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MAKE AND I C A J O R

Here's a useful small tool that's both simple and enjoyable to make; all the drawings you need are over the page . . .

o set work accurately we usually use a clock gauge. This, as its name suggests, is rather like a clock but there is a single pointer where the clock hands would be. There is also a pointer with a plunger in it attached to and protruding from the clock. In use, the clock gauge is held securely at a fixed point and the plunger allowed to touch the work. If the work is then rotated, the hand on the clock will alter its position with any innaccuracies in the setting up. By making adjustments to the work, it should be possible eventually to rotate it with the hand remaining stationary. The operator then knows that the work is absolutely accurate. In order that errors show up clearly there is a multiplying factor between pointer and clock dial, usually in some form of gearing. This means that the hand moves a greater distance than the pointer and errors show up that much more easily.

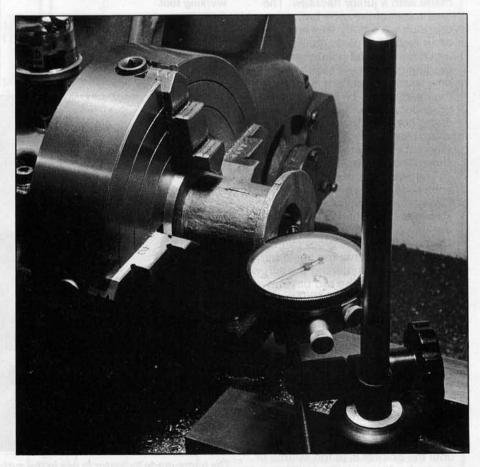
Clock gauges are quite expensive to buy and the poorer ones amongst us may well need to look for alternative means of truing up. A scriber in a block placed near the work will show errors as the gap between the work and scriber point widens and narrows. Getting really accurate with this method is not easy and so some other form of indicator is desirable. At one time these could be purchased in a number of forms but now seem to have gone off the market. Making such a device is, however, remarkably simple as well as being a most satisfying project. It will not be in the form of a clock as this is not necessary; a pointer will show exaggerated movement, however, and be more than sufficient for most purposes.

The main part of the device is a mild steel strip. The drawings specify it as 1/2 inch (12mm) wide. This will give a small convenient gauge but the narrower it is, the more limited is the distance of error that will be shown. There is no reason why, in fact, it should not be one inch wide, as is the one I made as a demonstration. The extra width will allow the pointer to move further but makes the gauge slightly less convenient to use on the smaller lathe. The choice must, then, be left to the individual to decide, depending on the lathe or other machine on which it will be used. To start with, scribe a line centrally along the length of the strip. Mark

off and drill the four holes, as shown on the drawing, working from the centre.

The needle is next and needs to have two holes drilled in it and then be filed to shape. The smaller hole at the wide end holds a $\frac{1}{16}$ th in. diameter pin which can either be soldered in or held with a retaining compound.

The slide bar is a piece of ½th in. diameter rod. I used stainless steel as it will be used as the pointer and will be rubbing on work so there will be some wear taking place. Hopefully, there will be less with stainless steel. The alternative is to use silver steel and harden it, or make it of mild steel and put a small



The usual way to measure any variation is by means of a clock gauge; here one is being used to set a cylinder casting bore. An inexpensive alternative which you can make yourself is described in the text.

bras knob on the end. The block, which is not quite central on the rod, is filed from mild steel after drilling to allow the bar to slide in it. Again, it can either be soft soldered in position or secured with retaining compound.

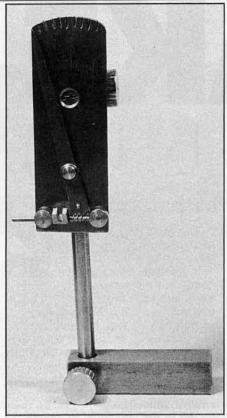
The bearings for the slide bar are a simple turning job. They must be cross-drilled for the bar and the threads to pass through the body, a nut securing the bearings in place when we are ready. The pin on which the pointer pivots is also a simple turning job and preferably should be from bronze, although brass would do. It needs a thread on the end to screw it to the body, but the plain part of the shank must be long enough to pass through the pointer and not rub. I put a washer on either side of the pointer when I assembled the device. This gave better running qualities and the underneath one ensured that the pointer was clear of the body and could swing.

The indicator was assembled with a small spring slipped on the slide bar; this drives the pointer right over to one side. The spring need not be very strong and the type used in ball point pens is ideal both

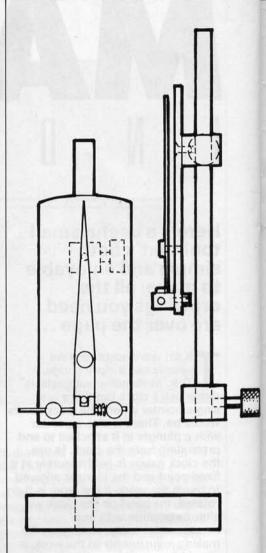
for size and strength. Finally the top of the body was rounded off and the graduations made with a junior hacksaw. The total travel of the slide bar, using a one inch wide body was one eigth of an inch. This gives quite a movement on the pointer and the graduations make it easy to gauge how much adjustment is required. If the need should be felt to get finer graduations, then extend the length of the body and pointer above the pivot. I can easily find even the slightest variation with the one shown, however.

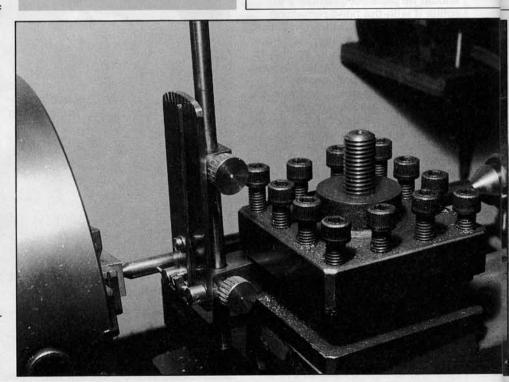
The stand is a matter of choice and readers may have different ideas on what they want. The idea shown is of a round pillar passing through a block screwed to the indicator body. This block can be adjusted as regards the angle by loosening and tightening the screw, the other end of the rod passing through a steel bar which fits the lathe toolpost. It could just as easily be fitted with a clamp if it is to be used in conjunction with a milling machine. The clamping screws on both of these blocks must be of brass to prevent the rod becoming scored and so jamming. Whether or not to knurl them is a matter of personal preference.

To use the device, clamp it in position and adjust it to the work until the pointer is in the middle of the body. Any variation whichever way will show up as the work is rotated.

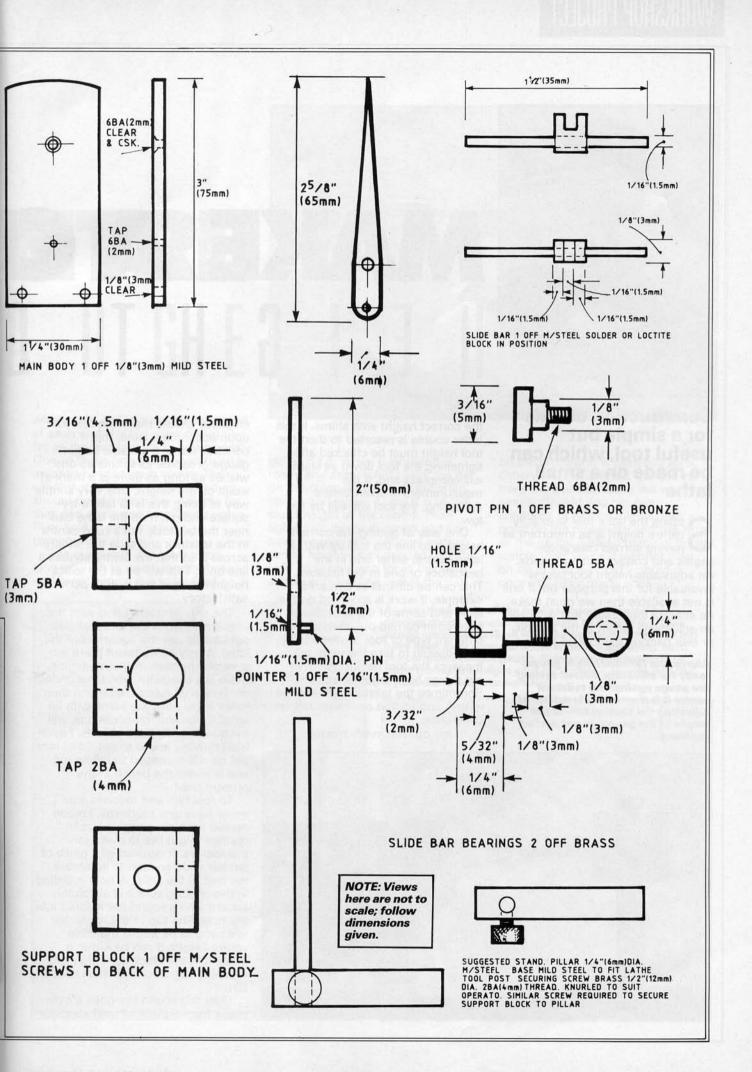


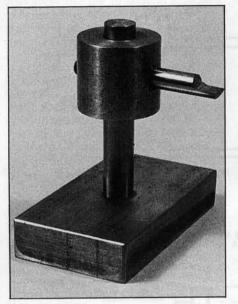
The finished indicator on its stand; size is a matter of personal preference and the nature of the job in hand. However, the dimensions shown opposite produce a very satisfactory working tool.





The home-made indicator in use in the author's workshop; here it is being used to measure deviation in conjunction with a centre-finder (also described in this publication).





MAKE A CI H E I G H I G

Construction details for a simple but useful tool, which can be made on a small lathe

Setting the lathe tool to exactly centre height is as important as having correct clearance angles and correct cutting speeds. An adjustable height tool post is invaluable for this purpose but if one is not available then we must make do either a tool holder that will give an adjustable height to the tool bit, or else packing the tool up to the

Above: the finished height gauge, ready for adjusting. Below: setting the gauge against the tailstock centre it is then a simple matter of adjusting the turning tool to the height of the gauge, to get perfect accuracy.

the correct height with shims. If this latter course is resorted to then the tool height must be checked after tightening the tool down as shims will compress and, if the measurement is taken before tightening, the tool will still be too low.

One way of getting the correct height is to line the tool up with a lathe centre, either one in the headstock or one in the tailstock. This can be difficult at times. For example, if work is mounted on the lathe and some of the operations have been carried out, then a different type of tool is needed; it is not possible to take the work out, measure the tool height and then put things back together again. Sometimes the tailstock will also be in use, and so that centre cannot be used either.

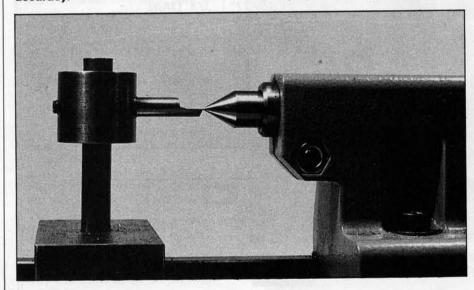
In my opinion every model

engineer should make the first job upon acquiring a lathe, the construction of a suitable height gauge. It can be as simple as one wishes as long as there is a mark at exact centre height. One very simple way of doing this is to take a try-square and put it on the lathe bed near the tailstock. Put a hard centre in the tailstock and slide the square across it so that the centre scribes a line on it. This will be at the exact height required and will be perfectly satisfactory.

The only problem I find with the above method is the fact that I do not usually use the square near the lathe, it only being taken there for special purposes. In the meantime there is a character who lives under my bench who borrows it and then hides it. He does the same with all small tools, and, on occasions, will even hide quite large objects. I even tried moving house to get rid of him but he still managed to follow me and is under the bench at the present one!

To fool him and to make sure I never have any problems, I made myself a simple gauge which readers might like to make for themselves. It consists of a piece of flat bar wide enough to lie across the bed of the lathe. A hole is drilled in this making sure it is absolutely square, and a round bar is fitted into the hole. The top of the round bar will need to be above the lathe centre height. It can be either a push-fit in the block or held in with a retaining compound such as Loctite 601.

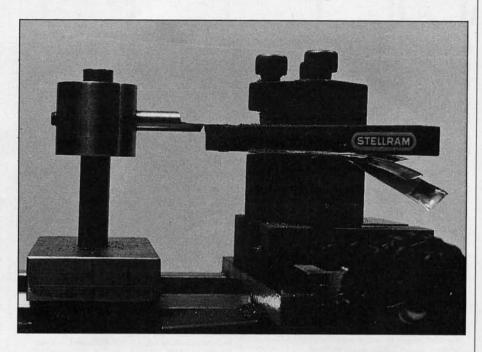
Over this round bar goes a collar made from a piece of mild steel bar



NTRE A U G E

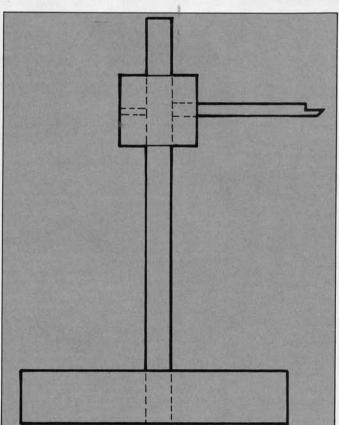
with a hole drilled through and faced at each end. This is cross-drilled as far as the central hole in two places. One of these holes is tapped to take an allen headed grub screw. The other is to take a cross-arm and so should be of a diameter suitable for this, and again can be either a pressfit or held in with retaining compound.

The cross-arm will have to be long enough to overhang the base and it will need a flat to be filed or

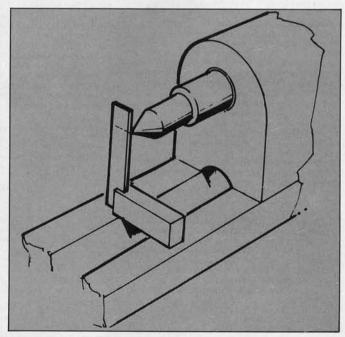


milled on it. When everything is ready and assembled check the flat on the cross-arm against the lathe centre and adjust it until it is at the exact height of the centre. Then tighten up the grub screw and you have a gauge that will give instant centre height when needed. The only thing to watch for in this very simple construction is that the flat

on the cross-arm is perfectly level. Otherwise, if it is fitted, the centre height will not be along the whole length. Should you not feel confident of getting it level, turn a point on the cross-arm and use that as the gauge. Like so many of these simple tools you will wonder how on earth you ever did without it once you have made one!



Above: the height of the tool has been adjusted by placing shims of metal underneath to build it up. They would normally lie flush with the bottom of the tool, but have been bent down to show what is happening. Left: the complete height gauge. Below: an alternative is to mark the centre height on a try square – simple, but the try square is liable to wander!



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Drawings, cylinder castings, wheels, etc., for 5in gauge beginners Crampton locomotive.

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BASSETT-LOWKE LTD. Harvey Reeves Road, Northampton, NN5 5JR. Tel: 0604 585999

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Stockist and agents for Myford lathes and products, Rishton and Amolid Millers, Sharp 4 Rotary tables, Scot Urqhart Drill packages, Excel lathes and products, Warco, Stuart Models, Maxitrak locos and track, as well as supplying steel, brass, copper and rivets.

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Stockists of a wide range of products for model engineers. These include lathes and machine tools from the Hobbymat, Warco, Amolco, Excel, Naerok and Cowells range etc., together with an extensive stock of other items like measuring equipment, hand tools, taper tooling etc.
J.G.S. CLARKE & CO

The Old School, Love Lane, Denbigh, Clwyd, LL16

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This company supply drawings and castings for 5in and 7 1/4in gauge locomotives of their own design. There are also the Polly I and Polly II 0-4-0 kit locomotives, and kits of Passenger/Driving trucks. These trucks can be made from drawings and castings, if preferred.

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The firm stocks very many designs for clocks in which they specialise. They have in particular a wide range of special brasses of types that are often difficult to obtain. They also stock a wide range of tools and other items of value, to the clockmaker in particular, and the model engineer in general.

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Offers a wide range of finished models both old and new. Locomotives, 'O' gauge up to 5in gauge, marine and stationary engines, traction engines, as well as kits and castings, books and boiler fittings. Stockists of the Stuart range of products, and of Mazwell Hemmens

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Publishers and suppliers of books on the hobby and a regular magazine for model engineers. A useful source for back issues of Model Engineer magazine A.G. THOMAS (BRADFORD) LTD.

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A mail order tool catalogue for the model engineer, watchmaker and clockmaker, plus clock movements, clock ornaments and repair material.

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2 Mayors Avenue, Dartmouth, South Devon Tel: 08043 3134

Suppliers of general model engineering tools; useful

TRUE-TO-SCALE SERVICES 9 Lodge Road, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3ND Tel: 01 460 8126

This company offers accurate scale drawings of the last American Steam locomotives, showing g/a and all components, and taken from the original works drawings. These were the giants; 4-8-4's hauling 1,000 ton passenger trains up to 100 mph. For the hardware, Amrail imports a whole range of 5 and 7 1/4 gear bogies, couplers, headlights, bells etc.

TURRET ENGINEERING LTD. Pindar Road, Hoddesdon, Herts, EN11 0BZ Tel: 0992 461878

The Amolco milling attachment together with a table unit to form a complete machine tool is now available from this company or one of their regional distributors.

TURTON ENGINEERING LTD. Moor Lane, Witton, Birmingham, B6 7HH Tel: 021 356 4777

Manufacturers of the useful 'Crab Clamp'. VARISCALE

9 Park Place, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1JP Tel: 0272 277427

Can reduce or enlarge your plans, or part plans, to the exact size required for the next project.

DAVALL GEAR COMPANY LTD. Welham Green, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 7JB Tel: 07072 65432

Manufacturers of all types of power transmission gearing, with over 2,400 standard stock gears. Toothed timing belt drives also available.

JOHN M. ELLIS Unit 3, Fairfield Drive, Off Stone Lane, Kinver, West Midlands, DY1 6EQ Tel: 0384 872122

Although particularly specialising in making boilers for the smaller gauges right up to 10 1/4 inch gauge as well as for traction engines of all scales, the firm also make an interesting range of forged coupling hooks which look highly authentic as well as having the additional strength associated with the forging process EMCO MAIER LTD.

10 Woodshots Meadow, Croxley Green, Watford, Herts, WD1 8YZ Tel: 0923 50051

U.K. importers of the EMCO range of machine tools which are so well established in the hobby as to probably need no description. It includes the well known Unimat and the Compact 5 and Compact 8 lathes. The range has both milling attachments for the lathes and milling machines in their own right. They also stock accessories and other machines likely to be of use to the model engineer.

EUROPA PRECISION
Unit 1, Venture Industrial Park, Ackworth Road,
Hilsea, Portsmouth, P03 5JP Tel: 0705 667331

The firm stocks the Unimat range of machines and, in particular, specialise in the Unimat **EVERETT MODEL ENGINEERING SUPPLIES**

24 Station Road, Meopham, Kent Tel: 0474 814295

Suppliers of metal, drawings, castings, etc. for locomotives and stationary steam engines.

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FLAMEFAST LTD. Pendlebury Industrial Estate, Bridge Street, Swinton, Manchester M27 1FJ Tel: 061-793 9333

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FYNE FORT FITTINGS (FRESHWATER I.O.W.) Clarence Boatyard, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, UK PO

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They ship worldwide and will supply special fittings up to full size to order.

PHIL W. GIBBONS Six Score Road, Langtoft Common, Market Deeping,

Peterborough PE6 9QD Tel: 0778 347515 or 0780 63458 (evenings)

A foundry specialising in castings for the model engineer. Although they have some patterns of their own, basically their work is making castings to customers' own specifications. Either from patterns or drawings. A useful service not always easy to obtain

G.L.R. DISTRIBUTORS LTD. Great Northam Works, Hartham Lane, Hertford, Hertfordshire Tel: 0992 552962

Suppliers and stockists of tools and raw materials of all kinds including taper tooling, green grit wheels aluminium, brass, copper (all types), drill sets, blanks, drills, dies, grinding wheels, heavy metal, non-corrosive balls, carbide-tipped tools. Drawings and castings for "Dolphur" 5in narrow gauge 2-8-4 tank loco. Catalogue available at 75p -everything for the model engineer. DAVE GOODWIN

43 High Street, Rishton, Blackburn, Lancs, BB1 4JZ Tel: 0254 885836

Supplier of top quality castings for loco's mainly to M.E. designs, also castings to customers' patterns in iron, gun metal, aluminium or brass. Sole supplier of castings for several designs. Stockist for nuts and bolts, taps and dies, bar sections and other miscellaneous items

GRAHAM ENGINEERING LTD Alpine House, Roebuck Lane, West Bromwich, Nr. Birmingham West Midlands, B70 6QP Tel: 021 525 3133

This company supply a wide range of tooling, and have just introduced a mail order service — offering three day delivery on milling machines, lathes, chucks and measuring equipment.

T.S. HARRISON & SONS LTD. Union Street, Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, WF16 0HN Tel: 0924 403751/6 and 0924 409361/6

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Tel: 0243 373624

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Tel: 0702 66688

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Castings are stocked for many engines including Gemma, Scamp and Stuart Turner. Agents for Myford, Warco, Cowells, and Hobbymat. The company has recently developed several new products, many for the Hobbymat lathe. New to the range is their lock-on milling cutter chuck, and quick change tool post.

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Whatever your interest in Model Engineering you are almost certain to find a drawing in the extensive Model Engineer Plans Service range which covers traction Engines, locomotives, stationary steam engines, boilers, fittings, petrol engines, workshop equipment and much more. A fully illustrated catalogue (Handbook 2) is available from the above address price £2.00 plus 35p p&p. which is re-fundable on your first mail order worth over £5.00.

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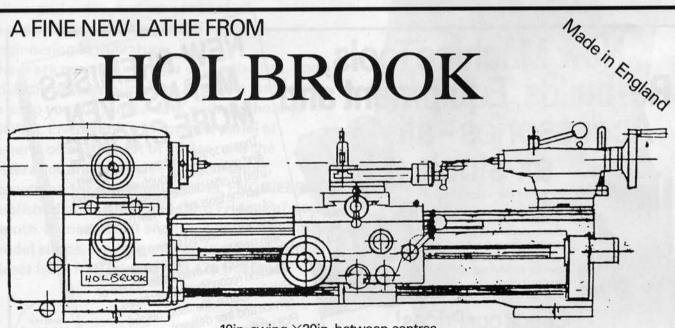
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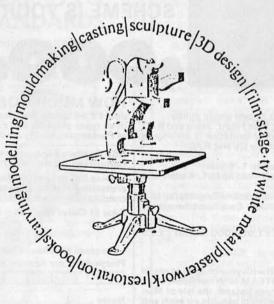
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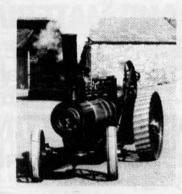
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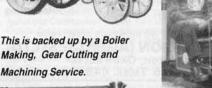
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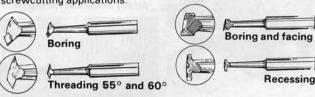
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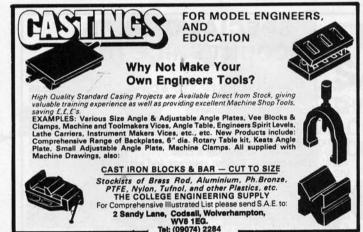
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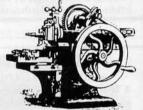
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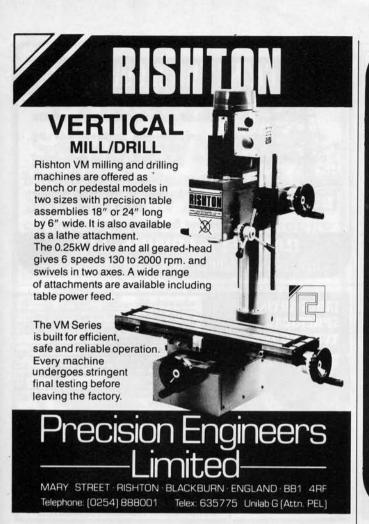
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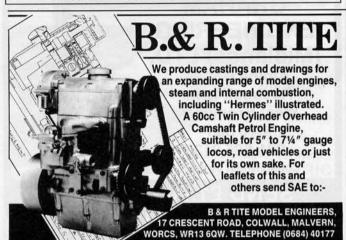
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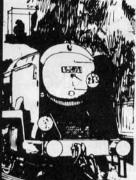
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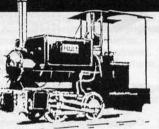
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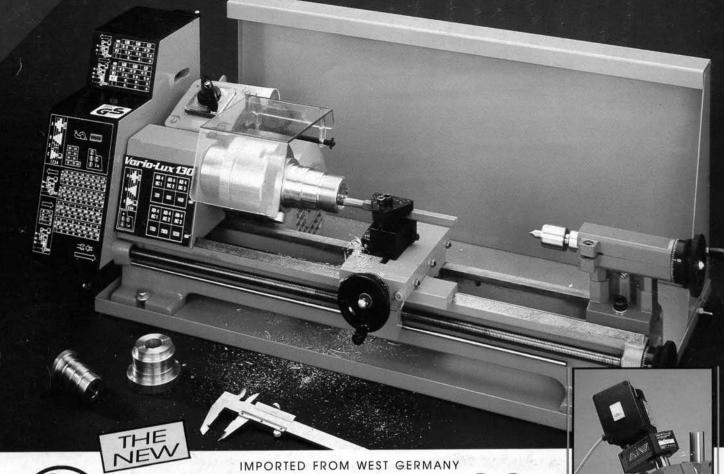
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