

The International Model-Building Competition

Originality and Imagination Earn Prizes

By "Spanner"

ONE of the most pleasing points about the entries received for the International Model-Building Competition is the originality displayed by competitors in choosing the subjects for their models. Particular reference was made to this point in the leaflet setting out the conditions of the Competition, and each month, as I examine the prize-winning entries to

constructional treatment that made them stand out from other entries in the same class.

An example of this is the motor car built by Master T. J. B. Harris, London S.W.5, which is shown in Fig. 1. Harris has gone back many years to find the prototype for his model, for it is based on a Rolls Royce car produced in 1905! The car is driven by a 20-volt

Electric Motor, and is equipped with a three-speed gear-box and differential gear. Internal expanding brakes are fitted to the rear wheels. Harris has paid great attention to detail work on his model, and has successfully captured the appearance and general "character" of a veteran motor car by his skilful use of parts. The oil lamps fitted to the model are especially noteworthy. Each is made from a $\frac{1}{2}$ " Flanged Wheel, a Chimney Adaptor, a $\frac{1}{2}$ " Pulley and a Collar.

Another model of an unusual type is the wool winding machine seen in Fig. 2. This was entered in Section B by Master R. Luttmner, Wookey Hole, Somerset, and is the result of a good deal of careful thought and development. Actually Luttmner built three machines on similar lines, but incorporated in each one improvements and

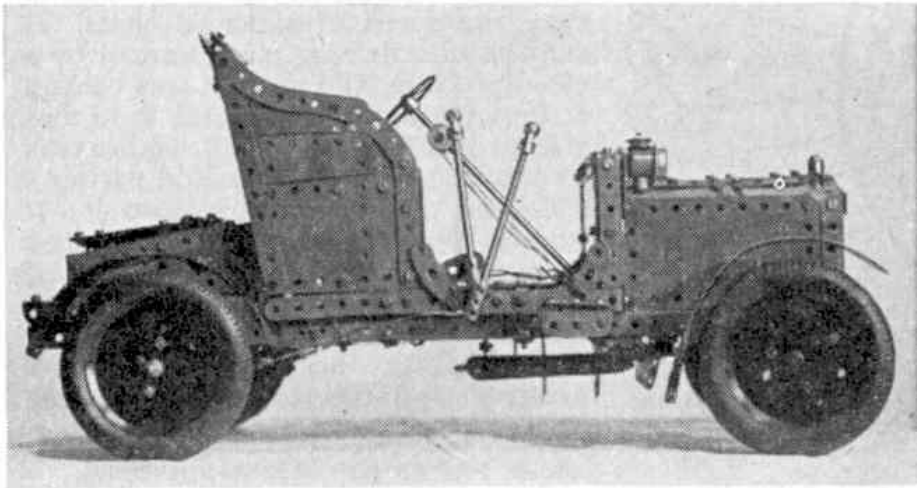


Fig. 1. A 1905 Rolls Royce reproduced in Meccano by T. J. Britton Harris, London S.W.5.

make a selection for these pages, I am more and more impressed by the amazing variety of the subjects covered by the entries.

The selection of models I have chosen this month illustrates this point particularly well. They are all attractive models, as were most of the entries received, but in addition each of them has some feature in the choice of subject or in design that earned high marks for originality.

In most cases the models are based on unusual subjects, but it is not always essential to choose a really original model. Very often imaginative treatment of an otherwise ordinary subject will catch the judges' attention, as in the case of the breakdown lorry and car shown in Fig. 3. This is a good example to illustrate my point, for although both models are well designed and constructed, there is nothing really original about either of them by itself. The originality is displayed in the combination of the two models to represent the scene after a road accident, when the wreckage has been cleared and the breakdown lorry is removing the damaged car to a garage for overhaul. These models were built by Master A. Wills, Southampton, who was awarded a Prize in Section B. The breakdown lorry is driven by a No. 1 Clockwork Motor, and is equipped with a simple but effective steering mechanism.

Vehicles are favourite subjects for many model-builders, and in every Meccano Competition a large proportion of the entries is based on cars and lorries of various kinds. The International Competition was no exception, but many of the vehicles had something extra in the choice of subject or in the

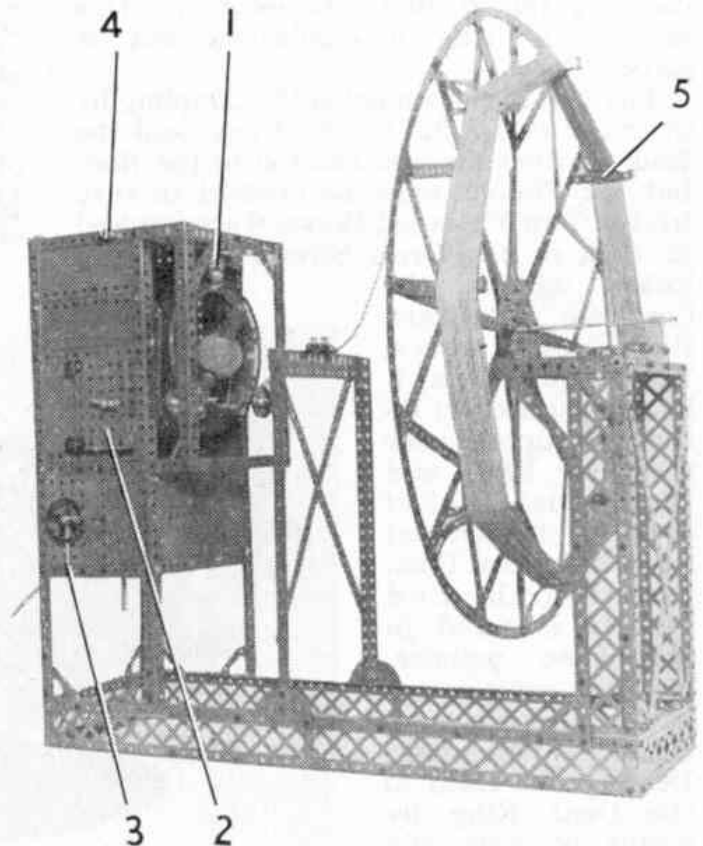


Fig. 2. A wool winding machine of a new type devised by Roger Luttmner, Wookey Hole, Somerset.

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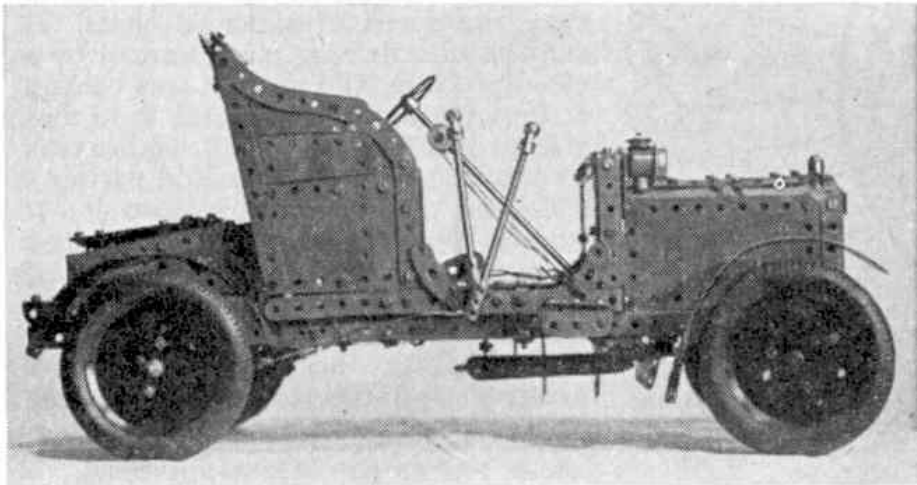


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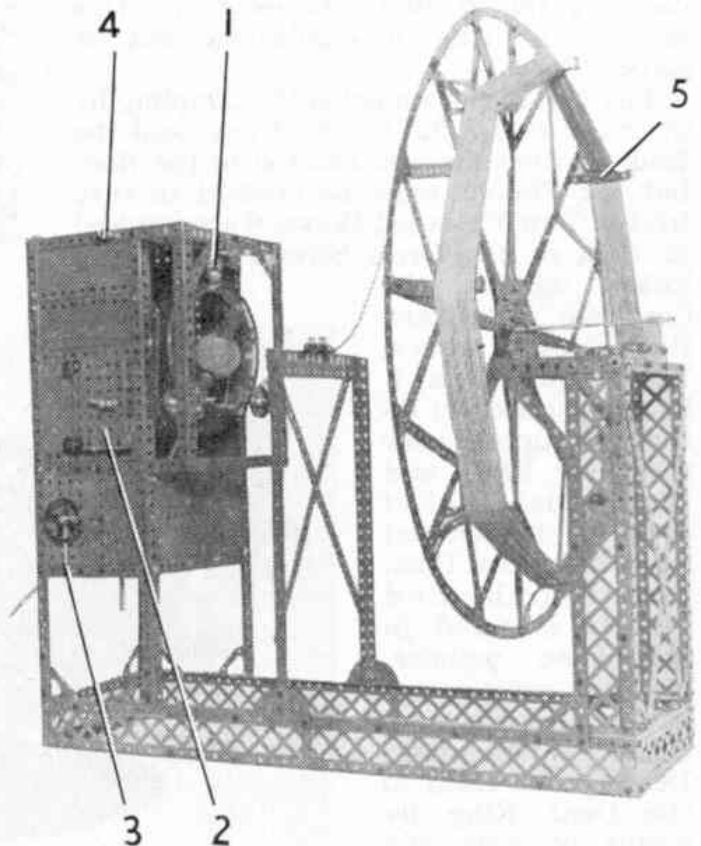


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