# MECCANO Trench Digger

(MODEL No. 10.17) In recent years there has been rapid development in the growth of manufactur-SPECIAL FEATURES ing estates on the fringes of large towns and cities, and This model is based on an actual huge residential districts machine designed for digging narrow have grown up alongside trenches suitable for laying drainage the new factories to house pipes, cables, etc. The trench is exthe workers within easy cavated by a continuous moving chain distance of their employof sharp-edged digger buckets, and ment. The provision of the depth of the trench can be adsewerage and other utility justed as required. services to these areas is a The model can be steered as it big task, and nowadays most travels and is powered by a Meccano of the cables and pipes are EI5R type Electric Motor. laid underground. In some cases miles o narrow trenches have to be excavated to accommodate them, and several types of machines are now available which are suitable for making such trenches speedily and economically. The fine Meccano model described in this Leaflet is based on a typical trench-digging FIG. 1 The Meccano Bucket Chain Trench Digger.

Its construction is fully described in this Leaflet

machine. It is fitted with an endless chain of buckets that bite into the ground as the machine moves slowly forward on its creeper tracks. The spoil falls on to a conveyor and is distributed alongside the trench as the machine moves along. The depth of the trench can be varied by adjusting the angle of the boom that carries the bucket chain.

#### Details of the Chassis (Figs. 2, 6 and 7)

Each side-member of the chassis consists of two  $24\frac{1}{2}$  Angle Girders arranged to form a channel section girder by bolting to them two 71 Angle Girders (1) and (2) and a 71 Strip (3) (Fig. 7). The top ends of the Girders (1) and (2) and the Strip (3) are connected by bolting to them a 121 Angle Girder (4). The side-members are connected by two built-up strips (5) and (6) (Fig. 2), each made from two 54" Strips overlapped seven holes. Two similar built-up strips (7) and (8) are fixed in position, and a further built-up strip (9) (Fig. 3) is bolted across the chassis. The strip (9) is made from two  $4\frac{1}{2}$  Strips overlapped three holes. Two  $18\frac{1}{2}$  Angle Girders (10) are bolted to the strips (5) and (6) as shown.

7g" Pinion on its armature shaft drives a 60-tooth Gear (see Fig. 2) on a 3" Rod mounted in the Motor side-plates. This Rod carries a 3" Pinion (11) (Fig. 6) that drives a 50-tooth Gear on a 2½" Rod. A Worm (12) (Fig. 2) fixed on this Rod engages a ½" Pinion on an 11½" Rod (13). The bearings for Rod (13) are provided by a Double Arm Crank (14) and a 1½" Strip, each of which is attached to the Girders (10) by two Angle Brackets. The 11 Strip is positioned immediately behind a ½" Pinion (15) (Fig. 8) fixed on the Rod, which carries also a 3" diameter  $\frac{1}{3}$ " face Pinion (16) and a  $\frac{7}{8}$ " Bevel Gear (17).

A Universal Coupling is fixed to the end of Rod (13) (Fig. 2) and is fitted also with a 41 Rod that is supported in an Obtuse Angle Bracket bolted to the strip (8). The 4½" Rod carries a ½" Beyel Gear and is free to turn in a Coupling (18). This Coupling is loosely mounted on the driving axle, between a Collar and a 11 Bevel Gear that meshes with the 1 Bevel Gear. The driving axle is a 5" Rod supported in two Corner Gussets, which are fixed to 1½" Angle Girders bolted to the strips (6) and (9).

The Motor switch is operated by a lever (71) (Figs. 3 and 6) formed by a 2" Rod in a Coupling. The Coupling is fixed on a 31" Rod mounted in Double Brackets bolted to the chassis, and the

Rod carries a Bush Wheel to which a built-up strip is lock-nutted. This strip consists of two 51" Strips placed face to face and extended by a 3½" Strip that overlaps the 5½" Strips by three holes, and it is lock-nutted also to a Bush Wheel on a 21" Rod. The Rod is held by Collars in Flat Trunnions bolted to the Girders (10), and a 2½" Strip (72) (Fig. 2) is fixed across the Bush Wheel. Another 2½" Strip is lock-nutted to the Strip (72) and is pivoted at its upper end on a 3 Bolt screwed into a Handrail Support that is lock-

nutted to an arm of the Motor

switch.

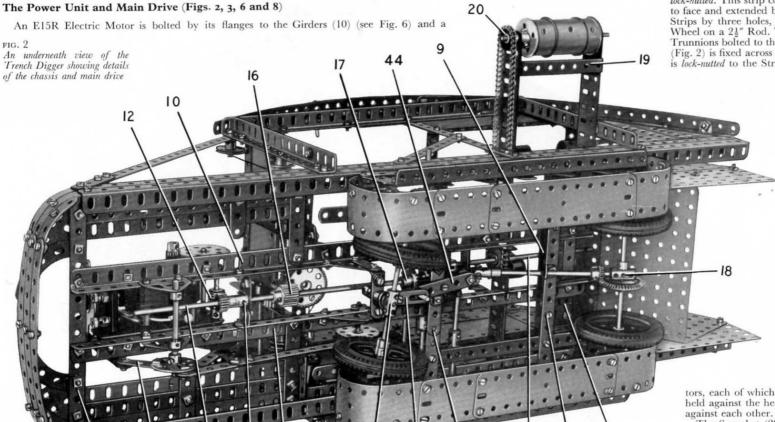
## Assembly of the Conveyor (Figs. 2, 3, 7 and 8)

The conveyor frame consists of two 121" Flat Girders, one of which is attached to the Girders (1) (Fig. 7) by  $1'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$  Angle Brackets while the other is similarly attached to the Strips (3). A  $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$  Double Angle Strip (19) (Fig. 2) is bolted between the Flat Girders at one end.

The main conveyor rollers are formed by 11" Flanged Wheels pressed into Cylinders, and each is fixed on a 4" Rod mounted in the Flat Girders. The Rod that supports the driving roller carries a 3" Sprocket (20) (Fig. 7), and two 21" Driving Bands are stretched round this roller. The belt can be made from a length of cloth or strong paper joined together at its ends. The supporting rollers (21) (Fig. 3) are Chimney Adap-

tors, each of which is free to turn on a 1" Bolt and is held against the head of the Bolt by two nuts screwed

The Sprocket (20) is driven by a 1" Sprocket on a 61" Rod (22) (Fig. 3). This Rod is supported in the conveyor frame and in a  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$  Double Angle Strip (23) that is attached to  $1'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$  Angle Brackets bolted to the Girders (10). A Compression Spring is fitted on the Rod between Double Angle Strip (23) and a Collar



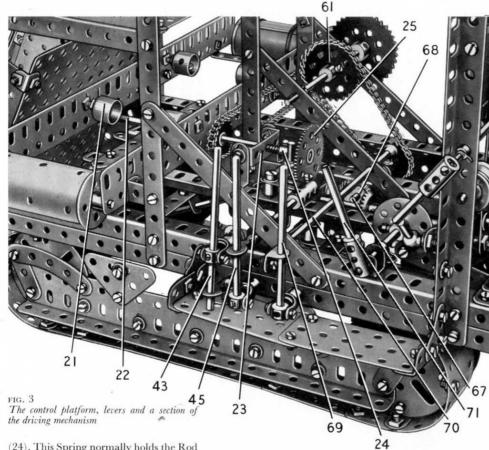
10

14

13

72

22



(24). This Spring normally holds the Rod so that a 57-tooth Gear (25) on it is kept clear of the Pinion (15) (Fig. 8). The Gear and Pinion can, however, be brought into mesh by sliding the Rod, to engage the drive to the conveyor. The movement of Rod (22) is restricted by a Collar placed inside the conveyor frame. and is controlled by a lever (45) (Fig. 3). This lever is a 31 Rod fixed in a Swivel Bearing attached to the chassis by a Pivot Bolt. The lever carries as shown a Rod and Strip Connector fixed on a 31" Rod that slides in a Double Bracket bolted to the chassis. A Strip Coupling on the 31" Rod is connected by a 3" Bolt to one arm of a Bell Crank, and this is mounted freely on a Pivot Bolt fixed in one of the Girders (10). The other arm of the Bell Crank carries a Threaded Pin that engages between the Collar (24) and the Gear (25).

# Supporting Frame for the Bucket Boom (Figs. 1, 5, 7 and 8)

The outer edge of the frame on each side consists of a 3" Strip (26) and four  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Curved Strips. The rear Curved Strip is connected by a  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip and a 2" Strip to the rear end of the chassis. Two  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips (27) on each side are spaced apart by a nut on each of two  $\frac{2}{3}$ " Bolts (28), and these Bolts attach the Strips to Angle Brackets bolted to the frame. Another  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " Strip overlaps the rear ends of the Strips (27) by five holes, and this Strip also is connected to the frame by an Angle Bracket.

A built-up strip (29) (Fig. 8) is attached to the Strips (3), and a  $5\frac{1}{2}$  "Strip is connected to the strip (29) by an Angle Bracket and bolted at its lower end to one of the Girders (10). The  $5\frac{1}{2}$  "Strip is connected to the Girder (10) by another  $5\frac{1}{2}$  "Strip (30). The strip (29) is made from two  $4\frac{1}{2}$  "Strips overlapped three holes.

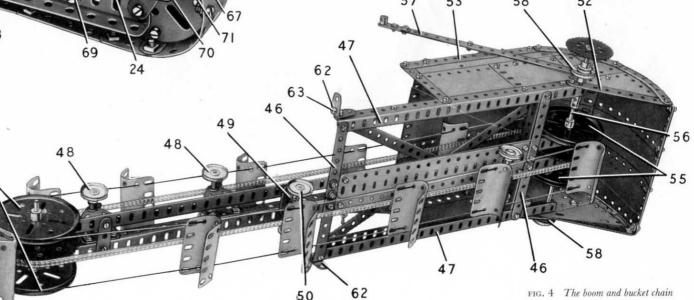
Two  $5\frac{1}{2}''$  Angle Girders (31) are connected to the Girders (10) by Corner Angle Brackets, and each is joined to one of the Girders (2) by a 3" Strip. The Girders (31) are connected by two  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$  Flexible Plates overlapped seven holes and edged by two  $7\frac{1}{2}''$  Strips. These are attached to the Girders (2) by Angle Brackets. A  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$  Double Angle Strip (32), with a Double Arm Crank bolted to it, is fixed between the lower ends of the

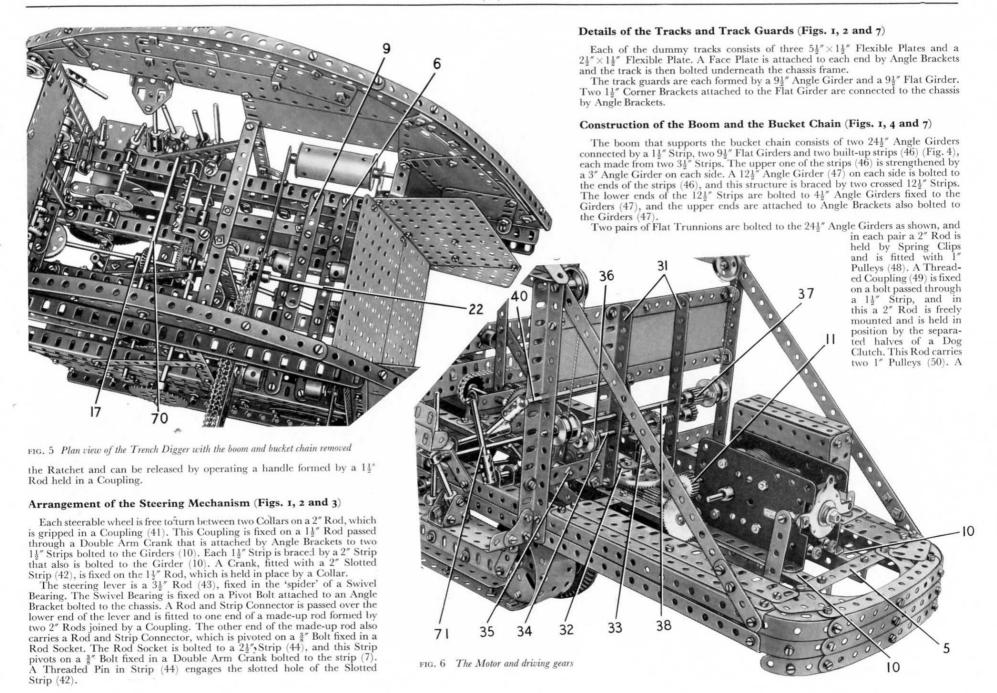
Angle Girders (31) (Fig. 6).

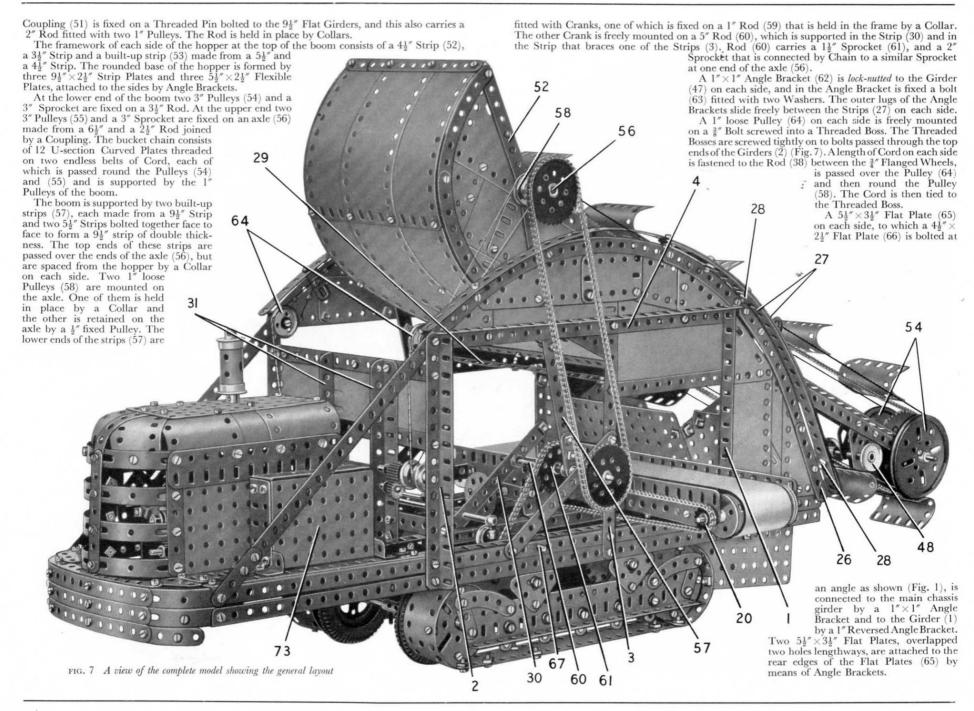
### Drive to the Boom Winding Drums (Figs. 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8)

A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Contrate that meshes with the Pinion (16) (Fig 6) is fixed on a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Rod free in the Double Angle Strip (32) and in the boss of the Double Arm Crank. A  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Pinion (33) is fixed on the upper end of the Rod. A cross shaft (34) is formed by a 5" Rod mounted in the Girders (31), and this carries two  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Contrates arranged one on either side of the Pinion (33), with a Compression Spring between each Contrate and one of the Girders (31).

The movement of Rod (34) is controlled by a Bell Crank mounted on a Pivot Bolt (35) (Fig. 6). One arm of the Bell Crank is extended by a 1" Rod held in a Handrail Support, and a Threaded Pin is fixed in the other arm. The Threaded Pin engages a ½" loose Pulley (36) with a ¾" Washer and a Collar on either side of it. A ½" Pinion on Rod (34) drives a ½" diameter, ½" face Pinion (37) on an 8" Rod (38). This Rod carries two pairs of ¾" Flanged Wheels and a Ratchet Wheel (39). A Pawl on a 4½" Rod (40) engages







# Drive to the Bucket Chain (Figs. 3, 5, 7 and 8)

A 4" Rod (67) (Fig. 3) is mounted in one of the Girders (10) and in one side of the chassis frame. The Rod carries a 3" Bevel Gear (68), a 1" Sprocket connected by Chain to the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Sprocket (61), and a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Flanged Wheel. A Compression Spring is fitted on Rod (67) between the Girder (10) and the Flanged Wheel, and this normally holds the Rod in such a position that Bevel Gear (68) is clear of Bevel Gear (17). The two Bevel Gears can be meshed by moving a lever (69). The lever is a 31" Rod held in a Swivel Bearing fixed on a Pivot Bolt bolted to the side of the chassis. An Angle Bracket passed over the lever is lock-nutted to a Rod and Strip Connector on a 61 Rod (70) and a Handrail Coupling engages the 3" Flanged Wheel on Rod (67).

#### Assembly of the Driving Platform and the Engine Cover (Figs. 1, 3 and 7)

The driving platform consists of two  $3'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$  Flat Plates bolted together and fitted at each end with a  $1\frac{1}{2}''$  Angle Girder that carries a 1'' Corner Bracket. One of the Girders is connected to the chassis by an Angle Bracket and the other is fixed to the Girder (2).

The driver's seat is formed by a  $1\frac{1}{2}''$  Flat Girder, a Flat Trunnion and a  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$  Double Angle Strip connected by a  $1\frac{1}{2}''$  Angle Girder. It is bolted to an Obtuse Angle Bracket that is inserted between the lugs of a Slide Piece, and is held in place by a 2'' Rod fixed in the Slide Piece. The 2'' Rod is gripped in a Coupling. The Coupling is fixed by nuts and bolts between two 1'' Triangular Plates connected by Double Brackets.

The side of the engine cover seen in Fig. 7 consists of a  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'''$  Flat Plate and a  $5\frac{1}{2}'''$  Flat Girder bolted at one end to a  $3\frac{1}{2}'''$  Strip and at the other end to a  $3\frac{1}{2}'''$  Strip, a  $5\frac{1}{2}'''$  Flat Girder. The other side is formed by a  $5\frac{1}{2}'''$  Strip, a  $5\frac{1}{2}'''$  Flat Girder, a  $3\frac{1}{2}'''$  Flat Girder, a  $3\frac{1}{2}'''$  Flat Girder, a  $3\frac{1}{2}'''$  Flat Girder attached to the  $5\frac{1}{2}''$  Strip by two Hinges. A  $5\frac{1}{2}'''$  Angle Girder extended by a  $2\frac{1}{2}'''$  Angle Girder is bolted to the lower edge of each side of the engine cover, and these Girders are used to attach the structure to the chassis frame. At one side of the engine cover a box structure (73) is fitted (Fig. 7).

FIG. 8 A close-up showing part of the drive to the bucket chain

Parts Required to Build the Meccano Trench Digger						
	10 of No. 1 4 " " 1a 5 " " 1b 29 " " 2 8 " " 2a 10 " " 3 7 " " 4	4 of No. 5 7 " " 6 10 " " 6a 6 " " 7 2 " " 7a 4 " " 8 2 " " 8a 2 1	" " 9a 4 " " " 9c 8 " " " 9d 3 " " " 9f 1 "	3 " " 15 12a 3 " " 15a 12b 2 " " 15b 12c 5 " " 16	8 of No. 17 2 " " 18a 3 " " 18b 4 " " 19b 4 " " 20 4 " " 20a 7 " " 20b 8 " " 22	2 of No. 103 4 " " 103a 2 " " 103b 2 " " 103d 2 " " 103f 3 " " 103h 4 " " 103k 2 " " 108
39	33	17 70	29 0 0 0 15 67 30	61 60	4 " " 22a 2 " " 23 1 " " 23a 2 " " 24 1 " " 25a 4 " " 26 1 " " 26a 1 " " 26c 1 " " 27 1 " " 27a 1 " " 27d 1 " " 27d 1 " " 27d 1 " " 30a 1 " " 32 4 " " 35 503 " 37a 463 " 37b 80 " 38 2 " " 38d 1 " 40 2 " 48 1 " 48a 4 " 48b 1 " 50 4 " 52a 2 " 53a 2 " 53a 1 " 55a 2 " 53a 1 " 55a 2 " 53a 1 " 63b 1 " 63c 2 " 63b 1 " 63c 2 " 64 2 " 70 2 " 77 9 " 89 4 " 89b 4 " 90 4 " 89b 4 " 90 4 " 90a 3 " 94 2 " 95 1 " 95 1 " 95 1 " 95 1 " 95 1 " 95 1 " 95 1 " 95 1 " 96	4 " " 109 8 " " 111a 19 " " 111c 2 " " 114 4 " " 120b 2 " 124 7 " 126a 2 " 128 4 " 133 2 " 136 1 " 136a 2 " 140 4 " 142a 1 " 147a 5 " 147b 1 " 148 1 " 154a 1 " 154a 1 " 154b 1 " 163 4 " 164 2 " 166 1 " 179 2 " 186 11 " 179 2 " 186 11 " 190 a 4 " 191 7 " 192 3 " 190 4 " 191 7 " 192 3 " 196 12 " 199 5 " 200 4 " 191 7 " 192 3 " 196 12 " 199 5 " 200 4 " 215 2 " 215 2 " 225 2 " 224 2 " 225 2 " 226  1 E15R Electric Motor (not included in Outfit)