TRY YOUR LUCK!!

A NOVEL MECCANO PENNY SLOT MACHINE FOR ADULTS AND YOUNGSTERS ALIKE. THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN PARTAKE.

by Spanner

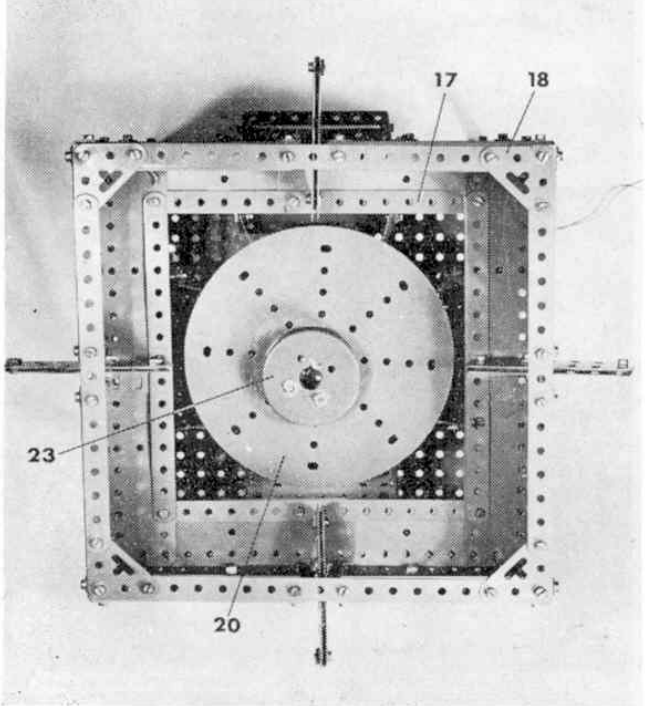
MAYBE IT'S the wrong time of year to think about fairgrounds, but I'm inclined to believe that anything which will take our minds off these long winter evenings is well worth investigating. And so, I have been thinking about fairgrounds!

If you have visited any of these fascinating places—dedicated to relieving us of our money as quickly as possible—you will have noticed that you are constantly being tempted to try your luck at the slot machines, be they one-arm bandits, ball games, mechanical grabs or whatever. The chances are, of course, that you will not win, but if you are anything like me, you'll have great fun trying to disprove it. Working on the theory that it should be possible to continue this fun at home, our model-builder has come up with the extremely novel slot machine featured here.

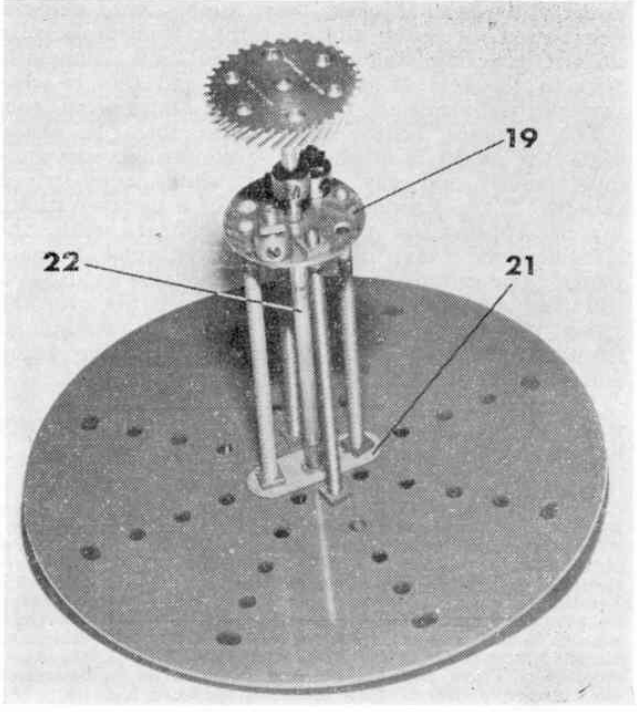
Intended for use by four people, it basically consists of a circular table, in the centre of which an eccentrically revolving "knocker" is mounted. The complete unit is fixed in a cabinet, fitted with four inlet guides and four outlet chutes. The idea is that each "contestant" rolls a penny down his inlet guide on to the circular table, off which it is knocked by the revolving "knocker." If the penny falls into an outlet chute, the "owner" of the chute claims it, but if it misses all the chutes and drops into the body of the machine, then everybody loses. It can become most interesting!

Construction, while being solid, is not difficult. The external framework is built up from four 12½ in. Angle Girders 1, connected, half-way up, by four 9½ in. Angle Girders 2 and, at the top at each side, by two 4½ in. Angle Girders 3, overlayed by a 9½ in. Strip 4.

A plan view of the Meccano Slot Machine showing the control table and the revolving "Knocker" which is designed to direct pennies rolled down the inlet guide into the outlet chutes.



The complete central table, removed from the Machine. Note the 1½ in. Strip 21, fixed across the centre of the Circular Plate to provide an extended bearing for the drive-shaft.



This latter arrangement leaves a gap of ½ in. between the two 4½ in. Angle Girders. Two opposite Angle Girders 2 are joined through their eleventh holes by a 9½ in. Strip 5, then the entire base of the machine is filled in by four 5½ × 3½ in. Flat Plates 6 and a 5½ × 2½ in. Flat Plate 7.

Angle Girders 1 at each side are now further joined by a 9½ in. Angle Girder 8, then each side is completed by two 4½ × 2½ in. Flexible Plates, edged by 2½ in. Strips 9, and two 4½ × 2½ in. Flat Plates 10, connected by two 4½ in. Strips 11. The large gap remaining accommodates the outlet chute, obtained from two 2½ × 2½ in. Triangular Flexible Plates 12 joined by a 3½ × 2½ in. Flat Plate 13 extended two holes by a 3½ × 2½ in. Flexible Plate 14. Attached by Angle Brackets to this last Plate is a 3½ × ½ in. Double Angle Strip 15, the lugs of which are extended by Fishplates. Also attached by Angle Brackets, to Strips 9, is the inlet guide, obtained from two 3½ in. Flat Girders 16 spaced apart by three 3½ in. Strips.

Inside the cabinet, a ledge is provided all round by bolting two 5½ × 1½ in. Flexible Plates to the horizontal flange of each Angle Girder 8, each pair of Flexible Plates being edged by a 7½ in. Strip 17. When the four 7½ in. Strips are in place, they should form a square, as shown. Note, incidentally, that the upper corners of the cabinet are strengthened by 1½ in. Corner Brackets 18.

Table and knocker

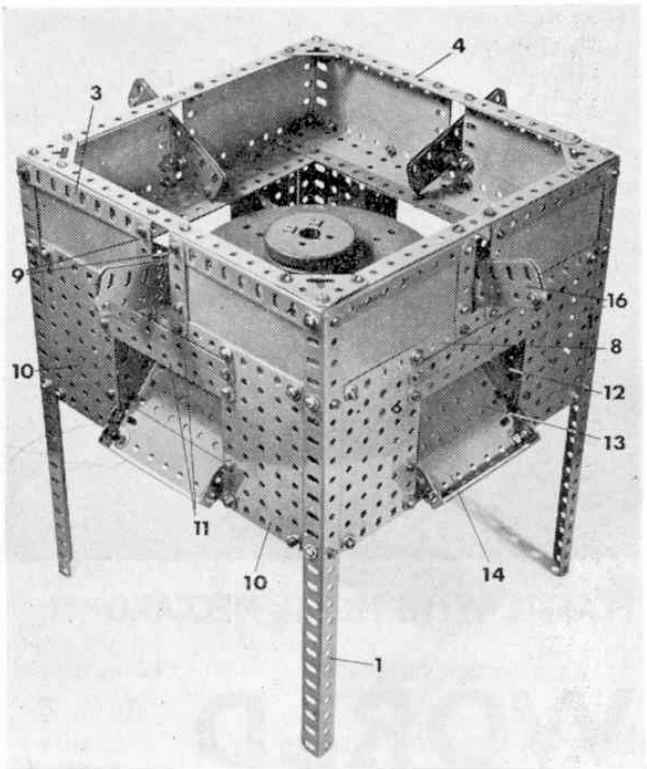
Coming now to the table and knocker, I must recommend that you follow the building sequence exactly. An 8-hole Wheel Disc 19 is fixed by two ½ in. Bolts to the inside of Flat Plate 7, a Collar on the shank of each Bolt acting as a spacer. Held by Nuts in this Wheel Disc are four 3½ in. Screwed Rods, to the top ends of which a 6 in. Circular Plate 20 is secured, also by Nuts, two of which fix a 1½ in. Strip 21 across the centre of the Plate. A Double Arm Crank is now tightly fixed by one Bolt to the back of a Wheel Flange, care being taken to see that the centre bore of the Crank coincides with the notch in the middle of the Wheel Flange. A 5½ in. Rod 22 is mounted tight in the boss of the Crank, then another Wheel Flange 23 is attached by ½ in. Bolts to the first Wheel Flange. Note that the Flanges of both these parts point in the same direction, i.e. down the length of Rod 22.

The Rod is now journalled in the centre hole of Strip 21 and in Wheel Disc 19, as well as in the corresponding hole of Flat Plate 7, to be held in place by a Collar beneath the Plate. Mounted on the end of the Rod is a 1½ in. Helical Gear 24 in mesh with a ½ in. Helical Gear on the output shaft of a Power Drive Unit. This Unit is bolted, along with a 1½ × 1½ in. Flat Plate, to a 1½ in. Angle Girder 25, fixed to one of the 5½ × 3½ in. Flat Plates forming the underside of the cabinet.

PARTS REQUIRED

1—1a	1—14a	4—80c
4—1b	1—24a	8—103d
8—2a	232—37a	8—111a
12—3	208—37b	2—111c
8—5	60—38	4—133
1—6a	4—52a	1—137
4—8	4—53	1—146
8—8a	8—53a	8—189
8—9a	3—59	4—190a
1—9b	1—62b	8—191
8—10	1—70	1—211a
32—12	1—74	1—211b
		8—223

1 Power Drive Unit



In this general view of the Meccano Slot Machine, the strong exterior construction of the model is clearly shown. Note the "lip" on the outlet chutes.

An underside view of the model, with the Power Drive Unit in position. A pair of Bevel Gears transmits the drive from this Unit to the revolving Knocker.