, to the huge trucks like the Morris 3-tonner, but perhaps the most famous type of all is the little B.M.C. Mini. The basic Mini design is available in several different versions, from the standard Mini-car to the Mini Moke, and including other examples such as the Van, Countryman, Cooper and Pick-up. Meccano Limited, in their Dinky Toy range, produce models of both the Mini Van and the Countryman, but none of the others, as yet. With a few tools and a little modelling material, however, it is possible for you to increase your range of model Minis yourself by converting the standard Dinky A.A. or R.A.C. Patrol Van into a Mini Pick-up. For this article I used the R.A.C. version.

The essential tools required are a hacksaw or a razor saw, a modelling knife, a small file and a hand brace and bit; a soldering iron is also useful but not essential. Materials needed are a sheet of 30 thou. plastic (Plastikard) and a small tin of cellulose stopper, both obtainable from most model suppliers. Also a plastic solvent and a contact adhesive, such as Bostik 1 or Evostik. When working on the model with the file or saw, it is advisable to use a vice, although we have not done so for illustration purposes.

Begin work by first removing the headboard and then the base of the model,



using a $\frac{3}{16}$ in. drill in the hand brace for the latter operation. All that needs to be removed with the drill is the 'turned-over' end of the spigot that holds the base in position at its front end. Do not remove the floor attached to the base. Once this has been done, take the body casting and withdraw the seat and window mouldings, making sure that you do not damage them.

On the roof, there is a small raised portion which represents the actual vehicle's roof ventilator. Immediately in front of this ventilator, make a cut with the saw, and extend it vertically downwards to the lower indentation marking the edge of the side panels. If you are not using a vice during this part of the operation, you will find that a suitable block of wood can be used to hold the casting steady, as shown in picture A.

Now cut inwards from the rear along the lower edge of each side panel in turn until the vertical cut is reached (picture A) and remove the section of the body which is no longer needed. Clean up all cut edges with the file, using the window moulding as a guide. The rear edges of the cab should be flush with the back of the window moulding. Inside the casting you will find two raised areas, one each side, half-cylindrical in shape. These should be filed away (picture B), but

remember to leave a 'lip' coinciding with that running the length of the body.

Before rebuilding can begin, the two holes in the roof, which held the headboard, must be filled in, using the cellulose stopper. Apply this with the modelling knife, but make sure that none protrudes inside the cab through the holes. Allow to dry hard and then smooth down with the file or with a piece of fine emery paper.

Re-building

Replace the window moulding, then add the seats and fit the base, which is where the soldering iron would come in useful. With the base in position a 'blob' of solder on the end of the spigot would hold it firmly in place. The cab back should now be cut out of the plastic sheet. When cutting, incidentally, it is only necessary to score the sheet with the knife and the section required can be broken off. Cut out a rectangle, the inside distance between the sides of the model in width, slightly more than the distance between the floor of the load platform and top of the cab in height. Make two notches in this to accommodate the 'lip' on each side, then place it in position. Mark round the upper half of the cab with a pencil, remove the plastic sheet and cut to shape, obtaining the final perfect shape with the file. Also

cut out the rear window, which is shaped as shown in picture D, then glue the back in position, using the contact adhesive.

Although the model already has a floor, it is best to add another layer. From the plastic sheet cut a second rectangle, large enough to cover the entire load platform. Cut out spaces for the wheel arches and fix in place with the plastic solvent.

All that now remains to be added is the tailgate which is rather an unusual shape. If you look at the back of the model, you will see that, instead of a single rear bumper, there are two small bumpers which protrude slightly, and also the distance between the sides is less at the top than at the bottom. To obtain the tailgate, therefore, cut out a sheet of plastic, the bottom distance between the sides in width and with a short 'tail' the width of the distance between the bumpers. Now taper the sides of the tailgate until it fits snugly between the sides of the model and fix in place with both contact adhesive and plastic solvent, using the latter where the tailgate touches the floor of the load platform.

This completes the alteration, but the model should, of course, be repainted. For this, we recommend any of the Humbrol range of plastic enamels which can be purchased from all dealers in handicraft supplies.

Last word before finishing—I will again be describing the new Dinky Toy releases next month.

Answers to February Puzzle Page

Quick Quiz

1. The 2.9 mile long track at Silverstone.
2. 'Cello.
3. 13 triangles.
4. Chevron.
5. Holland.
6. Borzoi.

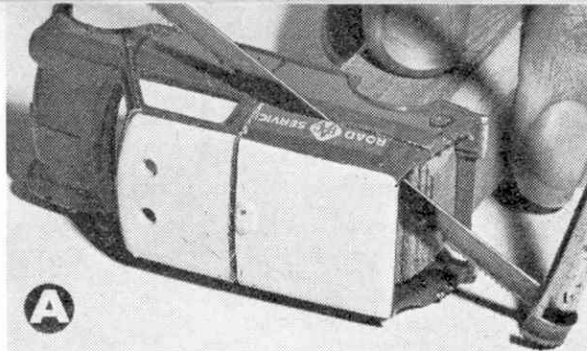
Tricky Teasers

- A. Honduras, Portugal, Scotland, Tasmania, Rhodesia, Colombia.
- B. 840 days.
- C. 1, President. 2, Resident. 3, Independent. 4, Prudent. 5, Impudent. 6, Student. 7, Accident. 8, Evident. 9, Confident.

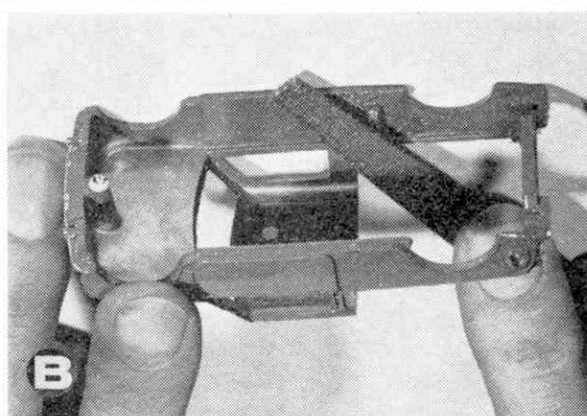
Crossword Puzzle No. 12

E	N	G	I	N	E	D	R	I	V	E	R	
N		R			G	O	A	L		V	A	
G	R	E	A	T		N	I	L		A	T	
L	I	E	F		D		N	U	N		T	
I	O	T	A		O	F		S	O	U	L	
S	T	E	R	N	E	R		T			E	
H		D			S	O	U	R	C	E	S	
	B		S	O		B	R	A	Z	E	N	
A	R	E	A		M	I	N	T		N	A	
S	U	R	T	E	E	S		I	E		K	
I	T	A			A	A	H		O		E	
A	A		S		E	R	N	A				
	L	A	N	T	E	R	N		B	A	G	

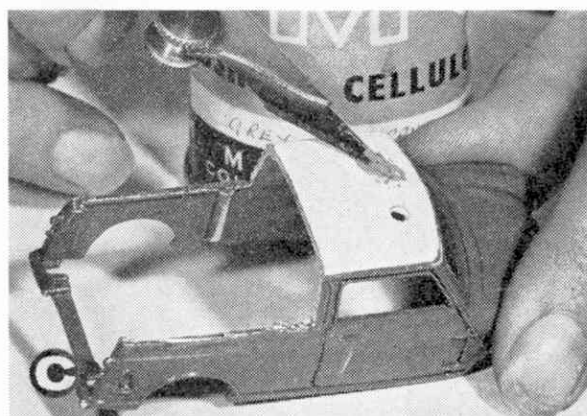
A First step in turning a BMC Mini Van into a pick-up version. The base headboard and window and seat mouldings having been removed, the upper rear section of the body casting is cut away. If a vice is not available, a suitable block of wood can be used to hold the casting steady



B After removing the upper rear section of the body, the edges are cleaned up with the file and the internal half cylinders removed



C Before rebuilding, the holes in the roof for the headboard are filled in with cellulose stopper. When dry, the stopper is smoothed with a file or fine emery paper



D A back for the cab is cut out of 30 thou plastic sheet and glued into position with contact adhesive



E A floor for the load platform and a tailgate are both cut from plastic sheet. The floor is fixed in position by plastic solvent and the tailgate by both plastic solvent and contact adhesive

