

Model No. 7.32

Special Features
of the Model.

This Meccano model is built to a scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to 1 ft., the jib measuring 6 ft. in length.

The arrangement of the mechanism closely resembles that adopted in the prototype, and the three movements of hoisting, luffing, and slewing are driven from a gear box of simple design.

The model is capable of level luffing, and a safety interlocking device controls the pawl and ratchet gear on the luffing barrel. The motive power is supplied by a 6-volt Motor, the speed of which may be varied by means of a Meccano built-up controller.

MECCANO

Electric Derrick Crane

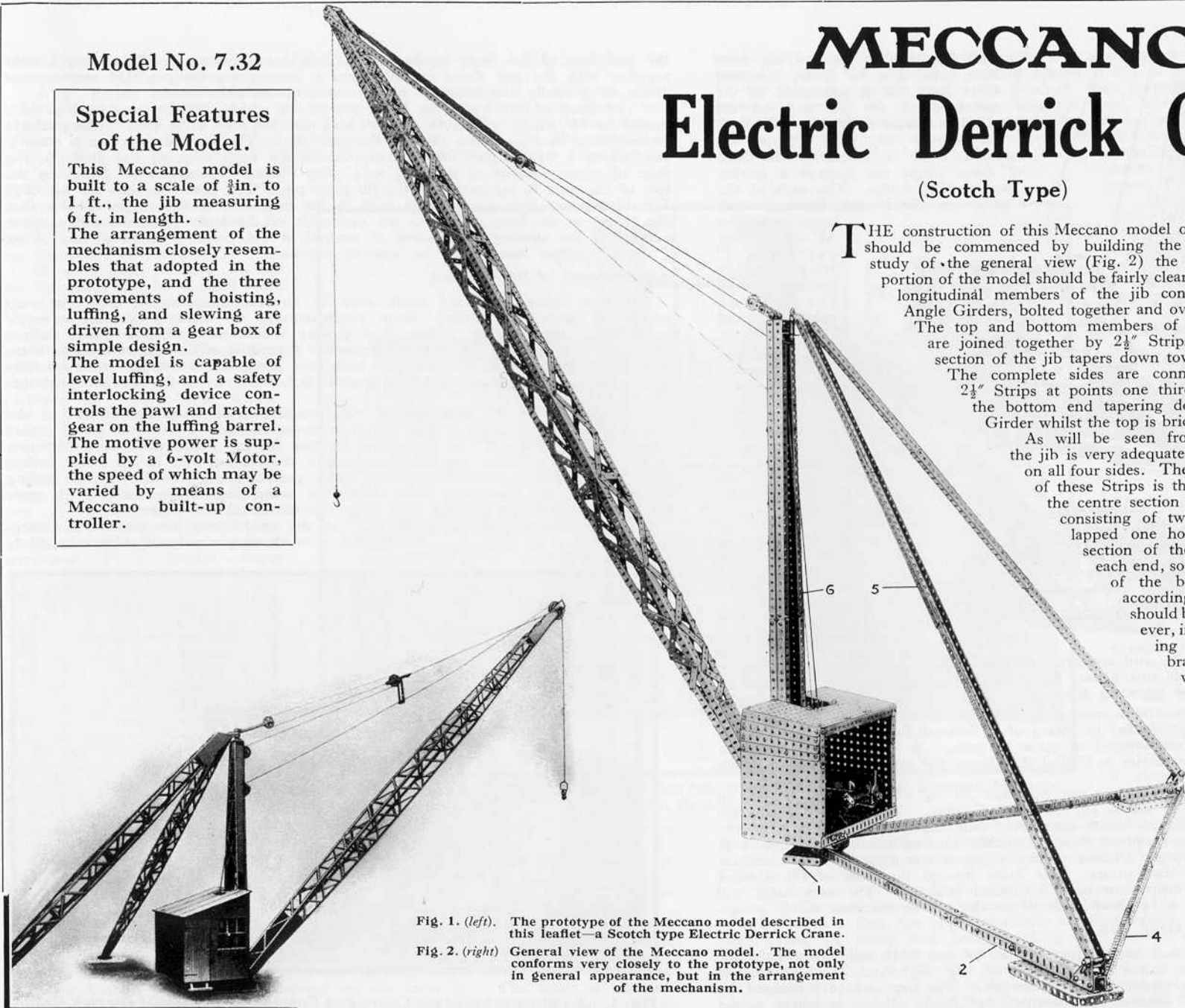
(Scotch Type)

THE construction of this Meccano model of a Derrick Crane should be commenced by building the jib. By a careful study of the general view (Fig. 2) the main details of this portion of the model should be fairly clear. Each of the main longitudinal members of the jib consists of three $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders, bolted together and overlapped two holes. The top and bottom members of the centre portion are joined together by $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips, whilst each end section of the jib tapers down towards its extremity. The complete sides are connected together by $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips at points one third from either end, the bottom end tapering down to a $7\frac{1}{2}$ " Flat Girder whilst the top is bridged by a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip.

As will be seen from the illustration, the jib is very adequately braced by Strips on all four sides. The length and bracing of these Strips is the same throughout the centre section of the jib, each one consisting of two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips overlapped one hole. As the cross-section of the jib alters toward each end, so will the disposition of the bracing strips vary accordingly. No difficulty should be experienced, however, in putting the finishing touches to the bracing, as the general view gives a good idea of how this should be done.

It should be noted that the construction of the upper tapered portion of the jib is practically identical with that of the lower, so that, bearing this fact in mind, a careful study of the latter should make the structural details of both clear to the builder.

Fig. 1. (left). The prototype of the Meccano model described in this leaflet—a Scotch type Electric Derrick Crane.
Fig. 2. (right) General view of the Meccano model. The model conforms very closely to the prototype, not only in general appearance, but in the arrangement of the mechanism.



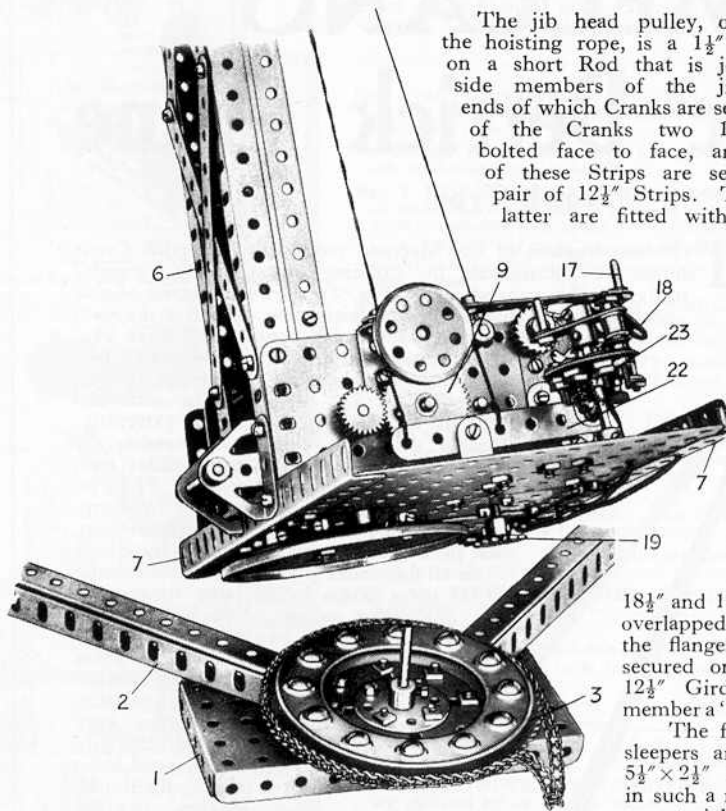


Fig. 3. Partial side and underneath view of Swivelling Platform and Gear Box, showing details of the Slewing Race, etc.

part of the slewing race, and it is secured by bolts to the top flanges of the sleepers 2, additional support being afforded by means of 1" Screwed Rods, which pass through the Plate and race, and are secured in place by nuts. A Bush Wheel bolted to the upper side of the race carries a 2" Rod that forms the central pivot about which the model slews.

The rear ends of the sleepers are mounted on $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " Flanged Plates, to which they are attached by means of $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders. The Flanged Plates are spaced apart by the member 4, which consists of four $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders.

Each of the rear tie members 5 is 42 inches in length and is composed of six $12\frac{1}{2}$ " and two $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders. The upper extremities of both members are fitted with 3" Strips that project three holes beyond the ends of the Girders and the ends of these Strips are bent downward slightly. The end holes will eventually be passed over a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Rod mounted on the top of the mast 6.

The Vertical Mast and Gear Box

Each side of the vertical mast 6 is composed of two $18\frac{1}{2}$ " and two $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders with their flanges bolted to the edges of $12\frac{1}{2}$ ", $9\frac{1}{2}$ ", and $7\frac{1}{2}$ " Flat Girders to form a channel-section girder of great strength. The top ends are bridged by means of two $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders, and a third $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girder is bolted across

The jib head pulley, over which runs the hoisting rope, is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Pulley mounted on a short Rod that is journalled in the side members of the jib and to the ends of which Cranks are secured. To each of the Cranks two $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips are bolted face to face, and to the ends of these Strips are secured a further pair of $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips. The ends of the latter are fitted with Cranks, which serve to hold a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Rod that carries a 1" loose Pulley forming one of the luffing purchases, and also a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip.

The Sleepers and Slewing Race

Each of the horizontal members or "sleepers" 2 consists of an $18\frac{1}{2}$ " and $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girder overlapped three holes, to the flanges of which are secured one $9\frac{1}{2}$ " and two $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Girders, giving the member a "channel" section.

The front ends of the sleepers are attached to a $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " Flanged Plate 1 in such a manner that they are at right angles to each other. The geared portion of a Meccano Ball Bearing (part No. 168) forms one

the rear face of the mast in the second hole from the top. This latter Girder together with the one above it, will form a bearing for the pin that serves as a means of pivotally attaching the tie members to the mast head.

The front of the mast, the lower portion of which may be seen in Fig. 3, is braced by $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips. This view shows also how the mast is secured to the platform or swivelling base on which is built the gear box. The foot of the mast is actually attached to a $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girder 7 that forms the front edge of the platform, the floor of which consists of three $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " Flat Plates. Trunnions are bolted to the foot of the mast to accommodate the jib pivot pin. The gear box sides are $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " Flat Plates, and they are attached both to the mast and to $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders that are bolted to the base, whilst to the underside of the latter is mounted the upper portion of the slewing race, which is secured in the position shown in Fig. 3 by $\frac{1}{2}$ " Bolts, Collars being used for spacing purposes.

Arrangement of the Gearing

Derrick Cranes are very much alike in structural appearance, but they vary greatly in mechanical details. Some manufacturers, for example, employ a motor for each of the hoisting, luffing, and slewing movements, whereas others believe in one motor and the provision of the necessary gearing to obtain the separate motions. Each system has its advocates and they both have particular advantages which are fully appreciated by the engineer. The latter practice is, however, by far the most usual arrangement for Derrick Cranes.

The makers of the prototype of the Meccano model evidently believe in the usual practice, as a glance at Fig. 4 (which shows the gear box of the actual crane) will indicate. Two of the distinctive features of the prototype is the provision of level luffing, whereby the load maintains a constant vertical height at all luffing angles, and a patent interlocking device which precludes the possibility of the luffing barrel pawl being disengaged from its ratchet unless the luffing barrel is in gear. Both these interesting features have been reproduced in the model.

The arrangement of the gears, etc., in the model may be seen fairly clearly in Figs. 3 and 5. Fig. 5 is a semi-plan view showing the 6-volt Motor in place,

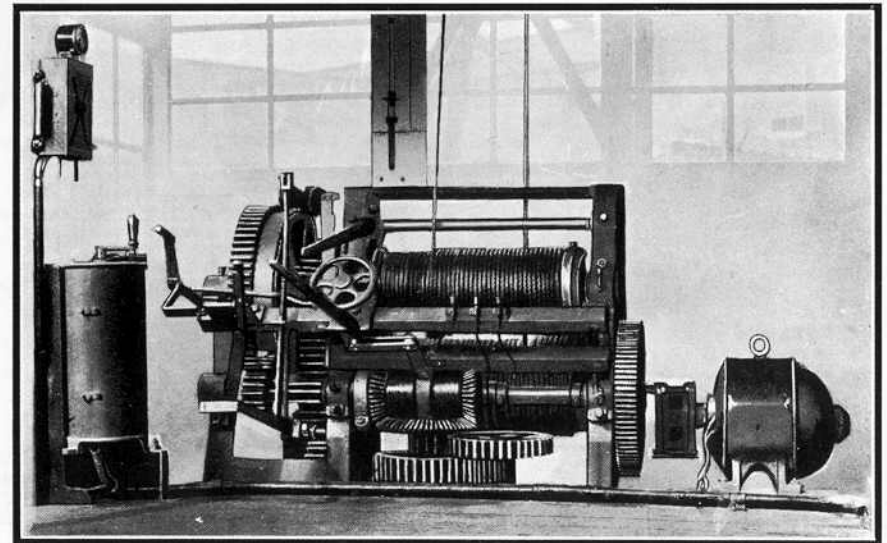


Fig. 4. An illustration of the Gears and Controls of the actual Derrick Crane

while Fig. 3 is a partial side view of the gear box unit, which is lifted to show the two portions of the slewing race, etc.

A $\frac{3}{4}$ " Pinion on the Motor armature spindle engages with a 50-teeth Gear Wheel secured on a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Rod which is journaled in the Motor side plates, and which carries at its other extremity a $\frac{1}{2}$ " Pinion. The latter is in mesh with a 57-teeth Gear mounted on a Rod vertically above the first. On the same Rod is a $\frac{1}{2}$ " Pinion engaging with a 57-teeth Gear on a 3" Rod that is journaled in the gear box side plates. This Rod has, on the end seen in Fig 3, a $\frac{3}{4}$ " Pinion in constant mesh with a 50-teeth Gear 9, that is secured on what may be termed the mainshaft of the gear box.

A $\frac{3}{4}$ " Pinion 10 (Fig. 5) on the mainshaft may be engaged with either the Gear 12 on the hoisting barrel or with the Gear 13 on the slewing shaft, by sliding the mainshaft in its bearings. The sliding movement is effected by means of the lever 11, which is attached pivotally to a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girder that is bolted to the vertical girders 6 and carries a $\frac{3}{8}$ " Bolt, the shank of which locates between two Collars that are secured on the mainshaft a short distance apart. The lever works in a quadrant composed of two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips that are spaced apart by Washers and secured by $\frac{1}{2}$ " Bolts a short distance below a transverse $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " Double Angle Strip. The latter is seen clearly in the illustration.

The slewing shaft has, in addition to the Gear Wheel 13, a Worm meshing with a Pinion 14 mounted on a short vertical Rod. The latter is journaled in a reinforced bearing, consisting of three $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips laid on top of each other and bolted across two parallel Z-section girders 21; each of these girders is composed of two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Angle Girders secured together so that their other flanges point in opposite directions. A Bush Wheel is also bolted to that portion of the Plate below the bearing so that the Rod passes through its boss. A $\frac{3}{4}$ " Sprocket Wheel 19 (Fig. 3) is secured on the lower end of the Rod.

The luffing winch barrel is a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Rod that is journaled freely in the side plates and on which is mounted in the order named, from left to right, a Ratchet Wheel, one Washer, a Collar, the 50-teeth Gear 15, a Coupling, a Collar, three Washers and a $\frac{1}{2}$ " fast Pulley.

A Pawl 18 engages with the teeth of the Ratchet Wheel and so prevents the unwinding of the luffing barrel. The Pawl pivots on a $\frac{3}{4}$ " Bolt that is secured to a Corner Bracket, bolted to the end of the gear box plate.

The luffing barrel is driven from the hoisting barrel through the medium of a sliding layshaft 16, which is operated by the lever 17. The latter is attached pivotally to a $1" \times \frac{1}{2}"$ Angle Bracket on the left-hand gear box side-plate, and is

connected to the Rod that it actuates, in a similar manner to the lever 11. In its neutral position, i.e., when the layshaft Pinion is out of engagement with the Gear 12, the lever is over the top of the Pawl 18, thus preventing the latter from being raised and letting the jib fall. On the other hand, when the lever is moved over to the left to effect engagement of the layshaft pinion with the Gear 12, the Pawl is free to be lifted out of engagement with the Ratchet teeth by means of a Flat Bracket secured to its boss. This, of course, is similar to the safety interlocking device employed in the actual crane.

The hoisting barrel is fitted with an effective semi-automatic brake 22 (Fig. 3). Although this type of brake allows the load to be hoisted perfectly freely, the load cannot be lowered until the end of the brake lever is raised. It should be noted that these results can only be attained when the points of attachment of the brake cord are on opposite sides, and at different distances, from the fulcrum of the brake lever. The fulcrum is a $1" \times 1"$ Angle Bracket which is bolted to the floor, and the brake lever is attached pivotally to the Bracket by a lock-nutted bolt (Standard Mechanism No. 263).

Electrical Equipment of the Model

The electrical equipment of the model is comparatively simple. The chief item, excluding the Motor, is the controller for varying the speed of the Motor. The controller is seen on the left of the gear box in Fig. 5; it is of exceptional interest for it is built up entirely from Meccano parts. The following is a brief description of the device, and readers who require further information should refer to detail No. 115 in the Standard Mechanisms Manual.

The resistance is formed by a short length of Spring Cord drawn out so that no two adjacent turns touch, and attached to the shanks of six 6 B.A. Bolts that are mounted on a Bush Wheel and insulated therefrom by means of Insulating Bushes and Washers. A seventh insulated 6 B.A. Bolt is provided. This is not connected in any way, however, for it is intended to form an "off stud."

The switch arm is a Double Arm Crank on one end of which is mounted a Spring Buffer, which makes contact with the heads of the bolts. The Bush Wheel is mounted on a Rod, the upper extremity of which serves as a pivot for the Double Arm Crank, its lower end being held in the boss of a Crank that is bolted to the platform. The sleeve portion of a Spring Buffer is secured to the Bush Wheel to form a stop for the Double Arm Crank.

A length of insulated wire is taken from one terminal of the Motor to one end of the resistance, and the other Motor terminal is connected to an insulated terminal 20.

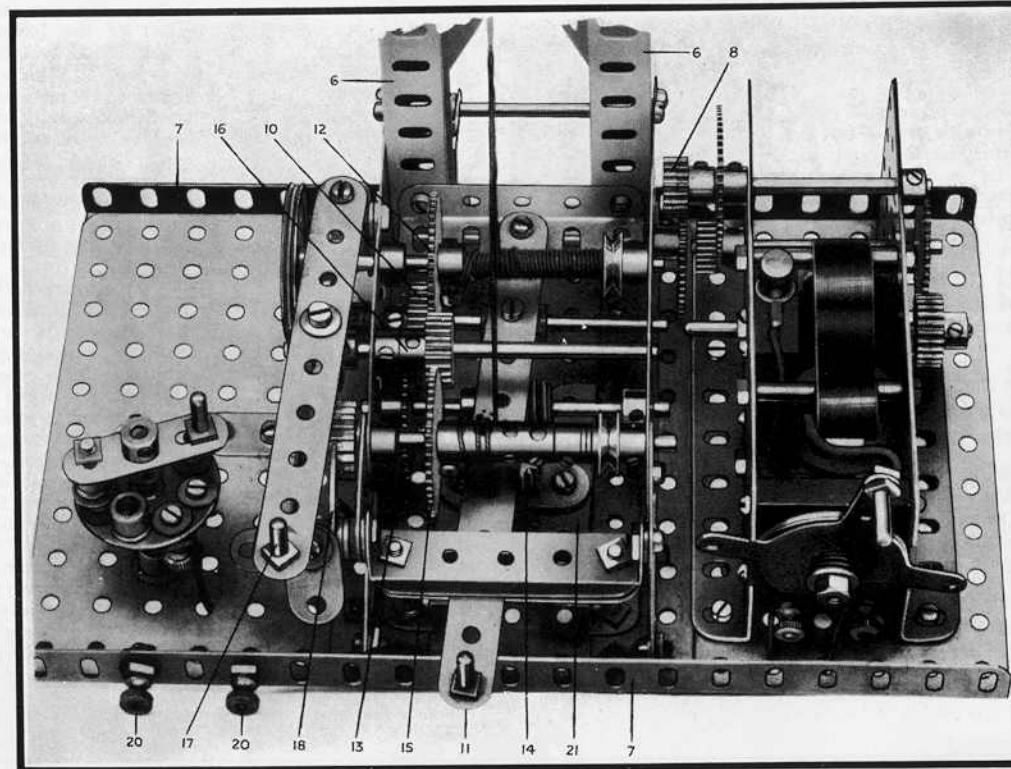


Fig. 5. Partial plan view of Gear Box, showing layout of Gears, Electric Motor, Operating Levers, Brakes, Controller, etc.