team Engines You Can Build Ā

Edited by
William C. Fitt

Relaxation is found in many forms. While some find it in thewide open spaces of the great outdoors, others are discov· ering it measured in thousandths and tens of thousandths of an inch in cozy home workshops.

To this latter group, Steam and Stirling - Engines You Can Build provides direction for the experienced and instruction for the novice in the fast-growing ranks of Amateur Machinists.

The projects presented have been built by men from all walks of life and were designed by hobbyists from an equally broad span of devotees who enjoy model engineering as a fascinating and extremely satisfying past time.

If you presently do not have a home workshop, you can start off with Andrew Sprague's Hand-Tool Steam Engines which can be built with the inexpensive hand tools found in almost any home or apartment. Many Live Steam projects have been built using a small electric hand drill as a lathe. Even if space precludes a separate room for a workshop, small-capacity metal-working machinery is available that can be set upon a kitchen table and stored away in a closet orcabinet when not in use. If you want to include some of the larger projects, consider enrolling in a night-school class where adequate facilities are available.

The two main requirements necessary to get you into the Live Steam Hobby are (1) decide and (2) beginl

Edited by William C. Fitt

 $\overline{\Omega}$

Copyright [©] 1980, 2000 Village Press Publications

library of Congress Catalog Card No. 80-50602 ISBN Number 0-914104-06-3

JACKET

This quarter-size model of a Rider-Ericsson Hot-Air Pumping Engine was built by Larry Kazyak after scaling down an 8" engine which is at the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. Photo by Larry Kazyak.

Village Press, Inc. PUBLICATIONS P.O. Box 1810 • Traverse City, Michigan 49685

Dedicated to Good Wife Doris

Foreword

At no time in history has participation in metal-working as a hobby grown as fast in America as it has in the past fifteen years. It is a safe assumption that as many metal-turning lathes have been purchased in the past five years for home workshops as were in such use prior to that time. Because of that growth, the need for "how-to" information has increased and Steam and Stirling-Engines You Can Build provides some of those details.

During this fifteen-year period, LIVE STEAM Magazine has been providing Amateur Machinists with projects of varying degrees of complexity but, as The Hobby grew and The Magazine's circulation increased, most of the earlier copies were no longer available. To close this information gap, several of those out-of-print projects are included in this volumesothat the many newcomers to the Live Steam Hobby can have available the instruction and design information that they need.

Knowing that only time will produce a home workshop scrap bin filled with the little odds

and ends of materials needed to build these engines, arrangements have been made to have all the materials required for the projects in this book to be supplied in kit form. In this way. all those newly-purchased lathes (and many of the existing ones that are being dusted off and put back into use) can be put to work by their owners to make more than a few elementary metal turnings and some experimental threaded rods!

So here is the beginning the thrill of building something that actually works is yours by just following the directions. If you are a complete novice in this field, pick one of the simpler projects for your first attempt and gradually work your way through the others as your skill and abilities (and confidence) increase.

The Hobby is enjoyed by persons in ali walks of life and we are sure that you will find many pleasurable hours in your workshop with the projects in this book.

> William C. Fitt Editor Traverse City. Michigan March 6th, 1980

Contents

THIS PAGE IS BLANK

but this is not a printing or scanning fault and no content is missing.

It looks like an expensiue antique but it's easy to build this

by W. Marshall Black

Photos and Drawings by the Author

ere's a project for all you "tinkers" like me who like to get out in the shop now and again and "make-up" as you go. The original plant will raise 40 pounds of steam in two or three minutes, and steam a $9/64$ " x $5/16$ " double acting engine at a steady 2,500 rpm on 20 psi with remark· able power. The work is within range of a beginner and his Unimat.

Instead of exact drawings, we'l provide only some sketches and photos with blow by blow instructions. The original was made from some freehand "idea" sketches. Most of the materials will be in your scrap box or at the local hardware store, but you may want to get off an order for some l/S" 00 pipe fittings, an ounce of 1/16" x \" copper rivets, a Stuart pressure gauge, and perhaps a small pop valve. Your local hobby store wiU have some sheet brass and small brass tubing in concentric sizes.

Let's begin with the boiler. Get a

piece of 1%" OD, thin wall, brass tube from the hardware store $-$ the kind used for plumbing under sinks. File off the chrome plate. Check the end for square, and hacksaw off a piece about 31/2" long for the boiler shell. Deburr the 10 and set aside. Now for the boiler drum-ends. Chuck up a brass bar slightly larger in OD than the shell 10 or, better, scribe a circle on a scrap of 1/4" brass plate, hacksaw out, and soft solder to a chucking mandrel. Either way, tum two disks to be a tight push fit into the ends of the shell. Dig out a cavity about 3/16" smaller than the OD of the disk. This should be about 1/8" deep. Cut off the disks or melt loose from the mandrel. Push one into the shell with the cavity facing inside. If you've made the disk a snug push fit, it will be square with store-bought end of the tube. Leave a scant 1/8" sticking out. Get out the propane torch, flux the joint, and soft solder one drum end to the tube. Flow in a little excess solder. Use silver solder if you have the stuff, but this isn't worth

the extra bother.

Scribe a centerline down the shell. Locate the center of the steam dome and clear (body) drill through the top of the drum for a $2-56$ or up to a $4-40$ bolt. This steel bolt is a stay that will screw into the top of the steam dome, so we had best make the dome next. I used a scrap of %" copper flue tube from the barrel of the dome. Lightly chuck and cut to approximate length. Then concave file one end to fit the boiler barrel saddlewise. Finish fit by wrapping a piece of emery cloth around the boiler shell stock and drawing the dome saddle across it till you've got a good square fit. Now tum up a dome top. It's easiest to have the inside end facing the tail stock. A nubbin of 1" OD brass is about right for a %" OD dome barrel. The inside should be drilled out to $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter by about $3/8$ " deep to make it thimble-like. Now relieve the OD back about 1/8" lengthwise to be a very light puah fit in the dome barrel. Then drill and tap about 8/16" beyond

Spirit tank appears at extreme right. Forward
of this is the lube oil storage and workbench.
Purished: Engine bolts to mounting bracket at front of boiler. Speed reduction is 11 to 1 at die cathead. Funnel is handy for fdling fuel and feed water tanks.

the depth of the W' hole to receive the stay bolt. Reverse the piece in the chuck, and contour the outside to be oId·timey looking or to suit your fancy.

Now take some long-nosed pliers and insert the longest bolt you can get in from the inside of the boiler shell up through the dome stay bolt hole. Run a nut down from the outside. Place the dome barrel over the stay bolt and hold your dome top in a side·view position so you can see where to cut off the stay bolt (and possibly dress off the square end of the dome barrel) so that the stay can screw into the dome top. Shortly we will fasten the dome to the barrel by simply screwing down the dome top.

But first put the boiler shell in the vise, hold the dome barrel concentric with the stay bolt, and with a long, slim scribe, mark the ID of the dome barrel on the boiler shell. Now center punch a mark for the steam outlet between the stay and the scribed location of the inner edge of the dome barrel and on the centerline of the boiler barrel. Also pop two marks just inside the scribed dome circle at the low points of the saddle $-$ one on each flank of the stay bolt. Square up the boiler barrel in a drill vise or vee block (if you are that rich) and drill the steam port, 1/8" right through top and bottom of the boiler barrel. Then open out the top hole with a #29 drill. Next drill the other two center pops on the top about #51. (These two ports may not be needed $-I$ envisioned them as drain holes for water that might get into the dome $-$ priming is the undoing of very small boilers.)

Remove the dome stay and chuck up the boiler shell to run true. Put the soldered end into the chuck so you won't crush the tube. Polish the barrel in the stay bolt area with emery, install the stay bolt with nut, then bump in the other drum end. Flux and soft solder without removing from the chuck. Then, using very light cuts and with a file, contour the drum end and square up the shell ends. (Watch out for the spinning stay bolt.) You should have about 1/8" of drum end outside the shell, and the bottom of the inner recess in the drum end should be even with the end of the shell as seen in side view. Reverse the shell and complete the other end the same way. Polish each end of the shell up to the stay bolt area, but don't lose your centerline scribe.

Remove the shell from the chuck. Lightly rescribe the centerline on top the shell. Assemble the steam dome and soft solder in place. Now for the rivets $-$ they do a lot for appearance and serve to pin the drum ends safely in place. Take a pair of small dividers and, using the end of the boiler shell as a guide, scribe a line right around about 1/16" back. This line should be in the center of the depth of the inner recess in the drum ends when viewed from the side. Subdivide this line for as many rivets as you want $-$ about 3/16" to $\frac{1}{4}$ " centers look good, but get the spacing even. Center pop and drill all these through with a 1/16" bit. Do the same around the dome top. Insert the rivets, flux and reheat the shell. The excess solder around the drum ends and dome top will usually grasp the rivets, but you may touch up some using small·

diameter solder.

Get in the stack next. A length of the thin-wall hobby tubing will serve for the stack. Center pop its location on the drum centerline. We want a good, true \mathcal{W}' hole right through top and bottom of the shell for this. Drilling a true hole from the convex side of the shell is all but impos-sible, so scribe a W' circle around the top center pop. True up the shell in the drill vise and go right through top and bottom with about a 1/8" bit. Open out the top with a 3/8" bit, then rat-tail file out to final OD, using frequent fitups. Once the stack tube pushes in nicely, you can remount in the drill vise and open out the bottom hole, from the top down, with one pass of a $1/2$ " bit. Insert the stack, leaving about 1/16" protruding from the bottom and soft solder in place. Now turn up a chimney top and drill through h'' so as to slip over the stack tube. For a real fancy job, soft solder the chimney top on leaving about '4" of stack tube protruding. Then swiss·file vee notches into this portion and flare out to make a crown-like appearance.

You are now ready for the siphons 'find superheater. These features distinguish the little boiler from its toy counterparts. Use ordinary 1/8" copper tube for the superheater. Straighten a length, anneal if necessary, and insert through the hole previously drilled through the shell under the steam dome. Make sure it goes as high up into the dome as possible. Then begin an elongate coil abruptly where the tube exits the bottom of the shell. Begin the coil toward the rear; make 1% loops ending straight out toward the front, just under the stack. The coil width should be about 1/2" to 5/8" to allow some flame to reach the shell. Use 3/16" OD copper tube for the two siphons. The important thing is that these should extend just inside the shell at the back end, and well up into the shell on the front (stack) end, and should slope upward about W' from back to front. Note also on the sketch that the rear ends. are located further from the end of the boiler than on the front end Soft solder the siphons and the superheater line into the boiler shell. Now clean up the whole job, removing excess solder with a knife and emery strips, then burnish all over with a wire wheel, or go bum a sandblast job. Notice that at no time did we do any soldering on the boiler without there being an air outlet. Had we done so, the heated air (or pickle drops) inside would expand and cause blowouts of melted solder.

Now you are ready for the fire end of the thing. One cannot overestimate the importance of adequate fire space and ventilation. A good rule to follow is to provide at least one inch of clear space between the top of a spirit burner and the lowest point of the water works. First make up an alcohol fuel tank whose height should be slightly less than the height of the wick or burner tubes. A horizontal shell of 1" diameter brass tube about 2" long ($25 \pm \infty$) will fire the two burners for about 20 minutes. This little tank is made just like the boiler drum was made, but no rivets are necessary. A filler plug and vent are located on top, and a 1/8" copper line leads to the burner. Add

a valve if you want to. The burner is a simple soft soldered assembly of brass tubes and a bit of sheet from the hobby store assortment. The burner tubes should be '4" ID and slightly taller than the fuel $tanh - so$ that when the $tanh is$ full, alcohol cannot overflow the burner tubes. Wicks are ¼" cotton clothesline or, better, asbestos about 1/8" longer than the tubes $-$ i.e., no more than $1/8$ " should protrude. You can control the steaming rate by adjusting the amount of wick protrusion, or lighting one or two burners. The fuel line valve is not good for firing control, but will reduce evaporation during shutdown.

The firebox ends are cut out of brass sheet $-$ the important thing is that these should hold the boiler shell high enough to clear the burner tube tops by about I%. inches. These sheets require a simple flanging job; the flanges are made along scribed lines in a vise after the rounded recess is rotary filed out to fit the boiler shell. A neat fire door can be made from sheet or tumings with a pin or bolt at the top so as to rotate upward to open. It should be located so that the bottom of the hole is about even with the top of the burner tubes. This way you can use a pick to adjust the wick height and, of course, light off and blow out (not up). A hole must be made to let the superheater or steam line out the front sheet. Assemble these Banged sheets to the boiler as follows: Take a small piece of wood about 1 %." wide and 4" long. Stand the sheets up on this, and lower the boiler into place. Any small chain hoist will do. Wrap a piece of wire around the boiler and the wood block to hold everything in place. Square up the sheets, taking care to leave about 5/16" of boiler drum extend· ing outside the rear sheet. When all is in good alignment, soft solder the sheets to the drum but turn the whole works upside down first to avoid "overhead" soldering. The firebox sides can be made from brass or blued stovepipe metal. They are held to the flanged pieces by tiny sheet metal screws. Drill the ventila· tion holes before clamping and drilling the screw holes. The upper row of ventilation holes may not be needed $-$ but I've seen too many antique toy plants that have them to ignore their probable wor-

Free-hand sketches on grid paper serve to "gel" the design for construction. Frequently, on subminiature work, '4" on the grid is used to represent 1/64" on the model. This drawing is a tracing of the original construction sketch which was made full size. Critical dimensions such as valve porting are determined by timely scribing on the parts as work progresses. This boiler was No. 3 in a series of experimental models and incorporates several desirable features learned the hard way.

thy function. The stack produces no natural draft but does add effective heating surface. Make a notch at the base of one of the side plates to admit the fuel line. It would have been more efficient to enclose the boiler in a casing, with the stack fastened to the casing and not through the boiler. I just don't care for the resulting "black box" appearance.

A gauge glass can be made in jig time from two brass fittings for copper tubing, 1/8" pipe to 1/8" tube, compression type. Turn off the pipe threads, shorten up a bit. and run through with a #38 drill, then tap 5-40 for the steam connection. Reverse the piece, shorten up the tubing fitting threaded section a bit and bore %" deep to be about 1/32" larger diameter than your gauge glass. (I used 5/32" OD glass tube. This is too small; 3116" would be better.) Remove the piece and chuck the tubing nut. Run through with a drill bit about 1/32" over the glass size as before. Shorten up the skirt a bit. Do the same to the second fitting except drill through $1/8$ " to accept a water leg pipe of thin wall, 1/8" brass tube. Cut your gauge glass to be about ^IW' long; fuse the ends with your torch. Slip on the nuta. then slip on two gaskets cut from a soft rubber tube. Then screw on the fittinp. Drill a 1/8" hole at the extreme back of the boiler shell $-$ drill right through top and bottom, but locate this hole so as to miss the drum ends and still be outside the rear firebox sheet.

Now you have a piping job $-$ use 1/8" copper tube for the top or steam leg; thread 5-40 and screw on to the gauge glass fitting. The waler leg pipe should be made from $1/8$ " OD brass tube (the hole in $1/8$ " copper tube is too small for a good water leg). Annea1 the tube and fill with solder before bending. then melt and flip out the solder. When the two legs and the glass look about right, trim off the legs and solder into the boiler shell. Remove the glass and solder the pipe connections to the gauge glass fittings. A little extra bending will now let the glass be slipped back in and bonneted down. Install a small 0-80 psi Stuart gauge on the back drum so as to connect into water space.

I did not initially install a pop valve on the experimental original (Number 3 of a series). I have an aversion to very small pops that usually just weep continuously. I found that a few successive strokes of the feed pump would oontrol pressure, or a good puff will put out the fire if pressure gets too high (40 psi is a good working pressure) while not working steam. Later, after the photos and drawings were made, one of Cole's smallest safety valves was mounted on the dome with an "L" shaped piece of tubing. This is on the side opposite the whistle. I would not recommend its location as indicated on the drawing.

Cole's also has a 3/16" plunger feed pump, although I made mine up using two store-bought 1/8" check valves that happened to be on hand. Or you can buy the balls and do it the hard way. Any sort of tank will do for the feed water supply, but the capacity should be somewhat greater than the boiler capacity which is about 40 cc at working level. This will about match the fuel capacity for a 20 to

25 minute run. A feed water heater coil can be run around the firebox, out of the direct flame. If so, put in a union in such a way that the boiler-engine assembly alone can be dismounted. Put a valve in the feed line $-$ otherwise the boiler will over-fill itself as it cools down.

Next we'll tackle the engine.

The engine on the original plant is a double-acting oscillator, 9164" bore by 5/16" stroke. It has a surprisingly strong torque and never gets water logged on the superheated steam provided. It seems well matched to the boiler. It's no more than an 8 hour project including lost time looking for that tool you just put down.

Start with the flywheel-crank assembly. Find a piece of steel rod about 1/16" diameter that is a good running fit in a piece of brass hobby tubing. Turn up and center drill the crank and flywheel to be a press fit on this shaft. Drill the crank to accept the crank pin for a 5/16" stroke. Press in the pin and shaft (use the drill press or lathe tail stock) but don't press on the flywheel yet. Incidentally, the flywheel is only $5/8$ " OD by $3/16$ " thick. I had apprehension that this would be too light $-$ but it's just right for this lively double actor.

The cylinder is also made from hobby tube. The piston is turned up from steel and lapped to the cylinder tube before either are cut to length. Square off the lapped piston stock and very carefully center drill for a press fit to the piston rod, then cut off the piston so as to be about 5/16" long. The cylinder head is a simple plug, the crank end head has a 5-40 thread packing gland. Both have about $1/16$ " of press fit intrusion into the cylinder tube, but note we have not yet cut the cylinder tube to final length. The original turned out right at 7/8" deteroriginal turned out right at $7/8$ ⁷ mined at the job site as follows:

Cylinder Tube Length = Piston Length $+$ Stroke + 2 Head Intrusions $+2$ Clearances

 $= 5/16 + 5/16 + 2/16 + 2/16$

 $= 14/16 = 7/8$ inch

The valve disk is got out next from 1" brass bar stock. Chuck up and square off the end with a finish cut. Before tap drilling the cylinder pivot hole for a $1-72$ thread and also before turning out the recess, do this: with the lathe tool, make a tiny dimple in the exact center; set a pair of sharp dividers to a radius upon which the cylinder ports will be drilled and scribe this circle on the face. Save this same divider setting to scribe the post when we will be ready to work on it. The radius should be about 11/32", determined as followa:

Port Radius = $(Cyl.$ Tube Length $/2$) - 1 Head Intrusion $- (1 \text{ Clearance}/2)$ $= (14/16)/2 - 1/16 - (1/16)/2$ $= 7/16 - 1/16 - 1/32$ $= 11/32$ inch

Now turn out the recess in the valve disk but don't come within 1/8" or a shade less of the port radius. Now turn the valve disk to proper 00, by again keeping at least W'' (1/8" on radius) out from the ports. This will assure an adequate surface for good steam seal. Center drill and tap $1-72$. Cut off to a thickness equal to the crank disk thickness.

Now comes a tricky part. You must soft solder the cylinder to the valve disk. making absolutely certain that the centerline of the cylinder and an imaginary diameter line on the port disk coincide when viewed face on as seen at upper-left on the sketch. I did this with luck and a 6" scale, but if you've got a depth mike, use it to measure in equal distances from the right and left sides of the valve disk to the cylinder tube. The cylinder is held to the disk during this fit-up by a light steel spring clamp. Solder in the heads at the same time. I also soldered the piston to the rod beforehand (leaving the rod about two inches long at this time), removed all excess solder, and coated the piston with oil before assembly $-$ no use to have the piston soldered to the cylinder. Needless to say, the center of the piston clearances on each end should coincide with the port radius scribed earlier. The amount of clearance isn't critical for superheated steam, but about 1/16" on each end seems about right.

Finally we come to the engine post. Scrounge a piece of 3/8" square steel stock and scribe a centerline on the side that will face the cylinder. Center pop on this line for the crankshaft hole. Drill the crankahaft hole to be a running fit to shaft, not the bushing. Drop in the crankshaft and crank. Position with crank pin at top dead center. Now lay the cylinder assembly with its $1-72$ retaining bolt in place across the post stock so that the end of the stuffing box touches the top of the crank pin. Then move the cylinder assembly upward (or away) from the pin about $5/32$ " to $3/16$ ". The $1-72$ bolt is now where the cylinder pivot hole will be drilled on the post centerline. Mark and center pop. This was right at one inch from the crankshaft on the original. The 5132" back-off is to provide external clearance between the crank pin journal and the stuffing box. Also mark the post at the position of the top and bottom of the valve disk. These marks will allow you to fancy up the post with a bit of turning and facing in the lathe. Trim the post to length, making sure the flywheel will clear the ground. Now find those dividers that we left set at the port radius and scribe the post around the pivot hole center pop.

Next open out the crankshaft hole and press the crank bushing into the post and press on the flywheel, leaving a modicum of end play. Oear drill the cylinder pivot hole for a $1-\frac{72}{2}$ bolt and open it out partway from the back side to a diameter very slightly larger than the spring. Tighten the pivot bolt, clip off the head, and substitute a nut to retain the spring. Assemble the cylinder to the post. Now by trial, determine the proper length of the piston $rod - so$ that the piston will have equal clearance at top and bottom dead centers. Cut off the rod and solder on a tiny brass crank journal. If everything turns freely, you are ready to do the porting.

Remove the cylinder but leave the $1-72$ pivot stud in its hole in the post. Place the post in a vise with the cylinder side face up and so that the crank can be turned. Lay a thin scale against the crank pin and the pivot bolt. Rotate the crank on one side of the crank throw until the

Feed water tank and plunger pump occupy right side of boiler. A feed system is essential in very small boilers for more than a few minutes running time. The large steam dome separator evolved to reduce priming, a major problem in subminiature systems. Good superheat and
large well ventilated firebox are very important.

scale reaches its maximum angle and scribe a line on the post. Place the scale against the other side of the crank pin and pivot bolt on the same side of the crank throw and scribe another line. One set of the post port holes will lie midway between these two lines and on the radius scribed earlier. Repeat the process, but on the other side of the crank throw. Lightly center pop the four port locations. Next, two long holes must be drilled down the post from the top end. These holes must be in a compromise location, as nearly as possible directly behind the ports, but they must not hit the cylinder pivot hole. Locate and drill these #52, then angle in the port holes #57 to connect. Finally, on each side of the post, drill the steam inlet and on the other side the exhaust so as to intersect the two long holes. Tap 5-40 or to suit the new·fangled tapered pipe threads. Oean out all passages and plug the long holes at the top of the post.

Finally we must drill the cylinder ports. These must be on the centerline of the cylinder and on the port radius scribed earlier. Locating the centerline is a problem $-I$ scribed it by laying a thin scale on each edge of the pivot hole and eyeballing to align along the corresponding edges of the fully extended piston rod and spliting the difference. Drill #57, at head and crank end. Assemble the engine, oil, and run-in by holding the flywheel against the running vee belt drive for your lathe. Test on air. If there is much blowby between the post and port disk, put in a little lapping compound and run-in again $-$ then clean thoroughly. Proper spring tension for your working pressure can be set later when on steam.

The engine on the original was mounted on a bracket soldered to the front firebox sheet. A 1/8" globe valve serves as a throttle. The coupling is very dose to avoid heat loss in the steam line. The exhaust is led into the stack. This is not so much to increase the draft as to evaporate an occasional spewing water drop that would be messy. A small removable pan under the engine will catch oil and water drip, but the plant runs remarkably free from this annoyance. AU except the whistle which is definitely not house broken.

The various components of the origi· nal plant are test bedded on a $5"$ x $7"$ decoupage board. The boiler-engine assembly can be removed to get at the wicks by loosening three wood screws and breaking the feedwater line at a union. The engine, in tum, can be removed via loosening the bottom mounting bolt. slipping the 1/8" copper exhaust line out of the brass $1/8$ " ID connection to the stack, and then unscrewing the inlet connection to the engine post. Reverse engine direction.can be obtained by switching the inlet and exhaust connections on the post (though the engine will then face the other way).

No claims of originality are made for this design. It just works so well I though I'd tell you about it. The two predecessors, despite repeated readings of Evan's book, were perfectly extinct little volcanoes. It is a pilot model for one to be half this size. It looks like an expensive antique, and curioUSly, the useless little workbench and shovel cause more com· ment than my one-inch scale Mallet locomotive. Even so, here are a few points I think are important in design of extremely small boilers:

- 1. Provide good vapor-water separation. This dictates a well baffled dome $$ vertical center flue jobs are out. See also pointer 4 below.
- 2. Provide good circulation via water tube siphons. Definitely have the siphon exhaust high up in the shell.
- 3. Provide as much ventilation and fire space as your application will permit. A famous locomotive designer once said that the limiting factor governing performance was, simply, "the ability to bum coal."
- 4. If you must use live or exhaust steam blowers in the stack, then the stack must not be over a burner. One drop of water can extinguish a wick or bunsen burner.
- 5. Always superheat.

Be a good water tender $-$ if the boiler runs dry it won't blow up $-$ it simply falls apart.

Photos by the Author

I his steam engine model is based on drawings shown in an old book, The Steam Engine, by Robert Scott Bum, published in london in 1854. Beeause the mechanism is unusual, 1 decided to build a model. The piaton both rotates and oscillates in a rectangular cylinder. It is supported and guided by a pair of arms that pivot on the crank shaft. The piston is rotated by a pair of cranks and arms on either side of the cylinder, mounted on the piston shaft which extends through both cylinder side plates. These cranks are clamped to the piston
shaft 90° apart and 45° to the eccentricity of
the piston, as shown. This avoids dead centers and counter balances the piston eccentricity with the connecting rods.

The cranks are clamped to the piston shaft and crankshaft by split clamps. The hole in the crank must be a snug fit to make the clamp hold. I have had no problem with

this. The cranks could be pinned in place after line up.

The piston is fitted with about .001" clearance on the diameter. Notethatan alloy steel is specified. It need not be stressproof but something harder than low carbon. I tried screw stock but it is too soft and scuffs in the cylinder. I also tried Teflon which is great if only air is used to run the engine.
The coefficient of expansion is too high for steam and it swells up like a balloon.

The long crank pin extends into the coupling on the fly wheel shaft. The holeis a loose fit to take up misalignment. Dowel the crankshaft bearings in place with escutcheon pins — tight in the bearings and loose in the
frame. Put spacers along both sides of the connecting rods at the crank pins and crankshaft.

The model is designed soit can be made using a lathe, drill press and file. Although I used brass for the major portion of my model, steel can be used for many parts.

 $\left(\frac{2}{3} \right)$ $\sqrt{17}$ $\overline{\mathbf{3}}$

CRANKSHAFT

Drill Rod - I required

 (10)

These two photographs show the manner in which the cranks and connecting rods work as the engine's eccentric piston both rotates and oscillates in the cylinder. At left, the crank nearest the flywheel coupling is in an upper position
and the connecting rod and piston axle are at the back of the curved slot. At

 \dot{n} ght, the piston has rotated about 90°, bringing the cranks down and the axle
and connecting rod have shifted to the center. Another 90° rotation will bring the connecting rod to the front where it will reverse its direction for the other
half of the piston's rotation. There's a lot of action in this little package!

 $-2 - 56 \times .06$ long

saw cut slot

CRANKPIN COVER (7) Brass - 3 required

SPACER (16) Brass - 4 required

 $.12$

Half-Horse **Aarine** 动力过 \bigoplus

by Henry Greenly

from the collection of
Weston Farmer

A Brief Prelude

Having had the good fortune 10 be born one month before the Wright brothers flew at Kitty Hawk, my boyhood fun was nurtured by the romance of plentiful steam engines all about me; by thedevelopment of the airplane; the gas engine; the "wireless," as it was called, and by all the wonderful power boats to be seen. As were so many young Americans, ^Iwas a monkey·wrench mechanic. I was educated by building model airplanes from split bamboo and toilet paper; by jazzing up a Model T Ford with Rajo heads, Hassler shock absorbers, Rlckstell axles and something called a "distributor," invented by a guy named Atwater Kent. I built and flew my own airplane and built my own power boats. We were all Rover Boys or Tom Swifts.

In 1928, at the age of 25, I lucked out again in being chosen as the editor to start **. Fawcett's Modarn Mechanics and Inventions** Magazine. This evolved into Modern Mechanix and eventually to Mechanix Illustrated. I seemed to have a sure touch as to the fare wanted by readers and consequently, the magazine continued to prosper.

One publishing adventure as an offshoot by Fawcett was the Mechanical Package Magazine. This was the first magazine-in-abox and carried kits for hobby building. The first kit was a small oscillating steam engine, the parts for which were assembled on a bent steel strap, soldered to a copper tube which was poked through a cork which, in turn, was jammed into the proper-sized opening just under the lid 01 a Carnation milk can. Of course, the engine did run merrllyl

One hundred thousand steam engine kits were produced at a cost of 11/20 each for Mechanical Package Magazine by the Acme Machine Company, of Minneapolis, There must have been panic among the contenled cows of Carnation when there was a sudden public demand for 100,000 cans of condensed milk!

After four issues, the "packmag" was killed as being too cost-intensive. Though it sold fabulously, it cost 14¢ per copy and sold wholesale for 16¢. Modern Mechanix also sold wholesale for 16¢ and only cost 9¢ per copy. This was a standard spread for a 25¢ newsstand price. The break-even cost of Ihe pack mag was just too high.

Before the Mechanical Package Magazine died, I had ordered a steam engine design from Henry Greenly, the great English engine designer. Greenly delivered the drawings and copy just before the packmag demise and Acme Machine built his engine. The plans and manuscript wera never published - but Greenly was paid the \$15 he demanded for the drawings and story.

In 1943, while I was in Alaska, I designed a small, two-Rover-Boy-sized boat for the Greenly engine to power. The sketches were originally printed in an edition of Rudder magazine and are reproduced on these pages, also.

The other day, Greenly's letter of transmittal and his story about how to build the engine popped out of a niche in my files, long forgotten. The engine had been tested under steam, treasured, hauled from domicile

HENRY GREENLY, OSALING: NO. 287 FWW N'SHITH TO LASPED
Cascillar: Windoodlas, West Acias Doure,
Tokion: Likes" o "Previss" " A. CO. FOR H'SHITH TO LASPIGE. KENNETH H. GREENLY, **8.8c.** $E = A$ **. (Lo** CONSULTING ENGINEERS 66, HESTON ROAD, HESTON-HOUNSLOW, Phone: Hounslow 3462 MIDDX. $x + 28, 32$ Weston Farmer & "mechanical Package" $529.57k$ Sr. bran hu Jaque <u>Lendore you dern the consent quality</u> kot pre teamp and MSS . for that liquing -�- I not gue wild curide - the near piteres acting a the "ancencia leader" for beached you of the sunt advanced type. I am food on in twee with a fair wumber of reader the are interested and the at the mement must rely an what is served up to them of the people's W Thursheen - Und country.

Henry Greenly's original tetter of transmittal, which accompanied the plans and instructions for this article prepared back in 1932.

RAIL . LON. UNDERGD. CENTRAL HOUND

. Ho. 120 BUS.

to domicile and finally had been given to my son, David K. farmer, who became a better engineer than his Dad.

When I discovered Greenly's unpublished 46-year-old manuscript. I thought of all the grown-up Rover Boys who read LIVE STEAM and mailed the script to Bill Fitt. Readers of LIVE STEAM will savor this discovery. It relates to the fun to be had by involvement with the velvety power of steam. that unforgettable satisfaction to be had only by men who know it.

Today's kids have it too easy. For \$2.98. they buy a scale model of an atomic submarine. No need to tinker or think! That. boys. is where the kick is. Take it from your old Uncle Westy who "was there. Charley" and knows.

Posthumously. then, here are fresh words of steam engine wisdom and construction by Henry Greenly, who was nonpariel in his day as a designer of British steam engines.

by Weston Farmer

OUTBOARD PROFILE

	TABLE OF OFFSETS	
HEIGHTS	HALF- DECADTHS	

DATA:

<u>DATA:</u>
<u>Pisplacement 1005° LOA12'3'; Deam48°</u>
<u>Moment to change trim: nothing flat.</u>
<u>Opeed: 4'5 maybe-knots</u>

FLYWHEEL END

To propel a steamboat which carriea its own skipper, an engine of at least a half horsepower is easential. This power must not be nominal; it must be capable or development with a full head of steam, continuously, but without draining the boiler.

It is surprising how small a cylinder is really neceasary, so long as it is built in a truly scientific manner. Over-cylindering must, at all times, be avoided as the real source of power is the boiler. The engine is only the medium by which the heat energy is converted into mechanical energy. (It would be no good to put a 10 HP electric motor onto a wireless battery and expect it to go.) Also, so long as the bearings are of ample area and the framing of sufficient stiffness, the lightest construction may be adopted.

The revolutions should be high enough to make the engine more or less efficientas a heat engine. All small enginea have only a minute amount of calories in the cylinder at each stroke and to keep the walls at the proper steam temperature, the number of strokes per minute should be as high as the components of the machinery will stand. By this means, the cylinder walls will be maintained at proper temperature and condensation losses will be reduced to the minimum. For the present purpose, I am recommending 300 to 400 RPM as the normal rate and a pressure of at least 60 psi at the boiler stop-valve. Allowing this, we can reckon on an average or mean pre88ure in the cylinder of 35 psi. The Indicated Horsepower should be:

pressure x area x length x number of strokes 33,000

or, in the case of this particular engine,

$$
\frac{35 \times 2.4 \times 2.5 \times 400 \times 2}{12 \times 33,000} = 0.424 \text{ IHP}
$$

If the pressure can be pushed up a little, the half horsepower designed as a maximum can be obtained easily, as the speed will go up quite a lot with a small increase in mean pressure.

Another point about the job is that the engine should be simple to make. There must be no castings bigger than can be machined in the lathes usually found in the average Amateur Machinist's home work-

shop. The crankcase should be enclosed 80 that oii 'may be confined to the bed of the engine and not splash about all over your boots, but at the same time, it ia highly desirable that the casing be removable readily in case any adjustments to the normally-hidden machinery are necessary.

Further, it is essential that the reversing gear be a& simple as po88ible. Nothingis as likely to go wrong or to wear so quickly that it is in danger of falling to pieces as a finnicky link motion, full of small pins.and innumerable highly·streaaed joints. Therefore, I have proposed for this small engine a robust slip eccentric reverse gear, the sort that will outlast all others and at the same time, give a perfect steam distribution in both directions of rotation. To reverse the engine, all that is necessary for the engineer to do is to shut off the main stop-valve and on the engine coming to rest, grab the flywheel and spin it in theoppositedirection of rotation. Turning on the steam again will make the engine continue to operate in the reversed way, until the reversing process is repeated.

The following is a brief set of specifications and an outline which will assist you in construction of your engine.

The CYLINDER is of cast iron, 134" bore x $2\frac{1}{2}$ stroke. When finished, it is complete in itself with the added steam chests and bored crosshead guide standing on the four columns.

The STEAM CHEST is a separate casting (or fabrication) studded onto the cylinder, the studs being extended to attach the steamcheat cover. This makes the valve facing and porta in the cylinder plain, straightforward jobs. There is no end· milling into recesses. Castings or com· ponent parts are relatively small. Thus, if you should happen to "muck up" any drilling, surfacing or boring operation with this cylinder and steamchest, there is not much work scrapped.

All passages are drilled in the cylinder casting and if an endmilling attachment to the lathe is not available, the porta may be formed by drilling and chipping.

The SLIDE VALVE and VALVE $SPINDLE$ are simple jobs. A plain D valve is used in gunmetal or hard bronze. It is slotted at the back and driven by the spindle, which has two collars turned on it out of the solid. To enable this spindle to be entered into the steam chest, the stuffing box is drilled and tapped with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia-

COLUMN
Steel, 4 required

 λ

FI YWHEEL Cast Iron, I required

meter fine thread and a braas gland plug small enough to clear the threads is driven into the bottom of the box after the spindle has been entered. The gland plug seats in a %" diameter hole.

The PISTON is lightened out as much as possible to reduce out-of-balance effecta at high speed. The rings should be obtain· able from commercial suppliers or any dealer handling small internal combustion engine rings.

The PISTON ROD should be marked off to the correct length on the job, after preliminary erecting.

Threaded GLANDS are recommended for the valve spindle and piston rod, but they must be machined and screw-cut true to their respective bores.

The CROSSHEAD GUIDE is circu· lar and bored for the crosshead. It fits on a spigot formed on the underside of the lower cylinder cover, or table.

The TABLE is a square casting or fabrication, spigoted on the top for the cylinder bore and on the bottom for the crosshead bore. It should be noted that the bottom cylinder flange will have to be drilled differently from the top, in order to take the countersunk screws which attach the cover to the cylinder. Holes are alao required in the corners of the table for the columns.

These four COLUMNS are 1/2" square steel rods, turned down at each end. There is no real objection to round rods, except that square rods make the sheet steel outer casing easier to fit up.

The BASEPLATE looks like an intricate casting from the drawing, but once the pattern is made, it is an easy job to face and drill for the columns and main bearings. The facing can be done in the lathe. A fabricated baseplate would also be practical.

Caat gunmetal is used for the MAIN BEARINGS, which can be machined all over in the lathe. There is a little locating spigot on the bottom which is formed during the facing operation and fits into a drilled hole in the base casting.

Turn the CRANKSHAFT from $2^{1}/4$ " x 1" bar steel. Machine it all over after first removing the superfluous material by drilling and a hacksaw. Be sure to leave aome lugs in the end of the crankshaft, so you will have a place to drill center holes for turning thecrankpin, These will be removed when the shaft itself is turned.

The eccentric has a short, carbon-steel pin fixed in one side. This will be driven by a washer·like STOP COLLAR which is fixed to the outside ofthe crank web by one or two small countersunk screws. This washer should be completely circular at the outset and have nearly half sawn off. The fixing of the collar should be such that the eccentric moves equally on each side of the crankpin centerline. This accuracy can be insured by leaving plenty of metal on the flatted edge of the washer and removing this contact face by filing or scraping when making the final adjustments to the valve gear.

The MAIN ROD is made in two pieces, a steel rod and a split gunmetal BIG BRASS. The bearing bolts, being necessarily small, should be of good stuff. They are kept small to reduce out·of-balance effects and to clear the crankcase.

The CROSSHEAD may be made of cast gunmetal and if more than one engine is being made, they can becastand machined in pairs.

INTERMEDIATE VALVE SPINDLE GUIDE
Cast Iron or Bronze, I required

dia

chamfer

ends

STOP PIN
Steel, I required

CROSSHEAD
Bronze, I required

BIG BRASS
Bronze, I required

STEAMCHEST COVER
Cost Iron, I required

STEAMCHEST
Cast Iron, I required

MAIN ROD
Steel, I required

The ECCENTRIC is of steel, loose on the shaft, and the ECCENTRIC STRAP is cast or fabricated integral with the eccentric rod. The sheaves themselves are split and jointed up again during the machining operations. Gunmetal or a hard bronze would be suitable.

The top end of the eccentric rod engages the forked INTERMEDIATE VALVE SPINDLE, which has a lug riveted or brazed on it to bracket the motion out to the valve spindle. This intermediate valve spindle is carried by the cast INTERME· DIATE VALVE SPINDLE GUIDE, which is attached to the columns by small screws.

The FLYWHEEL is of cast iron and should be turned up quite true to T' diameter. To balance the piston, several blind holea may be drilled in the rim. The exact number is a matter of experiment.

If the drive is taken off at the back of the engine, the flywheel need not be drilled. and tapped for any coupling bolta. The shaft extends far enough at the back end to allow the fixing of a flexible coupling. This can be made from a pair of flanged fittings with a disk of 14" boot-sole leather between the lugs
of the couplings, these being crossed on of the couplings, these being crossed on each other at a 90^o angle to provide the necessary flexibility.

The outer casing enclosing the crank and machinery is not detailed as a separate drawing, since it must be fitted carefully to place. Make it from 16-gauge Brown and Sharpe or 18-gauge American Standard (.05") sheet steel, screwed onto the columns with round-headed screws. The casing must be cut away where necessary to allow the intermediate valve spindle and guide to poke through. On the eccentric end of the engine, the sides of the casing may be bent to encloae the bearings, if desired, and the back sheet bent to conform with the outline of the sides. The casing sheets also can carry oil boxes for the main bearings, big brasses, crosshead guides and crosshead. As many as the engineer finds convenient may be added.

The cylinder should be lagged with asbestos yarn and jacketed with sheet steel.

A Roscoe lubricator is advised on the main steam pipe, but give the engine a gulp of cylinder oil at the start. The topoovercan be bored for an easily removable plug. In a Roscoe displacement lubricator, the oil outlet to the steam pipe is at the top of the chamber and should be a quite small hole, about 1/32" maximum. Right on top of the oiler is a large filling plug and at the bottom, a drain cock is required. The steam con· denses in the lubricator and displaces an atom of oil until it becomes full of water. This can be drained off and the lubricator replenished with oil. (Steam must be off for this operation.) A suitable lubricator for this engine is one that can hold about 3 cubic inches of oil. Thick cylinder oil should be used for this accessory, not the engine oil used for the running bearings.

Cylinder drains should be provided on the front or side of the cylinder, as desired. In the best·made engines, the outlets from the cocks are generally led down the sides to the bilges.

One final comment, for pipes and glands, where 26 threads per inch is specified, 28, ³²or 40 threads may be used, depending on which is the mostconvenienttothreador tap with the tools available in the Amateur Machinist's workshop.

21

A 10-inch Stirling Engine Powered Fan...

by Dr. James R. Senft

Photos and Drawings by the Author

22

DISPLACER PISTON ASSEMBLY

Moriya is a project that can make you more comfortable. And, because of its novelty, provide perhaps more than the
usual measure of satisfaction which accompanies the construction of any precision machine.

Until at least 35 years ago, hot air fans were produced commercially and were to be found in widely scattered
parts of the globe. Despite the fact that the power output of the rudimentary stirling cycle engine is extremely low, it was ideally suited to the task of driving these fans because of its quiet, reliable, and maintenance free nature. These fans were very popular among farmers and missionaries in remote torrid regions.

Although hot air powered fans are no match, size for size, for electric fans, Moriya spins its 10 inch fan blade in excess of 500 rpm to provide a gentle

soothing breeze at a distance of two or three feet. Not having an electric table fan, Moriya has on several occasiona done faithful and commendable duty alongside my drafting table or atop my desk. The project requires no castings and the machining can easily be handles on a 6 inch lathe.

Begin construction with the COLD END. Although it doesn't have to be a critically accurate job, it would be well to be a bit fussy about it since many parts stack above and below it and their relative alignment is important. The machin· ing is straightforward with the possible exception of cutting the fairly deep fins in square stock. If you have never done it before, it might be well to experiment on a few pieces of scrap first.

Finnly chuck an ample length of 1%" square aluminum bar to run true in the 4·jaw chuck, face the end, oenterdrill, and bring up the tailstock center. Set up a parting tool to cut the fins. Setting the topalide parallel to the lathe axis will allow the use of its micrometer feed to precisely apace the cuts. Use a good sharp (and sufficiently long!) 3/32" wide part· ing tool and set it dead square to the work. Set the topslide to zero, bring the side of the tool against the faced end of the bar, and lock the carriage. Back the tool clear and feed the topslide toward the chuck exactly $3/16$ " plus the width of the tool for the first cut.

The square shape of the work affords an ideal opportunity for devilish little chips to position themselves across the cut and jam the tool. To minimize the

chance of catastrophy, loosen the drive helt as much as possible. Set the machine in lowest backgear and the finest automatic crossfeed rate. It is surprising how little belt tension is required to drive the workpiece in backgear.

Thus prepared, commence the first cut. Use a lubricant! Kerosene is usually recommended, but it might pay to try a fluid especially compounded for alumi· num. I have found that lacquer thinner works extremely well, but it cannot really be recommended for machine operations because of the terrific fire hazard involved. Note the cross slide reading at the instant that the cut becomes continuous, and then continue the cut for another .218". Back the tool out, feed the top· slide over exactly .147" and make the second cut. Repeat until all eight cuts have been made.

Remove from the chuck and saw off a little long. Chuck the finned block truly in the 4·jaw again with the sawn end out; best lay some flat strips between the jaws and the work to avoid marring those beautiful fins! Face the end to length and turn the 1-5/32" dia. spigot. Now drill and bore through the block to exactly 1-1/16" dia. Out of the chuck, check with a mike to be sure that the two mounting surfaces are exactly parallel; if not, wring the block onto a stub mandrel and take a skim cut across the plain end.

All that remains is the drilling of the four 3/16" dia. stud holes through the entire piece. It is important that these holes be parallel to the bore so use brand new or accurately resharpened drills. The employment of the milling attachment to locate and carry out the drilling would probably be best.

For the TOP COVER, chuck a short length of 1%" square aluminum, face, and turn the spigot to a close fit in the bore of the cold end. Centerdrill and drill undersize for the gland; finish the stepped bore with a tiny boring tool. Chamfer the step to ensure that the gland will seat squarely when pressed in. Saw or part off a bit long. The top surface of the cover must be parallel to the spigoted surface and must be flat to ensure that the bearing stands will align nicely. Hold the cover against the faceplate with a drawbolt through the spindle or mount on a stub mandrel fitted with a nut. You can now face the top to correct width up to the dra wbolt nut; the unfinished portion under the nut will not matter at all so long as it is not high enough to foul the displacer connecting rod at B D C. Use the cold end to spot the four 3/16" dia. holes and move on to the engine base.

Cut a piece of ''' thick aluminum to the outside dimensions shown in the drawing and mark out the location or the cold end. Position in the 4-jaw and bore through 1-1/16" dia.; then form the counterbore to fit the spigot on the cold end. You can now carry the ENGINE BASE over to the drill press for the remaining work. The stud holes are spotted through the cold end.

The HOT END is probably best made from solid 11/2" square cold drawn steel bar even though most must be cut away! It could be fabricated from tubing and flat stock by sliver soldering but it would still need some truing on the lathe after \texttt{ward} - about the same amount of work either way. Do the lathe work at a single chucking. Firmly grip the stock in the 4·jaw, face, oenterdrill and engage the tailstock center. Turn the outside to shape but about 1/8" oversize with the flange at the tailstock end. Follow by boring the interior to exactly 1-1/16" dia. Support the end with a large center or a stepped centerdrilled plug prepared in advance and turn the outside to size, taking lighter cuts as the wall becomes thinner. Part off to exact length.

To locate the four holes in the flange, place a length of 1-1/16". dia. bar half in the cold end and half in the hot end and spot through the cold end. Be careful ir you clamp the hot end in the drillpress vise not to permanently distort the thinwalled section; best fit a snug-fitting plug or clamp by the flange. If you feel a bit uneasy about the thin wall, it can be made a little thicker but engine efficiency will suffer due to heat loss to the cold end by conduction, although the thick insulating washers will assist matters.

Aluminum is used for the DIS-PLACER PISTON in the interest of light weight and ease of construction. Thermodynamically, a thin walled stainless steel piston would be much better. With the body cut to length and the ends lightly chamrered, the cap and the end can be made up. The cap is a simple turning, but the end must be a careful job to ensure that the piston rod will be sufficiently concentric with the piston to prevent it from making contact with the cylinder walls. Chuck a length of 1" dia. alumi· num bar in the 3-jaw and turn the '4" dia. portion, the lightening recess, and the stepped portion to a nice press fit in the body. Saw off and chuck truly $-$ using the 4-jaw and dial indicator if necessary and drill and tap as shown in the drawing. Press fit the pieces together carefully and make up the rod. The hollow piston must be airtight; test by immersing the piston in near boiling water. No bubbles should be seen emerging from the joints.

Now is a good time to make the GASKETS for the displacer cylinder stack. The 3/16" thick compressed asbestos gasket is best made in two or more thinner pieces. The large hole in the two 1/32" thick gaskets can be cut freehand with a penknife; the thick gasket can be treated trepan style by mounting a stout knife blade in the tool holder and tackmg the material to a piece of wood secured to the faceplate. Cut the hole a little on the large side since the material will rise at the edge of the hole when cut causing the hole to close in under compression. The holes for the studs can be punched by means of a simple tool taking only a few minutes to make. Chuck a 2" lehgth or 3/16" drill rod truly, face, and centerdrill clear to the edge; harden and temper. Use a light hammer for the punching with hardwood or masonite for backing. Once again the cold end can be used for spacing the holes.

Make the four CYLINDER STUDS to the dimensions in the drawing. If necessary, you can open out the holes a bit. say to .191" dia., in the cold end, top cover, and engine base so that the studs will pass through easily and permit the pieces to bed down properly.

To make the GLAND, chuck a length of $7/16$ " dia, bronze in the 3-jaw and
turn down to $\frac{1}{2}$ " for a distance of $5/8$ ".
Saw off a little long and reverse in the chuck, gripping the piece by the W' dia.
portion. Face to length, drill through and
ream $1/8$ " dia. for a nice close fit around the displacer piston rod. This hole must
be concentric with the portion to be
turned; since twist drills often wander – especially when they must
n't — it is worthwhile to make up a .120" dia. D-bit and follow with the reamer.

CRANKSHAFT - STEEL

Now tum the end to 3/8" dia., a snug fit in the top cover recess. Further reduce the end to $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia. for a length of 3/16"; this portion should be a good press fit in the cover. If your press fit turns out too loose to be fully trusted, you can save the job by using Loctite retaining compound. To check that all is well thus far, as·

semble the displacer cylinder stack with some spacers on the top cover to fill in for the absent bearing stands. The displacer piston must stay clear of the cylinder walls for its entire stroke.

The BEARING STANDS are interesting jobs. The requirements are that they both be the same height, that they stand at true right angles to the top cover and that the holes in the base of the stands are correctly positioned for alignment of the bearing holes. Face two pieces of 3/8" aquare aluminum to a length of exactly 1%". Drill the two 1/8" dia. rivet holes on %" centers equidistant from the ends and 5/32" from one edge and countersink on one side. Drill one of the mating holes in a $3"$ length of $1/8"$ thick aluminum plate about 1-7/S" wide and countersink. The wider portion of the square leg should be approximately Rush with the edge of the plate which will be cut to final shape after machining. Slip a piece of lIS" dis. rod through both pieces, rivet over to fill the countersinks, and file flush. Now drill the second hole through the plate and treat likewise.

Clamp a thick wide bar $-$ say $\frac{1}{2}$ " by $2"$ - to the carriage with its edge parallel to the faceplate and ita wide top surface square to the faceplate; if you have a milling attachment, hold the bar in the vise. Lay the bearing stand on the bar with the square leg hanging over the edge and, holding the leg against the edge, clamp securely. Use a flycutter to machine the width of the leg to the required 5/16". The result is a perfect right angle leg with a flat mounting surface. By bringing the stands to proper height, you can locate and drill the two 3116" dia. mounting holes with micrometer precision to mate the holes in the top cover at the same setup. Carefully lay out the position of the 3/S" dia. hole, clamp the two stands back to back, and drill and ream; the holes must be square to the plate surface. Now the outline can be cut and filed as in the drawing. Don't forget the 9/64" dia. bole for holding the fan guard in the front stand.

Tum the BEARING MOUNTS to nicely take the ball bearings. Be sure to chamfer the atepped bore 80 the inner race of the bearing does not make contact. The mounts should press fit into the stands, but the 3/S" dia. spigot is long enough to permit rivetting over if desired.

The CRANKSHAFT is built up from drill rod and bar stock. Cut the webs a bit longer than finished size from 3/8' square steel bar and reduce one dimension to $5/16$ " by facing or milling. Clamp the two and drill and ream the two $\frac{1}{4}$ dia. holes exactly '/2" apart. You may as well make the POWER CRANK now also. If desired. the curved ends on the webs can- be machined by mounting them on a stub mandrel fitted with a securing nut. Cut a piece of straight '4" dia. drill rod 4-11/32" long for the main shaft and another piece 15/16" long for the throw. Countersink the holes in the webs slightly, slip the pieces together and soft solder. Then saw out the portion of main shaft between the webs. Cut two spacers from '4" LD. thinwall tubing to center the crankshaft between the bearings. The bearing stands with the shaft between can now be bolted atop the displacer cylin·

der; it must turn absolutely free.

Begin work on the DlSPLACER CONNECTING ROD by squaring off the ends of a 5/S" by 5/16" or 3/S" rectan· gular aluminum bar about 2W' long. Drill and tap one end for the two 3-4S cap screws and. with a slitting saw, saw off a %," length. Bolt back together, drill and ream the '4" dia. hole centered on the split line, and drill the 1/16" dia. hole through the otber end; best determine the distance between these holes from your model. Chuck by the big end, centerdrill the other, bring up the tailstock center and turn the rod to shape. Saw the rod to length and file or mill the little end to shape, including the slot. Oamp the big end around a turned stub mandrel for reducing the end to proper width and turning the bossea. You can now add the rod to the engine· assembly; teat for free working, shimming the cap if necessary. The 1/16" dis. pin through the little end and piston rod should be prevented from turning in the aluminum fork; otherwise, wear would be rapid. The pin ends could be threaded $0-80$ and nuts fitted to hold it from rotating. A good lubricant for the big end and the piston rod is graphite or graphite grease.

The POWER CYLINDER is an easy turning job, but care should be taken to obtain an accurate bore. A brake cylinder hone does a reasonably good job of removing the tool marks but resist the temptation to overdo it. A bronze cylinder was made for my model with a steel piston, but cast iron for both items would be better yet. Tum the piston and polish away the tool marks to a close but smooth fit in the cylinder. With the piston and cylinder surfaces clean and dry, the piston should fall through the bore when tilted, yet with the cylinder capped at one end and the hole in the piston plugged, the piston should lively snap back when pulled outward or pushed inward. Do your best here.

The POWER CONNECTING ROD is made in two pieces, a steel rod screwed into an aluminum end. If desired, the end can be bushed with bronze or teflon. Make the power CRANKPIN and the PISTON YOKE now. Use a small nut to secure the yoke to the piston $-$ small enough to clear the *'*4" hole leading to the passageway in the engine base. Make sure that the yoke seals the piston; apply gasket cement if necessary. Cut a 1/32" thick gasket for the cylinder and mount it on the base with $3/8$ " long $8-32$ machine screws. Lubricate the power cylinder with dry graphite or dry molybdenum disulfide; oil would eventually find ita way to the hot end and inhibit heat transfer. Set the cranks at about 90°. Check that the shart turns absolutely free - no tight spots allowed here! Plug the end of the passage with a $4-28$ bolt and soft washer and make sure the engine is airtight. Moriya's engine is ready to come to life!

Secure a temporary flywheel to the ahart, apply a good size Rame to the bottom of the hot end, wait about 30 seconds, and give the shaft an easy spin; the displacer piston leads the power piston 90° in the direction of rotation. Direction can be reversed by turning the power crank 180⁰.

The author's son (above) enjoys Motiya's gentle
breeze on a summer day. The "Ky-Ko" hot air
fan, depicted in the 1938 advertisement below, was about four feet high and well-known for its trouble-free performance. Reproduction of the
ad is by David Swann.

If Moriya is the first hot air engine you have made, it is highly probable that you will be content for some time to leave it as is and simply watch it quietly spin a nicely finished flywheel! But the remaining parta are non·precision jobs and therefore offer a pleasant and relax· ing change from the careful engine work - especially from the feverish activity that occurs whenever an engine is nearing completion.

You will probably want to make the FAN BLADES first to "see what she'll do." Simple sheet metal work finished in one evening. I purchased a pop rivet tool to fasten the blades to the web and fell in love with the device. Since then it has been invaluable for restoring broken toys and sad faces! You may wiab to experi· ment with the pitch angle of the blades for maximum breeze, or perhaps even try curving the blades.

The legs for the FRONT STAND and the REAR STAND are bent up from ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$ angle iron. The astute engineer will note that many of the dimen· sions in the drawings of these items are redundant; the point is, of course, that you can follow those most convenient for your shop. The dimensions need not be critically followed; but the legs should turn out identical for the sake of appearanee. To this end, I made a jig by bending a length of angle to the desired shape and reinforced it by welding short lengtha of angle to the back. Then four generous lengths of angle were cut, placed in the jig, clamped by one end in the viae, and bent into the jig with the aid of a pipe handle slipped over the free end of the leg.

After bending, the legs can be cut to exact length and welded to the mounting pieces. The rear stand is secured to the engine by $8-32$ acrews that enter the tapped holes in the engine base below the power cylinder. An alternative would be to use long screws to hold down the

power cylinder and nuts on the underside to capture the rear stand. The front stand is secured by two $8-32$ screws to the front of the engine base; these screws also pass through the lower cross bar of the fan guard.

I found the FAN GUARD to be an interesting task $-$ once again the pop rivet tool could be used! Cut out and drill the cross pieces and bend the U· shaped uprights. You may wish to in· crease the depth of the guard; in fact, if you use a larger pitch angle for the fan blades. the depth must be increased. Simply increase the 2·1/16" dimension the desired amount and increase the 1·9/16" dimension by the same amount. Twist the legs 25⁰ taking care that the legs are truly prependicular so that the rings will line up nicely. Drill the required holes in the uprights and rivet on the cross pieces securely. Turn a 3/8" O.D. by $9/64$ " I.D. by $3/8$ " long aluminum bushing and mount the assembly to the engine with the bushing between the upper cross bar and the front bearing stand, a $6-32$ bolt passing through the three.

Bend the rings around any convenient round object to produce a diameter of approximately 11". Drill a 1/8" hole near one end of each and temporarily bolt to the frame. Adjust the positions of the rines till they form round identical circles, temporarily clamp in position,

and mark off the holes and the exact length. Remove the rings, drill the holes, cut to length, and rivet to the frame. The lap joint should be made at one of the legs as depicted in the drawing for maxi· mum rigidity.

With the stands and guard shaped to your liking, finish these pieces by paint· ing. Flat black was used on my Moriya and contrasts nicely with the bright aluminum engine surfaces. The blades can also be painted if desired; perhaps grey or dark green. All that remains now is the ALCOHOL LAMP.

Jewelry and watch repair supply houses can furnish cute little alcohol burners which may be the right height for the job, but an ordinary oil can is easy to adapt to our purposes. Remove the spout from the filler cap, open out the hole if necessary, and solder a length of thinwall 3/8" 0.0. brass tubing in its place. The top of the tube should be about 1" below the bottom of the hot end. Pack in string for a wick, but not too tightly so that the tank can vent itself.

Finally, you may wish to fit a flame shield against the front stand as on the "Ky.Ko" fan in an attempt to prevent the products of combustion from being pulled along with the cooler air. Also, some thick asbestos insulating material placed on the underside of the engine base will help keep the temperature of the cold end lower.

The author and his son, Victor, enjoy firing up Moriya on any occasion. just for the satisfaction of watching it operate.

With a few pleasant hours in your shop. you can build

by Dale Hobson

Photos by the Author

Several years ago, while watching my latest creation, a small two-cylinder stationary steam engine work, it occured to me that maybe the proponents of the steam turbine had something. Namely: $$ one moving part. So, off to the library to find out what I could. Well, they had a very simple principle and some sophisticated designs.

I started out to use both but after more discarded designs and material than I care to admit to, about all I retained was the aimple principle. The design is prettybasic. It operates on 201b.-401b. of steam and actually whines at top speed.

There is one thing this little turbine can do that a lot of the sophisticated ones can't, and that is reverse. Even while turning up at top speed it can be thrown into reverse and it will atop, and start winding up in the oppoaite direction almost immediately with no harm done to anything.

It won't cost an arm and a leg to build either. The cost will be less than a night out with your girl friend, or even your wife. It ia not complicated to build and, I believe, will be enjoyable.

Just where you start is pretty much up to you. I do suggest that you study the drawings and instructions first, however.

THE SUPPORT STAND

The stand is made from .02S mild steel, or similar. Scribe the lines as shown in the lay-out pattern; a coat of ink will make the lines stand out better. Center punch and drill the four holes where the

Turning up under full steam,
the turbine whines and sends up whisps of steam

broken linea come together to give relief to the corners when bending. The seven other small holes are for rivets, so you better drill these, too, while you have your l/S" drill working and while the metal ia still flat. Drill the two holes in the base for the hold down screws, but do not drill the 1/2" hole now. The edge of thia hole comes very close to where the bend ia made and it will be neater if you wait until after bending.

Now cut along the solid lines, getting the stand to its shape and also cut along the solid lines which end in the relief holes.

Making the bends will be much easier if you cut a block from a piece of 2" x 4" and another one from 1" wood, both the size and shape as shown in the rear view, or the part of the lay-out pattern enclosed by the broken lines. Place one block on the metal so its edges are along the broken lines shown in the drawing and the corners partly cover each of the four relief holes. Without allowing it to move, drill through at least two of the rivet holes and through the block. Lay the metal aside. Line up both blocks so their edges are even and, using the first block as a template, drill the 1/8" holes into the other block. Then, with the metal between the blocks and a couple of short pieces of welding rod through the holes, the metal won't shift while bending.

Clamp this concoction in the vise with the top up. Bend the top 90 degrees over the thick block. Then bend the 3/S" overhang on each side down to conform to the block. Turn the thing upside down and do the same to the bottom. Then you can bend in the two sides to conform to the block. The blocks have now served their purpose.

Before drilling the four rivet holes on through the sides into the top and bottom sections, use a square and be sure the top and bottom are at 90 degrees to the front. Then go ahesd and drill and rivet the stand together. Now you can drill the 1/2" hole in the front and file and clean up the edges and corners. With thia done you can get started with the rotor housing.

THE ROTOR HOUSING

Start with a round disk 2-7/8" diameter with a 1/4" hole in the center. This is of the same material as the base, .028 mild steel. This should be flat and perfectly round. Next cut the piece of .028 mild steel 1%." x 9-1/8" as shown in the drawing. Make the hole for the exhaust stack and the 1/8" hole, then form it into a circle over a can, or something similar, beging careful not to kink it where the stack hole is. Lay the disk on a flat surface and, with the short side of the edge of the $1-1/4$ " piece on the flat surface, draw it up until it fits snugly all the way around the disk.

To do this, and to hold it in place while brazing together, I recommend a hose clamp that has threads in the peri· meter of the clamp. Also, if you cut a 1/2" strip of aluminum (.040 or such out of some scrap) and put between the clamp and the housing, it will prevent any brass from sticking to the clamp. The walls of the housing must be perpendicular to the disk. The joint of the 1-1/4" piece at the bottom should not overlap. Trim if needed and then take one of the little scraps you cut from the ends of the 1-1/4" piece, place it over the joint on the outside and, with the walls perpendicular, braze it in place for reenforcing. Then, with the disk and the edge of the wall even all the way around, make a few spot brazes and then braze it all the way around on the inside.

File a little flat place on the bottom of the disk so it conforms to the opening in the 1·1/4" piece. This is where the valve goes and we want the valve to fit tight against the edges of the housing (except at the front) and also against the base when we put it together. There should be about 1/32" between the valve and the housing at the front. This is to drain off any condensed steam. One thing more $-$ drill a $1/8$ " hole at the very bottom, the same distance from the front edge as the one at the top. These two holes are for a piece of 1/8" rod which will hold the front of the rotor case on.

Although it is possible to fabricate the rotor housing with lead solder, which I have done, I recommend brazing. Now for the next step, which is the exhaust stack.

Make the stack from a short piece of 1/2" or 5/8" copper tubing. Flare one end a little and with this end annealed (to anneal heat to cherry red and plunge in water), the aid of a piece of pipe or similar and a hammer, you can make it conform pretty close to the shape of the housing. Then solder it in place taking care to see that it is perpendicular to the bottom opening, as this opening will determine the position the housing is fastened to the base. When polished, the copper and aluminum in contrast to the painted stand gives a rather pleasing appearance.

THE BEARING BLOCK

The bearing block is made from a piece of aluminum or brass 3/8" x 3/4" x 1-1/8". Drill and ream to 1/4" a hole lengthwise through the center of the block. A small hole, say 1/16", is drilled from the top into this hole to serve as an oil hole. Two holes for 6-32 machine screws (use No. 25 drill) complete the bearing block if the ends are square and smooth.

One end of this block will butt up against the back of the rotor housing, so clamp it in place on the top of the base. Use a 1/4" rod to line up the hole in the block and the hole in the housing. Clamp the housing to the base so that the opening in the bottom of the housing will be such that the valve will be parallel to the bottom of the base. Then you can drill and rivet the rotor housing to the base.

Before drilling the holes for the machine screws which will fasten the bearing block to the base, make sure the block is aligned so that the rotor will have equal clearance from the housing all the way around. When you have done this and secured the bearing block to the base with the machine screws, lock washers and nuts, you can prime and paint_

THE ROTOR

The rotor is made starting with two aluminum disks 2·11/16" in diameter with a 1/4" hole in the center. Trying to cut these with only shears is not satisfactory. Because of the speed at which the rotor will turn, balance is important. You can, however, make them on your lathe. If you don't have a better set-up try this: Mark off two circles on a piece of .020 aluminum at least 2-7/8" in dia· meter and, while you're at it, making a couple of extra ones to allow for spoilage isn't a bad idea. Drill 1/8" holes through the centers and cut out the disks with your snips. Then mark and cut two pieces of smooth 3/4" pine board in a similar fashion. (I don't mean with your snips, I was referring to the size and shape.) Even if the two pieces of board are only sort of round, it will help. Drill $1/8$ " holes through the centers of these too. Put a piece of l/S" welding rod through the holes with the two aluminum disks sandwiched between the pieces of board.

Clamp them together, pull out the weld· ing rod and make the hole 1/4" through it all.

Also, we need a couple of 1/4" nuts and two large-area flat washers with $1/4$ " holes. These might be a little troublesome to come up with, at least with a large enough area, so just take a couple of pieces of $1/8$ " flat iron $1-1/2$ " x 2", or similar, and drill 1/4" holes through their centers: Now this stuff is all ready, it's time to go to the lathe.

Take a piece of 1/2" steel rod or larger, long enough to chuck firmly and leave enough sticking out to put the washers, boards and disks on, plus at least 1/2" for the nuts. Center drill the end and then use the tail-stock center. Turn down to .248 with a square shoulder at the headstock end. Back off the tail stock and carefully run at least $1/2$ " of threads on the end with vour of threads on the end with your 1/4" die and some cutting oil.

With this completed, put one washer up against the shoulder, then the wood pieces with the disks between the other washer and the two nuts. Before tighten' ing the first nuts, put the tail-stock center firmly into place and then tighten the nut, but good. The second nut is a jam nut. Now you can go ahead and turn the disks (and the wood) down to size. The sharp tool bit, ground with plenty or �elief and taking small cuts, will get the Job done.

To finish the rotor halves, a jig is necessary. You can make it from 3/8" square steel stock. Take two pieces about six inches long and two pieces about one inch long. The one inch pieces go be· tween the longer pieces at their ends and all on the same plane. Use machine screws. Two will be needed at one end keeping the screws as far apart aa practi: cal, and still go through the one inch long piece. Only one screw is needed at the other end to hold the long pieces tightly together with a 3/8" space be·

The Steam Turbine at rest to show size in relation to pencil.

ASSEMBLED TURBINE - WITHOUT CONTROL HANOLE OR BASE

Drawings by E. T. Larson from originals by Leo Egan

tween them (except at the ends).

At the end with the two machine
screws, drill a 1/4" hole from the top and in the center of the one inch piece. This is to accommodate a short 1/4" rod and is where the center hole of your disks will go. One more piece of this stock, about 2-1/4" long is required. This will do the cutting and bending. Grind one end of this piece square. Then at this end, but along one side, which will be the bottom, grind a bevel of 10 degrees, or so, that extends back about 1/2" from the end. This piece goes in between the two long pieces and is hinged at the end opposite the bevel by drilling a hole through all three pieces and using a machine screw to hinge it by. The hinge point is located just so the cutting end will cut in 3/8", or slightly less, from the edge of the disk.

The bevel, of course, goes down. On the inside of the side rail where the bevel is, it will be necessary to remove enough material with a file to accommodate the vane when it is bent over. Also, you should round off the top inside edge a little so the bend radius is not too sharp. It will be easier to do this before assembly. I waited to mention this so you could see its purpose. When you have it put together, including the short piece of 1/4" rod in its hole. all that remains in forming the vanes.

Around the circumference of the disk, mark off eight equal divisions with a scribe. The divisions are 45 degrees apart. With the 1/4" rod through the center hole of the disk and the aid of your vise, you can go ahead and cut and form the blades. Holding the disk

down firmly with a small block will help to make neater bends.

With two of these rotor halves that suit you, it's time to finish the rotor. A piece of I" round aluminum, cut enough thicker than 3/8" to allow for facing off both sides is needed. If you can't get aluminum, steel will do about as well. Chuck this in your lathe, center drill it and then drill and tsp it for 1/4" threads. Next take some 1/4" steel
rod about 3-1/4" long and run some
threads on one end of it for distance of 3/8". Thread the one inch piece onto the rod and really jam it up tight. Use visegrips or something. Face off both sides of the 1" piece and get the thickness down to 3/8" and make it run true. Before taking it out of the lathe you can make a light mark with the tool

SUPPORT STAND (.028 Mild Steel)

Ш **STEEL SHAFT**

 $3 - 1/4$

on the outer face about $5/32$ " in from the perimeter. When you take it out of the lathe, mark for three equidistant holes around this mark and drill for 1/8" rivets. Do this on a drill press so the holes are parallel to the shaft. Then getting the holes through the rotor halves will be simple. After you have drilled and deburred the holes is the best time to chuck the one inch piece up in your lathe and, with some fine emery cloth, polish the shaft so that it turns freely in the bearing block.

Having done this, take one of the rotor halves and slip it over the shaft so that the vanes are pointing away from the 1" piece and, without allowing it to move, drill the three rivet holes through it. Take it off the shaft, deburr and put it on the other side with the

vanes pointing the same direction they were, in toward the shaft. Put a couple of riveta part way in to hold it in place, take the other rotor half and put it over the shart with the vanes pointing in the opposite direction. With the vanes on this half positioned just half way between the vanes on its counterpart, drill the holes through it and rivet the project together.

To complete the rotor about all that's needed is two pieces of 1/2" round brass. Drill 1/4" holes through the centers on your lathe and face off the ends to a length of 3/S". That finishes the spacer. Half way along the length ot the other one, drill into the center hole and tap for an 8·32 set screw. Put the spacer on up against the rotor and push the shaft all the way into its bearing. File a little flat spot on the shaft just beyond the bearing

block where the set screw will set; it will prevent scoring the round part of the shaft. Polish off any roughness the file may have lett before taking the shatt out. For the final assembly, leave a few thousandtlis end clearance between the retainer and the bearing block, being sure the sbaft turns freely in the bearing. Don't forget a drop or two of light oil once in a while, particularly on final assembly.

At this point, you have completed the engine and ahould have a goodly amount of satisfaction from this project.

To make it operate, however, you will need to make the controls and control valve that will permit you to stop, start and reverae this little power plant. It takes a little study and attention to details but once you have them in mind, you are ready to go.

THE CONTROL VALVE

The control valve is the tricky part of the turbine. A drill press with vise, is almost a must. A little patience may come in handy, but only a limited supply of cuss words should see you through.
The valve is made from a piece of

The valve is made from a piece of
brass or aluminum $3/4$ " x $3/4$ " x $1.3/4$ ". All surfaces should be square and smooth. Half way between the ends of this block mark off center linea on what will be the top and back. On one end scribe a line
3/16" down and parallel to the top. Do the same from the front edge. At the junction of these two lines, make a center punch mark. Then, with the block on its end and lined up accurately in the drill press vise, drill a 15/64" hole through the length of the block. I suggest, though, that you run a smaller drill through first. After you have the hole drilled, bevel the ends a little. This will help in getting the "O" rings on the piston
stanted in started in.

Now for the .040 holes which will require a No. 60 drill. Along the top and 3/16" from the front edge, scribe a line the length of the block. This will be directly over the center of the 15/64" hole. On this line, and 1/4" from the center line, make two center punch marks. If you make these marks a little deeper, with just the point of a small drill, it will help get the No. 60 drill started at the required angle. The two .040 holes are drilled into the 15/64" hole at an angle of 30 degrees and are 120 degrees apart, so it will be necessary to set the block in the drill press vise at an angle of 60 degrees from the horizontal.

Getting the little No. 60 drill started at this angle may use up a dab of your patience, but it can be done, Drill from the bottom-most punch mark, down toward the end of the block, lifting the drill out several times to clean it. With these two little holea drilled, drill the two holes for the machine screws, as shown in the drawings. Next, drill the
11/32" hole in the back of the block as shown, being careful to stop the drill so that you leave a little wall between the end of this hole and the 15/64" hole. Next drill a 1/16" hole from the bottom $\frac{1}{2}$ hole. Now you can tap the $1/8$ " pipe of the 11/32" hole, where the bevel starts, into the nearest part of the 15/64" threada and go ahead and ream the 15/64" hole out to .250.

It is important that this hole has a amooth finish. It's the cylinder of your valve. The two innermost edges of the No. 60 holes (where they come through the cylinder wall) will have sharp edges and, if you blunt these sharp edges a little, it will add conaiderably to the life of your "O" rings. I use a bent pick, but a lot of things would work as well. Be careful not to damage the wall and, after this operation, make sure the No. 60 holes are clean. You will probably want to run the reamer through again.

Now it's altogether possible that your two No. 60 holes aren't exactly the same distance between centera as the drawing calls for. (I have a jig that I drill these holes with and the drawing was made from this.) However, it's no big deal if they aren't exactly the same as the

drawing. What is important though, is to know just where these holes come through the cylinder wall, so you will know just how far apart to make the grooves for the " 0 " rings on the valve piston. With a sharp scribe and your No. 60 drill stuck in the holes (one at a time) you can make a drawing on the front face of the valve housing that will tell you what you need to know.

The piston made from 3/16" brass rod is pretty simple and, I believe, explained sufficiently in the drawing. The grooves for the " 0 " rings should be close enough together so that in the OFF position, they seal the steam from both outlets, and still far enough apart so the $1/16$ " inlet hole and one outlet will be between the "O" rings in the running between the "O" rings in the running
positions. It will be necessary to grind a lathe tool to cut the grooves. The ahape of the "0" ring will tell you how to grind the tool, but make it a bit nar· rower than the groove will be, so you can move it back and forth slightly and notcut on both edges at the same time. The width of the grooves should just accom-
modate the "O" ring and be deep enough modate the "0" ring and be deep enough so the " 0 " ring fits snugly in the cylinder without excessive drag. It is a matter of cut a little and try the fit until you get what you want. After the first groove you can take a reading and know how deep to cut the other groove.

The "O" rings are $1/8$ " I.D. and $1/4$ " parts or hardware store. Wouldn't hurt O.D. You can get these from an auto to pick up a couple of extra ones. They aren't expensive. Oil the rings and the cylinder wall before assembly and once in a while thereafter.

When you pick up the "O" rings, also get a straight brass compression fitting with nut and ferrule for $1/8$ " copper tubing. This fitting must have $1/8$ " pipe threads on the other end. Also you need some $1/8$ " copper tubing for the steam supply line from the boiler to the valve.

With the brass fitting tightened in the control valve and the valve center in the opening of the rotor housing and held firmly against it and the base, drill the holes for the machine screws in the base. put in the screws and tighten the nuts.

The front cover of the turbine is a 3" diameter disk with a 1/4" hole in the center. It is held in place by a short length of $1/4$ " rod with threads on one end and a 1/8" hole drilled through the other end. A piece of 1/8" rod, upset on one end so it won't slip through the hole and cut a little longer than the diameter of the rotor housing, goes through the 1/8" holes in the housing to hold the 1/4" rod. You can make a respectable looking nut from a short piece of $1/2$ " aluminum rod.

It you have the rotor in place you can finish putting your little turbine together.

There is one more thing I should mention here. That is the trim ring which goes around the rotor housing. It doesn't have anything to do with how well the turbine operates but it does have a lot to do with its appearance and eye appeal.

About now you may be saying, "To heck with that. I want to see how this thing runs." I don't blame you. After you see how it runs and feel like dressing the little demon up a bit, here is how you can make the trim ring.

Turn down a piece of wood supported in your lathe by whatever means you choose (the Rotor Section may help give you an idea) to a width of slightly over the thickness of the turbine housing and the diameter a little less. Round the edges a little. Cut a piece of your .020 aluminum $1/4$ " wider than the housing and long enough so the ends just meet when clamped around the wood. Cut out from both ends to clear the valve and base. Make a hole for the stack in the middle. This hole should be at least 3/16" larger in diameter than that of your stack. Clamp this strip (with a protective strip between it and the clamp) down on your wood circle so that about $1/8$ " overhangs both edges. Now, with your best metal spinning technique, turn the edges down against the sides of the wood circle. Use a fast spindle speed and a block of wood to do this and start in from the edge applying sufficient pressure with the block to roll the edges down.

You can hold the trim ring in place on the rotor housing by drilling a small hole back a little from each end and bending a small tension spring to snap in the holes.

CONTROL

The control shown in the drawing is a simple affair. It consists of a handle with a hole in one end which goes over a machine screw anchored in the base. This should be held off the base by a spacer
or short length of spring so that it is in or short length of spring so that it is in
line with the valve piston. The other part is the linkage between the handle and the piston. This is made of two pieces riveted together and connected to the handle and piston by a couple of cotter pins through
the 1/16" holes. Just be sure they're free and don't put any bind on the piston while operating.

The material leaves a lot of latitude. One suggestion is the steel strapping used to bind crates and packages for shipping. A lumber yard or hardware trash pile should supply this.

The material for the base on which your turbine and oiler are mounted is pretty much up to you. Tempered Masonite and particle board are worth considering, with some 1/4" thick blocks at each corner and a piece of asbestos under your burner and boiler. Mount the turbine as close to the boiler as practical without it getting too much heat from the burner.

When you get the turbine mounted
you can locate the control. It will work you can locate the control. It will work
from either side. With the control connected to the piston and the piston in the cylinder, determine the OFF or neutral position by putting compressed air through the line and into the valve. If you don't have air, get up a head of steam. When you have the OFF position, you will know where to drill the hole through the base for the machine screw that goes through the hole in the handle. Put the screw up from the bottom and tighten a nut on the top to hold it firmly in place on the base. Then, with the bushing (or spring) and the handle in place on the &crew, put another nut and pal nut

CONTROL HANDLE

CONTROL VALVE (Brass or Alum.)

CONTROL VALVE PISTON (Brass)

to keep the handle from coming off.

You will want some stops for both the forward and reverse positions. Locate these by determining the position of the handle at which the turbine is turning at the maximum R.P.M. and place the stops so the handle can not be moved further than that in either direction. Then, with a head of steam up, push the handle
over against a stop and let 'er go. With it winding up, push the control handle over against the other stop and watch the response as it almost immediately stops and starts winding up in the opposite direction.

I use a simple boiler 2-3/4" diameter and about 6-1/2" long with a safety valve set at 40 lb. A home-made burner, a length of hose and my propane soldering torch provides the heat.

If you intend to put this little turbine to work you'll have to go a step farther. To utilize its speed, you'll need a speed reducer. I made a very uncomplicated one from the rubber wheel off a child's toy and a piece of rod. The rod, which is fastened to the wheel, is supported so that the wheel rests lightly on the turbine shaft. The axle is in a little slot, so that gravity is all that holds the wheel against the turbine shaft. A piece of rubber hose over the drive shaft and a metal wheel will work just as well.

This little turbine won't replace the engine in your Volkswagon (offhand I can't think of anything it will replace) but I think you'll find it fun. I have operated a little crane with it but it could just as well be adapted to anything else within its limitations where reversing is desirable.

For experience, or just for kicks, build a

Hand-Tool Steamn Engine

by Andrew Sprague Photos by the Author

HAND-TOOL STEAM ENGINE ASSEMBLY DRAWING Not To Scale

Drawingsby G. R. Broad, Jr., from sketches by Andrew Sprague

METHOD OF LOCATING STEAM PORTS

There you are... sitting in your favorite chair... loafing through the latest issue of LIVE STEAM...What's this, you say! Sesame Street? Me with my great locomotives and fancy shop equipment? I didn't
subscribe to this super steam magazine to read kid stuff!

Well, all you smug types can just pses
us by with a smile. We're here for those youngsters and newcomers who would like to enter the Live Steam Hobby but don't have quite enough knowledge yet, nor the tools required to build a working steam engine.

Here, then, is a steam engine which is about as simpleto build as anyone could ask for. It requires littlemoreto construct than a soldering iron or mini-torch, a hand drill, file and a hacksaw. And it's inexpensive enough you won't have to mortgage your mother to pay for it!

These engines are made entirely from common hobbyshop materials - 1/4" square brass tubing for the most part, a brass washer and nail and a spring from a motor brush. The flywheel is a clock gear with the teeth filed off or a paint-can cover, if that's handier.

Get started by cutting a 5" length of the W" square tubing for the vertical member, to which all other parts will be attached. Drill a 16" hole through the tubing on the centerline for the crankshaft tube, 1-9/16" from one end.

The cylinder is of $4''$ square tubing $14''$ \log . Solder a $\frac{1}{4}$ brass washer flat against the cylinder so that the washer's centerline is 7/16" from the end of the cylinder. Using

CYLINDER COVER DETAIL

SOLDERING TORCH

There are two things I'm sure that hate me $-$ coat hangers and soldering irons, neither of which I have ever learned how to control. For soldering these engines and the dozens of smaller ones I've made, I have found it much simpler to use a home-made alcohol blowpipe, such as the one shown here. The idea is about a zillion years old, but is inexpensive to build. easy to use and can be constructed in about 20 minutes.

Andrew Sprague

The cylinder and crankshaft are just a blur of speed as one of Andrew Sprague's Hand-Tool
Steam Engines does its stuff.Note the"tin-can" boiler on the hotplate in the background. These boilers should never be used for more than a very few pounds pressure, nor should a soldered-seam be used.

a 1%" brass nail. Solder its head exactly in the center of the washer hole.

To make the cylinder head, saw off a 5/16" square from flat stock and sweatsolder it in position. Now file two veegrooves on both sides of the nail about 44 " from the end and vertical to the cylinder. These are for the wire clips that will hold the cylinder tension spring in place.

Cut a '/2" section of '/s" tubing and solder it to the center hole of the clockwork (or paint-can lid) flywheel. Insert the crankshaft through the tube in the vertical member and solder the flywheel to the crankshaft. The flywheel should spin easily.

Next, calculate the placement of the steam ports by placing the vertical member with the crankshaft side up and rotate the flywheel so as to place the crankpin at a 90° angle to the vertical member. With a straightedge, line up the crankpin with the cylinder hole and mark the point at which it will line up with the center of the outer ring of the cylinder washer when assembled. Reverse the procedure to determine the location of the second port, then drill the $1/16$ " holes.

The piston is constructed of a 3" length of 7/32" square tubing, split on the centerline to I" from the end. The larger portion is then filled with solder. Drill a 1116" hole on the center line at 3/16" from the end of the split section and ream to fit the crankshaft so that it will revolve freely.

Again disassemble and, using a section of '/s" tubing, solder the steam pipe to one of the two holes, depending on which way you want the engine to revolve. If excess solder has filled the holes, re-drill the intake and exhaust ports.

Assemble the engine and attach a plastic or rubber tube to the steam pipe. By blowing into the tube, you should be able to make the engine spin rapidly. You can also have many hours of enjoyment by hooking it up to a tin can boiler and running it from a hotplate or the kitchen stove.

Well, a Kozo Hiraoka Heisler it's not, but it is a start toward the bigger and better things that we all find 80 pleasureablein the Live Steam Hobby!

$\vee\vee\vee$ mut Meitri

by William C. Fitt

During the past few years, Americans have been pressured into thought of conversion of the familiar terms and figures used for weight, volume and linear measure into unfamiliar metric terms. In typically bureaucratic manner, the "benefits" attributed to the change appeared in newspapers, television commercials and magazine articlee. The whole change was to be no more complicated than counting ones fingers or toea. In time, however, it became evident that the change was to be voluntary and the crash program of educating the public served better to kindle fires of objection. As a result, many Amateur Machinists developed serious objections to any reference to metric measurements.

This is most unfortunate . . . becauseit blocks the fun of learning which, after all, ia a basic requirement of engineering. It also tends to restrict the amount of material available to The Hobby because a great many of our fellow hobbyists live in areas which use the metric system and their writings incorporate metric terms and dimensions. To by-pass some of these projects simply because they use unfamiliar terms would be a serious loss to many of our fellow hobbyista and, really, it's not all that difficult.

To assist in one way, we have a series of charts in the Appendix of this volume that convert all dimensions up to 1000.9 millimeters into decimal inches or conversely, all dimensions up to 39.404 $inches$ to millimeters. Another chart lists all drills $-$ fraction, letter, number or metric sizes - with their diameter in both inches and millimeters so that a specific drill size can be compared with its closest counterpart for selection.

Readers of LIVE STEAM Magazine have been very helpful in offering solutions to the conversion from one system to the other and a couple of these will be repeated here to assist readers of this book.

An Amateur Machinist from The Netherlands, W. Th. M. deGroot, uses a very simple way to build projects in metric dimensions (which are in use in his country) which are published in inches. He has very successfully built some of the stationary engine projects ... including the Unusual Steam Engine by Robert S. Hedin on page 6 of this book ... using his method.

He converta all measurements by making one inch equal to 32mm. In this way, his models turn out to be about 20% bigger than originally intended by the designer, but all materials, rods, screws, drills and measurements become metric. For example, using his system of conversion, a / a' drill becomes a 4mm drill. Sheet brass 3/32" thick becomee 3mm sheet brass and so on. Not even the slightest difficulty was encountered in finding the right materials and tools.

Mr. deGroot proposee that this system can be used for models which are not to a particular scale (such as required to fit a track gauge) and which require no castings. A metric design can be built to a 20% smaller scale by making each millimeter equal to 1/32". If a larger model would be better, a metric design can be made to ^a609& larger scale by making each millimeter equal to 1/16".

This simple conversion system for "non·acale, non-casting" models will enable Live Steamers and Amateur Machinists to utilize many more plans and designs than ever were available to them before and they may do it simply and conveniently.

A Canadian reader, George A. Calver, points out that we should look on this situation as an easy challenge. He points out that small metric conversion calculators are available for leas than \$25. You just punch in the measurement, hit the linear con· version key and presto! inchee or metric or whatever you desire.

J. R. Tunney of New Zealand writes that he still works in the old English dimensions but he built Jan Gunnarsson's V-4 Oscillating Cylinder Engine (on page 86 of this book) with a regular pocket calculator which, he says, no workshop should be without. Simply enter the metric dimension into the calculator, divide by 25.4 and you've got it made! (Incidentally, he made the bore ofthe cylinders '' and used only two sizee of screws: '' Whitworth and 1/16 Whitworth. The pivot pin springs he salvaged from old ball-point pens.)

In the deaigns included in this book, you will find projects using both inch (English) and metric dimensions. Without any compelling pressure, we invite you to give them a try. You will not only be able to build another project but will discover a whole new field of interest.

หากหา a Tih

Every once in a while a fellow comes along who can turn out engines in his home workshop faster than most of us can decide
to tackle a project. These craftsmen are admired (and envied a bit) by all of us.

Such a man is Gary R. Slack of Iowa who built the three engines shown on this page in a little over a year after beginning his subscription to LIVE STEAM Magazine. All three of these designs appear in this book.

The Unusual Steam Engine (photo 1) built from RobertS. Hedin's design on page 6, he says, was a lot of fun to build and runs good, but shaky. The V-4 Oscillating Cylinder Engine (photo 2) from Jan Gunnarsson's plane and instructione on page 86, he rates as his best and it runs real smooth at 60 RPM and on up. Since he prefers small engines, Gary built Henry Greenly's Half-Horse Marine Engine (on page 11) at half the size shown in the drawings and it, too, is a smooth.running engine (photo 3). If you're wondering about the screw on the top of the cylinder, he says not to worry . . . he neglected
to remove it before his brother took the picture!

Here, then, is still another option that you can employ in building the designs presented here: try them at a size that suitsyour personal equipment, qualifications and interest. There is no limit to what you can do!

A 1/8-inch bore and stroke oscillating cylinder steam engine

by Dr. James R. Senft Photos and Drawings by the Author

PHOTOS ANO DRAWINGS BY THE AUTHOR

Bijou is an exceptional engine, but not only because of its size. Its single acting oscillating cylinder incorporates a trunkguide similar to the crosshead guide in fixed cylinder engines, a feature which greatly reduces friction and extends piston and cylinder life over that of the common oscillating model or toy. Performance is exceptional also; the tiny engine comes to life' on a mere 5 p.s.i. but buzzes with a character all its own on 25 p.s.i.

Despite its small size, Bijou is not hard to build; it is an ideal short project for a small lathe such as the Unimat. Nearly all the dimensions given in the drawings can be varied three thousandths $-$ very easy tolerances to live with in machine work. Exceptions occur where one part must mate another in a running or press fit, but even here the tolerance applies to one of the parts. Furthermore, a simple two·piece fixture used to drill the steam ports assures correct location of these items so critical to the proper operation of any oscillating engine.

Begin construction with the standard. Chuck a block of brass $3/16 \times 3/8 \times .667$ " in the 4-jaw using a dial indicator to accurately position the block for turning the 1/8" dia. pivot bearing boss. Leave a little more than 3/16" of the block protruding from the chuck. Now machine away the block to form a boss 1/8" dia. but about 3/16" long. Remove the piece, chuck by the boss in the 3-jaw, and face the port surface to a width of .110". Drill the .086 dia. pivot hole at the same chucking so that it is truly perpendicular to the port surface.

Remove from the chuck and cut the boss to the correct length of 1/16". Now drill the 3/32 dia. hole for the main bearing; the .281" spacing here is important, so set up in a milling attachment or mount the standard on an angle plate on the α oss slide and use the micrometer feed to space the holes exactly. Mill or file the step and the slot and drill the .047 dia. mounting hole. The inlet and outlet passages can be added later, after the ports have been drilled. These passages are drilled and tapped 0.80 so that $1/16$ O.D. brass tubing can be used for steam pipe. Alternately, the passages can simply be drilled 1/16 dia. and the pipes carefully soldered in place.

To make the cylinder, cut and machine to size a rectangular block of bronze $.187 \times .359 \times .525$ inches; S.A.E. 660 bearing bronze is ideal material to use here. Now chuck the block in the 4-jaw for turning the .086 dia. pivot; use a dial indicator to position the block preciaely. Now machine away to form the pivot. Aim for a good finish on the port wrface and turn the pivot to a close but free fit in its mating hole in the standard. Drill and tap the pivot 00-90 by 5132" deep for the pivot acrew. Out ot the chuck, check the cylinder with a mike to make sure that the port face ia parallel to the back surface of the cylinder; if not, chuck by the pivot and carefully take a light skim cut or two across the back.

Turn up a brass bushing $3/16$ O.D. x .089 I.D. x $3/16$ inches long, slip it over the pivot, and rechuck the cylinder in the 4-jaw to machine the bore; one of the chuck jaws bears on the end of the bushing thus protecting the pivot end from damage by the jaw. Center the 3116" square portion of the cylinder with a dial indicator and leave a little more than 3116" protruding from the chuck. Centerdrill, then drill the bore to depth first with a 3/32 dia. drill and followed by a . 120 dia. drill. Ream the bore with a l/S" dia. chucking (machine) reamer in good condition to obtain a smooth surface. Now turn the lower portion of the cylinder to just under 3/16 dia. Remove from the chuck and file or mill this lower portion to form the slot for the crankpin. Only the port remains to be drilled, but this is done after the piston and the drilling fixtures are finished.

Tum the piston from stainless steel; poliah to remove tool marks and obtain a smooth and close but free fit in the cylinder bore. Crossdrill the piston in a milling setup to ensure that the crankpin hole is truly perpendicular to and through the axis of the piston.

To make the crankshaft, chuck a short length of 3/16 dia. stainless steel in the 4-jaw to run eccentrically .125 t.i.r. with a dial indicator. Face locally and drill the crankpin hole. Reset to run exactly true, face, and drill for the shaft. Part off and carefully press fit the crankpin and shaft in the disk; these two &halts must be parallel or binding will result. The shanks of old $3/64$ and $1/32$ dia. drills are ideal materials for these items. Turn the main bearing, press squarely into the standard, and you're ready to make the port drilling fixtures.

The two holes and the slot in the port drilling guide must be truly collinear. Clamp a $1/4$ " wide strip of steel in a milling setup or to an angle plate mounted on the cross slide. Then with a 3/32 dia, endmill, cut the slot. Use the micrometer feed to space the .020 dia. and the .OS6 dia. holes exactly, first making a dent with a small centerdrill for the drills to follow. Using only the cross slide feed to mill the slot and locate the holes will ensure collinearity.

The guide pin can be made by turning the lower portion, drilling through the center, and then pressing in a length of .031 dia. rod But check to be sure the rod goes in absolutely concentric to the lower portion. The 3/32 dia. step should be a close fit in the drilling euide slot.

The ports in the standard and cylinder can now be drilled. The photos below and the drawings show the use of the fiatures. Note that you'll need to turn up a short bushing .031 l.D. to fit the crankpin and .093 0.0. to fit the slot in the drilling guide. Use a drill exactly .020 dia., run it at good speed, and feed gently.

The flywheel and spring washer are simple turning jobs in brass. The 00-90 flywheel set screw is a standard fill ister head machine screw with the head reduced to about .052 dia. Wind the spring from .012 dia. stainless steel spring wire $-$ the kind used for wire fishing leaders.

When assembled, the engine should turn absolutely free make sure there is not the slightest bind or tight spot. Adjust the spring pressure to just keep the port faces in contact at the steam or air pressure supplied

You can "sew up" a few pleasant evenings building this

Thimble **Power Plant**

by Dr. James R. Senft **Photos and Drawings by the Author**

The Author, filling the boiler of his Thimble Power Plant in preparation for firing up. Ashe points out in his text, this is a miniaturized version of an engine he applied to a Steam Truck design built for his son. The truck, shown below, is not included in the projects in this volume.

Photo 1. Completing the Drilling Guide by Completing the Drilling Guide by
drilling the No. 80 hole; note the centerdot accurately located in the milling machine.

I must sincerely thank our Editor for suggesting this project. It has turned out to be a most enjoyable and highly instructive one for this model engineer for several reasons, but particularly because the engine served as a sort of final test of certain features of design for small single acting oscillating steam engines initiated by the author some time ago.

Readers of several years standing will note from the photos and drawings (in particular, see Fig. 1) that this engine is the junior member of the Steam Truck/ Bijou family. The Steam Truck design evolved from two earlier but larger single acting oscillating engines. Both of these previous engines had compactness as their $prime$ $=$ minimum mass for a given displacement. Both incorporated the integral cylinder pivot and the long style piston for maximum bearing and sealing surface. Constructed at a very tender age, the first engine featured the trunk guide, but because of an unorthodox crank arrangement, suffered from excessive cylinder overhang and consequent rapid port face wear. The second engine, of %" bore and stroke, was much more successful, but omission of the trunk guide (probably for ease of construction) led to fairly rapid cylinder wear and eventual unacceptable leakage. Shortly thereafter, sight of the beautiful oscillating engine of Harry Wedge induced me to revert to the trunk guide; the Steam Truck engine followed.

With the desirability of the features incorporated in the engine of the Steam Truck now apparent from its performance, Bijou was very nearly a straight· forward reduction of the Steam Truck engine. The Thimble Steam Engine too, had to share the same features, and thus its resemblance to its two immediate predecessors. But it was not obtained by simply halving Bijou's dimensions.

First, halving Bijou would have given a cylinder 3/32" wide with a minimum wall thickness of 1/64". There was some concern with the trunk guide legs "springing" during machining or being bent through handling, so the cylinder width was increased to .105". Next, a half-size Bijou would require .010" dia. ports, a size considerably smaller than the model engineer's box of number drills includes. It was therefore decided to incorporate ports of .0135" dia. and use a standard No. 80 drill. The crank-to-pivot distance was taken to be half of Bijou's to give the same angle of oscillation, namely 25.8 degrees, a value rather typical of many oscillating engines. Thus to accommodate the larger ports, the distance from port to pivot was increased until no "bridging" of the ports in the standard occurred. This increase was not very large since Bijou had slightly undersized ports. The length of the cylinder was also increased to maintain an adequate seal of the inlet port in the standard.

It is desirable to make ports in tiny engines a bit smaller than the port layout permits (provided of course that they remain large enough to do the job) to allow for slight inaccuracies in machining and erosion of the edges of the ports during the working life of the engine. The obvious course to follow in this case was to increase the port-to-pivot radius a bit more. But this in turn would have required an even longer cylinder. Instead, the distance between the ports in the stan· dard was increased. This is easy to accomplish in metal by simply using a smaller diameter bushing on the crank· pin when using the Drilling Guide (see Fig. 2). Although the ports in the cylinder and standard do not fully coincide, they overlap by about .010", the required amount.

This arrangement however, together with the "overscale" ports, apparently required a much wider cylinder in order to keep the porta in the standard securely sealed as the cylinder oscillates. At this point, a major departure from pre' vious designs occurred. Since this engine was not intended to be reversible, and since the engine exhausted to the atmosphere, it was only necessary that the inlet port remain amply covered by the cylinder throughout its angle of oscillation. Hence the usual symmetric arrangement of the ports was discarded and the porta located .012" to one side of the centerline of oscillation. With the cylinder .105" wide, the distance from the edge of the inlet port in the standard to the edge of the cylinder was always more than about .027", whereas the usual symmetric arrangement would have given a minimum overlap of about .016". This was now more than enough sealing area.

At this point, I was sufficiently confident of the design to begin construction in earnest. So earnest in fact that the cylinder, standard, and port drilling guide were made before the dimensions of the remaining components of the engine were fully determined. Incidentally, most of the design work was carried out on a pocket calculator, finding it much more economical of time and paper than drawing port diagrams to 20 to 30 times actual size.

Another point on the cylinder design is the "overscale" pivot. The smallest screw and tap available from mill suppliers was 000-120, which has a body size of .034". A "scale" pivot would have been .043" dia., leaving a minimum wall thickness of .0045", a bit on the weak side for machining and handling. Although the specified .052" dia. is on the large side, the next number size down is .047", not much better it was thought than .043". A check showed that .052" could be accommodated by slightly chamfering the port face edge of the mating hole in the standard instead of cutting the clearance slot as on the previous engines. Finally, the thickness of the standard was made overscale and an "elbow" added to take a 1/16" dia. steampipe; the added thickness made the pivot boss unnecessary, which simplified the machining of this component.

Construction of the Thimble Engine does not require tiny watchmakers tools, although these could be used with definite advantage. A ,Unimat or similar size lathe is nearly ideal. With some care

Photo 2. The stepped block for holding the cylinder stock; finished strips in the foreground.

Photo 3. Milling the cylinder material to size.

Photo 4. Turning and drilling the cylinder pivot.

SPECIFICATIONS Thimble Power Plant

.00008 ihp** **Horsepower**

estimated ..

estimated
estimated from the formula:
 $1hp = (Ap_mLn) / 396000$.

however, a much larger machine can do the work. For example, all the milling operations on my Thimble Engine were carried out on an 800 lb. Rockwell verti· cal! The chief obstacle to using a large machine is drilling the tiny holes. I used the Unimat as a horizontal drill press (e.g. see photo 1) to drill the smaller holes after giving them a starting place with a centerdrill while still in the mill. The ports were also drilled in this setup.

A study of the drawings will indicate the cutting tools required. In addition to the usual, you will need some small number drills, a 1/16" dia. chucking reamer, a 1/16" dia. endmill, and a 000-120 tap. As for materials, I used a No. 11 Clinton thimble for the boiler; this is a quality thimble of heavy gauge brass chrome plated. You will also need two 000-120 fillister head machine screws, one to secure the flywheel to its shaft and the other to retain the cylinder spring. Phosphor bronze wire of .006" dia. was used for the spring, but music wire will do just as well. The shafts of the crank were taken from the shanks of old drills. The remaining material is bar $stock - no castings needed!$

Before beginning a description of some of the more important machining techniques, a few words are in order regarding the dimensioning of the drawings. The general rule followed was that the number of decimal places in a given dimension is inversely proportional to the permissible error in that dimension. Thus a four·place dimension is a highly critical one (to be held to within a thou) where· as a one place dimension is hardly critical at all. Of course there are exceptions For example, the piston and cylinder bore are nominally 1/16" dia.; one can depart from this dimension by several thousandths in one of the components, but the other must be held to within .0005" of the first.

Begin construction with the STAND· ARD. Clamp an oversize strip of say 3/32" thick brass to a piece of scrap aluminum and secure to the milling table. With an endmill, bring the strip to a thickness of .078". Now drill the mainbearing and pivot holes. The .1400 center to center distance is critical, so use the micrometer table feed to space these holes; start with a No. 0 centerdrill and follow with drills in good condition $$ the .052" dia. pivot hole in particular must be smooth. Check that the center· drill runs truly and observe the drilling under magnification to be sure all goes as you int�nd. The ports are drilled later as shown in Fig. 2. Mill the step, remove, and cut, file or mill the outline to shape. Drill and tap the 0-80 hole for the steampipe being careful not to go too deep. If after drilling the inlet port, the two passages do not meet, the inlet passage can be extended with a No. 78 or larger drill.

The PORT DRILLING GUIDE can be made next. Clamp or solder a strip of 1/32" thick steel to a piece of scrap and mill the slot with a $1/16$ " dia. endmill; it will help to drill a small hole first at each end of the slot. The length is not critical and, in fact, is shown much longer than necessary. What is critical is that the .052" dia. hole be centered on the center· line of the slot, so do not touch the cross-

feed when advancing the table to the location of this hole. Take the same care when drilling this hole as when drilling the standard above. Next locate the No. 80 hole; advance the table screw .061" and the crossfeed. 012". Touch the revolving centerdrill to the work to make a tiny dimple. If your equipment is sensitive enough, you can drill the No. 80 hole at the same setup. Mine was not, so the drilling guide was taped to a face· plate mounted on the tailstock ram of the small lathe as shown in photo 1; the tailstock ram was then advanced into the drill held in the spindle. The result was then inspected under an l8X jeweler's loupe to determine if the drill had gone the proper way. Happily, the hole was exactly centered in the dimple and it was not necessary to try again although another guide was prepared on the same strip just in case. This was a practice fol· lowed throughout the entire building of the engine. Two or more of each of the components were started with each new setup. In small sizes, setup time far exceeds actual machining time so making a duplicate or two took hardly any extra time (or materia!!). If an accident or loss in swarf occurred later, a spare was ready and work could continue in a forward direction. Retreats encourage surrender.

Turn attention to the CYLINDER next. Use a good quality bronze for this important component; SAE 660 machines to a superior finish. The cylinder is formed on the end of a .105" by .273" rectangular strip to facilitate holding. Now bearing bronze is more readily available in round bar rather than in rectangular bar or sheet form. Thus your first task will probably be that of obtaining a truly flat .105" thick disk of the bar from which the strip can be cut. In my case, one end of the bar was machined flat and a disk thicker than desired sawn off in the power hacksaw. A block of aluminum was then held in the machine vise of the mill and the top surface flycut flat and parallel to the table. A spot of S-minute epoxy was mixed and the disk cemented machined side down to the aluminum block, applying considerable downward pressure to spread the glue uniformly. After curing, the disk was flycut to the desired thickness. Out of the vise, the block was heated until the epoxy loosened its grip.

Strips were then rough sawn from the disk and milled to the required width. To ease the task of holding the small pieces in my relatively massive milling vise, a piece of 1" by '4" aluminum bar was tightly clamped in the vise and a step milled on the end as shown in photo 2. The strips were then held in the step by C-clamps for the milling operation. A particular advantage of this method of holding is that the strips are sure to come out perfectly parallel and square.

Having obtained a strip or two of cylinder material, next turn the pivot in the lathe. If you have followed the above procedure, and if your lathe and mill are separate machines, leave the step block in place since it can be used with advantage to drill and ream the bore; if your lathe and milling machine are one, another step block can be prepared when the time comes. Chuck the strip in the 4·jaw and position accurately with the aid of a dial test indicator. Note the slotted packing piece in photo 4 used to prevent marring three of the surfaces of the strip (two of these surfaces index the strip in the step block for machin' ing the bore). Check at this point that the chuck is holding the strip with its long surfaces parallel to the lathe axis if you are at all unsure about the accuracy of the chuck. If shimming is called for, small bits of foil tape are convenient; allow say $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the material protruding from the chuck to run the indicator against. When the alignment is satisfactory, saw or face off the excess and proceed to turn the pivot.

The pivot should be a close but free fit in the standard and the port face as smooth as possible. Integral-pivot cylin· ders enjoy two important advantages over inserted'pivot cylinders. First, the pivot is absolutely perpendicular to the port face. Second, the distance between the cylinder bore axis and the port face is minimal the effect of which is to minimize loading, and hence wear, on the pivot and the extremities of the port face. On the other hand, the more con· ventional design in which the pivot is screwed into the cylinder wail, allows for easy lapping of the port face, namely while the pivot is removed. Another ad· vantage is that the pivot can be made of harder material than the cylinder, for example stainless or carbon steel. Now in larger sizes, the integral-pivot cylinder need not lack these features. For exam' pie, a recess can be turned on the port face around the pivot and the cylinder face then lapped against a revolving flat lap with an oversize central hole to clear the pivot (the pivot can be protected by a thin coat of stick shellac). Furthermore, a thin steel bushing can be pressed over the integral pivot to improve its bearing qualities. These features could be incorporated on this engine at the expense of increasing its size, and the primary design objective here is compactness. With really fine machined finishes, lapping has proven unneecessary for successful opera' tion and the pivot has held up very well. Indeed, the pivot of the Steam Truck engine has shown virtually no wear after many miles of operation.

Offer up the standard and inspect the joint against a light. You will have to slightly camfer the edge of the pivot hole in the standard to allow the port faces to come into intimate contact. If the pivot has turned out too small or the port face not flat enough for steamtightness, rechuck the strip and give it another try (another advantage of using a long strip). When you have a fit with which you are satisfied, drill and tap the pivot 000·120. Photo 5 shows a setup which worked very well ; the round shanked tap was gripped in a hollow pin chuck which in turn was slipped over a close fitting rod held in the tailstock chuck.

Drill and ream the cylinder bore next. Photo 6 shows the bronze strip clamped in the step block ready for centerdrilling. Locate the bore carefully. Note the stoppiece held in place

Photo 5. Tapping the pivot 000-120.

 $\bar{\mathbf{r}}$

Photo 6. Setup for machining the cylinder bore.

Photo 7. Reaming the cylinder bore.

with a toolmakers clamp; this permitted rapid positioning of the four cylinders which I machined. Centerdrill just deep enough to positively guide the .059" dia. drill. Watch depth when drilling; it is very easy to break through the top. Now ream the bore with a $1/16$ " dia. chucking reamer (photo 7). A hand reamer is un· suitable for this operation because the lands are slightly tapered for some distance back from the leading edge. The reamer must be in good condition and the bore it produces quite smooth. However the cylinder is held for this operation, make certain that the bore is quite parallel to the port face.

The cylinder can now be parted from the strip on which it has been taking shape. Photo 8 shows this operation being carried out with a jewelers slitting saw. This left an accurate and smoothly finished surface on the back of the cylinder. A small holding fixture was made next and the cutouts on the lower end of the cylinder were made with the same saw to form the trunk guide legs. How· ever, these cuts could be made in the set· up above before parting off. In any case, plug the bore with a brass rod to minimize burr formation during this operation; the plug should be left protruding from the cylinder just enough to be gripped for removal. Remove all burrs with a penknife. Be very careful on all deburring operations. A scratch in the wrong place may very well ruin a part. Use a magnifier to check that all burrs are removed. Only the port remains to be drilled, but this must wait until the piston is made.

A piece of centerless ground stainless steel rod was found to be a snug fit in the reamed cylinder bore; a little polishing with No. 600 "wet or dry" paper produced a nice close free fit for the PISTON. The difficult operation was crossdrilling the 1/64" hole for the crankpin. A length of the polished rod was set up on the cross slide of the lathe so that its axis intersected and was per' pendicular to the lathe axis. A dimple was made with a centerdrill and then the 1/64" dia. drill was fed through. My first attempt was that easy. But inspec· tion under the eye loupe showed that the hole was not truly central; under an ISX lens, an error of a thousandth or two shows up quite clearly. A check of the centerdrill showed that it was not run' ning truly. The next attempt produced a blunted 1/64" drill. A bit of thought led to the conclusion that the tip of the centerdrill had been allowed to rub with· out cutting, thus producing a work hard· ened dimple in the stainless rod. With a new centerdrill and the experience gained on the first two attempts, a satisfactory piston finally emerged.

You will need the GUIDE PIN to drill the port in the cylinder. Make the body of brass or steel. Turn the .062" dia. portion to a close fit in the port drilling guide slot; reduce the end to .060" dia. and thread O·SO. Drill in No. 79 and part off to form the .10" dia. head. Press in a length of 1/64" dia. drill shank (the blunted one in my case). Press fits in these sizes do not require much interference; I have found that the 5'sided tapered broaches used by the

watchmakers are very useful for opening out small holes. Check that the shank of the guide pin stands perpendicular to the drilling guide surface.

The port can now be drilled in the cylinder. Bolt the guide pin into the slot of the drilling guide as shown in Fig. 3; the piston should be located at about midstroke. Be sure that the setup has been made so that the port will be placed on the correct side of the cylinder centerline. After drilling, very carefully remove the burr around the hole; I used a straightedged razor knife while wearing the eye loupe. Again, be careful; we do not want the edge of the port enlarged nor do we want a scratch on the port· face. The burr must be removed slight though it may be, for if left, it will wear a path between the inlet and exhaust ports in the standard.

Now make the CRANKSHAFT. Chuck a piece of l/S" dia. brass rod in the 4·jaw and set to run eccentrically exactly .062" t.i.r. Face, centerdot, and drill in No. 79. Now set the rod to run exactly true, reface, centerdot, and drill in No. 76. Turn the end of the rod to .100" dia. and part off to the desired thickness. For the 5ame reason given above, it is a good idea to drill deep enough to part off two or three of these disks. Cut the shafts from old drill shanks and press into the crank disk. 1 turned up little bushings to guide the shafts in straight; a small arbor press supplied the nudge. Check that the crankpin is parallel to the main shaft; Fig. 4 shows one way to do this.

Turn the MAIN BEARING from bronze. First drill through undersize and finish with a .021" dia. drill to obtain a close fit for the crankshaft. Press the bearing into the standard and assemble the parts you have. The mechanism should work smoothly. Make any neces· sary corrections before proceeding. Tiny burrs are sufficient to cause noticeable binding.

The ports can now be drilled in the standard. Turn a bushing to closely fit the crankpin with an 0.0. of .048", or exact· Iy .014" smaller than the width of the slot in the port drilling guide. Fig. 2 shows the use of the guide. Be sure to set the guide at each extreme before drill· ing. To hold the guide at this setting, a dab of hot shellac can be applied to an appropriate place. Again check that the guide is setup correctly. After drilling the ports, drill the No. 78 exhaust passage to meet the exhaust port and check that the inlet port meets the inlet passage. Re· move burrs from the portface by rubbing the standard against No. 600 paper placed on a flat surface.

The FLYWHEEL and SPRING WASHER are simple tasks compared to what has already been accomplished. Wind the SPRING, assemble, and the great moment is at hand. Thread the end of a length of 1/16" 0.0. tubing O·SO and screw into the standard. Connect to a source of low pressure air (e.g. a hand pump). The engine should run merrily on 10 to 15 psi.

Most constructors will probably wish to make the BOILER next in order to try the engine on steam. It is only necessary to turn a top cover from brass or bronze

bar stock to accept the thimble which is then silver brazed in place. In my case, the thimble was chrome plated as already mentioned, and therefore the plating was removed from the rim of the thimble before brazing. After brazing, the thimble was somewhat discolored, but a buffing wheel soon brought back the chromium luster. Photo 9 shows rather clearly the manner in which the thimble fits into the rim formed on the boiler top; this rim then rests on the ring stand also clearly shown in the photo. The center bush of the boiler top $-$ turned integral with the $top -$ is tapped 5-44 to accept the steam pipe to the engine.

The steam pipe is a simple turning from brass hex rod threaded at the large end to screw into the boiler bush and terminating in a 1/16" dia. portion the end of which is threaded 0.80 to screw into the engine. This fitting was purposely made long so that one's fingers could reach around the engine to grasp the hex section firmly enough to remove the assembly for filling the boiler. A Teflon washer seals the joint without excessive torque. Before screwing the steam pipe into the engine standard, the threads were lightly coated with 5·minute epoxy which sealed this connection very neatly.

If at this point you wish to try the engine under steam, you can arrange a loop of wire to support the boiler over a tiny flame. But remember that a tiny en· gine requires only a tiny flame. A few drops of ordinary steam cylinder oil $$ yes, the very same kind that the locomotive boys use $-$ should be applied to the engine before each run and a drop pumped. through the exhaust passage after each run. Do not overfill the boiler or priming will occur; Icc is adequate for a No. 11 thimble.

Reference to the scale drawing in Fig. 5 will give the dimensions which I followed for the stand, but at this point you may wish to elaborate a bit more. The base was turned from $1\frac{1}{2}$ " dia. aluminum bar. An important feature is the central hole $-$ visible in photos 9 and $10 -$ which easily clears the body of the alcohol lamp. Thus the lamp is not in any way fastened to the base; rather the base is placed down over the lamp. This arrangement permits easy access to the lamp for filling, wick adjustment, and lighting. The base was deeply drilled to accept the four 1/16" dia. stainless steel pillars which support the bronze ring into which the boiler fits. The ring was also drilled to accept the pillars which were then silver brazed in place. After pickling, the pillars were anchored in the aluminum base with Loctite.

The alcohol lamp body was turned from brass bar to an $O.D.$ of $11/16"$ and a height of 9/16". The bottom of the lamp body was counterbored and a disk of brass cemented in place. The center of the domed top was tapped 3116·40 to accept the wick tube fitting. This fitting was turned from stainless steel bar to minimize heat conduction from the flame to the lamp body. It features a notched rim which provides a finger grip for its removal and replacement during filling. The tubular tip is .100 O.D. by 1/16" J.D. and is packed loosely with soft string.

Photo 8. Sawing off the cylinder in the mill-ing machine.

 \widetilde{V}

Photo 9. The power plant taken down for
refilling.

Photo 10. Filling the boiler with distilled water prior to a run.

Y.

The "big brother" of the Thimble and Bijou engines:

by Dr. James R. Senft

F igure 4

fitted pivot, but the length required to realize a reduction in friction power loss is coneiderable, to asy nothing of losing it ae wear takes place. No, the spring works just fine; the point of this paragraph is to be sure to choose and adjust it with eufficient force to do its job, and just that.

The trunk or crosshead guide on the cylinder provides bearing surface in the optimum poeition to cope with the forces arising from the oscillation of the cylinder. Keep in mind that it is through the pieton that the forces required to oscillate the cylinder are supplied. The trunk guide minimizes the side forces between the pieton and cylinder, which results in minimum wear and friction power loss. Reference to figures 3,4, and 5 will illustrate.

Figure 3 shows the typical major forcee scting on the piston due to oscillation in ^a short cylinder bore. G_i is supplied by the crankshaft. G_2 and G_3 are reaction forces from the cylinder. Note that G_3 is approximately twice the magnitude of G_1 . Short pistons without crosshead guiding are similar as Figure 4 shows; pieton wear is rapid. Figure 5 ehowe the aame situation in a trunk guided cylinder. Here the only reaction force is G_i , and it isequal to G_i . The result is lower friction power loss and decreased wear.

Finally, I adopted the long style piston for aeveral reasons. First of all, it gives the longest seal length possible in all crank poaitiona; the more usual configuration of Figure 4 has a fixed seal length. Second, the

Minikin is the senior member of the Thimble/ Bijou family of small, singleacting oscillating steam engines. A glance at the photos and drawings will at once reveal the family traits: cylinder pivot integral with the cylinder, trunk or crosshead guide on the cylinder, and long piston. I have long advocated these features as essential for the sound working ofthis type of engine.

Turning the cylinder pivot integral with the cylinder in the first place insures that it is truly perpendicular tothe port face, an essential for good sealing. In the second place, it reduces "cylinder overhang," the distance from the cylinder bore axis to the plane of the port face. The heretofore commonplace alternative of fitting a pivot pin screwed into the cylinder requires a cylinder wall adjacent to the port face of sufficient thickness for a blind tapped hole. While perhaps acceptable in larger model engines, in tiny ones this method results in excessive overhang.

To see why overhang must be mini· mized, consider the simplified diagram of the major static forces acting on the cylinder shown in Figure 1. F_i is the force on the cylinder due to steam pressure inside, and \overline{F}_2 is a reaction force on the pivot from the standard. F_a is the force supplied by the pivot spring, and F_4 and F_5 are reaction forces from the standard on the port face.

Now the spring force F_3 is constant, but $F₁$ varies throughout the cycle as pressure changes within the cylinder, and coneequently so do the reaction forces F_2 , F_4 , and $F₅$. To determine the spring force required, let us look at the point where F_i is maximum. Here F_5 is a minimum, which should be taken to be zero to minimize friction power loss. Then we have the simpler situation depicted in Figure 2. Here x and y are the respective distances between the two pairs of parallel forces.

Now we must have $F_1 = F_2$ and $F_3 = F_4$ of course. The point of interest is that the torques produced by the two pairs of parallel forces must also be equal, that is, $xF_1 = yF_3$. This clearly shows that as cylinder over· hang, and hence x , is increased, the spring force F_3 must also be increased to keep the cylinder against the port face. But the larger the spring force, the greater the friction power loss between the oscillating cylinder and the standard. Thus it is imperative to minimize cylinder overhang which the integral pivot pioneered by this author does admirably.

Note the important role played by the spring. It is not, as often believed, merely required to counteract the steam pressure of the inlet port, a force so very small that it was neglected in the above discussion. Because of the usual short pivot and the unavoidable clearance between the pivot and its bearing, the spring, and not the pivot bearing, is required to hold the cylinder in contact with the standard against the very considerable pressure force within thecylinder. ltis possible of course to build an engine with a very long and well

Bronze

Bross

PISTON Stainless Steel

MAIN BEARING **Bronze**

As the cylinder, piston and standard are
completed (photo 1) Minikin begins to takeshape. When your collection of parts resembles those
in photo 2, you can assemble them into the finished engine shown in the other pictures. If you are
working your way through the designs in this
book and have the *Bijou* completed, your collection will resemble photo $\frac{6}{10}$ in which *Bijou* is on the left and *Minikin* on the right. Photos by
Dr. James R. Senft.

long hollow piston is very low in mass. And third, it is just as easy, or easier, to make than the other.

Having thus justified the design prin· ciples of Minikin, and indeed again of its entire family, let us proceed to the actual embodiment. Most will find this engine somewhat easier to build than its smaller predecessors, but only because its size is within the range ofthe average machinist's experience. The old hand at the watch· maker's lathe of course would feel more at home with the Thimble engine on page 45. It ia alao a project that can easily be put to work. For example, it is large enough to power, say, a small model boat and yet is small enough to only require a simple pot boiler with a wick type alcohol burner.

Construction generally follows that of $Bijou$ (see page 41) so it is not necessary to go through all the steps here again. But there are a few minor differences upon which it may be helpful to comment.

Again start construction with the Standard since two other parts must be made to fit, namely the cylinder pivot and the main bearing. Unlike Bijou, the standard for Minikin has no pivot boss, so it may be made from 3/16" thick flat stock. After cutting and machining to width and length, grip the piece in the vise of the milling machine or milling attachment on the lathe. The port face should be a bit proud of the vise jaws. Find the edge and then advance the feed to the centerline of the piece. Move to the location ofthe main bearing hole with the other feed screw; no great accuracy is needed for this location. Notethereading on the feed dial. Centerdrill, drill through, and ream 5/32" dia. Advance the feed exactly .546" and repeat.

The ports on Minikin are .043" dia., a size large enough to safely drill on even a large mill or slow turning lathe. So we may as well jig drill these rather than use the drilling guide system which I introduced for the smaller engines. Of course a guide is easily made if milling facilities are not available, and it ensures correct port location even if some of the important dimensions of the engine components vary somewhat from the drawings.

Advance the feed exactly .212" and then the other feed .050". Centerdrill with a #0 centerdrill (l/32" dia. pilot) but do not counteraink; then drill .043" dia. to a depth of 3/32" . Back the cr088feed exactly .100" from this reading being sure to take up the play, and repeat. Now, before breaking the setup, take a skim cut across the piece; this will ensure the port face is perpendicular to the pivot hole which is essential. Reposition the piece higher in the vise and mill the step and the $3/16''$ wide relief slotacross the port face. Rubthe port face lightly on a true stone to remove burrs.

Drill from each side to meet the ports for the steam inlet and exhaust pipes. You can tap 3-48 as suggested and then use 3/32" O.D. tubing for the steam lines; the threads can be sealed with Loctite or epoxy. Alternately, you can simply drill .096" dia. and solder the tubing in place. Finish the standard by drilling the mounting holes at the bottom. The drawing suggests two .07S" dia. holes for #1 machine screws.

The sequence of machining the cylinder for Minikin is exactly the same as for Bijou. Again I used 660 bronze bearing stock. A $disk was cut from 11/2" dia round bar and$ each side faced to a parallel %" thickness. Then two diametrically opposite flata were milled; the distance across the flata was 1-7/64", exactly the length of the cylinder. This gave a fairly long rectangular section to grip in the 4-jaw for turning the pivot. Set up with the dial indicator. The piece was actually long enough for two cylindera, so after drilling and tapping the pivot, 1 reversed the piece and did it again! The cylinders were sawed apart and then milled to exact width. As with Bijou, make sure that this surface is parallel to the port face since it is used as a datum when chuckingto machine the bore.

As on Bijou, make up a bushing to go over and protect the pivot, chuck the cylinder in the 4-jaw, and machine the cylinder bore and the cylinder skirt. Actually the bore in this case is large enough to finish machine with a boring tool if desired. I used a chucking reamer to finish after boring to within a few thousandths and got a beauti· fully smooth and true bore. The piston, made from centerless ground stainless steel, fit the bore to within a half a thou.

After milling the $\frac{1}{3}$ " wide slots in the cylinder skirt to allow the crankpin access to the piston, carefully hand scrape out the burrs being careful not to scratch the bore. Finish by drilling the .043" dia. port. If you are not using my drilling guide system, set up as I did in the milling machine, locatethe pivot center with a dial indicator, and move up .218", centerdrill and drill. Again, do not countersink when centerdrilling lest the cylinder port span the inlet and outlet ports on the standard. Carefully scrape away the burr without materially altering the sur· rounding region; a burr left here would wear a "bridge" between the ports on the standard.

So much for the hard parts. Machine the crankdisk as on Bijou, again using a dial indicator to get the throw correct to within a few thou, the general rule to follow on decimal dimensions in my drawings. Of course, mating parts (as, for example, the piston in ita bore or the shaft in ita bearing) must be closer. A shank from an old (or new!) $1/16''$ dia. drill is ideal for the crankpin. Check the parallelism of the pin with the main shaft as on the Thimble engine; it is important for smooth operation.

Not shown on the drawings is the spring and ita shoulder washers since your gadget drawers probably contain a suitable spring from which you can size the shoulder washers. Minikin uses two washers since the standard has no pivot boss. The pivot is just a bit shorter than the thickness of the standard, so both washers have a .076" dia. hole to clear the 1-72 pivot screw; one lies against the head of the screw of course and the other against the standard. Asa guide, I wound a spring from .0IS" dia. stainless steel spring wire with an 1.0. of 5/32".

The flywheel set screw is a standard 2·56 fillister head brass screw with the head diameter reduced to 3/32" to allow it toenter the counterbore. Initially asaembletheengine with no oil to check for tight spota; correct trouble spota before tryingtorun the engine, since tiny engines have a hard time trying to "wear parts in" to say nothing of the damage done to mating parts in the process. Often this dry test reveals burrs which were thought to have been removed long ago, so it is well worthwhile. When the action is smooth and free, oil and connect up to the steam or air line for the satisfying moment!

by Elmer verburg

Photos by William C. Fitt

In the December, 1977, issue of Popular Science, a radical new design of diesel engine caught my eye. It was an opposed piston, swing-beam engine being developed by the English firm of Armstrong Whitworth and Company, Limited, of Slough, near London. The model presented here is an adaptation of this principle to a steam-powered engine which is simple to build and provides an answer to the Amateur

Machinist asking for designs of small stationary engines which do not require castings.

I am unable to go into the fine points of determining stress and horsepower, but feel that for a simple engine, it does have several interesting features. It appears to be a balanced engine, but the weight of the arms and pistons and the speed do cause some vibration. The short throw at the cranks requires a high speed. The pistons travel twice as far as the connecting rods do at the cranks.

Also, there is room for some experimenting. The engine was firet made with the exhaust only through the ahaft, but it did not seem to run quite right. Two exhaust holee were then added to make a una-flow type exhaust. These, plus the other exhaust paaeage, leta it run like mad! If either of the two exhaust systems is closed off, the engine slows down, 80 both are needed.

Another question involves the direction of rotation. There is a similarity in porting and it appears that the engine should rotate either way, but it will run only one way. The problem must lie in setting the eccentrics in the right relationship to the flat valve surface on the shaft. It is hard to do this right down to a fine point.

Something elsetoexperiment with is the width and location of the flata on the shaft, to change the timing and cutoff.

The material for this engine can be most any of the common metals. Since this was to be a display and conversation piece and not run very much, it was made of a fairly hard aluminum that was on hand. The pistons, bearings, eccentrics and screws are brass, the flat washers at the eccentrics are steel and the piston pin is drill rod.

The foot, column and cylinder are simple, straight pieces requiring squareness and accurate layout. Insert a short, 3/32" pin in the steam paasages in column and cylinder as a guide, then square up and clamp together for spotting the four 2·56 tapped holes.

Make the rocker arms, shoulder screws, shaft and bearing. Assemble

the bearing into the column with the 3/16" hole on the vertical centerline. Drill through 3/32" for the steam passage. Solder a short length of3/16" tubing in the bearing for a steam hose connection, as shown. I often run the engine on compressed air at 15 psi, 80 plastic tubing clings tight enough. For a more durable and steamtight joint, the tube can be longer and threaded.

When making the piatona, apot four oil grooves as shown, about .010" wide and .005" deep. If you can, take some weight out by undercutting to the dotted line. After piston, connecting rod and pin are assembled, very lightly prick-punch the pin hole rim over the enda of the pin to retain it. One very light punch per end i8 enough.

The eccentrics can be made in a four-j8w chuck. Fir8t, tum to an accurate 9/16" diameter, about W' wide, then loosen the jaws slightly and, using the cross-slide for measuring, move the workpiece '/s" off center. Ream 3/16" for the shaft. Return the workpiece to center (or near center) and make parting cuts for two .130" thick eccentrics. Mount the two eccentrics on a close-fitting 3/16" pin. Rest this pin on two more 3/16" pins on a flat surface, as shown. With the two eccentrics also touching the surface, clamp together with asmallmachinists clamp and drill the 1/16" pin hole. Mark with a stamp the two faces that touch, so the eccentrics can be reassembled in the 8ame relationship in which they were drilled.

Make three disks. Use one of the eccentrics to spot the pinhole in the center disk only. This 1/16" pin, about 9/32" long, is retained by the two outer disks as shown. The o.d. of the disks can be finished by chucking the shaft to run true, then mounting the three disks and two eccentrics in place and hold them with a 10-32 nut.

There are several waY8 to make the four connecting rods. These range from plain hacksaw·and·file work to gang'milling the way Kozo Hiraoka does it (LIVE STEAM, February, 1975). For accuracy and finish, the9/16" bore is a lathe job, using a center test indicator and fine cuts.

The four 3/32" pins in the rocker arms may be made in several waY8. Here again, it isn't very good engineering, but a small prick punch near the rim of the pin will keep them in place. Tiny nuts and bolts can be made or make the pins long enough to take tiny cotter pins.

The flywhecl should be about 2" in diameter and 1/2" wide, with a setscrew. to fit the 14" shaft.

At final assembly, be certain that the relationship of the eccentrics to the valve surfaces on the 8haft are correct. They are shown in the eccentric mounting detail drawing.

This simple and unusual engine should provide you with several hours worth of enjoyment in building and will be an interesting addition to your collection of steam engines.
A quarter-size Rider-Ericsson

**Hot Air
Pumping Engine**

by Larry Kazyak

The hot-air or Stirling Cycle Engine was invented in 1817 by a Scot named Robert Stirling. Although such engines were quite low in poweroutputin proportion to their large size, they became popular due to their simple operation. Steam was the only other practical choice, ainee internal combuation enginee were not invented until the 188O'a. Steam enginee, with their boilers operating at high preaaures and the trained engineers require to watch over them, were often impractical for am all or iaolated inatallationa.

The Ericeson Hot Air Pumping Engine was firat patented in 1880. It was the creation of John Ericsson, who was born in Sweden in 1803 and emigrated to America in 1839. Many inventiona are attributed to thia prolific inventor. Perhapa one of the most noteworthy was the ironclad ship Monitor, built for the United States (Union) Navy during the Civil War. Another monu· mental-but only aemi·succesaful-venture waa the building of a 250' ship named The E ricsson. This vessel was powered by a hotair engine having four cylinders operating at nine RPM. The piatons measured 14' in diameter and the stroke was six feet in length. The ship was launched on the east coast in 1853. Even though the ship had an engine of such heroic dimensions, it could travel at only seven knots, about half the apeed of a comparable steam-powered ship.

The fact that Stirling Cycle enginee uae an external heat souree and that John Ericsson designed a solar-powered engine in 1872, point out that in one sense, there's really "nothing new under the aun."

So much for background on the inventor. Let'a get down to facts on the engine being modeled. The original is in the Henry Ford Muaeum, in Dearborn. Michigan. It ia claaaified aa an eight-inch engine, refening to the bore. The stroke is 3%". Operating at 100 to 120 RPM, it was capable of pumping 500 gailons per hour. The indicated horsepower waa approximately �.

Although the first Ericsson Pumping Engines were put into production in 1880, thia particular engine was produced at the tum of the century. The main difference ia in the lega and crankshaft bracket. Lega on earlier models were forged round bar stock inatead of the cast type.

The Rider-Ericsson Engine Company (the successor to the DeLamater Iron Works, which was established in 1842) was established in 1870, with offices in New York, Philadelphia, Boaton, Chicago and Sydney, Australia.

In operation, the engine was fired with wood, coal, producer gaa or keroaene, depending on the type of firebox ordered. When the diaplacer cylinder reached opera· ting temperature-uaually in about fifteen minutea-the flywheel would be rotated by

This quarter-sized modet (opposite page) follows
the prototype of an 8" Rider-Ericsson Hot-Air Pumping
Feeling which is in the Uleani Feed Museum of Creat Engine. which is in the Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village. Dearborn. Michigan.

- Facing the top side 01 the cast aluminum Base (101) 1 in the lathe.
- 2 Facing the bottom of the Base.
- 3 Turning the bottom end and mounting flange of the Cylinder (103).

Ink Tracings by George R. Broad. Jr., from originals by Larry Kazyak

IO5 FLYWHEEL BRACKET Cast Aluminum, I required

IO3 CYLINDER Cost Aluminum, I required

IOS PIVOT
Steel, I required

 $\overline{\mathbb{R}^+}$

hand and the engine would run. The water pump was connected to the far end of the walking beam via a link. Water was drawn up through the lower inlet of the pump and into the main engine cylinder water jacket through a port in the pump mounting flange. The water was first used to cool the power piston portion of the cylinder, then it was expelled out the flywheel side of the cylinder to the storage tank or reservoir. The dome-shaped air chambers located at the inlet and outlet were used to cushion the pulaation created by the single-acting pump.

Construction ia best started with the BASE (101). Face the bottom and top tothe .63" dimension, averaging out the stock on either side. Photoe 1 and 2 show this operation being carried out in the lathe. Having no mill, I have no other choice, but those of you blessed with one might find it easier to flycut both surfaces. Bore the 2.28" diameter opening next. Then, the comer holes for mounting the legs are done by drilling them with a $#29$ tap drill.

Take the LEGS (102) and dress the top surfaces by filing. Clamp them in proper position on the base and then drill through the #29 holes we just drilled in the base and into the leg mounting surfaces. This will assure proper alignment. Redrill the holes in the base with a #10 drill (with one exception) and tap the legs 8-32, inserting a stud into the leg and attaching it with a nut on top. The leg attachment hole under the comer pad is the exception. It uses a screw inserted from the bottom, through the leg, and threaded into the base. Tap the base 8-32 and use the #10 clearance drill in the corresponding hole in the leg.

The CYLINDER (103) is machined next, as shown in photos 3, 4 and 5. The top is faced off to the .25" start dimension, then turned around and rechucked so the bottom flange can be machined to 2.00" inside diameter and 2.28" outside diameter. Blend it into the cast portion ofthecylinder. The casting is turned around again and the 2.220" upper bore and the 2.160" lower bore for the steel cylinder sleeve are machined. Mill the two vertical mounting pads. The eight 7/64" cylinder mounting flange holes are added next. The same technique described for the legs $-$ using a tap drill first, transferring hole locations to the base for drilling and tapping, then enlarging the cylinder holes with a $#18$ drill $-$ is an easy way to locate the bolt circle without need for an index head or rotary table. The other holes will be machined later.

The steel CYLINDER SLEEVE (104) is the next item we will machine (see photo 6). The tubing used is 2.25" o.d. x 2.00" i.d. seamless, cold-drawn mechanical tubing. The inside diameter is not machined. The manufacturer's tolerance for roundness and size is adequate and it requires only honing.

- 4 Blend the narrow portion of the Cylinder into the bottom flange and cast portion of the body with smooth. small radii.
- ⁵With the Cylinder casting turned around. bore the upper and lower bores for the Cylinder Sleeve.
- ⁶Turn the Cylinder Sleeve (104) trom cold·drawn seamless tubing. using a center plug in the tail· stock end.

Turn a plug to fit the i.d. and center drill it. Insert it in the bottom for the tailstock center and chuck the top end by thei.d. Tum the o.d. and length. The top and bottom diameters should have a .002" clearance with their respective bores in the cylinder.

Finishing the bore comes next. A finestoned hone, used to clean up automotive brake cylinders, is what I use. They are quite inexpensive. These hones have springloaded fingers, to which the stones are attached and they are driven by a flexible shaft. This allows them to track in the bore being honed without exerting any uneven loads on the honing stones. Chuck the hone in a drillpress, insert it into the sleeve and tum the drillpress on, running it about 450 to 500 RPM, while hand-holding the sleeve. Use kerosene as a lubricant and flushing fluid and work the sleeve up and down constantly. The top 4" is the only portion requiring this treatment, because this will be the only portion in contact with the power piston. Be sure to hone all the way up to the top edge, but be careful not to let the stones come out of the bore while the drillpress is running.

The size of the bore is not too important as the power piston will be sized to it. What is important is that it be of $uniform$ size. Using a telescoping gauge, check to prevent a tapered or barrel-shaped bore. Take your time. The stones cut slowly and the removal of a couple of thousandths is slow going.

Once the honing is finished, the sleeve and cylinder casting are ready to be assembled. On my first engine, I used a shrink fit. Even with .004" interference, due to the differential in expansion between the aluminum cylinder and the steel sleeve, a small leakage would occur after running for about half an hour. Since then, I have relied on a good grade of epoxy cement. As previously stated, about .002" diametrical clearance is required. The water surrounding the sleeve will keep the cement from overheating.

The FLYWHEEL BRACKET (105) is attached to a faceplate and the bearing hole bored (see photo 7) to a diameter of .686" to .687" for the Torrington bearings. Needle bearings require a press fit because the force exerted on the outer shell of the bearing brings it to a true round shape. Loctite or epoxy definitely won't do here! Also, if not for the press fit, the internal clearance between the bearing and the crankshaft journal would be excessive. Surface and drill the mounting pads and tap the 8-32 threaded hole.

Mount the cylinder and sleeve assembly to the base and leg assembly. Position the flywheel bracket and transfer the holes to the cylinder and base, drilling and tapping the two holes required in both mounting places. Bolt the flywheel bracket

- The Flywheel Bracket (105) is faced and bored in the lathe. mounted to a faceplate.
- With the Base, Legs. Cylinder, Cylinder Liner and Flywheel Bracket assembled together, the Hot·Air Pumping Engine will look like this. Note the needle bearings. pressed into the Flywheel Bracket. Also note how the upper surface of the Cylinder is contoured to match the base of the Walking Beam Support.

into place. Your engine will really atart to take shape and look like photo 8.

The oil cup shown on the crankshaft boss portion is from Cole's Power Models, catalog number $29R2/4$. On the model, it's purely decorative, the original engine having one located there. The model's Torrington needle bearinga need only be lubricated once every 100 hours or so and that'a a long time coming! Use a light-grade grease such as Lubriplate.

Next comea the WALKING BEAM (106) . Photo 9 shows it chucked in the lathe, having its.502" bore machined. If you are using .5" diameter bar stock for the pivot, machine the walking beam bore to auit. Mill the alot .5" wide x .94" long. There isn't anything critical about the slot; it only providea clearance around the power piaton center. The two .252" diameter holea on the ends should be added next, along with the two 8-32 threaded holes that intersect the slot. These must be parallel to the .502" diameter hole previously bored. The tapped holea for the setscrews are the final step. Square-headed setscrews (shown in photo 11) are in keeping with the aim of making the model an authentic copy. The 440 screws have .12" square heads and the 8-32 screw has a .IS" square head. lt'a more work making them, compared to using commer· cial ones, but it's worth it.

The WALKING BEAM SUPPORT (107) is next. Mill or file the base flat. Then set up to mill the notches and top surfaces, as in photo 10. Drill the $#18$ mounting holes, but hold off on the 6-32 tapped holes for now.

The two BEARINGS (108) are part of this assembly. The original engine had brom:e bearings that were split on the pivot bore to allow for wear takeup. Our model won't experience this problem, so the bearings are shown in one piece. Machine them a8 shown, but omit the .253" diameter bore. Mount the bearings in position on the beam support and transfer and drill the mounting holes. Tap the support, enlarge the holes in the bearings and mount them in place. Brass 6-32 x %" hex-head bolts should be used.

Now, the .253" bores in the bearings can be line-bored, keeping their axis parallel with the support mounting surface.

While these parts are assembled, the PIVOT (109) should be machined and the 1.53" dimension checked to see that it will allow about .010" end shake between the bearing blocks. Size the two .250" diameter bores to their respective bearings.

The assembly of the walking beam, ita support, the bearings and pivot are shown in photo 11.

Now is a good time to step back, take a look at all you have accomplished and take a deep breath before tackling the next step.

- 9 Machining the .502° bore of the Walking Beam (106) in the lathe.
- 10 Milling notches in the Walking Beam Support (t07) to accept the Bearings.
- ¹¹The Walking Beam assembled with its Support. Bearings. Pivot and square-headed setscrews.

The POWER PISTON CENTER (110) will be the next item that wefabricate. The body portion is turned as shown, complete with the .189" diameter bore at the top and the $4'' \times 36''$ deep bore at the bottom. for the bushing to be pressed in. Note the .22" diameter bore through thecenter. Don't be tempted just to bore or ream the .189" diameter all the way through because without that .22" diameter relief, the .188" diameter displacer piston rod would have too much friction due to the extreme bearing length and the viscous drag of lubricating oils. These engines, with their low power, can't tolerate many power·robbing conditions.

The two .50" diameter bosses are next to be machined. Take .50" bar stock, chuck and drill with a #29 tap drill. The .30" radius necessary to make a good contact with the .60" main body diameter can either be hand· contoured with a file or milled. Tap drill the body portion at the .68" dimension from the bottom flange. To assemble, make up an aluminum 6-32 stud, 1.25" long. The major diameter of this stud should be only .134" which will allow it to be inserted through the tap-drilled holes in the side bosses and the body. With nuts applied to either end of the stud, the parts are now fixed together so that they can be soft soldered in place. With an acid soldering flux applied, bring up to temperature with a propane toreh. Be sure the part is at a high enough temperature to allow the solder to flow into the joint by capillary action, sothata minimum amount will be used and the braas will be keptclean.

After soldering, the stud is removed and if it weren't aluminum, you'd have a tough time doing it! Now tap the8-32 thread in each boss.

The POWER PISTON NUT (111) comes next. It's a straightforward turning job. Photo 12 shows the power piston center with its bushing along with the power piston nut and the spanner wrench, which is used for tightening it when it is assembled to the power piston. The pins for the spsnner wrench are .070" diameter bearing needles from a worn·outautomotive universal joint. When a U-joint fails, usually only one or two of the four bearings are ruined, leaving a good supply of hardened pins for many uses.

The DISPLACER YOKE (112) is a relatively simple part. Thetapped holes and the .250" to .253" diameter pivot hole are somewhat forgiving as to their location. Locating them centrally within their respective bosses is sufficient. The main consideration is toobtain a linkage which is true running and this requires that the axes of all the tapped holes and pivot bore be kept parallel with one another and perpendicular to the vertical portion of the yoke. Face the bosses to the dimensions shown. Photo 13 shows the completed yoke with its pivotscrew.

Machining the FLYWHEEL (113) is shown in photos 14 and 15. First mount it in a four-jaw chuck on the i.d. of the rim, centering it on the cast portion of the rim between the spokes. Machine the front face, both the hub and rim. Take acutofftheo.d. of the flywheel, but not down to the finish dimension. Merely achieve a full 360° cut, then remove the flywheel from the chuck and remount it with the other face to be machined. You will use the rough-machined o.d. as the cireular datum on which to indicate and the back face as the perpendicular datum. If you are within about .010" total indicator reading on the o.d., this will

suffice, because you will bore the .499" diameter bore for the crankshaft and finish the o.d. with the same setup, which will assure you a true-running flywheel.

The CRANKSHAFT (114) journal is ^a.500" diameter dowel pin. The reason for using a dowel is that it is a good method of obtaining a hardened and ground shaft. The needle bearings which carry the crankshaft and flywheel assembly require a hardened surface of Rockwell C 58 as a minimum to run efficiently. The dowel called for is 3" long. The amount of extension from the flywheel is 1.84". This provides for the dowel to engage the flywheel Ll6". Since the flywheel is thicker than 1.16", the dowel will end .34" in from the back side of the flywheel. This allows us to machine a small stub of .50" diameter cold·rolled steel, which will be fashioned into the remaining portion of the shaft. A keyway is milled or filed into the stub and a dummy gibheaded key fabricated, in keeping with the' goal of making our model a proper replica of the original engine.

The crank web is laid out on a piece of . 32" thick cold·rolled steel. Rough saw it to shape and then chuck in a four·jaw to turn the 1.00" diameter, thinning out the remaining portion to the .25" thickness. Bore the .SO" diameter hole to allow a light hand

press fit when assembled with the .50" dowel. After removal, hand file the heel end to match the 1" turned diameter, handcontour the toe end to the .25" radius, then blend between the two ends. Drill and tap the 10-32 hole, keeping it parallel with the .50" bore. The last operation is drilling and tapping for the 8-32 setscrew.

The POWER PISTON (116)is chucked on its o.d. A three-jaw chuck will have enough accuracy for both setups needed. The inner contour is completely machined, then the piston is chucked on the i.d. Do not apply too much chucking force, so as not to distort the piston. The outside diameter should be turned so that it is a fairly snug fit into the cylinder sleeve. The four grooves on the o.d. allow oil ro be carried down the cylinder wall and also allow any small particles of dirt to migrate to the groove, rather than be trapped in the very small clearance between the cylinder and the piston. Machine the .500" diameter bore with the same set-up as is used for machin· ing the o.d. Concentricity is thus maintained for the total assembly. The receas for the power piston nut is the last operation.

The POWER PISTON TOP RING (116) is machined from brass. Besure thatits o.d. does not come in contact with thecylinder. A radial clearance of .010" is desired.

The full·sized engine uses a leather cup ring on the bottom of the piston to do all the sealing. The piston body acta more like a crosshead, for alignment only. Our model cannot tolerate the friction generated by this technique, 80 we shall lap the piston to fit the cylinder. The teflon packing, shown in the top groove of the piston on the engine layout drawing was purcha8ed from a plumbing 8upply store. It is intended for valve stem packing, is circular in crosssection and is spiral wrapped with a thin sheath of teflon. With the top ring in place, it 8hould not exert much pressure on thecylin· der wall. In fact, if a good fit has been achieved from the lapping operation, it can be omitted. Photo 16 8hows the power piston components. The side links connect the assembly to the walking beam.

The DISPLACER PISTON (117) is an all-steel assembly that can either be silver soldered or brazed together. The steel tubing used i8 welded·seam automotive exhaust tubing. Machine the .25" thick cap to fit snugly into the i.d. of the tube. The .189" diameter hole 8hould also be put in now, to maintain concentricity with the piston o.d. When fitting the steel tubing to the cap, be sure that the tubing is cut off square with its o.d. and check true placement of the cap using the .187" diameter

X

III POWER PISTON NUT Steel, I required

> Drawings by George A. Broad. Jr.

112 DISPLACER YOKE Cost Aluminum, 1 required

 λ

118 DISPLACER CYLINDER I required

- Steel, silver soldered construction, 2 required
- The power piston center and its bushing and the
power piston nut and its wrench. 12

Brass, I required

-. 25 rad. bothends

The displacer yoke and the shouldered screw
which fastens it to the flywheel support bracket. 13

displacer piston rod, inserted into the piston as a gauge to insure that the rod will be parallel with the piston o.d. Silver solder on both ends. It is not mandatory that the piston be totally airtight, ina8much as our engine is not pressurized. The two 6-32 setscrew holes are the last operation.

The DISPLACER CYLINDER (118) consists of three pieces silver soldered together, but the top steel flange and the copper cylinder are the only two pieces to be soldered together at this time. Tum theeteel flange so that the i.d. is a snug fit over the copper tube. The tube itself should be cut about .12" longer than shown. The actual length will be determined during a trial assembly of the power piston and displacer piston with their respective linkages, to insure that a minimum amount of dead volume is allowed into the engine. More about this later on.

While working on the cylinder, let's do something in the quest for greater efficiency. From just below the flange and for a distance down of about2�. tum the cylinder wall to a thickness of .020". This forms a heat dam which will minimize lossea from heat conduction.

Tranefer the flange holes to the baae (l01) and drill and tap the baae for the 8-32 mounting holes, keeping the cylinder con· centric with the 2.28" diameter in the base.

The DISPLACER PISTON ROD END (119) is machined from .88" diameter brase bar etoek. Turning can be done in one eetup by maching with the 10-32 hole toward the tailstock. Turn the .44" diameter and drill and tap the 10-32 hole, then uae the tailstock with a center to support the piece. Using a template or .44" radiusgauge, turn the spherical radius, leaving about .25"

- 128 SHOULDER SCREW Steel, 6 required, A=.20, B=.52
- 129 SHOULDER SCREW Steel, I required, $A = 27$, $B = .65$
- 130 SHOLLDER ' SCREW Steel, I required, A=.39, B=.75
- 14 Facing the flywheel on the lathe.
- 15 Boring the flywlieel hub lor the crankpin.
- 16 The completed power piston. with its center, top ring, packing and matched links.

diameter at the top, which can be parted off and hand finished. Mill or file the two flats to the .50" dimension. Bore the .440" diameter, keeping it perpendicular to the 10-32 hole.

The DISPLACER PISTON ROD (120) is a piece of .188" diameter cold-rolled steel rod. The surface finish should be smooth, inasmuch as it reciprocates within the power piston center. The fit should be around .0005" to .001" loose, to minimize air leakage around the rod.

The DISPLACER PISTON ROD END PIVOT (121) can be lowcarbon steel, also. The loads and veiocitiesimposed on all the rods and pivots areso low that hardened surfaces are unnecessary. The .438" dia· meter should be a close running fit into the rod end. The flats are then milled parallel with the journal diameter. The two 6-32 holea should wait to be transferred from the top ends of the yoke rods.

The two DlSPLACER PISTON YOKE RODS (122) are fabricated from cold-rolled steel and silver soldered together_ Bend the .18" square stock to the 1.00" radius as shown, allowing about .06" extra on both ends. Make up the pieces as shown with the .18" slots filed to a snug fit on the square rod. The ends of the square rod should be trimmed at a trial assembly with the yoke and the power piston placed into the cylinder with the piston rod, rodend and pivot asserr.bly in place. Transfer and tap the 6-32 holes into the displacer piston rod end pivot and bolt the two top pieces of the yoke rod to the pivot. With the lower portion of the yoke rod end mounted to the yoke using the shoulder screws, the ends of the .18" square rod can be trimmed so that the end result is a free-running linkage. If this process is not followed, the linkage will impose an excessive radial load on the displacer rod, where it rides in the power piston center bearings. Photos 17 and 18 show the displacer piston linkageoomponents.

The LINKS (123, 124, 126 and 126) are milled from brass bar stock. The end bores should be kept parallel. Thetwo power piston links (125) should have their .255" diameter bores put in simultaneously while the two are clamped together to insure even loading of the power piston. The profiles of the links can be milled to the proper contours, leaving the end radii to be hand filed, using a couple of filing buttons. Make them from drill rod, .50" diameter and .12" thick, with .25" diameter center holes. After machining, harden them. By placing them on either side of the link ends and bolting them in place, the ends can be filed to a uniform size. Photo 19 shows the finished links.

The CRANKPIN (127) and SHOUL· DER SCREWS (128, 129 and 130) are turned from cold-rolled .38" hex stock. They can be left soft. A smooth finish with approximately .001" to .003" loose fit with their respective links isall thatis necessary, due to the low velocities at which the linkage operates.

- 17 The displacer piston rod yokes fasten to the displacer piston rod end pivot with 6-32 hex head screws.
- The completed displacer piston yoke assembly: two yokes, the end pivot and the displacer piston rod end.

19 The crankshaft link, one of the power piston links and the water pump link.

The FIREBOX (131) is laid out from the full-sized pattern supplied with the casting kit and also reproduced here. Coldrolled steel of .045" thickness is used. Photo 20 shows the blank, after cutting. All the .62" radius corners are hard-formed around a piece of bar stock placed in a vise, 1" diameter stock being used to allow for
springback. Put the holeforthedoorin after welding, to minimize distortion. The welded seams should be finished either by hand filing or by using an auto body grinder.

The .12" square stock should be formed around the perimeter of the box. On the fullsized engine, this is a flange on the lower firebox casting; the upper half of the firebox is trapped between this flange and the engine base plate. The square rod is brazed in place with the brazing rod applied only to the bottom side, allowing a fillet on the lower side of the square rod and a sharp corner on top, to simulate the original joint. The bosses for the four tierods that suspend the firebox from the engine base plate are then brazed on.

The door (photo 21) is fabricsted from .12" thick stock.

Photo 22 shows the completed firebox with the elbow for the chimney silver soldered in place. I prefer a two-piece stack which allows the vertical section to be removed for transportation purposes. The elbow shown is a 11/4" diameter brass sink drain, purchased from a plumbing store. It

135 PUMP PISTON Bross, I required Shown actual size

¹³¹⁽A) FIREBOX PATTERN

142 TOP PLATE AND STEM ^Cold-rolled steel, I required Silver-soldered construction

provides a tight bend radius and a joint for the vertical stack to be slipped on.

Now that all parts for the engine proper are made, you're probably anxious tosee the fruita of all your labor function, so let's put it together. We haven't yet built the water pump, but I prefer to assemble the engine and get it running before doing any final filing. filling or painting of the castings or finishing and buffing the brass components.

Using the assembly drawings as your guide, assemble the parte. The predetermined geometry of the linkage establishes the phase angle of the pistons, that is, the relationship of one piston to the other. The displacer piston on a Stirling engine will lead the power piston by 90°. The only thing yet to be done is silver soldering the displacer cylinder bottom, which can be done as 800n as we determine its location. Adjust the displacer piston on its rod so there is .06" to .10" clearance between it and the power piston bottom, when the power piston is at dead center. Tighten the two setscrews in the displacer piston, which affix it in place. Now, advance the displacer piston to bottom dead center and note the relationship of the displacer piston to the end of the displacer cylinder. The end cap should be placed so there is .06" to .10" clearance from the piston bottom to the end cap. (Be sure the gasket between the flange and engine base is in place, because it affects the clearance.) By using this technique, the dead volumeofthecylinderis minimized. (Dead volume is anything other than swept volume.)

Now, oil all the joints and power piston with a light grade oil; if an automotive type oil is used on the piston, too much drag is generated and it will keep the engine from operating. Put some water into the water jacket, to keep the epoxy cement from overtemperaturing. If you run the engine for over 15 minutes at a time, the water should be circulated.

Using a propane torch, spirit burner, sterno or some similar heat source, you are ready for start-up. It will take about 5 to 10 minutes to come up tooperating temperature. Simply give the flywheel a tum and she will be running!

The water pump is not essential to the operation of the engine, except that water is necessary to cool the cylinder. This can be accomplished by using a separate water container of approximately one pint volume and plumbing it to the top and bottom of the water jacket, relying on the thermo-syphon method for circulation. But in the interest of having an authentic model, the pump is a necessity. And seeing the pump discharg· ing water, even though it is only recircula· ting it from a small tank, completes the picture inasmuch as you can actually see it doing work.

The pump, as I have designed it, is a small departure from the original, mainly for simplification. Also, I have chosen to

- 20 The firebox blank (131-A), cut according to the pattern supplied with the casting set and with bend lines scribed in place.
- 2! Oetaits 01 the built·up firedoor and door ring are easily seen in this photo.
- 22 The completed firebox, with the elbow for the stack extension silver soldered in place.

make it entirely from brass. The original had only the cylinder portion of the body in brass, along with the top gland nut, the body being an iron casting.

The PUMP BODY (132) is comprised of seven individual pieces, 80ft soldered together. The mounting flange is a good place to start, because it can be used as a template for !ocatingthe four6-32 mounting screws and the .25" diameter water transfer hole in the cylinder. The cylinder portion itself is machined from a piece of .75" square brass stock. The .376" bore should have a smooth finish which is best achieved by reaming. A few imperfections are allowable, as long as they are not of a nature that would score the piston. The inlet boss at the bottom is turned on its o.d. only, having the .250" diameter hole and 1/16" pipe tapping operation done after the soldering. The ball check valve seat at the bottom must have a uniform contact with the ball. To accomplish this, before inserting the seat into the body, place a ball over the .218" drilled hole and \bullet give it a light tap with a hammer. This will brinell a narrow, spherical seat that matches the ball.

On my pump, I didn't solder on the two side plates. This allowed me to polish the complete body. After polishing the side plates, I attached them with epoxy cement and then clear lacquered the assembly to prevent tarnishing.

The PUMP ROD (133) is made from a piece of 5/32" diameter stainless steel. If stainless is not readily available, then cold· rolled will be acceptable. (Incidentally, when running my engine, I usually add a small amount of water-soluble oil to the pump water to prevent rust or corrosion from forming on the steel cylinder sleeve. This would also protect a cold-rolled pump rod.) The rod's outside diameter should be smooth to minimize friction in the packing gland. The PUMP ROD CLEVIS (134) is made of brass.

The PISTON (136) is a small brass wafer that is a press fit onto the piston rod. The ports for the passage of water can be drilled and filed to final shape. Some care should be exercised in not exceeding the .15" radius dimension, to insure a proper seal

with the valve.
The VALVE (136) simply is a small The VALVE (136) simply is a small wafer of brass or nylon. I prefer nylon because it does away with the clacking sound of metal on metal as the valve closes at the start of the upstroke and makes for a quieter-operating pump. This may seem like a small thing, but in the absence of other engine noises, itcan be annoying. The valve must have the ability to slide freely on the .09" diameter of the piston rod, but not cock or bind on the rod. The .32" outside diameter must just cover the ports in the piston, but not be so largeas toimpedetheflowofwater around it.

The GLAND NUT (137) is turned from diameter to the already-constructed pump rod, .75" hex stock. It would be beat to size the .158"

- 23 The various parts o1 the burner are seen in this exploded view.
- 24 The completed burner assembly (145).
- 25 Gas regulation is accomplished by this modified Sears propane torch.

 $5 - 40$

spring

WATER DRAIN COCK

Bross, I required

 $\overline{4}$

146

to allow a smooth running clearance. The PACKING NUT(138) screws in

from the top, trapping a little teflon or similar packing beneath it. Donot apply too much load on the packing, because the friction generated can be enough to keepthe engine from running.

The PRIMING CUP (139) is nonfunctional and is made purely for aesthetic purposes. It is turned from onepiecedown to the 90° elbow. A small hole is drilled through at the shut-off valve and a handle fabricated as shown. Pass it through the valve body and solder asmall washer on the opposite side, allowing it to be rotated.

The air chambers shown on the engine cross sections at theinlet and outlet are nonfunctional also. Their purpose on the fullsized engine was to provide an air cushion to minimize water hammer. They can be turned from 1" diameter brass bar stock.

The tubing used for all the water piping is 5/16" o.d. x 7/32" i.d. brass tubing, threaded 1/16" NPT.

Only one last detail remains, the propane burner, and for some, it will be an option; if you prefer to use a spirit burner or some other flame source, the burner may be omitted, but personally, propane is by far the simplest and best fuel. It is readily
available in small bottles and is comparatively neat and clean. The amount of gas consumed by the burner is small; a 14-oz. cylinder should last for eight to ten hours of operation.

The BURNER BODY (140) is a silver-soldered assembly. The 1.25" diameter tubing is a piece of brass tubing cut off the elbow used on the firebox. The .62" diameter stem is tap drilled 29/64" through and threaded as shown on its end.

The VENTURI (141) may be machined from aluminum and is made to be a light slip fit in the 29/64" i.d. which will allow for a fore-and-aft adjustment relative to the gas jet, to optimize the gas-to-air mixture. The flame notches on the top are best sized by starting out with smaller notches and working larger by trial, lighting the burner until satisfied with the flame shape

The TOP PLATE AND STEM (142) is also silver soldered and ismadefrom coldrolled steel. The hole down the center is for secondary air circulation. The six .06' diameter holes should be sized by the same trial-and-error method used to size the notches in the body

The BOTI'OM PLATE (143) is secured to the threaded end of the stem by a %-16 hex nut. The same nut can also mount the burner to a bracket in the firebox.

The GAS JET (144) is turned from brass, as shown. The .020" diameter hole can either be drilled to size or a piece of hypodermic tubing .020" i.d. and .032" o.d. can be inserted into the end. The connection end is machined to suit the hose used.

Photo 23 shows the parts to the propane burner. The complete assembly is shown in photo 24.

Photo 25 shows the modified propane torch, which I use to regulate the gas. This torch was purchased from Sears because of its somewhat unique design. It has its metering orfice built into the base, allowing the torch end to be cutoff and an adapter for the connecting hose to be soldered on. If a different make of torch head is used, be certain that the metering orfice is used.

Your quarter-size replica of an Ericsson Hot Air Pumping Engine is now complete.

Build this simple

V-4 Oscillati

by Jan Gunnarsson Photos and Drawings by the Author

This small, simple steam engine (photoe page 86) is mainly intended for radio controlled ship models. It is, strictly speaking, not a model, merely a small power unit. Radio-controlling the engine will require two channels, one for the throttle and one for the reversing valve. The engine is self· starting in all poaitions and relatively slow· running, 80 neither gearbox nor dutch is needed.

I managed to build my own engine in two weekends and the boiler in about the same amount of time. Add to that the time spent in making the boiler fittings, like the check valves, water gauge and the butane burner. These things can, of course, be purchased ready·made for a reasonable sum to save time, but they are easy and interesting things to make.

In order to keep things as simple as possible, the engine has single-acting, oscil· lating cylinders; thus there are no valves, valve gear or glands. The drawback with single-acting cylinders is that the engine must have four cylinders in order to be self· starting in all positions. By making it in the shape of a V·4, the crankshaft will then require only two cranks, 180° apart, which will simplify fabrication. I say fabrication, because the crankshaft is built up from rods and disks, stuck together with Loctite and pinned for additional security. No finish machining is required.

AU parts are quite small, the whole project being well within the capacity of the smallest lathe, such as a Unimat. The materials required are easily obtained, brass, copper and silver steel, together with a few bits of bronze and stainless steel rods.

Regarding the engine being in the form of a V-4, this is nothing new. I have seen several engines built that way, but when I wanted to build my own I found that there were no finished designs available, so I had to make this one.

Because the engine is relatively slow· running, around 1000 RPM at 30 psi, it is best suited for a heavy hull with a large screw, like a tug. Of course, it can be run much faster, but I think it is better to keep down the RPM and use its torque instead. There is plenty of the latter. With 30 psi steam pressure it is difficult to stop the engine by gripping the output shaft by the fingers, if you forgive this primitive method of measuring power.

This engine can, of course, be used for purposes other than to propel ship models. As I never get around to building any ship models for my steam engines, I have been toying with the idea of installing theengine in a large toy truck. That would make a grand gift for a small boy. In this case I should, however, use a different boiler. A vertical one is more suited for this application.

If you detect a few small differer, \cos between the engine in the photos and the drawings and text, don't get puzzled. As I built my engine with just a few raw sketches, I made a few mistakes and there is no need for you to copy them. Just follow the drawings and the text and you'll be safe. As the general said to his men: " If you find any difference between the map and the country, it is the map that counts.

Now for the actual construction, the first parts are the two ENDPLATES (I). As they must be identical, we'll make both at the same go. With a hacksaw, cut two pieces of 3mm sheet braas, 70 x lOOmm. At least one side of each piece must be smooth and free from scratches. Clamp them to-

1 ENDPLATE 2 required

gether with the smoothest sides facing each other and mill the top and bottom edges until the height is 67mm. If you lack milling facilities (the Unimat will do nicely here), hand filing will do the job. The top and bottom edges must be straight and parallel and 67mm apart. Thereafter, mill or file the right side straight and square to the top and bottom edges.

Now on one of the pieces, scribe the vertical centerline SOmm from the previ· ously-milled right side. For laying out work like this, a slightly modified vernier caliper is a very handy tooL Just grind its fixed jaw to a sharp point, as shown in Figure 3. The caliper must, of course, be of the hardened variety and the grinding done carefully, with frequent cooling by dipping it in water to avoid annealing it. The caliper's normal function will not be affected. Do not use it for scribing on hard steel however, or it will quickly become blunted. Your vernier caliper will now double as a scribing gauge, giving much better accuracy than using a steel rule and scriber. Using this instru· ment, layout all hole centers except the four steam ports (L5mm diameter) and the two pivot pin bushing holes (6mm diameter). Measure from the right vertical edge and use the vertical centerline SOmm from itasa reference.

Scribe a line parallel to the top edge and 4mm below it. Mark out the positions for the six small holes on this line. For example,

when setting out the right 3mm diameter hole, set the scribing gauge to 5Omm-17.5mm : 32.5mm and make a cr088mark on the horizontal line, measuring from the right edge. When laying out to the left of the centerline, add SOmm to the dimension found on the drawing, still measuring from the right edge.

Make a centerpop at each intersection. When doing this, use a sharp center punch. Hold the centerpunch leaning 45° to the right and set it down in the horizontal scribed line a short distance to the right of the crossing line. Move the point towards the crossing line until you feel the point click down in the line, then raise the punch to the vertical, change hand without shifting the punch and give it a light blow with a hammer. Using this technique, your holes will be located very accurately. After the centers of the ten holes have been laid out and centerpopped, the centers for the cylinder pivot pina can be laid out. To do this, use a protractor set to 45° or a fixed 45° square. Set it against the endplate's bottom edge and adjust its position so a line can be scribed through the crankshaft bearing center and 45° to the right. Tum the protractor over and scribe through the bearing center, to the left. Using a divider set to 43mm, make a short crossline on each ofthe two lines. Centerpop at the intersections.

Mark out the endplate's outer contour, again using the protractor and the scribing

LUBRICATOR END

FLYWHEEL END

gauge. Clamp the two endplates together with a pair of toolmakers clamps, making sure their bottom edges are aligned by standing the sandwich on a flat surface before tightening up the ciampa. Drill two holes somewhere outside the scribed lines marking the outer contours and rivet the endplates temporarily together through these holes.

Drill through at all centerpops, using a 1.5mm drill bit. Open up the four 8crewholes to 3mm. Also, using the 3mm drill bit, open up the crankshaft bearing center and the two cylinder pivot pin holes.

Next we need a simple drilling fixture for the steam ports, as they must be accurately located. The fixture, Figure 4, is made from a piece of flat steel stock, 3 x 12mm or $\frac{1}{6}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ ". These dimensions are not critical. Locate and drill the two holes 8.5mm from the left edge. Mark this edge with a felt pen for identification. We also need two pieces of 3mm diameter silver steel rod, around 15mm long. To use the fixture, insert one of the silver steel rods in the crankshaft center hole on the endplates and the other rod in the left pivot pin hole. Put the fixture over it and butt up its left(marked) side against the rod in the crankshaft hole, from the right side. Lock in place with a toolmakers clamp. Using a 1.5mm drill bit, drill through the 1.5mm hole in the fixture and through the end plates. To drill the other steam port, just turn the fixture over on its back and butt it

2 required

o 1 mm oil hole

up against the left side of the rod in the crankshaft center hole. Repeat for the other side's steam port. Make sure you butt the marked side of the fixture against the pin every time. This way the steam ports can't help being spaced equally from a line through the pivot pins and the crankshaft center.

Now drill out the pivot pin bushing holes to 6mm diameter. Use a drill bit with the tip modified for brass, as shown in photo 5. By grinding off the lips as shown, the risk of catching when drilling brass is greatly reduced and it also produces smoother holes. Just grind a small vertical flat on each lip, a few seconds of work on the grinding wheel. By the way, this way you can get a new use for dull drills, if you don't care to sharpen them.

For the 12mm crankshaft bearing hole, we need a pindrill of that dimension. If you have a '/' pindrill, by all means use it and make the bearings to suit. The pindrill, Figure 6, is quickly made from silver steel.

Turn down the shaft to suit yourdrill chuck. Face the other end of it and drill out to take the pin, in this case 3mm diameter. The cutting teeth are filed by hand. Harden the business end by heating it to cherry red and plunging it into cold water. Give it a few strokes on the edges with an oilstone slip and insert the center pin, which should not be hardened. If used carefully, the pin drill does not require tempering and is now ready to go to work.

When the crankshaft bearing hole is finished, counterdrill the 8 small holes as shown on the drawing, to accept the steam
pipes. The pipes will be made of 's" copper pipe. The counterdrilling should be about 1.5mm deep. Deburr allsmall holes lightly, using a drill bit held by hand. The bearing hole can be dealt with by a scraper(photo 7). Put 3mm screws with nuts on the back side through two of the 3mm holes. Then rough out the outer contours with a hacksaw. Trim with a file. Separate the endplates and deburr the holes on the backside, except the steam ports. This is important, for if the steam ports edges are chamfered the admission and exhaust timing will be upset, resulting in a poor-running engine. Instead, use a smooth, single-cut file to file the burrs from the ports if necessary. Finish by laying a fine emery cloth on a dead flat surface, such as a drilling machine table or apieceof plate glass, and rub the endplate against it. Chamfer all outer edges of the endplates very lightly with a fine file and they are now finished, as shown in Photo 8

The BOTTOM PLATE (2) is made from the same stock as the endplates and calls for no further description.

Now we'll jump a bit with the part numbers. The reason for this is that parts 3 and 5 must be of equal length and itismuch easier to match part 3 to part 5, than the
other way around. The REVERSING VALVE BLOCK (5) is made of a piece of brass 8 x 40mm. Cut off a piece with a hacksaw, say 43mm long. Clamp it to the milling table (if you are using a Unimat)

13 EXHAUST FLANGE 1 required

5 REVERSING VALVE BLOCK 1 required

with a spacer of, say, 3mm between the block and the table. If you own a dial indicator, use it to align the block parallel to the Unimat's longitudinal axis. If not, set it as good as you can by eye, tighten the clamps and mill one end, using a pin mill. Check for squareness with a small square without removing it from the table. Then loosen the clamps partially and adjust the block's position in the desired direction by gently tapping it with a plastic mallet. Retighten and make another cut. Check again and, if necessary, repeat until aatiafied. Then mill the other end until the block's length is 41mm. Remove the block from the table and chamfer all sharp edges very lightly.

If you are using a large lathe, the block can, of course, be trued upquicker by setting it up in the four-jaw chuck and facing the ends. A proper milling machine with a machine vise makes an even quicker job of it.

Next, using the scribing gauge, mark out the position for the two holes marked M6 x 0.75 on the drawing. Centerpop and drill with a 5.8mm drill bit to 8mm depth. Change to a 3mm drill bit and drill to 16mm total depth. Tap the holes M6 x 0.75. Mark out the six small holes on the top surface. Drill the center hole 8traight through, 2.5mm diameter and tap M3. The hole marked M2 8hould also be drilled through, 1.7mm diameter, and tapped M2. The remaining four 2.5mm holes are drilled to a depth of 6mm.

In order to be able to temporarily put together the block with the endplates for marking out the positions for the assembly screws, we have to make the EXHAUST FLANGE (13) now. This is a simple turning job. Make the thread with adie held in a tailstock die-holder. The three M2 acrewhole8 can be left until later. Attach one of the endplates to the valve block by means of part 13. To make sure that they line up properly, stand them upside-down on a flat surface and then tighten up part 13. The 3mm mounting screwholes can now be spotted, using a 3mm drill bit. Drill only about 1mm deep, then change to a 2.5mm drill bit and drill to 8mm depth. Tap both holes M3 and insert M3 screws. Then spot the four steam pipe holes, using a 2.5mm drill bit. Di8assemble the endplate and repeat the process for the other end of the valve block. Then disassemble again and drill the channels through the block, using a 3mm drill bit. Drill only halfway from each end, until the drill bit breaks into the vertical 2.5mm hole. Next, mill thetwooblongcavities in each end. Clamp the block in the machine
vise, with one of the end faces upwards as in in each end. Clamp photo 9. Mill the cavities to a depth of 3mm. Repeat for the other end, then deburr with a smooth file. The top surface of the block must be smooth and flat to prevent the reversing valve from leaking. To obtain this, rub the block against an emery cloth until all acratches are removed. Treat the ends the same way and the block is finished.

Two SPACERS (3), are needed and again are a simple turning job. They are made from 6mm diameter brass stock. It is, however, very important that both are exactly the same length as the valve block.

After this, we might as well make and fit the STEAM PIPES to the endplates. These pipes are simply pieces of $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3.2mm) copper pipe. Study the general arrangement and photo 10 carefully; It is important that the steam ports are connected to the valve

block in the manner shown, otherwise the engine will not run. Note that the pipes must be bent to clear the pivot pins and spring assemblies and the steam inlet and exhaust pipes (see photo 11). Cut the pipes over· length at first, in order to have something to hold on to when bending. Anneal the tubes by heating to dull red before bending. This will have to be repeated a few times as the copper will harden when being bent. When satisfied with the shape, trim to final length and insert in the endplate. Don't forget to deburr the insides of the pipe ends. When all pipes are in position, silver solder them to the endplates. Then put them in a pickle bath for a few minutes. Rinse in water afterwards, taking care that all traces ofthe pickle acid is flushed out of the steampipes.

The CRANKSHAFr BEARINGS (4) are turned up from a piece of 2Smm diameter brass rod or even better, bronze rod. Cut off a piece approximately 35mm long and set it up in the three-jaw. Face it and then turn down to 15mm diameter for Smm length. Chamfer the sharp edges with a file. Part off to 13mm total length. Repeat for the second bearing.

Set up one of the bearings in the threejaw, gripping it across the lSmm diameter part and pressing the flange against the jaws. Turn the outer end to final dimension and chamfer the edges. Use the 12mm holes in the endplates as a gauge for the bearing stud, as the bearings should fit snugly in the end plates. Put a centerdrill in the tailstock chuck and center drill the bearing. Drill through with a small drill bit, say, 2.Smm. Open up the hole to S.9mm and ream with a 6mm reamer, running the lathe on low speed. Chamfer both ends of the bearing hole lightly, using a scraper. Repeat the process for the other bearing. The three 2mm diameter screw holes are best done using the Unimat dividing head.

Clamp one bearing to each end plate and spot the screw holes. Drill through with a 1.7mm drill bit and tap M2.

We can now assemble the parts made thus far. Put together the endplates, valve block and spacers, using M3 x Bmm cheesehead screws, but do not tighten up yet. Stand the assembly upside-down on a truly flat surface. Press down the valve block and the endplates against the flat surface and then tighten the screws in the valve block. Turn the assemblyright sideup, pressdown the spacers and tighten the screws.

To make sure that the bottom plate will bed down properly on both the endplates and the spacers, set up the engine frame upside-down in the milling machine. Takea light skim on the bottom edges and the spacers, as shown in photo 12.

Clamp the bottom plate in place, using a pair of toolmakers clamps. Spot the two screw holes through the bottom plate into the spacers. Drill through, 2.Smm diameter and tap M3. Insert a pair of M3 x 6mm countersunk screws and tighten up. Remove the bottom plate and spacers together by taking out the four screws at the bottom of the endplates. Soft solder the spacers to the bottom plate. After cleaning, reassemble to the rest of the engine frame.

In order that the engine frame always be assembled in the same way, make some kind of indentification mark, such as a centerpop or stamp, on one of the endplates and at the corresponding end of the valve block and bottom plate.

1 required

1 required

For the REVERSING VALVE (6), set up a short piece of 30mm diameter brass rod in the three-jaw chuck and face it. Centerdrill and drill 3mm diameter to IOmm depth. Counter drill, preferably using a 6mm end mill, to a depth of Smm. Part off a disk about 8.5mm thick, reverse in the chuck and faoe to 8mm thickness. Using the dividing head, center drill the four holes on the bottom, spaced 90° and on a 7mm radius from the center. With a 3.Smm drill bit, drill these holes to a depth of about 3mm. Using the Unimat as a milling machine, mill the steam channels between the holes, also to 3mm depth (see photo 13). Setting up by sighting is sufficient since the exact location of the channels is not critical; what matters is that the position of their ends coincide with the four holes on the Valve Block, Part 5. Deburr the valve's bottom surface with a smooth file and by rubbing it against a fine emery cloth laid on a flat surface. The bottom of the valve must be truly flat and free from scratches to avoid steam leakage. Set up in the lathe and make the bevel at the top corner. Drill the hole for the handle, taking care not to drill through into any of the steam channels. The handle's position is not critical, it can be located by eye.

The PIVOT PIN (7), is simply a 3mm diameter silver steel rod, threaded M3 at each end. By the way, all threading oper· ations on the various pins should, of course, be carried out in the lathe, holding the pin in the lathe chuck and the die in a tailstock dieholder. This is to ensure concentricity of the threads. Always use cutting oil when threading either silver steel or stainless steel.

The valve retaining spring must be fairly stiff in order to cope with the steam pressure acting on the underside of the valve. Search the junk box for a suitable spring first. Ifnone is found, wind one up in the lathe from O.5mm music wire.

Make and fit the fixed stop pin to the valve block. This pin is simply a Smm length of 3mm diameter silver steel rod, drilled through to take a M2 screw. To find the positions for the two stop pins on the valve, do as follows: fit the pivot pin to the valve block and slip on the valve, upsidedown. Rotate the valve until the centerlines of the channels are 45° to theengineframe's centerline. Scribe a mark on the valve 1.5mm in front of the fixed pin. Rotate the valve clockwise 90° until the channels are again 45° to the centerline and scribe another mark, this time l.Smm behind the fixed pin. Remove the valve and driIl 3mm diameter, 5mm deep at the marks. Make the stop pins from 3mm diameter silver steel rod and fit them to the valve, using $Loctite$. Also make and fit the handle, then make the stepped washer of brass. Assemble the valve on the engine frame, putting a drop of oil on the valve face. Use two nuts on the pivot pin, so that they can be locked against each other.

The **CRANKSHAFT** (9) is made of a few bits of centerless ground silver steel rod and three disks of brass. Mild steel disks would, of course, do equally welL Start by parting off three pieces of silver steel rod, 6mm diameter. One of them should be 98mm long and the other two 22mm long. Make a deep center mark with a centerdrill in both ends of the long piece. Face the ends and chamfer the edges on all three pieces.

Set up a piece of 30mm diameter brass

12 PIVOT PIN, BUSHING AND SPRING 4 each required

rod in the three-jaw, withenoughpokingout to part off three 6.5mm thick disks. Center drill and drill out to S.9mm. Put a 6mm reamer through, held in the tailstock chuck. Face and part off a 6.5mm thick disk, as shown in photo 14. Repeat for the other two disks, not forgetting to face before parting off. Set up one disk ata time in thethree-jaw and face to 6mm thickness. If you are using the Unimat for this, reverse the chuck jaws before setting up. This way the disk can be firmly seated against a step in the chuck jaws to insure it does not wobble.

Set up the dividing head in the milling machine. Using the three-jaw, chuck one disk (photo 15). However, turn the chuck jaws the opposite way, notas shown in the picture. I goofed here, finding that I could not drill the second crankhole without hitting a chuck jaw. In8tead, put a packing piece under the di8k, a8 can be 8een in photo 16. Put a piece of 6mm diameter silver steel rod in the milling chuck. Manipulate the feed· screws until the steel rod can be fed down into the center hole in the di8k. Raise the rod and feed in the cr08s-8lide exactly lOmm. Lock the slides.

Exchange the steel rod for a centerdrill and make a center mark, as in photo 16. Change to a 6mm drill bit and drill through the disk (photo 17). Then rotate the dividing head 180°, and repeat the process (photo 18). Repeat fortheotherdisks, but note that they should have only one single crank hole. You now have the components for the crank· shaft, aa shown in photo 19.

Before we assemble the crankshaft, we need two spacers to put between the crank disks to get the correct spacing. Two short pieces of lOmm square rod or any scrap bits lOmm thick will do. The stuff used for bonding the crankshaft is Loctite Retaining Compound No. 75, or Loctite Superfast No. 601. If you use the latter, you will have to work really fast. If any part becomes stuck out of alignment. just heat the joint to above 220° C, after which the joint can be torn apart and redone. Before applying any Loctite, make a dry run, to see that all parts fit together. If not, one or more holes will have to be adjusted with a reamer until everything fits.

The first stage of assembly is to fit the two cranks into the center disk, as in photo 20. However, when doing thi8, put together all parts, in order that everything shall line up properly, but apply Loctite only to the joints between the cranks and the center disk. Set aside to cure for a couple of hours. Curing can be hastened by applying mild heat, no more than 70°C.

The next stage of assembly is to fit the shaft to the center disk, as in photo 21. Again, assemble all parts to avoid misalignment. Defore the joint cures. check that the shaft is protruding 46mm on each side of the disk.

The final step is to fit the two outer disks. Both can be dealt with on the same go. Apply Loctite to the cranks and the shaft and slide on the disks. Put the spacers, mentioned earlier, between the disks to insure correct spacing. Let the whole assembly cure overnight.

For additional security, fit either taper or roll pins through all joints. They can be seen in photo8 22 and 23. If you fit taper pins, their holes must, of course, be reamed with the proper taper reamer. Roll pins are easier to fit, as they only require a drilled hole. All that remains now is tocut away the unwanted pieces of the shaft between the

disks, using a hacksaw. When doing this, protect the cranks by wrapping strips of sheet brass around them. Finally, trim the rough surfaces after the saw-cuta with a file.

You may now want to try the crankshaft in place in the engine frame. You will then find that the crankshaft bearing registers are too deep. There is a purpose in that. Just set them up in the lathe and face an equal amount off each of them, until the crankshaft fita in the frame without axial play.

The FLYWHEEL (8) is another straightforward turning job. Set up a short piece of 40mm diameter brass rod in the three-jaw and part off so that a disk of around 15mm thickness remains in thechuck. Face, center drill and drill through using, say, a 2.5mm drill bit. Enlarge the hole to 5.9mm in steps. The flywheel must be a push fit on the crankshaft, 80 either ream or bore it until a test rod from the same stock as was used to make the crankshaft fita without shake. Turn the recess in the front face and break all sharp edges, using a file and a scraper.

Remove from the chuck and drill the slanting set-screw hole, 2.5mm. Hold the flywheel in a vise and use a center drill to start the hole. Tap M3. Poke a reamer through the axle-hole to remove the burrs, then set a short piece of6mm silver steel rod in the lathe's three-jaw, with about 12mm protruding from the jaws. Check thatit runs true. Put a setscrew in the flywheel and slip it on the rod, with the front facing the chuck. Tighten the setscrew lightly. Face the f lywheel's back side and take a g kim along the periphery. Break the edges with a file and remove from the rod. If you wish to make the six 4mm diameter holes through the flywheel, use the Unimat's dividing head to spot them. The holes have no function, merely making the flywheel a bit more fancy·looking.

When finished, install the flywheel on the crankshaft. Tighten the setscrew very lightly. Then remove the wheel again and file a small flat on the shaft where the setscrew has made a mark. This way, the setscrew will not raise a burr on the shaft which might make it difficult to remove the flywheel later on and also scratch the bearing ifit has to be withdrawn. Install the flywheel and tighten the setacrew.

There are four CYLINDERS (IO), but please notice that two of them differslightly

from the other two. The difference is that two of them have 5mm thicker port blocks. This is to enable two of the connecting-rod big end bearings to work in tandem on each crank. The best material for the cylinder barrels is bronze, but hard brass will do as well. Avoid the 80ft, so-called screw·brass rod; it will wear too quickly.

First an explanation of the photographs. As 1 used a large lathe, I made the port blocks and barrels in pairs and parted off aftersiiversoldering. If you are using the Unimat, this method would give excessive overhang, since the parts will not enter the Unimat's mandrel bore. Therefore, follow the text; there are just a few slight departures from the pictures.

❹

Start with the port blocks. Four pieces of brass will be needed, two of them 10 x 15mm, the other two 15 x 15mm. All ofthem should be about 22mm long. Soft solder the two 10 x 15mm pieces together to form a block, 15 x 20 x 22mm. Set up in the four-jaw and face one end. Reverse in the four·jaw, and face the other end. The length is not critical, as long as it is over 2Omm. Soft solder the other two pieces together, this time to make a block 15 x 30 x 22mm, and face its ends. Now, with the scribing gauge, scribe the vertical centerline on one end of each block, as shown in Figure 24. Centerpop carefully where this line intersects the solder joint. Set up one of the blocks in the four·jaw, with the centerpop facing the tailstock. Adjust the jaws until the center· pop runs truly. Center drill, and drill through with a 4mm drill bit, carefully, so it does not run out of line. Open up with successively larger drill bits to 12mm (photo 25). When using drill bits larger than 6.5mm in the Unimat, the three-jaw can substitute for the drill chuck, as it also fits on the tailstock. If the drill bits are modified for brass and speed and feed are kept down, no undue strain will be put on the lathe. The risk of the drill bit catching and wringing the workpiece out of the chuck will also be minimized. Alternatively, a simple, homemade D·bit could be used after drilling to 6.5mm.

When both blocks are drilled, melt them apart and remove all traces of soft solder with a file. It is important that no trace of soft solder remains, as this would prevent the silver soldering of the port blocks to the cylinder barrels.

From a 12mm bronze or hard brass rod, part off four pieces, say, 38mm long. The parts for the cylinders are shown in photo 26. Silver solder the port blocks to the rods (photo 27). Note that the cylinders in the photo were made in pairs as previously explained, to be parted off in the middle after soldering. When you solder your cylinders, the port blocks should be so positioned that the rods protrude 16mm below the block's lower end. Put the cylinders in the pickle bath after soldering.

Grip one of the cylinders by its round end in the three-jaw. Center drill and drill through with a 4mm drill bit, taking care that the drill does not wander off center. Enlarge with auccesaively larger drill bits to 9.8mm and ream IOmm diameter, using low speed. As the Unimat's tailstock chuck will not take a IOmm reamer, the latter will have to be supported on a center held in the tailstock barrel. Hold the reamer with a wrench to prevent it from rotating and alide the tailstock forward to perform the ream· ing operation. If you lack a 10mm reamer, ss I did. the cylinders can be finished by boring, using a long *Joringtool*, asshown in photo 28. In both C88ea, use a short piece of the same IOmm diameter stainless steel rod which will be used to make the pistons as a gauge. It should, of course, be a nice, sliding fit in the cylinders. Repeat for the other cylinders. Face off the cylinders and port blocks until the latter are 20mm long.

Remove all sharp edges with scraper and file. Drill the steam port hole and the pivot pin hole in each cylinder (photo 29). It ia important that the distance between them be equal to the distance between the corresponding holea in the engine frame. The steam port hole should go straight through into the cylinder bore, but the pivot pin hole must on no account do so. Drill the latter hole 2.5mm diameter and tap M3. As it is very important that the pivot pin is square to the port (ace, use the set-up shown in photo 30 when tapping. The tap is held in a pin chuck, which is slid onto a drill bitorrod held in the drill press chuck. Remove the burrs around the steam port hole in the cylinder bore with a small scraper.

Mill a shallow recess on the port face, 6mm wide and 0.5mm deep, across the pivot pin hole, aa ahown in photo 31. Repeat the above for all cylinders and they will now look like photo 32.

Ø)

Make and fit the CYLINDER TOP COVERS (11). They should bea tight press fit in the bores. Use a bench vise to press them into place, not forgetting to protect the cylinder bottom end and the cover by placing pieces of hardwood between them and the vise jaws.

The port block sliding faces must be flat and free from scratches. To insure this, rub it against a smooth file laid on the work bench and then against a fine emery cloth laid on a flat surface. Chamfer the edges very lightly, but do not remove the edges from the steam ports, as it would upset admission and exhaust timing if these edges were chamfered.

Four each of the PIVOT PIN, BUSH· ING AND SPRING (12) are needed. The pivot pins are simply 25mm lengths of3mm diameter silver steel rod, threaded at each end according to the drawing. The bushes are turned from brass rod. Their center holes should be reamed 3mm diameter to be a sliding fit on the pins. The bushings should fit loosely in the engine frame, as they are to be soft-soldered in place.

Disassemble the engine frame. Insert the pivot pins in their holes in the cylinder port blocks. The end with the short thread goes into the port block. Put adrop of Loctite in the holes before inserting the pins, and they will stay for keeps. Wipe off the surplus carefully. Smear a drop of oil on the port block surface, insert. the bushee in the endplates and install the cylinders. Use a pair of 3mm i.d. tubes to hold the parts in place. (They can be seen in photo 11.) Put nuts on and tighten up, fingertight will do. Apply soft-solder flux to the joints between the bushes and the endplate. Soft solder, applying heat with a propane torch. Disassemble and wash in warm water to remove the remaining flux. Repeat for theotherendplate.

Assemble the engine again, with the cylinders in place. Note that there should be one cylinder with a thick port block on each side, diagonally opposite, as shown in the general arrangement drawing.

For the pivot pin springs, first rummage the trusty junk box. If not found there, wind them up on the lathe, using music wire around O.4mm diameter. Put double nuts on the pivot pins, so they can be locked up against each other. Also, put a flat washer between the nuts and the springs.

4 required

To build the RISTON AND PISTON ROD (14), let's start from the bottom, with the big end bearings or shall I just say bearings, as there are no small end bearings. The bearings are best made in pairs.

From 5 x 5mm brass stock, cut four pieces 40mm long. Mill or tum all four pieces to the same length. The exact length doesn't matter a bean, aslong as each pair is of equal length.

Scribe the centerline along the full length on one of the pieces. Make a cross mark 2mm from each end and another 11mm from each end. Centerpopatthe cross marks. Now, clamp this piece with the center marks facing upwards, on top of another piece. Line up the ends before tightening up, as in photo 33. Drill through both pieces with a 1.7mm drill hit, taking care the drill does· not wander out of line. Separate and drill out the holes in one of the pieces to 2mm diameter. Deburr all holes. Tap the 1.7mm diameter holes M2. Rub the mating surfaces of both pieces on a file to insure that they are flat. Screw the pieces together, using M2 x 8mm cheese-head screws, as in photo 34.

Scribe a line on the side of the piece, B.5mm from each end. Make centerpops where these lines intersect the joint line and drill, say, 2mm. Enlarge in steps to 5.9mm (see photo 35). Ream 6mm. As it is important that the bearing holes are square with the piston rods, both drilling and reaming should be carried out in a drilling machine or drill press. Repeat these steps for the other bearing pair and your bearings will now look like photo 36.

Mark out the length for each bearing; part off with a hacksaw leaving, say, O.5mm for finishing. Do this in the Unimat by vertical milling.

Tum up a stub in the lathe, which is just a little too large to enter the bearings, say 6.01mm. Mount one bearing on the stub by slackening the M2 screws, pushing the bearing on the stub, and tightening up the screws. Face off O.25mm on each side of the bearing. Tum theO.25mm relief on each side at the same time (see photo 37). Remove from the stub and break all sharp edges with a file. Chamfer the ends of the bearing bore very lightly by the discreet use of a scraper. Repeat for the other bearings. The bearings are now finished, as shown in photo 38. From now on, keep each bearing's upper and lower halves mated as there might be small differences between the units which could make assembling diffi· cult later on.

Now for the piston rods. Therod proper is made from 3mm diameter silver steel. To start with, make them 36.5mm, Imm longer than shown in the drawing. Thread the bottom end for 3mm length and the top end for 18mm length. The bolting flange at the bottom end is made from a strip ofl.5 x 4mm mild steel. Use the lower halves of the bearings as drilling jigs for the 2mm diameter bolting holes. Mark out and drill the hole for the piston rod 2.5mm diameter and tap M3. Screw in the piston rod and silver solder the joint. After cleaning up, set up the rod in the three-jaw and face the bottom flange, also removing the protrud· ing end of the rod. This way the flange will be truly square with the rod. The rods will now look like the left pair in photo 39.

The pistons are simply 15mm long pieces of IOmm diameter stainless steel rod, centerleas·ground stock. Before parting off

the pistons, turn the oil grooves. Their dimensions and positions are not critical. Remove the sharp edges and polish with polishing paper, running the lathe at high
speed. Drill through 2.5mm diameter and tap M3. File the small flat and mount the pistons on the rods. Use a locknut under the piston's bottom to prevent the piston from
unscrewing itself. The pistons will now look like photo 40. The purpose of the flat at the top of the piston is to prevent the steam port in the cylinder from being blocked when the piston is at the top end of its stroke.

Assemble the pistons and the rods in the engine. Do not put on the bottom halves of the bearings yet, as each piston will have to be taken out several times while you adjust its position by screwing it up or down on the rod. The pistons should clear the cylinder top covers by about 0.5mm (one turn on the M3 thread). When satisfied with this, lock the piston on the rod by means of

the locknut. Put a drop of plumber's jointing compound between the nut and the piston, to prevent steam leaking through the thread. Make sure the flata on the pistons face the steam porta. Install the bearing lower halves. Put a little oil in the bearings and in the cylinders. Oil all moving parts, including the port faces.

Your basic engine is now completed, but will probably be alittle stiff, so I suggest you give it a run-in by gripping the output shaft in the lathe's three-jaw and let it run for an hour or 80. Support the other end of the crankshaft on a live center held in the tailstoek. Put a piece of 80ft wood between the engine's bottom plate and the lathe bed to prop up the engine and to prevent it from rotating. Keep it well lubricated and run the lathe on low speed. When the engine feels reasonably free running, remove it from the lathe and wash in kerosene. Oil all moving parts afterwards.

The LUBRICATOR (15), begins with a body made of 16mm diameter brass rod. Part off to 30mm length. Drill the 7mm cross hole for the steam pipe, 5mm from one end. Then drill the slanting hole, 6mm diameter, for the drain valve. Set up in the lathe and bore out the inside to 13mm diameter. Reverse in the chuck and round off the bottom.

Make the drain valve body from 6mm diameter brass rod. Do not forget todrill the inlet holes, as they would be very difficult to drill at a later stage. Part off a 70mm length of 7mm diameter brass rod for the steam pipe. You will now have the parts shown in photo 4l.

Silver solder them together, as shown in photo 42. Note that the 7mm diameter brass rod should stick out around 30mm on the side which will later be screwed into the engine.

Turn up the lubricator's top. Thread the filler hole M6 x 0.75. Silver solder the top to the lubricator body.

Set up the lubricator in the three-jaw, gripping it by the shorter end of the 7mm diameter rod. Face the other end to correct length, turn down to 6mm diameter and thread M6 x 0.75 according to the drawing. Reverse in the chuck and part off the other end 3mm from the body. Center drill and drill 4.5mm diameter, about 30mm deep. Tap M5 x 0.5, then drill through the rod, using a 3.5mm drill bit. Remove from the lathe and drill the communicating hole 0.5mm diameter. Use a small centerdrill to spot the hole on top of the steam pipe inside the lubricator. Make and fit the filler plug.

The lubricator can now be installed on the engine. If it does not line up properly when screwed home, make a brass washer and put it between the lubricator and the engine. Adjust the thickness of the washer until the lubricator body lines up vertically when screwed in tightly.

Make the drain valve spindle and gland nut. When assembling, put a few turns of graphited yarn around the valve spindle below the gland nut. This will make the gland steamtight.

Make and fit the drain pipe and the lubricator is completed.

The THROTTLE VALVE (16) body is made of two pieces of brass rod, silver soldered together. First, part off a piece of 8mm diameter rod, say, 30mm long. Drill a 6mm diameter crosshole, 9mm from one end. Then part off a 6mm diameter rod to 30mm length. Insert this in the hole in the

thicker rod and adjust until it protrudes equally on both sides. Silver solder in position. Grip the valve body by the longer 8mm diameter end in thethree.jaw. Facethe outer end until it protrudes 5mm from the soldered joint. Center drill and drill to 12mm depth, using a 5.3mm drill bit. Change the drill bit to a 2.5 and drill through. Chamfer the entrance of the hole slightly and tap M6 x 0.75 to 6mm depth.

Reverse the valve body in the chuck and part off to the correct length, 19mm. Do this carefully, as there is not much to grip on. Then turn down to 6mm diameter for Smm length. Chamfer the end and tap M6 x 0.7S.

Now grip the valve body by one end of the 6mm rod. Faee the outer end until it sticka lOmm out from the body. Center drill and drill through to the other hole with a 2.5mm drill bit. Turn down and thread M5 x 0.5 for Smm length.

Make the gland and gland nut from 8mm hex stock. These call for no further deacription.

The valve spindle is made of a piece of 4mm diameter atainless steel rod. Becareful about the length of the thread. Make the cap of 8mm diameter braes and secure it with a drop of Loctite. Drill a cross hole 1.5mm diameter and fit a handle of 1.5mm diameter silver steel. It too, could be secured with Loctite.

Assemble the throttle valve (photo 43) and fit it to the engine. If it does not line up in the desired position, fit a thin brass washer between the valve and the engine. Put a short length of graphited yarn in the gland nut, to render it steamtight.

Your steam engine is now finished and ready for testing, either on compressed air or steam, if you have a source of the latter. If you are using steam, fill the lubricator with steam oil before the first run. Ordinary oil will notdo for cylinder lubrication, as itdoes not work together with steam. Make it a habit to drain the lubricator of the con· densed water after each running session and refill it up to the communicating hole in the steam pipe inside the lubricator, with ateam oil. The draining is best done while there is still a bit of steam pre88ure in the boiler. Put a small can under the drain pipe, open the drain valve one tum and crack the throttle. The steam preasure will force the condensate out of the lubricator. Close the throttle and the drain valve when steam or pure oil appears from the drain pipe (no reason to waste good oil). When the drain· ing is done without steam pressure, the filler plug must, of course, be removed to let air in the lubricator.

If you are using air for test running, give the port faces and the cylinders a drop of machine oil now and then. In both cases the rest of the engine should be lubricated with machine oil.

You might find that thereveraing valve retaining spring needs tightening to keep steamtightat the higheststeam pressure, 30 psi, when running with the throttle wide open.

The springs for the cylinder pivot pins, on the other hand, should not be tighter than is required to preventsteam leakage at the portfaces. Wedon'twantto waste power in the form of friction here. Check this both at full throttle and while loading the engine until it stalls.

At this point your V-4 Engine should resemble the one shown on the next page.

With your V-4 Oscillating Cylinder Engine
complete, the next logical step is to provide a
boiler to make it run. Author Jan Gunnarsson
fulfills that requirement in the next article for
the Miniature Boiler Works.

by Jan Gunnarsson Photos and Drawings by the Author

Modelbuilder Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden has provided projects for Amateur Machinists in his country as well as the two featured in this book. In addition to those presented here, he has built beautiful miniature Live Steam locomotives which further express his interest and knowledge in matters of steam.

Professionally, Jan works in the area of computer technology for a Swedish firm and, world-wide travels for his company, enjoys designing and building miniature

steam projects. He has a steady flow of projects moving through his shop and Live Steamers are always anxious to see what he will turn out next.

Here he describes a boiler suitable for most of the engines in this volume but specifically designed for the V·4 Oscillating Cylinder Engine.

This boiler(photo8 1 and 2) isintended as a companion to the previously described little V-4 Oscillating Cylinder Engine. As it is capable of generating steam at con· siderably higher pressure than the V-4 requires, it can, of courae, be used for other steam engines, say, a Stuart 10 or similar. ¹even have used it for supplying a Stuart 0-10, running under light load. The limiting factor in this case is the boiler's small water capacity. Although there is an engine feed pump included in the description, the water gauge will need frequent monitoring if the boiler is to steam such a demanding engine as the D-10.

Choosing between a firetube or water· tube boiler, it is my opinion that the former involves more work on the boiler proper, while the latter involves more thin·gauge sheet metal work in making the casing. I opted for the water tube boiler (and a small and simple one at that) because it does not require so much in the way of brazing equipment.

I have included a few features which, although they mean a little more work, are justified. The first is a steam dome, not usually found in boilers of this type. This is essential in such a small boiler if it is to be used for marine work, as it will help prevent priming when pitching and rolling. The second is that the casing is double-walled. The air for combustion is taken through inlet holes on top of the outer casing, then passes between the outer and inner casings, down to the bottom of the firebox. In this manner, the temperature of the outer casing is kept down and the air for combustion is preheated before entering the firebox. No asbestos lagging is required. Finally, a water column is fitted, thereby permitting a longer gauge glass to be fitted. The water column will also dampen the water level in the glass, giving a more accurate reading.

The boiler drum is made of a 54mm diameter copper tube, with 1.5mm wall thickness, which is the thinnest wall thickness available here. This roughly

WATER TUBE BOILER ASSEMBLY

equals 16 SWG and will allow a aafe maximum working pressure of well over 150 psi or 10.5kg/cm�, with a safety factor of 8. As the boiler only will be called upon to give steam at 30 psi, or 2.lkg/cm2, it may seem rather on the heavy side. As I said, it is the thinnest tube available here, but if you can get ahold of a tube with 1 or 1.2mm wall thickness (18 or 20 SWG), use it, as it will reduce the requirements for heating when brazing and still have more than ample strength. Likewise, the barrel diameter can be varied within reason, say, between 2" and 21%", if your supply is inch size. If you do this, remember to adjust such components as the endplates and the dome accordingly.

For fuel, butane gas is used, as this lends itselftoeasy remote control in casethe steam plant is to be used for a radiocontrolled ship model. The burners have a twin control valve, one of them acting as a pilot valve, to be set for a small flame for stand·by. This will prevent the burner from accidentally being turned off when manipulating the main valve. There are two burners, giving a large bed of fire under the boiler. They never will have to be operated at full output and thus will work very quietly.

The first part to tackle ia the Boiler Barrel (1) tube. If your lathe will swing the 54mm tube over the cross-slide, cut the tube a little over-length, say 155mm, with a hacksaw. Unless you have a fixed steady, turn up a wooden bung to a force fit in the tube. Center drill deeply in one end of the bung and knock it into one end of the tube. Grip the other end in the three-jaw chuck. Support the outer end with a center held in the tailstock. True up the outer end and then remove the sharp edges, using file and scraper, running at low speed.

Remove from the chuck and knock out the bung. Insert it in the other end and repeat the process, this time bringing the tube to the final length, 150mm. Before removing the tube from the lathe, scribe the top center-line on the tube. To do this, lock the headstock mandrel by engaging the backgear and traverse the tool over the whole length of the tube, with the tool just touching the tube. This should be done very lightly as we do not want to weaken the tube with a deep scribed line, however high the safety factor is. Remove the tube from the lathe.

If your lathe is too small, the tube will have to be finished by hand filing. Finish one end before cutting the tube to length. In order to file the end square, wrap a narrow strip of thin sheet brass around the end of the tube so the ends of the strip overlap and

the outer edge lines up at the overlap. The edge of the strip must, of course, be straight. Scribe a line on the tube against the brass strip. Remove the strip and file to the line. Using a scribing gauge or a rule, mark out the length, 150mm. Again, using the brass strip, scribe around the tube at the mark. Cut off with the hacksaw. Hold the tube in a bench vise when doing this and turn the tube as the sawing progresses. This way you can saw close to the scribed line, so there will be little filing work to clean up. The vise should have plastic or sheet lead jaw protectors to avoid damaging the tube.

Next, mark out the top centerline on the tube, if this hasn't already been done in the lathe. Do this by layingthe tube on a surface plate or any reasonable flat surface and butting it up against a block (wood will do) to prevent it moving. Use a scribing block to scribe the line. Lacking this, a small block of wood will do. The heightis notatall critical. Just hold a scriber against the block and slide it over the whole length of the tube. Then find the bottom centerline. A simple trick for doing this is towrap a strip of paper around the tube and make pencil marks on both ends of the strip, where it passes over the scribed line. Now remove the strip and fold it so the two pencil marks coincide.

Unfold and wrap around oneendof the tube again, taking care that the pencil marks again coincide with the scribed top centerline. Make a scribe mark on the tube at the fold. This obviously must be halfway around the tube from the top centerline and thus is the bottom centerline. Repeat at the other end of the tube. Join the two marks, using scriber and straightedge.

On the top centerline, mark out the centers for the dome hole and the filling plug. Now the centers for the water tubes have to be found. Set your scribing gauge to 18mm and make a long scribe mark across the bottom centerline I8mm from each end. Use a divider set to8mm to mark out the two inner tube centers, measuring from the bottom centerline. Reset the divider to 20mm for the two outer tubes, still measur· ing from the bottom centerline. Center pop at all hole locations (note: not on the bottom centerline) and drill, say, lmm. Drill out to the proper size, using drills modified for sheet metal. Drills with standard tips will produce holes in thin stock which are anything but round and to size; besides, they are likely to catch the material and do nasty things to one's hands.

Drill the small holes at the dome location. Their position is not critical. Deburr all holes.

The Water Tubes (8) sre bent up from Bmm copper tube with a wall thickness of around O.Bmm. If you are using inch-size stock, 5/16" 20 or 22 SWG should be used. Do not make the mistake of cutting the tubes to size before bending them. Instead, take a length of tube as long as can be conveniently handled, say around I meter. and fill with fine, dry sand. Close one end by squeezing it flat in the bench vise. Fill it well and ram down the sand. Close the otherend the same way. Now, heat the spot where you want to make the first bend to a dull red. As

Brass, 1 required

you need something to hold onto while bending, the first bend should be made about 75 to lOOmm from the tube's end. When it has cooled down, start bending it by hand. You will find that the sharp bend cannot be done at one go. As soon as the tube begins to feel stiff and hard, you will have to repeat the heating before continuing with the bending. If the tube tends to flatten out at the bend, this can be counteracted by gently squeezing it in a vise with smooth jaws. When satisfied with the bend, make the second bend. Spct the position of this bend by eyesight, checking against the holes in the barrel tube. Make sure the tube will fit in the barrel before trimming the ends to length. If necessary, adjust with further bending. After the ends have been cut, shake out the sand, trim the ends and do not forget to deburr the inside of the ends. Repeat the proceedure for the other tube.

In order to flange the Endplates (2 and 3), a former is needed. Itcan be madeof metal, hardwood or plexiglas rod. I used a scrap piece of SOmm diameter aluminum. Just face it and turn down to 47mm dia· meter. (If your boiler barrel diameter is larger or smaller than 54mm, adjust the size of the former accordingly, taking the barrel tube thickness into account.) Round off the edge to about Imm radius.

Mark out and cut two disks of 2mm copper, 57mm diameter, using a hacksaw and a coarse file. Anneal them byheatingto dull red. Find the wooden bung used when truing up the barrel tube ends, or make up something similar of wood or plastic. Sandwich the copper disk between the bung and the former (photo 4). Make sure the disk protrudes an equal amount all around and clamp the assembly in the bench vise. Use a plastic or wooden mallet (never a hammer) to knock the copper down around the former. Do not, on any account, try to

Brass. 1 required

make it in one go; if this is done, the copper will become brittle and crack. Instead, start by knocking it over about 30° (photo 5), working around the disk, turning the whole assembly in the vise as you proceed. When the copper begins to feel hard and dead, remove the disk and anneal it before proceeding. About three or four annealings probably will be required. When the flanging of the first endplate is finished, repeat for the second one (photo 6).

It will be found that the endplatee are just a trifle too large to enter the barrel tube. This is due to the fact that the metal has thickened somewhat when bent over to a smaller diameter. To correct this, set the endplste8 up in the lathe, one at a time, and skim off the Range to a looae sliding fit in the barrel tube. At the same time, make a small center dot at the end, for the stay bushing hole. Remove from the lathe and mark out the centers for the remaining holes, using the center dot as reference. Note the difference between the front and back endplate. Drill all holes, first using a small drill and then a 6mm drill with a modified tip. A drop of cutting oil will do wonders. When the holes are deburred, your endplates are finished (photo 7).

The Feed Valve Bushings (10), the Water Column Bushings (11) and the Superheater Bushings (12) are simple turning jobs, which calls for no comment, except that the threading should be done in the lathe using taps in the tailstock. Make the Center Stay (4) of 5mm phosphor bronze or copper and its Stay Nuts (5) at the same time. You may wonder why the stay on the photos of my boiler looks thinner. The reason is that I used much stronger monel metal, being out of stock of 5mm phoephor bronze and copper. By the way, if you plan to use commercially avail· able non·return feed valves, the threads of their bushings must, of course, be adjusted accordingly.

The Steam Dome (6) and the Filling Bushing (7) are the last two parts to make before the boiler can be brazed up. The filling bushing is another simple turning job, requiring no description. You will notice that it is missing in my photographs of the boiler at this stage, the reason being, I added the filling plug as an after-thought. I had intended to use the plug in the dome for filling up, but found out that this way, the superheater also got filled with water.

The dome is made of 32mm brass rod, about 35mm long to start with. Set it up in the three-jaw, face and tum down to 22mm diameter for 24mm length. Chamfer the comers, reverse in the chuck and bore out (photo 8).

The base has to be curved to fit the barrel tube (photo 9). This can be done either by hand filing or milling. If you have access to a milling machine, the set-up in photo 10 will do the job. The swing tool is set to describe a circle of the same diameter as that of the boiler barrel tube. Unfortu· nately, the trusty Unimat will not do this job as a vertical miller, as its vertical feed is limited to 2Omm, so the Unimatists will have to resort to hand filing.

All joints of the boiler presaure vessel should be silver soldered, using a good quality silver solder such as Easy-Flo Number 2. Admittedly, this is one of the more expensive varieties of silver solder, but a very small quantity will be needed, less than one half-meter stick of 1.5 or 2mm

thickness. It is one of the easiest solders to use, flowing as its name implies. Whatever make or type you use, make 8ure you use a flux intended for use with it.

The heating equipment needed is quite modest, a bottled gaa outfit being preferred. If you have an oxy·acetylene outfit, you probably will know how to use it and can skip these notes. I used a Sievert bottledgss set with burner support number 82 and burner type 3941, the latter having a flame tube of22mm diameter, just to give an idea of size. As a brazing hearth, I use an old baking oven pan with a pair of fire bricks to put the workpiece on.

Finally, a pickle bath is needed. The pickle bath is used to remove the oxides and the flux remaining after each soldering operation. It consists of a 10% 80lution of sulfuric acid and is made by adding one part of concentrated sulfuric acid to nine parts of water. The acid must be added to the water, never the other way around or a violent reaction will occur, causing the acid to splatter about. It must be done outdoors because of the fumes. Keep the bath in a plastic bucket of about 5 liter capacity, making it about 2/3 full. The bucket must have a really close-fitting lid. All pickling should be done outdoors, and the lid kept closed when the bath is not used, as the fumes will cause rusting of tools and other steel items. Keep it out of reach of children. All this may sound formidable, however, the acid bath is quite weak and is perfectly safe if handled with intellegence. If you happen to get splatters on your skin, just flush with water and it will do no harm.

The first soldering operation will be to attach the water tubes to the barrel tube (photo 11). Put the parts in the pickle bath for a few minutes in order to remove oxides and degrease them. Rinse in water and let dry. Put the water tubes into their holes in the barrel. The ends should protrude about Imm into the barrel tube. If the tubes are a loose fit in the holes, they must be prevented from slipping during soldering. To do this, tie the two inner tubes together at the middle, using brass or copper wire. Then do likewise with the outer tubes (photo 12).

Apply flux paste to all joints, both on the inside and outside. Lay the assembly on its back in the brazing hearth. Apply heat to one end of the tubes and barrel by playing the flame on it. Do not attempt to apply the solder until the proper temperature has been reached. This can be judged from the behavior of the flux. When it has molten to an almost clear liquid, the temperature is about right. Touch the joint with the solder stick and it will melt and run around the joint. Don't keep the stick in the flame for more than a second or two orit will melt and deposit a large blob of solder on your work· piece. The solder should melt by the contact to the workpiece, not by heat from theflame. When all four tubes are soldered to the barrel, turn the attention to the joints at the other end (photo 13).

When finished, put it in the pickle bath. Tie a length of brass wire to it for holding the assembly while it is lowered into the bath. The bath will act faster if the work· piece is put in while still warm, but do not overdo it. Let the workpiece cool down a bit first, or there is a great risk that the acid will splatter all around. If pickling warm, always wear protective glasees for your eyes and have a bucket of water close at hand. After a couple of minutes, remove

8

from the bath and rinae in water. Inspect the joints to make sure that the solder has penetrated and can be seen on the inside of the barreL

We now can go on and attach the front endplate. Put the center stay into poaition by means of the stay bushing and the backing nut. Adjust the bushing and nut on the stay 80 that, when the back piateis in ita proper poeition in the barrel tube, the other end of the stay will protrude 5mm out of the barrel's other end. Stand the assembly vertically on the brazing hearth, with the front plate uppermost. The barrel tube must rest on a pair of packing pieces to prevent the stay from pushing out the endplate. In order to reduce the number of heating operationa needed to complete the boiler, the Superheater (9) ahould be put in now. Simply cut a 5mm copper tube to 0.75m length. Anneal one end and make the bend that will enter the steam dome. Poke it through the hole in the front endplate and through the hole at the steam dome's location. Apply flux to the joint between the endplate and the barrel tube, alsoat theatay and superheater bushings. In order to protect the already-soldered jointa between the barrel tube and the water tubes (in case they are re-melted) apply flux to them also. Silver solder the joints at the endplate, pickle and waah (photo 14). Beforethe next 80Idering operation. the superheater ahould be bent to ahape, to get it out of the way (photo 15). Anneal the tube where itia to be bent.

Now dothe rear end, including its buah· ings. Before putting on flux, adjust the nut on the stay to give the proper position of the endplate in the barrel (photo 16). After pickling and washing, all joints done thus far ahould be carefully inapected. If there is any doubts about soundness, re-80lder it, not forgetting to protect nearby joints with flux.

To hold the dome in position during the 8Oldering, drill a 8mall hole through ita flange and the boiler barrel tube and knock in a tight-fitting bra88 pin. Set the filler plug bushing in its hole. Apply flux to it and to the dome. Solder up and pickle, this time giving it some extra time in the bath (photo 17).

There is one small thing to be made before the boiler is ready for the hydro test and that is the Superheater Union (13). Turn this part up from brass and slso make a cap nut of Bmm hex braaa for iL Thia nut will be used as the steam pipe union nut later on, but do not drill through it yet aa it will be used to blank off the superheater during the hydro-test. Cut the super-heater tube to proper length, ailver aolder the union fitting to it and you are ready for the tesl.

The purpose of the teat is tocheck tosee that the boiler is leak·free and, much more important, that it is able to withatand a pressure far exceeding the intended working pressure. It is an absolutely safe testing method. Should the boiler fail, which is extremely unlikely, there will be no explosion, only a squirt of water.

Fint. make and fit threaded pluga of hex brass to all openings in the boiler, except one in the dome, which will be used for the pressure gauge. To insure absolute tightness, wrap a strip of plumber's teflon (PTFE) tape in the threads of all plugs before screwing them in. Next, you need a pressure gauge with a maximum reading of around Bkg/cm2, aay, 100 pai. Make and fit

an adapter to it, 80 itcan bescrewedintothe safety valve hole in the dome, but do not screw the gauge in yet.

The boiler must next be completely filled with water; no air bubbles can remain in it. Unscrew the cap nut on the super-heater to let out the air in itand then tighten it. When the boiler has been completely filled, screw in the preaaure gauge with teflon tape on ita threads. It is important that all threads are completely pressure tight during the test, otherwise the pressure cannot be raised.

To raise the pressure, just heat the boiler, using a gas burner. As the water will expand more than the copper when heated, the pressure will go up. No large amount of heat is needed. Watch the pressure gauge, and remove the flame when twice the working pressure is reached $(4.2kg/cm² or$ 60 psi) (photo 18). Keep the preaaure there

for about 10 minutes. If this can be done without heating the boiler to more than 50which heating the bonet to more than bo-
60°C, it has passed the test. If there is a leak, the pressure will not raise. The leak can be located by the appearance of water trickling through it. The boiler must then be emptied and the faulty joint re-soldered. The plugs also must be removed during the soldering, to prevent burning the teflon tape. Then redo the test. Note that during the test, the boiler must on no account be heated above 100°C (212°F), as the test will then cease to be a hydraulic test. In such case, should a burst occur, the escaping water will flash into steam and result in an explosion.

Having successfully completed the hydro-test, the boiler can be emptied and put aside. With the boiler itself completed, we will continue construction by making the casing and the armature for our Miniature Boiler Works, which are described next.

The casing may seem a bit complicated at the firet look. It is double walled in order to keep the temperature of the outer surface down to enable it to be installed safely in a small wooden hull. The air required for combustion in the firebox is made to pass between the outer and the inner casings. That way the outer caeing will be kept cool and the air will be pre-heated before enter· ing the firebox. No asbestos insulation is used.

The best material forthe InnerCasing (22) undoubtedly is stainless steel, but brass also would do in a pinch. In the latter case, increase the thickness to Imm.

Start by cutting the sheet to size, 178 x 284mm. Scribe lines to represent the centers of the bends. Ifyouhaveaccesstoa bending brake, use it to bend the sheet to a U·shape (photo 19). The radius of the bend is not important, I have shown it fairly large in the drawing because most builders will have to do the bending by hand, resuiting in larger radius than when a proper bending brake is used. If the bending haa to be done by hand, do as follows: clamp a pair of flat steel bars to the sheet, about Imm from the scribed line and on the center part of the sheet. Use a pair of heavy clamps for this. Position the protruding part of the sheet on the workbench, butt up the steel bar against the edge of the bench, and then use the clamps as handles for making the bend. (See Figure 20.) Then repeat for the second bend.

Now, check the dimensions. Itdoes not matter a bean if the height and width do not check exactly with those shown on the drawing; only remember to adjust the dimensions of the outer casing and the endplates when making them, later on. The heights of the legs of the inner casing wrapper must be equal, of course. If not, trim off the longer leg.

Mark out and drill the 8mm diameter air inlet holes along the bottom edges. Use a drill bit modified for sheet metal drilling (photo 21).

Mark out the centers for the three holes on the top surface(photo 22). Note that the center distance of the holes for the steam dome and the filling plug bushing must agreewith the same dimension on the boiler barrel, so check on that first. If you have a hole cutter and a stout enough drilling machine, fine, use it to make the large holes. Otherwise, scribe the contours of the holes with a divider, then drill a row ofsmall holes just inside the scribed line, close together. Break out the center piece and finish by filing.

Now make the framework of 4 x 4mm braas. If you feel it difficult to bend the vertical end pieces to fit the inner casing, there is no objection to making them in three pieces and finishing the top corner radius by filing. Mark out the position for the rivets on the framework pieces, drill lmm diameter and use them as drilling fixtures for drilling the corresponding holes in the inner casing. Countersink the holes on the outaide of the framework members and rivet them to the inner casing (photo 23). Be careful with the position of the riveta, so that they will not interfere with the screw holes for the endplates or the rivets for the outer casing, later on.

If you make the framework in three pieces, save the filing of the top corner radius until after the outer casing is made, so it may be made to fit that of the outer casing.

The Outer Casing (23) is bent up from O.5mm sheet brass in the same way as the inner casing. To obtain the radius at the top corners, substitute a piece of wood for oneof the steel bars. The wood should have one of its edges rounded off. If desired, the outer casing can, of course, be made of stainless steel, though brass is much easier to bend and drill. Note that the outer casing should be 2mm longer than the inner casing.

Mark out and drill all holes, except the three large ones on the top (photo 24), Before the casing can be permanently assembled, spacers 27A, 27B and 27C are needed. These parts are turned up from brass stock. Insert Filler Spacer (27C) in its hole in the inner casing. Slide the outer casing on to ita proper position. Note that the outer casing should protrude lmm past the ends of the inner casing. Using ascriber, mark out the hole for the filling bushing on the inside of the outer casing. Remove the wrapper, drill and file the hole.

Rivet the Stack Spacer (27A) and Dome Spacer (27B) to the inner casing with two rivets for each of the spacers. The rivet heads should be on the inside.

Now, slide the outer casing into position again and mark out the stack and dome holes with the scriber. Removeanddrill and file out the holes.

The outer casing now can be attached permanently. Do not forget to insert the
filler spacer when doing this. Hold the outer casing in position with a couple of toolmaker's clamps. Peen overthe flanges of the filler spacer with a ball peen hammer on both inside and outside.

There are two ways to rivet the casing together. The first is to drill the holes for the rivets, countersink on the outside and insert the rivets from the inside, then rivet up on the outside. The other way, which I used, is to drill the rivet holes a tight press fit for the rivets and then hammer the rivets in from the outside, relying on the press fit of the rivets. The rivets should, in this case, be cut to 4mm length before being knocked in. Incidentally, for 1mm rivets I use 1mm brass nails with round heads. They just happen to be a tight press fit in holesdrilled
with a 1mm drill bit.

Whichever method you choose, start with the twelve rivets on the top of the casing. Then do the middle vertical row on the sides, from the top and down. After this, do the outer vertical rows and the bottom rows. Hold the wrappers together with a few toolmaker's clamps when riveting and keep on the alert, so the outer casing does not slip out of position. If you drive the rivets in from the outside, use a rivet snap to prevent damage to the rivet heads. Finally, put four rivets through the dome spacer from the outside and rivet into countersunk holes on the inside (photo 25). The two rivet heads on the inside of the dome spacer must be filed or chiseled away, as they would
otherwise interfere with the steam dome seat.

The Front Endplate (24) and Rear

Endplate (25) are made of 1mm sheet brass, or if you prefer, 1mm stainless steel. Start by cutting two pieces to 79 x 109.5mm (remember to check from the job). Mark out all holes shown on the drawing for the front endplate. Center pop and drill 1mm diameter. Clamp together with the other piece

and drill through all holes (photo 26), except the hole marked 6mm diameter on the drawing. Separate and open up all holes on the front endplate to final size. Round off the top corners to fit the casing and clamp the endplate into place at the stack end of the casing. Spot the screw holes in the end of the wrapper. Drill through with a 1. 7mm drill bit and tap M2. Put in screws and tighten up.

Now for the rear endplate. Locate and drill (lmm diameter) the remaining hole centers. Use a divider to scribe the outline of the boiler barrel opening. Drill a row of small holes, say 3mm diameter, just inside the scribed line, close together (photo 27). Break out the center and file the opening to a close fit for the boiler barrel (photo 28). Open out the remaining holes to final size and round off the top corners. Attach to the wrapper as before.

Make the Fire Door (26) from Imm brass. Attach it to the rear endplate with an M2 screw and a locknut on the inside of the endplate.

The Stack Base(19) is madeofapiece of 32mm diameter brass tube, and a bottom flange (photo 29), also of brass. The diameter of the tube can be varied within reason, to suit whatever you have on hand. Silver solder the joint. The step at the top is intended to fit an extension stack, if desired. Use the Unimat dividing head to spot the mounting holes. Drill the mounting holes in the casing, using the stack base as drilling fixture. Rivet the stack base in place(photo 30).

To begin the Feed Water Heater (20). turn up the two end fittings from lOmm diameter brass rod. Use a large centerdrill to make the 60° mating surfaces for the unions. Silver solder the fittings to a375mm length of 4mm diameter copper tube. Anneal by heating and bend to shape. Make two nuts from 8mm hexagonal brass stock and two washers from lOmm diameter brass rod (photo 31). Mount the feed water heater in the casing.

The boiler barrel now can be assembled into the casing. Remove the end plates from the casing. Put an M5 nut on the boiler's center stay, then hold the barrel in place in the casing and re-install the end plates. Put another M5 nut on the center stay and

adjuat the two nuts so that the boiler barrel is protruding Imm outaidethe rear end plate (photos 32 and 33), then tighten up the nuts. Make and fit a brass nut to the superheater outlet.

The boiler Bottom Plate is only a sheet of 1mm brass, attached with countersunk screw8 to the boiler casing's bottom edges. Make it up and attach to the boiler.

The Safety Valve Seat (148) i8 made of 8mm hexagonal braas stock. Set it up in the three-jaw, with about lOmm protruding from the jawa. Face the outer end, centerdrill and drill S.3mm to Smm depth. Cham· fer the entrance to the bore lightly and tap M6 x O.7S. Using a 3mm drill bit. drill to about 20mm depth. To form the valve aeat, a Smm endmill i8 U8ed in the tail8tock chuck (photo 34). Feed the endmill in exactly 6mm. Then use a 3mm reamer to remove any burrs in the 3mm hole. Turn the outside contour and then part off to 13mm length. Reverse in the chuck and turn and thread the bottom end (photo 35).

Now the spindle Housing (14A). Set up a piece of 7mm hexagonal brass rod in the three-jaw and turn the top outline. Centerdrill and drilll.Smm to lOmm depth. Then make the recess in the top and break the edges. Part off to lSmm length.

To spot the steam outlet holes in the top, uee the Unimat dividing head (photo 36). Just spot the holes with a centerdrill, then change to a 1.Smm drill bit and drill to about 7mm depth. Note that the holee should elope elightly towards the center. The drawing indicates an angle of 6°, but this is not at all critical. The easiest way to do this is to prop up one side of the dividing head when drilling.

Now aet the workpiece up in the lathe again. This time, grip it by the alreadyfinished top end. Face, turn down to 6mm diameter for 4mm length. Thread M6 xO.7S. Center drill and drill to lOmm depth, using a 4.8mm drill bit. Chamfer the entrance to the bore elightly and poke a l.4mm drill bit through all the small holes to remove any burrs.

The Spindle (14C) is turned up from a piece of 3.S or 4mm etainle8s steel rod. Note the recess in the lower end. It is done with a centerdrill, followed by a 3.Smm drill bit.

The Spring($14D$) must bemadeeither

of stainless steel spring wire or phosphor bronze wire; ordinary music wire would rust away quickly. The spring can be wound up in the lathe, using a 1.5mm rod for a mandrel. Ita length, and maybe also the number of turns, will probably have to be adjusted at the boiler's steam trial, a8 the stiffness of the wire will vary between different sources.

The 4mm ball can be either stainless steel or phosphor bronze, the former being preferred. To make sure that the ball will seal on its seat, do as follows: stand the valve seat on a hard surface. Drop the ball into place. Stand a short pieceof 4mm brass rod on top of the ball and give it a light but distinct blow with a small hammer. If your ball is phosphor bronze, substitute a steel ball of the same diameter while doing this, as the bronze ball is too soft.

Assemble the safety valve and screw it into place on the steam dome (photo 37).

The Dome Plug (15) and Filling Plug (16) simply can be turned up from brass. The cross-pin on the filling plug (photo 38) either can be a press fit, or secured with Loctite.

Two Feed Valves (17) are required, one forthe engine-driven feed pump and one for the hand pump. The latter is not really necessary, but is very handy for filling the boiler when starting from empty, or in case the engine-driven pump should fail. If you decide not to fit the hand pump, fit a threaded plug in ita bushing and make only one feed valve. The boiler will, of course, run without the engine pump also, but the operating time will be limited to about 20 minutes.

To make the valves, start by making up the required number of Valve Body Fabrications (photo 39). Actually, make two extra while at it, as they will be needed for the water gauge, later on. Part off as many 30mm lengths of8mm diameter brass rod as will be needed (eight, if you are to make two valves and the water gauge). Croaadrill half of them at the middle, using a 5.5mm drill hit. While doing this, hold the rods in a machine vise, and start the hole with a centerdrill. The exact location of the hole is not at all critical, eye-sighting will do. Turn down the remaining pieces to a sliding fit in

the 5.5mm hole. Use a tool with a roundedoff nose to get the radius between the 5.5mm and 8mm diameter parts. Silver solder the parts together.

While soldering, be careful not to apply too much solder to the joint, which would spoil the neat appearance of the finished fitting. It should suffice to touch one end of the joint with the solder stick. If the joint is properly fluxed the solder will flow through to the other side and form a nice fillet. Be careful to avoid overheating. as the flux then will be burned and hard to remove. Pickle while still hot. Use a pair oftweezers to tie a brass wire around the valve body to hold it in the pickle bath. After the pickling, rinse well in water and polish up with a bras8 brush.

Now we are ready for the machining. Grip one of the embryo valves by one end of the vertical 8mm diameter stem, using the three-jaw chuck. Part off and face the outer end 80 that it protrudes 7.5mm from the centerline of the crosspiece. Round off the edges with a small file. Center drill and drill to about 20mm depth with a 4.5mm drill bit. Change to a 5mm drill bit and drill to about 1.5mm depth. This will allow the bottom fitting (the valve seat) to bed down properly when assembling the valve. Now, tap the hole M5 xO.5mm, all the way. Remove from the chuck and repeat the proceas for the other valve.

For the following operations we need a few simple chucking fixtures. Part off four stubs of 10mm brass rod; they should be about 25mm long. Chuck one in the threejaw, with about 10mm sticking out. Turn down to 5mm diameter for about 6mm length. Thread M5 x 0.5mm. Useasmall file to make an identification mark just outside chuck jaw number 1. This will enable you to set it up the same way from time to time. Using a narrow parting tool, make a groove at the very end of the thread. This will enable a threaded object to be screwed onto the stub all the way, against the shoulder.

Now, chuck the next stub, but this time only about 3mm should stick out from the jaw8. Face it and remove the edges. Center drill and drill 4.5mm diameter, to 12mm depth. Counterdrill 5mm diameter to 2mm depth and then tap M5 x O.5mm to the

bottom. Make a witness mark as before.

Repeat the process for the other two stubs, but this time make it M6 x O.7Smm. Keep these stubs with your taps and dies, as they will be needed frequently.

Back to the feed valves. Chuck the M5 x O.Smm male-threaded fixture in the threejaw and screw one of the valves onto it, with the already-finished end towards thechuck. Part off and face the outer end to 5.5mm length from the centerlineof the cross-piece. Counterbore to about 1.5mm depth, using a 5mm diameter drill bit. Repeat for the other valve.

Remove the fixture from the chuck and grip one of the valves by its 5.5mm stem in the chuck. Face the end to 14mm length from the body's centerline and turn down to 5mm diameter for 6mm length (photo 40). Chamfer the end and thread M5 x O.5mm (photo 41). Center drill and drill through to the tapped hole with a 2.5mm diameter drill bit. Repeat for the remaining valve.

Now, use the female-threaded fixture to hold the valve in the chuck. Part off the 5.5mm diameter stem about Imm from the valve body (photo 42). Face and round off the edge. Treat the other valve the same way.

The top caps $(17A)$ are made of 7mm hex brass rod. Use the tapped fixture for holding them while rounding off the top face. This can be done either with a suitably ground lathe tool or, quicker, a small file. I always keep a small file, of the type intended for dressing up auto engine breakercontacts, handy at the lathe for this kind of job.

The valve seat (l7C) is made from the same stock. Note that the bottom end of the 7mm hex portion should be rounded off, to remove the sharp edges. To this end, use a round·nosed tool while turning the 6mm diameter end before threading (photo 43). Use a large centerdrill to form the 60° seat for the union (photo 44). Part off to 15mm length, then set up in the chuck using the tapped fixture (photo 45). Turn down and thread the top end. Drill through 3mm diameter and face the valve seat. As the last operation, skim off the valve seat (the top surface) to remove the burrs formed when drilling through.

Screw the valve seat into the body and drop the ball into place. Use the method prescribed for the safety valve to seat the ball. Then screw in the top cap. Check the lift of the ball by poking a small drill bit or rod up through the bore in the seat, lifting the ball off the seat. The O.8mm figure is not at all critical, eye measurement will do. If necessary, adjust the length ofthe top cap's threaded portion, ther. your valves are finished (photo 46) and can be screwed into their bushings on the boiler.

Your Miniature Boiler Works is starting to take shape now and should look quite presentable. There is still much to be done. though, and our next step will be the construction of some of the fittings and valves.

The main reason for fitting a Water Column (21A) to this boiler is to increase the distance between the water gauge's top and bottom fittings, so a longer glass can be used, to allow a larger variation ofthe water

level. Secondly, it will help dampening movements of the water level in the glass.

The column is made of a piece of 8mm equare brass stock, its length being 76mm. Set it up in the lathe, this time using the four-jaw chuck. Adjust the jaws until the workpiece runs true. Center drill and drill roughly half.way through, 4.5mmdiameter. Tap the hole M5 x O.5mm to 6mm depth. Reverse in the chuck. When doing this, loosen only the number one and two jaws, reverse the workpiece and re-tighten the same jaws. Re-centering will not berequired now. Again, center drill and drill 4.5mm until the drill breaks through into the hole from the other end. Tap this end too.

Mark out the centers for the two water gauge bushings on the front surface. Center pop and drill 6mm diameter, breaking into the center pasaage. Use a small drill first and then change to a 6mm drill bit with the tip modified for braes as otherwise, it would very likely catch when breaking through to the center passage.

Now measure, on your boiler barrel, the exact distance between the two water column bushing studs. Mark out on the water column in accordance, using the scribing gauge. Center pop carefully, then drill through, starting with a 2.5mm drill bit; follow up with a 5 mm drill bit, again modified for brass. Deburr all holes. Try the column for fit on the boiler. Ifitjust will not go on, enlarge the holes slightly until it will fit. Make the two water gauge Bushings (21E) and silver solder them to the column (photo 47). Then make the Bottom Plug $(21G)$ and also the Pressure Gauge Connection (21H) at the top. Then finish off the four Washers (21F) and the two Cap Nuts (21I) after which the column is fitted to the boiler for drilling thecr08sholes in the bushing atuda. Make a drill buahing for this operation (see Figure 48). Insert the drill bushing in the pressure gauge hole and drill through the stud, using a 2.5mm drill bit. Do likewise at the lower end connection.

The bodies for the water gauge top and bottom fittings (photo 49) are fabricated the aame way as those for the feed valves, if you have not already done that. Begin the machining by setting up oneofthe bodies in the three-jaw. Grip it in one end ofthe 8mm diameter part. Part off to 8mm length, meaaured from the centerline of the cross piece. Tum down the 6mm diameter for 4mm length. Then use a parting-off tool, set diagonally in the toolpost, to chamfer the edge of the 8mm diameter part lightly (photo 150) as it would bedifficult toreach it with a file. Chamfer the outer edge too, for starting thread. Thread M6 xO.75mm (photo 51). Repeat for the other gauge body.

Note that there is a small difference between the gauge bodies. The lower one has a short restriction in the bore. This will give the glass tube a shelf to stand on when assembling the parts, toinsurethat the tube will stay in the right position when tightening the gland nuts.

Back to the machining. Use one of the tapped chuck fixtures (which were described last month with the feed valvea) to hold one of the bodies in the three-jaw. Part off to final length, face and remove the edges. Center drill and drill through with a 3.5mm drill bit (photo 52). Change to 4.5mm drill bit and drill to 5mm depth. Tap $M5 x 0.5 mm$ (photo 53). Now, change the holding fixture to the one with the M5 x O.Smm male thread and screw the body into it. Drill out to 4.5mm diameter, 2mm deep.

Repeat for the top body, with the only exception being that it is drilled 4.5mm diameter all the way through.

The cross pieces are finished in exactly the same manner as the same operation on the feed valves (photo 54). The only remaining parts are the plugs and the Gland Nuts (21C) (photo 55). They are made from 7mm hex stock. Chamfer the edges for appearance.

To begin the Burner (28), part off two pieces of22mm diameter brass rod to 25mm length for the Burner Base (28B). Face both ends to make the pieces 24mm long. Chuck one of them in the three-jaw, with about ISmm sticking out. Reduce the outer I2mm diameter. Repeat for the other piece.

Grip one of the pieces by the 12mm diameter end. Turn down the outer 10mm to 10mm diameter. This will leave a flange 22mm diameter and 2mm thick. Center drill and drill through, say, 5mm diameter. Follow up with a 7.3mm drill bit,alltheway through. Change to a 8mm drill bit and drill to just Imm depth. Tap M8 x O.75mm, to about lOmm depth (photo 56). Repeat for the other piece.

Use the Unimat dividing head to spot and drill the six air holes around the periphery of the tapped end (photo 57). Spot and drill the mounting holes, also with the aid of the dividing head. Again, repeat for the other piece.

Now, grip one of the pieces in the threejaw, with the 12mm diameter end facing the tailstock. Using an 8mm drill bit, drill to 19mm depth-just past the air holes, that is. Remove from the chuck and poke a 2.5 mm drill bit through the air holes to remove the burrs, then finish off the other piece.

Next comes the Burner Bars (28A). Each one simply is a 95mm length of lOmm brass tube, 1mm wall thickness, with 20 thin slots. The slota should beaboutO.25mm wide and go halfway through the tube (photo 58). The easiest way to make the slota is to cut them with a thin razor saw. If you wonder why the slots on my burner are slanted, it is because I cut them in the milling machine. That took most of an evening's work, including the set-up, while hand.sawing should take less than half an hour; take your choice.

Make the Plugs (28D) that close the outer ends ofthe burner bars. Their flanges are l.Smm larger in diameter than the burner bars, simply because it is easier to solder a joint which has a step in it than a butt joint.

There remains one thing to be done on the burner bases. That is to bore them out to a sliding fit on the burner bar8, to lOmm depth. Then silver solder the parts together and put them in the pickle bath for a few minutes (photo 59).

The Orifices (28C) are made from lOmm hexagonal brass stock. Part off two pieces, I6mm long. Grip one of them in the three-jaw, with about 10mm sticking out. Turn down to 5mm diameter for 5mm length. Chamfer the edge and tap MS x O.Smm. Chamfer the edges ofthe hexagonal part, too (photo 60). Center drill deeply, to form the seat for the union and drill with a 2mm drill bit to 14mm depth. Repeat for the other part.

Now, use one of the tapped chucking fixtures to hold one of the orifices in the three-jaw. Tum the outer end to the outline

shown in the drawing, and thread $M8 \times 0.75$ mm (photo 61). Center drill very lightly with the smallest possible center drill (photo 62). Change to a O.3mm drill bit and drill through. As there is only 2mm of material left before the drill enters the 2mm diameter bore from the other end, the drilling is easy despite the very small drill bit.

Face off the outer end to remove all traces left by the centerdrill (photo 63). Repeat the process for the remaining orifice. The burners now can be assemble d and put into place in the boiler casing. Use the burners themselves as drilling templates for spotting the mounting holes in the casing, then drill 1.7mm and tap M2.

The Burner Valve (31) (photo 64) really is a twin valve in a common block. One of them, the pilot valve, is used to adjust the burner to a suitable minimum output to prevent blow-off when the engine is stopped. The main valve is used to regulate steam output under load. This way, there is no risk of the burner accidentally being put out when operating the main valve.

Begin with the Valve Body (3IA). It is made from 8 x ISmm flat brass bar, 25mm long. Square up the ends in the lathe, holding it in the four·jaw chuck. Use the scribing gauge to mark out the centers ofthe two valve seats and the input and output connections. Center-pop all of them, then drill the holes for the valve seata, say. 2.5mm first. Change toa S.Smm drill bit and drill through. Use a drill bit modified for brass and hold the workpiece in a machine vise, otherwise there is risk that the drill will catch when breaking through.

Now, make the Valve Seats (31B) from 6mm diameter brass rod. Chuck a length in the three-jaw, with about 18mm sticking out. Turn down the outer I6mm of the rod to a loose fit in the holes ofthe valve body. Part off to 23mm length and repeat for the other valve seat.

Grip one of the pieces in the three-jaw on the turned-down portion. With a round· nose tool, turn down the outer 6mm to 5mm diameter. Chamfer the edge and thread M5 x O.Smm, 4mm length. Center drill and drill 2.5mm diameter to I5mm depth, then change to a 1.2mm drill bit and continue to 21mm depth. Change again. to a 3.1mm drill bit and drill to 7mm depth. Finally, tap M3 to the bottom of the 2.5 diameter bore, using a bottom tap. Repeat for the other valve seat (photo 65).

Silver solder the seats to the body. It is important that there are no leaks in the solder joints. Therefore, apply flux to the bores of the body before inserting the valve seats and flux the visible joints liberally. Heat and apply silver solder to the upper joints only. Play the flame on the lower end until a smooth fillet of silver appears, indicating that the silver has flowed all the way through the body, insuring a sound joint.

The passages through the body now can be drilled (photo 66). First, drill 4.5mm diameter to 4mm depth and tap MS x O.5mm. Then drill l.Smm diameter to connect the valve seata. Poke a 1.2mm drill bit through the valve seats to remove the burrs. Finally, drill the 2mm diameter mounting holes.

The Connection (31C) fittings are turned up from 6mm hexagonal stock. Make the two spacer washers to go with them and screw the fittings into the valve body.

31 BURNER VALVE 1 required

31A VALVEBODY Brass, 1 required

31B VALVE SEAT
Brass, 2 required

31D VALVESPINDLE 1 required

31F GLANDNUT Brass, 2 required

31C CONNECTION Brass, 2 required

31E VALVE SPINDLE 1 required

Ä

The Valve Spindles (31D) are made from 3mm diameter stainleaa steel. Turn down the outer Smm to2mm diameter. Then use a fine-cut file to form the point. Polish the point with fine emery cloth. Thread M3 to 13mm from the tip. Part of f to the required length and repeat forthe other spindle. Note that the two spindles are of different length.

The handwheels are turned up from brass scraps. They are secured to the stems with Loctite. For additional secutiry, the pins go through the spindles.

Make theGland Nuts (31F) from Smm hexagonal brass stock. The packing can consist either of graphited yarn or plumber's teflon tape, twined to a string. Wind a few turns of it on the stem in the opposite direction to that of the gland's thread, tighten the gland nut and your burner valve is complete (photo 67).

The enginedriven Feed Pump (29) (photo 69) will feed water into the boiler whenever the engine is running, in either forward or reverse. It is geared to the crankshaft, running at half engine speed. The capacity of the pump can be altered by repositioning the connection rod in any of the tapped holes in the large gear, thus altering the throw of the ram. Further adjustment of the pumpoutputis made with the bypass valve. The drawings show metric gears of module 0.5 size, but any type of gear can be used, as long as they are of roughly the same size. Neither the number of teeth or the gear ratio are critical, as long as the gear ratio is in the neighborhood of 2:1.

First select the gears. The small one should have a boss for the setscrew and be a good fit on the engine shaft. If not, bore and ream and fit the setscrew. The large gear should also have a boss, 9.5mm long. Bore out and ream the boas to Smm. If the gear's bore is already larger than that, fit a bushing to reduce the bore to Smm. If needed, machine the gear to 2mm thickneas. Part off a length of 6mm silver steel rod to the same length as the gear's total thickness and drill through it, 3mm diameter. Insert the stud in the gear and clamp to the engine's rear endplate with a tool·maker's clamp.

To obtain the proper mesh between the gears, puta piece of very thin paper between them before tightening the clamp. A piece of airmail paper will be about the right thickness. The exact horizontal location of the

☎

large gear is not cntical; eyeballing will do. Tighten up the clamp and spot the screw bole, using a 3mm drill hit. Remove the gear and drill through the endplate, 2.5mm diameter. Tap M3. While drilling and tapping, stuff a wad of household paper behind the endplate to collect the chips.

Make the retaining washer from steel. The washer must be recessed in the gear in order to clear the connection rod, 80 tum the recess in the gear, 1mm deep. Shorten the stud correspondingly, also countersink it lightly at one end. Drill and tap the crankpin holes in the large gear. Their positions are not critical, the easiest way is to locate them by eye-aigbting. In my pbotoa, you will notice that there are more crank pin holes than indicated in the drawings. This is because the gear had been used previously for an experimental, long-stroke pump. When the holes have been tapped, mount the gear on its stud on the engine endplate.

Next comes the Pump Bracket (290) (photo 68). It can either be sawn out of a piece of brass angle, or bent up from 2mm flat brass. If you do the latter, first cut a strip 13mm wide and about4Smm long. The bend must have fairly small internal radius. Therefore, file ormill a bevelled recess at the line of bend, just leaving a small amount of metal to keep the pieces together, then bend 90° and silver solder. Trim to size, mark out and drill the holes. Round off the outer end of the short leg. Clamp the bracket to the engine rear end plate with a clamp and spot the mounting holes (photo 70). The bracket should be located on the same horizontal centerline as the large gear. Drill the mounting holes 1. 7mm diameter and tap M2. Attach the pump bracket with M2 screws.

The Pump Body (29A) is made of brass or bronze rod. Part off a piece of IOmm rod to 50mm length. Drill a 7mm cross hole 30mm from one end. Put a 30mm long 7mm rod in this hole andsilversolder(photo 71). After pickling and cleaning, grip the assembly in the three-jaw, by the shorter 10mm diameter end. Using a round·nose tool, turn down the outer end to Smm diameter for 25mm length. Chamfer the end and thread MS x O.7Smm. The threadshould be ISmm long (photo 72). Center drill and drill all the way through, using progressively larger drills, to 3.9mm diameter. Ream 4mm diameter(photo 73). Reversein the chuck. Use a tapped bush fixture to hold the cylinder, to avoid damaging the thread. Part off to final length and round off the comer. Drill out to 4.Smm diameter for IOmm depth and tap MS xO.5mm(photo 74).

Now, grip the embryo pump cylinder by one of the 7mm diameter ends. Part off the projecting end at 12mm from the cylinder centerline. Center drill and drill to Smm depth with a 4.Smm drill bit. Change to a 3mm drill bit and drill through into the cylinder bore. Tap the hole MS x O.Smm. Form the valve seat with a 4mm endmill, held in the drill chuck (photo 75). Reverse the pump cylinder in the chuck and repeat for the other end, the only dif· ference being that no connecting hole should be drilled to the bore. Instead, drill two 2mm paasages using a bench drill This way. the valve ball cannot block the water entry to the cylinder.

Make the two Nuts (29F) and the Gland Nut (29H). The Delivery Valve (29C) is made of a piece of 7mm hex brass. The 60° taper at the top end is formed with a

centerdrill. File the four notches at the bottom end; their exact form and size is not critical, their purpose, again, is to prevent the ball from blocking the water's passage.

The Inlet Valve (29D) is made by soldering together two pieces of brass rod in the same way aa waa done for the pump cylinder, the only difference being that the lOmm diameter rod should be 30mm long, with the crosshole in the middle. The machining is done much in the same way as that of the pump cylinder. Note that the top end should be faced after drilling and threading to provide a proper &eat for the valve ball. Make a locknut (29E on the assembly drawing) from 7mm hex brass (photo 76),

The parts so far made can be assembled now. Put a 4mm stainless steel ball in the top (delivery) valve box. In order to form a seat for the ball, stand the pump cylinder on the work table, resting on the bottom valve box. Then hold a short piece of 4mm brass rod against the ball and give it a light, but distinct, blow with a hammer. Screw in the delivery valve. The ball should be ableto lift about O.8mm from ita seat, so make a brass washer of the proper thickness required to obtain this goal.

Install the inlet valve and ball. This ball can be seated by screwing the inlet valve hard up, until it bottoms on the ball, then backing off about one and a halfturn8, which will give the proper balllift. Finally, tighten up the locknut. Also, make the Cap Screw (29B) and fit it to the cylinder.

Next comes the Pump Ram (29M) which simply is a piece of 4mm stainless steel rod, turned down and threaded M3 at one end. It must be smooth and free from scratches, 80 polish it with a fine polishing paper. Make and fit the Crosshead (29L). Pump ram shown in photo 77 differs slightly in proportions, as you may detect; my pump haa a Smm bore. As I found out, this gave the pump an unnecessarily large capacity. so I reduced the bore to 4mm in the drawings. Mount the pump cylinder in the pump bracket on the engine.

The Connection Rod (291), is millea or, simpler, filed out of a scrap of l.Smm mild 8teel or brass 8heet. Drill the bushing holes first. Turn upthe two phosphor bronze bU8hings and press them into the con-rod. Ream the bores after fitting them to the con· rod, as they will probably shrink a fraction due to the press fitting (photo 78).

FinaJly, make the two Gudgeon Pins and Washers (290). The pins are short lengths of 3mm silver steel rod, drilled through 2mm diameter. Their length should be just a fraction over the width of the con· rod bushings. Then assemble the con·rod to the pump. Set the crank end in the hole in the gear wheel giving the shortest stroke (photo 79). Adjust the position of the pump cylinder in the bracket to give about O.Smm clearance between the ram and the cap screw when the ram is fully in. Whenever the stroke of the pump is changed, this clearance must be adjusted to prevent the possibility of the pump becoming air-locked. Put a few turns of graphited yarn around the ram and tighten up the gland nut lightly; finger tight will suffice.

Your engine-driven pump is now com· plete (photos 80 and 81), requiring only the connection of plumbing to make it oper· ationaL Before we consider it finished, though, let's take a look at a couple of optional features.

The Hand Pump (30) is an optional accessory, which is not needed for the power plant's function. It is, however, a very handy means of filling up the boiler from empty and for hydraulic testing of the boiler, which should be done from time to time. In a stationary plant it is also useful for keeping up the water level in the boiler if the engine pump should fail. In a ship model it will be a bit awkward tomanipulate, but it will enable hydraulic teating to be done without removing the boiler from the hull.

The Pump Stand (30A) is madeoftwo pieces of sheet brass, 1mm and 2mm thick, respectively, and silver soldered together (photo 82). When riveting the 3mm thick spacer in place, put a 12mm diameter brass rod in the opening for the pump cylinder to obtain the proper space for the latter. Although not shown in the drawing, the base should have four 3mm holea for mount· ing screws.

Next, make the Valve Box (30C) from 12 x 12mm brass. Cut off and face a piece to 30mm length. Mark out and center pop the position for the three bores. Set up in the four-jaw as shown in photo 83. Adjust the jaws until the center pop runs reasonably true. Center drill and drill to 10mm depth with a 3mm drill bit. Drill out to, say, 9.5mm

diameter. Then bore to final size. using an internal boring tool (photo 84). Now, set the work lengthwise in the chuck and adjust the jaws until the center pop markruns true. Turn down t08mm diameter for 7mm length (photo 86). Center drill and drill 4.5mm diameter to 6mm depth. Tap M5 x O.5mm (photo 86). Then drill through to the $10mm$ bore with a3mm drill bit. Exchangethedrill bit for a 4mm endmill. Feed it in 7mm to form the valve ball seat. Poke the 3mm drill bit through once again to remove the burrs.

Repeat for the other end of the valve box, only this time do not drill through to the center bore. Remove from the chuck and chamfer all sharp edges with a file and scraper. Drill the two communicating holes to the center bore with a drillpress and the valve box is completed.

The Cylinder (30B) simply is a 6mm length of 12mm diameter bronze or brass rod, which is drilled through and reamed 8mm diameter (photo 87). Turn down lOmm of one end to a press fit in the valve box and press the parts together(photo88) in a bench vise. Should you miss the preas fit, no harm is done, simply use Loctite to stick them together.

Drill the three communicating holes into the bore of the cylinder, then soft solder the cylinder to the stand (photo 89) (Of course, if the cylinder has to be Loctited to the valve box, this has towait until after the soldering has been done, as the heat would destroy the Loctite bond.) The Delivery Valve (30E) and the Inlet Valve(30F') are very similar to their counterparts on the engine pump, so I will save repeating a description of their manufacture. Likewise, their valve balls should be seated in the same manner.

For the Pump Ram (300) a piece of 8mm diameter stainless steel rod is needed. Part off to 72mm length. Turn down one end to 4mm diameter. 6mm length. Drill 2.5mm diameter to about 8mm depth and tap M3. The eross drilling and slotting of the other end should be done at the same set·up in the Unimat (as a vertical milling machine) to make sure that the eross hole is at right angle to the slot. Use a slitting saw for cutting the slot. As a 3mm wide cut in stainless steel will be a bit on the heavy side for the Unimat, a thinner saw, say, 1.5mm can be used and the slot be made in several cute. When finished, remove all sharp edges and polish the ram with fine polishing paper. Make the spacer from brass and fit it and the O-ring to the ram (photo 90). The . length of the spacer may need some adjust-

30 HAND PUMP

30A PUMPSTAND Brass. 1 required

Brass. 1 required

300 PUMP RAM amm dia. S1ain1ess Steel. 1 required

Brass, 1 required

叮

135

320 END PLATE Brass. 1 required

32F WATER CONNECTION Brass. 2 required

EXHAUST-FLANGE AND BEND Stock Bose (9)

32E WATER TUBE COIL 4mm Copper Tube. ¹required

32G DRAIN CONNECTION Brass. 1 required

í,

ing, until it squeezes out the O-ring to a proper fit in the cylinder bore.

The Link (30G) is made from scraps of 1.5mm thick sheet steel or brass. Clamp them together when drilling the holes. Also, make the two spacers, and rivet the parts together. Actually, I did not follow my own drawings here, as might be seen in photo 91. I milled the linkout of solidateel, just for the fun of it.

Saw and file the Handle (30H) out of 3mm steel or brass. Ream the pin holes 3mm diameter. If the link and handle are made of steel, they can be protected from rusting by blackening them, either with chemical gun blue or by heating and dipping in oil.

Finally, make the three Pins (30.J, K and L) from 3mm diameter drill rod. Assemble the pump (photo 92). The two short pins are kept in place by expanding their ends, using a center punch in the holes drilled through them.

The Exhaust Steam Feed Water Heater (32) (photo 93) is a purely optional item since the engine will run equally well without it. If you are in a hurry, you may wish to delete it, or add it later on. It will, however, increase the boiler's steam-raising capacity slightly, and save a small percent on fuel. My reason for including it is more ecological than economical. It willseparate most of the oil and condensed water from the exhaust. This is very desirable if your plant is to be used to power a model ship, as itwill otherwise leave an oil film in itswake and also shower itself with oil and water droplets. Besides, it is very simple to make, so take your choice.

The first part on the agenda is the Barrel (32A). It is a 56mm length of 32mm copper or brass tube, 1mm wall thickness. Its diameter can, of course, be varied within reason, to suit whatever material is on hand, only remember to adjust the dimensions of the end plates accordingly. Square up the ends of thetube in the lathe. Markout and drill the holes. Wind up the Water Tube Coil (32E) thin-walled copper tube. Anneal the tube, and fill it well with fine sand to prevent flattening. Wind it around a 14mm rod in order toget the proper diameter of the coil (photo 94). Note the direction of the winding. Again, anneal the outer ends of the coil, bend to proper shape, trim to length and shake out the sand (photo 95). $Debur$ the ends.

Make the Water Connections (32F)

from brass rod. They should fit stiffly in their holes in the barrel

The End Plates (32B and D) and the End Flange (32C) are turned up from 40mm diameter brass rod. Spot the twelve screw holes near the periphery of 32D with the aid of the dividing head. Do not drill the acrew holes in the end flange yet; that is better left until after the parts have been soldered together. A1so, leave the screw holes forthe pipe flanges until the plumbing stage. Make the Drain Connection (32G) and a wssher for it. (The latter is only shown in the assembly drawing.) You now have the parts shown in photo 96, ready for silver soldering together.

Assemble the parts, except the end flange and the end plates, apply flux on all joints, including those between the water tube coil and the water connection fittings. Silver solder all joints in one heat, then pickle and rinse (photo 97). Then attach the end flange and the end plate and solder them to the barreL When doing this, the previously .soldered joints should be protected by flux, in case they might be melted again. Pickle again, this time for at least ten minutes and rinse thoroughly (photo 98).

Now, clamp the loose end plate to the end flange and drill the screw holes, 1. 7mm diameter. Remove the end plate and tap the holes in the flange M2. Attach the end plate to the feed water heater with M2 screws. To make sure that the joint will be leak·free, apply some plumber's jointing compound to it before putting the parts together. The exhaust feed water heater is now completed (photo 99) and can be put aside, awaiting the plumbing stage.

While we are in this area we might as well finish off the Exhaust Flange and Bend. This item will be needed only if you decide to let your engine exhaust up the stack. The alternative is to run a separate exhaust pipe parallel to the stack. Anyhow, the exhaust flange is a simple thing to make, needing no further description (photo 100).

The Bypass Valve (33) is used to regulate the amount of water forced into the boiler by the engine feed pump. It is set to maintain a steady water level in the boiler, the pump's excess discharge being bled back to the inlet side of the pump.

The Valve Body (33A) is made of two pieces of brass rod, silver soldered together. First, part off a piece of 8mm diameter rod, say, 30mm long. Drill a 6mm diametercross hole, 9mm from one end. Then part off ^a 6mm diameter rod to 30mm length. Insert this in the hole in the thicker rod and adjust until it protrudes equally on both sides. Silver solder in position. Grip the valve body by the longer 8mm diameter endin the three·jaw. Face the other end until it extends 8mm from the soldered joint. Center drill and drill to 13mm depth, using a4.5mm drill bit. Change the drill bit to 2mm and drill through. Chamfer the entrance to the hole slightly and tap M5 x 0.5to6mm depth.

Reverse the valve body in the chuck and part off to the correct length, 21mm. Do this carefully, as there is not much to grip on. Then turn down to 6mm diameter for 5mm length. Chamfer the end and thread M6 x 0.75.

Now grip the valve body by one end of the 6mm rod. Face the outer end until it sticks lOmm out from the body (14mmtothe centerline). Center drill and drill through to the other hole with a 3mm drill bit. Thread the outside M6 x 0.75 for 6mm length and put in the 60° cone.

Make the G1and(33B) and Gland Nut (33C) from 7mm hex stock. Thesecall for no further description.

The Valve Spindle (33D) is made from a piece of 3mm diameterstainless steel rod. Be careful about the length of the thread. Make the handwheel of brass and secure it with a drop of Loctite. Drill a cross hole of 2mm diameter and fit a handle of 2mm diameter drill rod. It, too, could be secured with Loctite.

Note that I have filed a way the stub left by machining away the chucking spigot opposite the outlet. Itmakes the valve look a bit neater.

The exact length and routing of the various pipes will, of course, depend on the engine and boiler room layout if the plant is to be used for marine work. The hand pump and the burner control valve can be posi· tioned wherever convenient. Even if your

plant is to end up in a ship's hull, it will simplify the plumbing work if you mount the engine and boiler temporarily on apiece of board, preferably faced with Formica or some other water-reaistant surface. The boiler and engine should be located in the same relative positions as they will have in the hull.

Make the flanges for the exhauat pipe. Four will be needed, three Exhaust Flanges and one Engine Exhaust Flange, if you have made the exhauat feedwater heater. Drill the screw holes in the dividing head. Fill a 6mm copper pipe of, say, 0.5m length with fine sand and anneal it. Bend to form the pipe connecting the engine to the exhaust feed water heater. Several anneal· inga will be necessary. When satisfied with ita shape, cut and trim to size. Silver 80lder the flanges to it. Notethat theacrew holes in the flanges ahould be 80 oriented that they are accessible(photo 101). Drill the corresponding screw holes in the engine exhaust flange and thefeedwater heater and tap M2. Install the feedwater heater in place, then make and inatall the exhaust pipe between the feedwater heater and the atack base (photo 102).

Now, make all the required Union Nipples and Union Nuts (photo 103). These components lend themselves to masa production (photoa 104, 105, 106 and 107).

The pipe from the engine pump to the feedwater heater ia made of two pieces of 4mm copper tube. Make the right-angle bend in the shorter piece first, then silver solder to the Bypass valve socket. Trim the pump end of the pipe to length, then solder on the union (not forgetting to slip the union nut on firat).

Bend the feedwater heater end of the pipe to shape, trim to length and attach ita union and nut. Pickle and waah carefully, and it is ready to install (photo 108).

The bypass valve now can beinstalled. A washer may be needed under it in orderto orient ita outlet properly. Make and install the return pipe between the valve and the pump inlet valve.

Next comes the pipe between the engine pump inlet valve and the hand pump inlet valve. This pipe haa a aupply connection near the engine pump. It is also made of 4mm copper pipe.

The output from the exhaust feedwater heater ia connected to the boiler feedwater heater (photo 109), running parallel to the hand pump supply pipe. Then make the short pipe connecting the boiler feed water heater with the feed valve (photo 111; also seen in photo 109). As this pipe has sharp bends, it needs filling with sand during forming. Also, make and fit the pipe from the hand pump to the other feed valve.

The preasure gauge is connected by a 2.4mm copper pipe, which also supports it. It is important that this pipe has an S-bend in it, where condensate will collect and protect the gauge from direct contact with ateam.

The drain outlet ofthe feedwater heater should be connected to a drain tank when the plant is installed in a hull. For teat running, it is sufficient to make up a short length of 3mm copper tube to bring the condensate to the side of the plant, where it can be collected in a small can.

The superheater is connected to the throttle valve by a 4mm copper pipe (photo 110).

The final pipe work is that feeding the burners. It is all done with 3mm copper pipe. The Fan-out Fitting between the valve and the burners is made of a small block of 6mm square brass, drilled out to take the three pipes. The complete pipe is shown in photo 112. Makethepipe connecting to the control valve as long as will be needed in your boiler room layout; the excess can be coiled up temporarily when testing, as in the photos. The same applies to the pipe between the gas container and the control valve. I have not specified the connection fitting for the gas container end of the pipe, as that will depend on the kind of gas

container. For marine work, the disposable type i8 preferred, because of its much lower weight. The ga8 U8ed 8hould be Butane, as the burner orifices are dimensioned for that. If you should want to use Propane gas, orifices with much smaller bores have to be substituted, a8 that gas has much higher pres8ure.

The miniature pressure gauge shown in the photos is a commercial item, the only ready-made part used in the steam plant. Ideally, it should have a range of 0-60 psi. Not being able to locate such a range, I fitted one reading 0.120 psi.

Before the steam test, a second hy· draulic teat should be made with all boiler fittings except the 8afety valve in place. Remove the safety valve. Also, remove the steam pipe at the superheater union and fit a cap nut in its place. Do the same with the pipe from the exhaust feedwater heater, at the boiler feedwater heater. Make a fitting which will take a plastic tube and fit on the water supply fitting at the engine pump. Put the other end of the plastic tube into a can of clean water and fill the boiler completely by operating the hand pump. Now fit your test pressure gauge in place of the safety valve. Again, operate the hand pump to raise the pressure to twice the working pressure, 60 psi or 4.2 kg/cm². If there are no leaks in the armature fittings, an occasional stroke on the pump will suffice to keep the pressure for a few minutes. If, on the other hand, a leak is found, the boiler will havet obeemptied and the leak attended to. Use plumber's teflon tape or jointing compound to cure leaking threads, preferably the former on threads which will have to be taken apart for installation or maintenance. Whensatisfied with the test, the boiler has to be partly emptied for the steam test. This has to be

3mm copper pipes to burners

GAS PIPE FAN-OUT FITTING Brass. 6 x 6mm. 1 required

FEED WATER CONNECTION Brass, 1 required

BY-PASS VALVE SOCKET Brass. 1 required

UNION NIPPLE AND UNION NUT M6 x 0.75. Brass. 14 required each

UNION NIPPLE AND UNION NUT M5 x 0.5. Brass, 5 required each

done in a most undignified manner, by removing the filler plug and the test gauge and holding the whole steam plant upside down. Leave the water level at about twothirds on the water level gauge. Replace the filler plug.

Re-install the safety valve. Remove the dome plug and put the pressure test gauge in its place. Re .connect the feedwater pipe to the boiler feedwater heater. Also, connect. the steam pipe to the superheater. Connect the gas supply to the burner valve. Fill the engine's lubricator tank, up to the small hole in the steam passage, with cylinder oil. Note that ordinary oil should never be used in the lubricator, only cylinder oil (some times called valve oil) works in conjunction with steam. Oil all moving parts of the engine with machine oil. Check that the throttle valve is closed and open up the bypass valve threeorfourturns. Also, check that the lubricator's drain valve is closed.

Now, light the burners. Do this by inserting a burning match through the fire door, and then opening the pilot valveabout an eighth of a turn-never the other way around, as in that case, the firebox would be filled with a gas-air mixture before the match is introduced, with an obvious result. Do not be alarmed by this warning, I have tried it purposely several times, to make sure there is no danger.

Leave the burner at this low setting for about two minutes, as the draft is very poor when the boiler is cold; any increase in the gas supply would only result in incomplete combustion, causing the burners to choke themselves. After about two minutes, close the fire door and open up the burner main valve. Within a couple of minutes, the pressure should begin to rise. Go slowly, by moderating the fire if necessary, until the pressure reaches 40 psi or 2.8 kg/cm2. That is, if the safety valve does not open, of course. If the safety valve opens at a lower pressure, the fire has to be put out and the safety valve spring adjusted, or a very small brass washer put between the valve stem and the spring. It does not matter if the valve does not open exactly at 40 psi during the test, as the boiler has a very high safety factor. Anything up t050 psi would do. Keep the pressure near the blowing.off point for about a quarter of an hour and check that there are no steam or water leaks. Ifno leaks are found, the boiler has passed the steam pressure test, if not, the fire must bedropped and the leak tended before the test is redone.

When the test is completed, the safety valve must be reset tothe proper blowing-off pressure, 30 psior 2.1 kg/cm2. Todothis, put out the fire and let the boiler cool off until all pressure is gone. Remove the plastic feed· water tube from the water supply can or remove the filler plug, otherwise the boiler will fill itself completely with water, due to the vacuum which will form in it when the steam condenses.

Lower the blowing-off point of the safety valve by inserting a washer of appropriate thickness between the valve spindle housing and the valve seat. In this way, the boiler can be given periodic steam tests simply by temporarily removing the washer.

When the valve is working at the proper pressure, try the hand pump, tomake sure that it is working properly. Keep an eye on the water gauge; the level should be kept at about half to two-thirds of a glass.

Now, at last, the engine can be tried out. Place a small can or tray under the drain pipe, as there will be plenty of condensate from the feedwater when the engine is running. Crack the throttle valve open, just a very small amount. As the engine is stone cold, all the steam will condenae in it in the beginning, and it will act more like a hydraulic motor than a steam engine to begin with. Keep the speed down to crawling until the cylinders have warmed up and the cylinders have been cleared of condensate, then the speed can be increaaed.

Watch the boiler pressure and try to keep it just below the blowing-off point by means of the burner main valve. Keep an eye on the water gauge; when ithas fallen to about a third on the glass, put the engine pump into action by closing the bypass valve. By careful regulation, it is possible to find a valve aetting which will keep the water level constant over long periods. The engine pump may need to have its stroke adjusted in order to obtain this. Remember, whenever the pump's stroke is changed, the pump cylinder's position in the bracket musl be adjusted for minimum clearance to prevent the possibility of the pump being airlocked. Should there be an irregular rattling noise from the pump when running, it indicates that the valve balls are bouncing on their aeate, due to the high lift. The valve lift should then be reduced.

In a small boiler likethis, it is important to use clean feedwater. If the feedwater is stored in a tank, it will pay off to use distilled water, as it will only use small amounts. In marine work:, however, it might be convenient to take the feedwater directly from the pond or lake which the vessel is running in. There is no objection to this, provided the water is clean. The boiler will then need to be washed out at regular intervals. In severe cases, the boiler can be cleaned out by filling it with a weaksolution of vinegar and leaving it for a couple of hours. Flush very carefully with clean water afterwards.

After each running session, wipe down the engine and oil it. Drain the lubricator of condensate, top off the oil, and the steam plant will be ready for the next run (photo 113).

THIS PAGE IS BLANK

but this is not a printing or scanning fault and no content is missing.

Metric to Decimal Inch Conversion Chart by William C. Fitt

Note: There are some minor discrepancies in the

following figures because the equipment used did

not distinguish the accepted practice beyond the not distinguish the accepted practice beyond the third decimal point. As a result. 1mm reads 0.040 inches rather than 0.039(0.039369). In any instance, the error is less than 0.001 inch.

Metric to Decimal Inch Conversion Chart

by Larry Koehl

101
3.9.
incl $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ " .
200 ..[.]
200 $\frac{3}{2}$ 3

 $\bar{\nu}$

 $\frac{35}{11}$ in Le $\frac{1}{1}$. $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{45}{100}$. α 187.
387.

SQ : ...
2 : ... 02
2 : ... 02 - 89
154
195 $\mathbf{p} \in$ ယ် $\ddot{\omega}$ es
3 **a**

<u>= ශීර්</u> $\div \sigma$ <u>n ma</u>
O 2: O 2 $\frac{19}{2}$ 27
6 : 01
6 : 01 1034
1394

<u>r 27 E</u> $\stackrel{or}{\rightarrow}$. \leq \approx \equiv " @ P $\alpha \infty$ ن ڪ
ڪ ق $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ $\Xi \equiv$

 \mathbf{r} $\mathbf{\Xi}\,$ ပြ $=$ יַש 801 - 90
31.535 -
inches \mathbb{S} م <u>یع</u>
6 ما : 468
mm

 \approx ង \approx OT -
5.47
1Che . 1000.9mr
72 - 39.404
es \mathbf{E} \mathbf{A} ₈

Consecutive Listing of Regular Drill Sizes
by William C. Fitt

INCH AND METRIC SIZES

Suppliers

To assist those readers who do not live in areas where metal suppliers are readily available and to avoid the need to purchase far greater quantities than required for the projects in this book, the following firms and individuals offer kits of castings and/or bar stock. Because of the fluctuations in prices of material, current quotations may be obtained by writing directly to the address given below.

Clarence Myers Myers Model Engine Works 15929 5 Point Road Perrysburg, OH 43551-9797 Hot Air Pumping Engine

Coles' Power Models

839 East Front Street P.O. Box 788 Ventura, CA 93002 (805) 643-7065 (805) 643-5160 Fax Model Builders' Supplies

Power Model Supply Co.

13260 Summit Drive DeSoto, MO 63020 (636) 586-6466 Model Builders' Supplies

Notes