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car model

THE HOW TO DO IT MAGAZINE FOR
MODEL CAR
BUILDERS
...RACERS
...COLLECTORS



Hank Borger Builds the ALL AMERICAN

HOW TO BUILD A RIGGEN HO
ANGLEWINDER

LEE GILBERT DOES HIS THING
Beginning a 1/24 Pro Building
Series



LEE GILBERT DOES HIS THING

IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE CAR MODEL HAS PRESENTED AN IN-DEPTH HOW-TO SERIES ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF 1/24 RACE CARS. TO FILL THIS VOID CM STAFFER, LEE GILBERT, HAS CONSENTED TO GIVE US HIS ALL. TO SAY THAT LEE COMES TO US EXPERIENCED IS ALMOST AS MUCH AN UNDERSTATEMENT AS LABELING HIM SIMPLY AS OUTSPOKEN. HIS THREE YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL RACING, BUILDING AND MANUFACTURING DURING THOSE GOLDEN YEARS OF SLOT-CAR RACING HAVE EARNED HIM A PLACE OF RESPECT, IF NOTHING ELSE, AMONG THE OTHER ALL-TIME PROFESSIONALS OF THIS FASCINATING HOBBY/SPORT. WHETHER YOU ARE A WEEKEND GROUP RACER, A DIE-HARD EVIL-BUCKS OPEN CLASS FREAK OR SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE WITH A NEW OPEN GROUP 20 CAR, YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE NEXT SEVERAL ISSUES OF CM AS LEE DOES HIS THING; WHICH, AFTER ALL IS OUR THING TOO!

by LEE GILBERT and FRIENDS

BEFORE WE GET down to the business of building your outrageous 1/24 race car, let me tell you what is going here. Being a sometimes vocal critic of bygone How-To articles, it is my purpose here to ease the strain on your mind and wallet by keeping things as simple and as economy-minded as possible. With this in mind, the ensuing articles will be quite simple and a lot of fun. Some of the steps may almost insult your intelligence due to their simplicity, but face it, not everyone is as bright as you are and the steps themselves can be easily overlooked.

To make this series a little more fun I'll be utilizing two beautiful and very talented people. My Girl Friday, Dona Holloway, which you'll find on the tool list and throughout this article is a definite necessity. Get one! She will come in handy to soothe your sweaty brow and bandage your swollen bleeding fingers. Dona as a person knows absolutely nothing about slot cars, but she kind of livens up an otherwise uneventful day. My man behind the camera is none other than Sundance Coates. Actually he knows nothing about taking pictures but his enthusiasm and genius make up for his inexperience. I'd like to have a picture of him in here for you to have a good laugh over, but I conveniently ran out of space. If you don't want to completely lose your mind, you'll need a couple good buddies to keep you from getting entirely too serious. Besides, buddies are always good



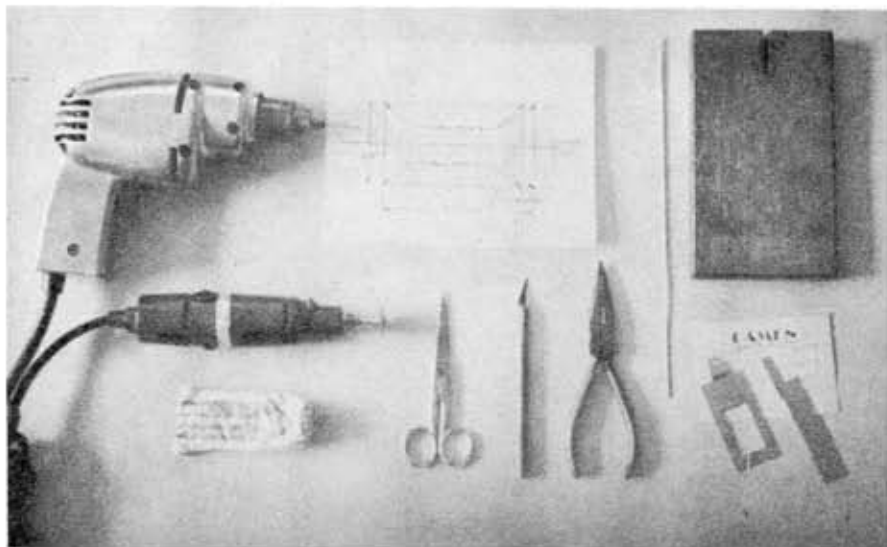
"I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be here."

for the loan of a few tools. The way I see it is to get together with a buddy or two, pool your tools and talent, order a pizza and work out on several cars. You'll be stoked with the good times and the results.

If you've already peaked, you'll notice that Stage I illustrates the construction of your jig. This is a very crucial step in the making of any great race car. The techniques involved were ripped-off from my old buddy, Larry Halter. This has to be the easiest and best way I've found to make your jig right.

In the proceeding months we'll finish the chassis, build a fool-proof powerplant, paint and mount the body correctly, set the whole thing up and even race the thing after some fiddling at the track with lead, air control and driving techniques. If you pay attention, no way can you fail.

STAGE 1: BUILDING YOUR JIG



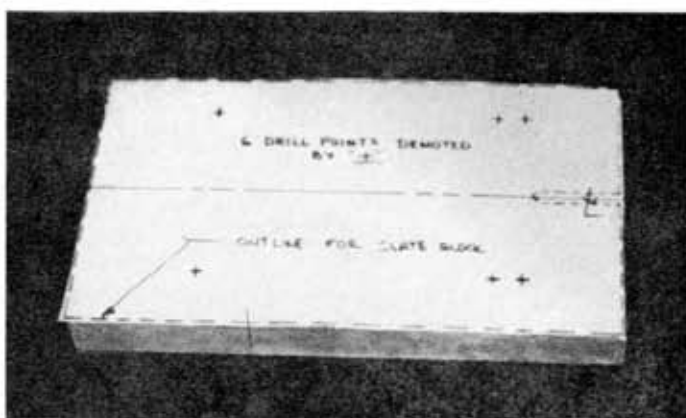
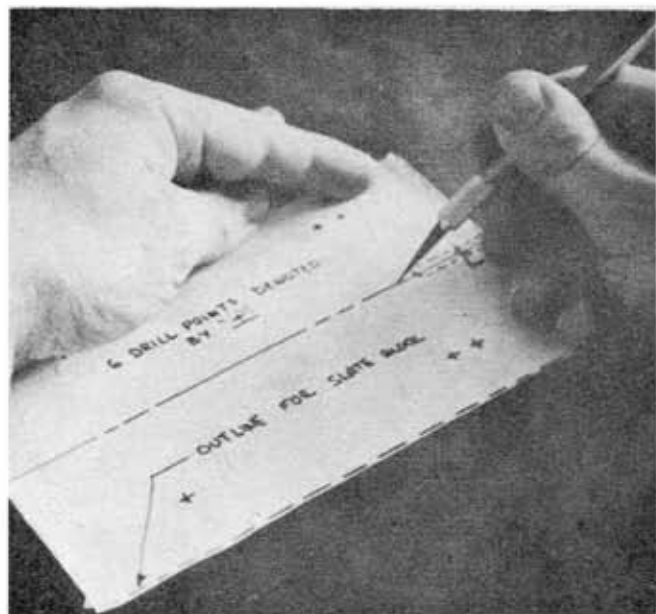
TOOL LIST & MATERIALS

Long nosed pliers
X-Acto Knife with No. 11 blade
Straight-edged scale
Scissors
Contact Cement
Dremel Moto-Tool with
No. 409 cutting disc
1/4" Drill
1/4" Drill bit
Drill pattern from Car Model
Champion slate
Camen 1-1/4" drop arm
Camen bat pan
.063 piano wire
.055 piano wire
A Girl Friday (Dona)



STEP 1 Assemble tools & materials. Cut out drill pattern along border line.

STEP 3 Mark center line at each end through pattern onto slate. (Don't get ahead of me, we'll scribe the centerline itself a little later.)



STEP 2 Tack glue drill pattern to slate.

STEP 4 To drill your peg holes without a drill press, utilize your girl Friday. One of you must sight the drill bit in perpendicular to the slate. The holes should be 1/2" deep. To do this, mark the bit with a piece of tape wrapped around the bit at a point measured up 1/2" from the sharp end. Take your sweet time . . . this is the part you don't want to botch.



"What do you mean keep your eye on the drill!"

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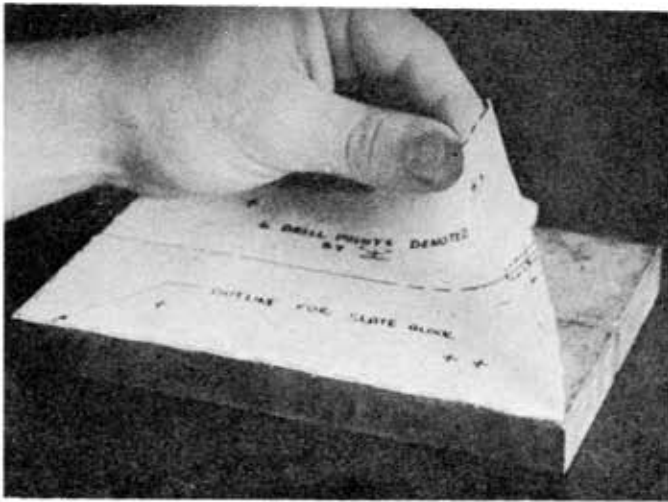
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6 DRILL POINTS DENOTED BY "+"

OUTLINE FOR SLATE BLOCK

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+ +

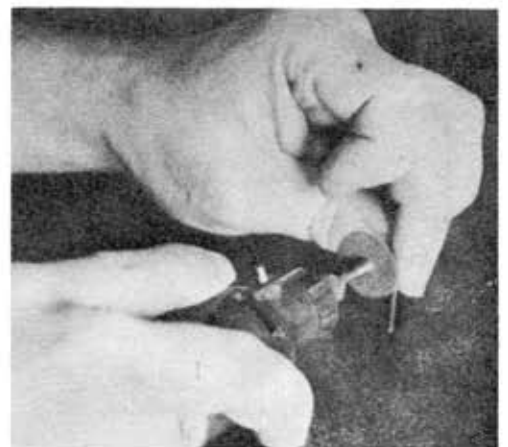
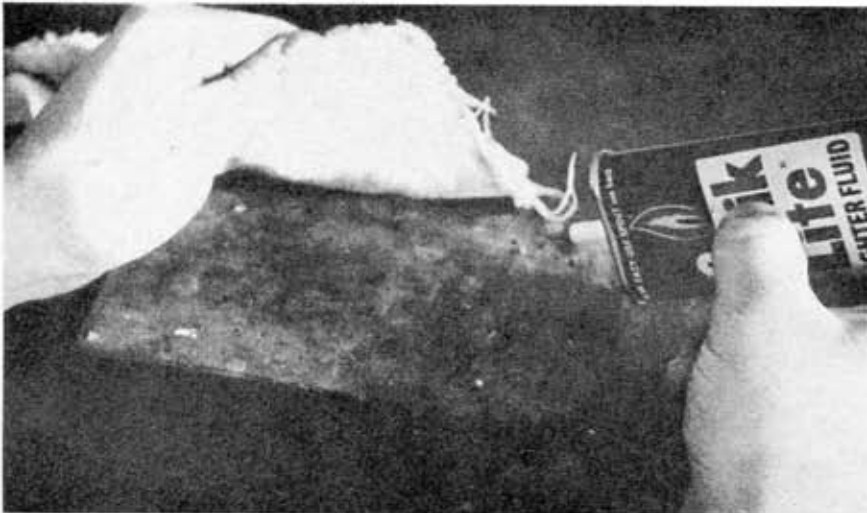


STEP 5 Now you can remove the pattern.

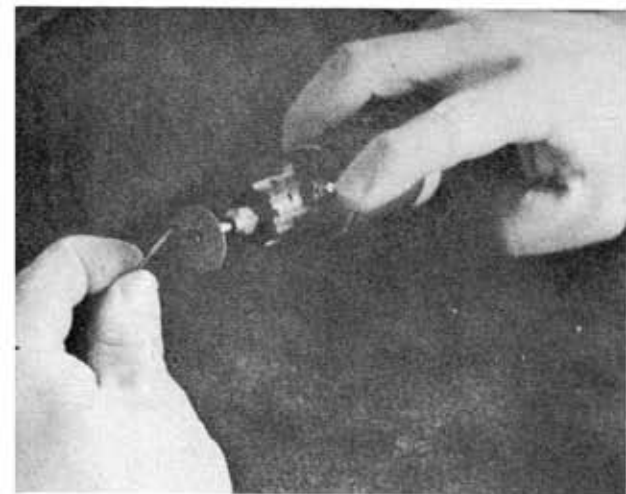


STEP 6 Scribe the centerline through the points you've already marked in Step No. 5. Use your straight edge, it's easier that way.

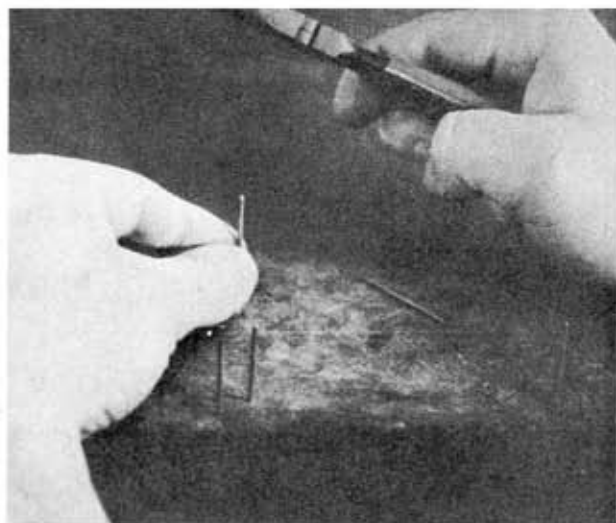
STEP 7 Clean up your slate.



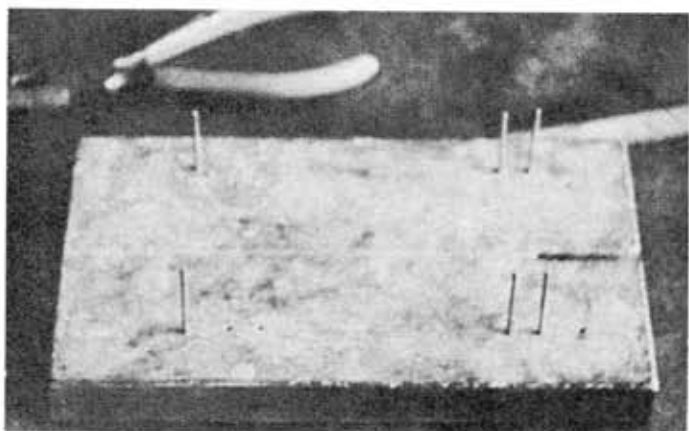
STEP 8 Take your .063 piano wire and cut six pegs each 1-1/2" long.



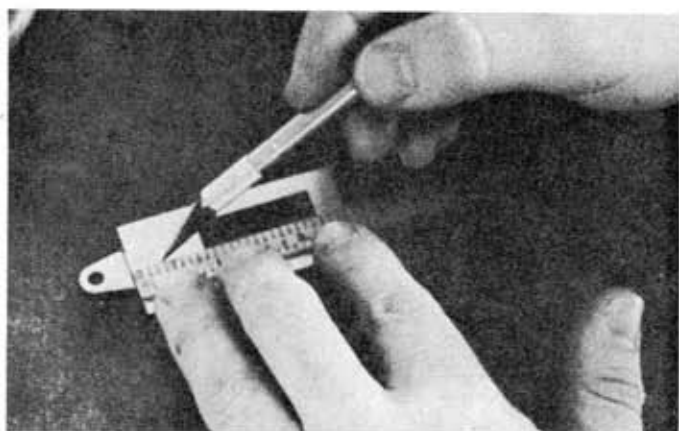
STEP 9 Use your Dremel to sharpen one end of each peg.



STEP 10 Beat the six pegs (sharp end first, Ambrose) in your precision drilled slate.

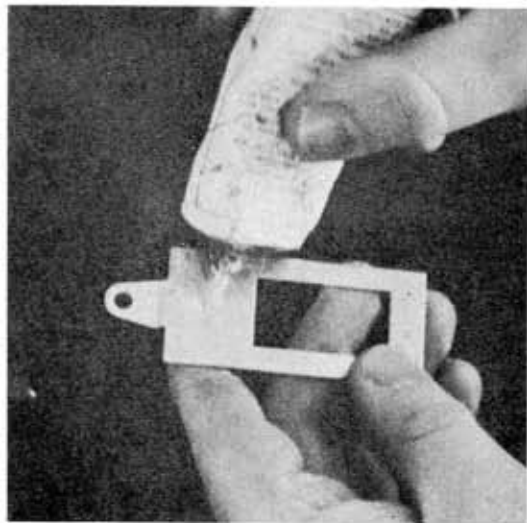


STEP 11 This is what you should have so far. If yours looks strange; you blew it.

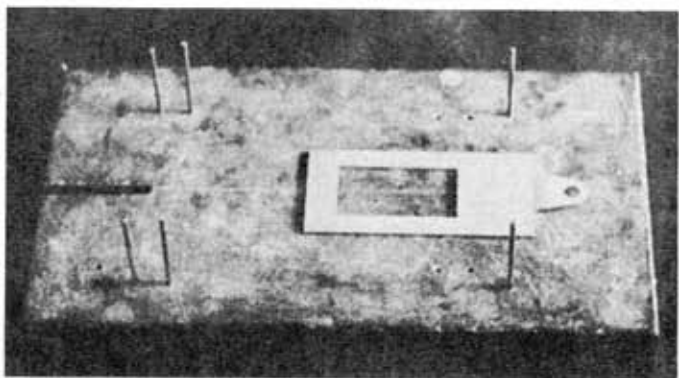


STEP 12 Scribe a centerline on top of your Camen drop arm. The center is 5/8" from either side.

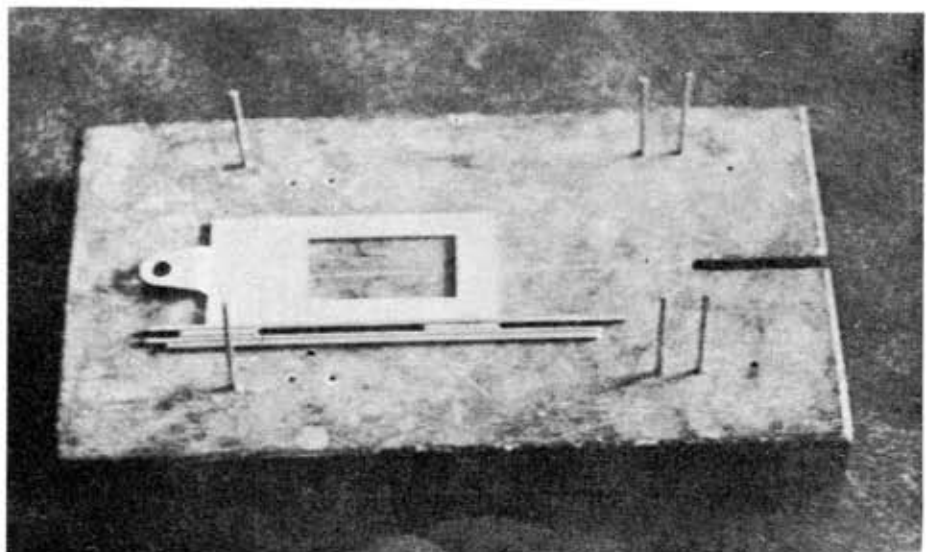
STEP 13 Glue-up the bottom of the drop arm.

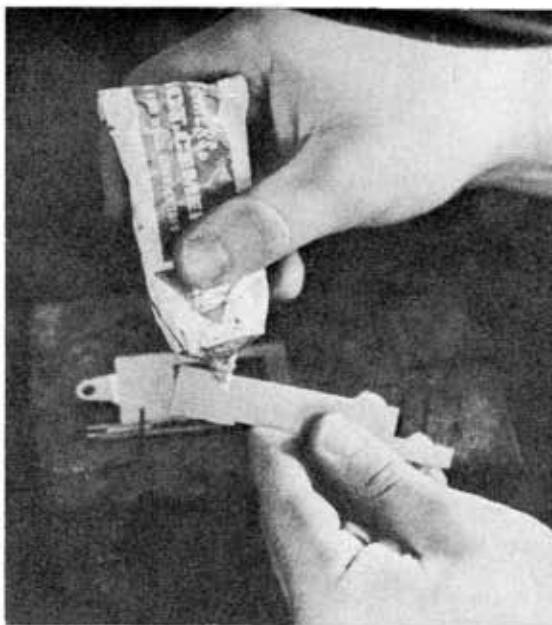


STEP 14 Place the drop arm on the slate in approximately this position. Make certain that you line up the centerline of the slate with the one on the drop arm.

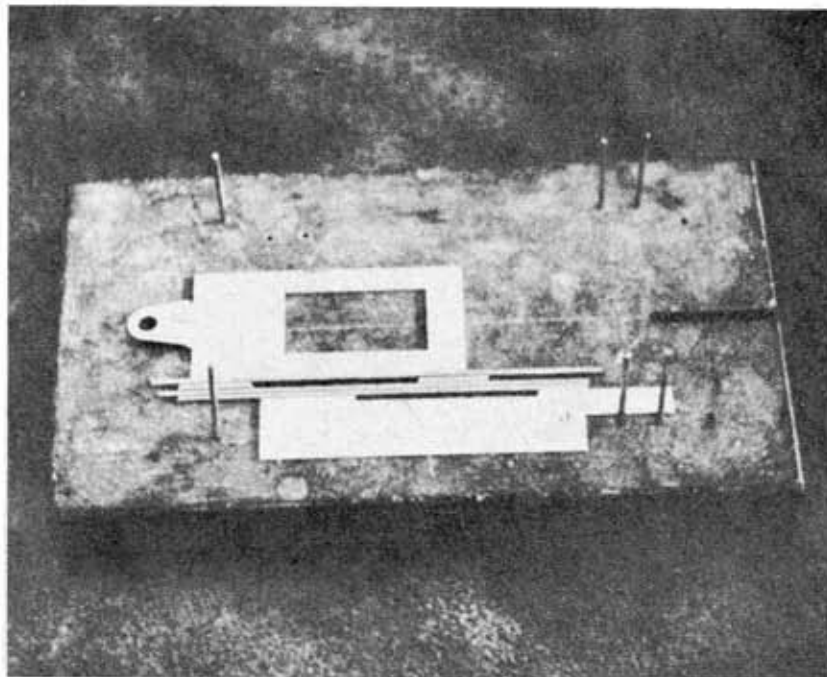


STEP 15 Now to simulate the main rails and plumber of the chassis, lay in three pieces of .063 wire and one of .055. I cut down one of the .063 pieces here to better illustrate the distance between the main rails.

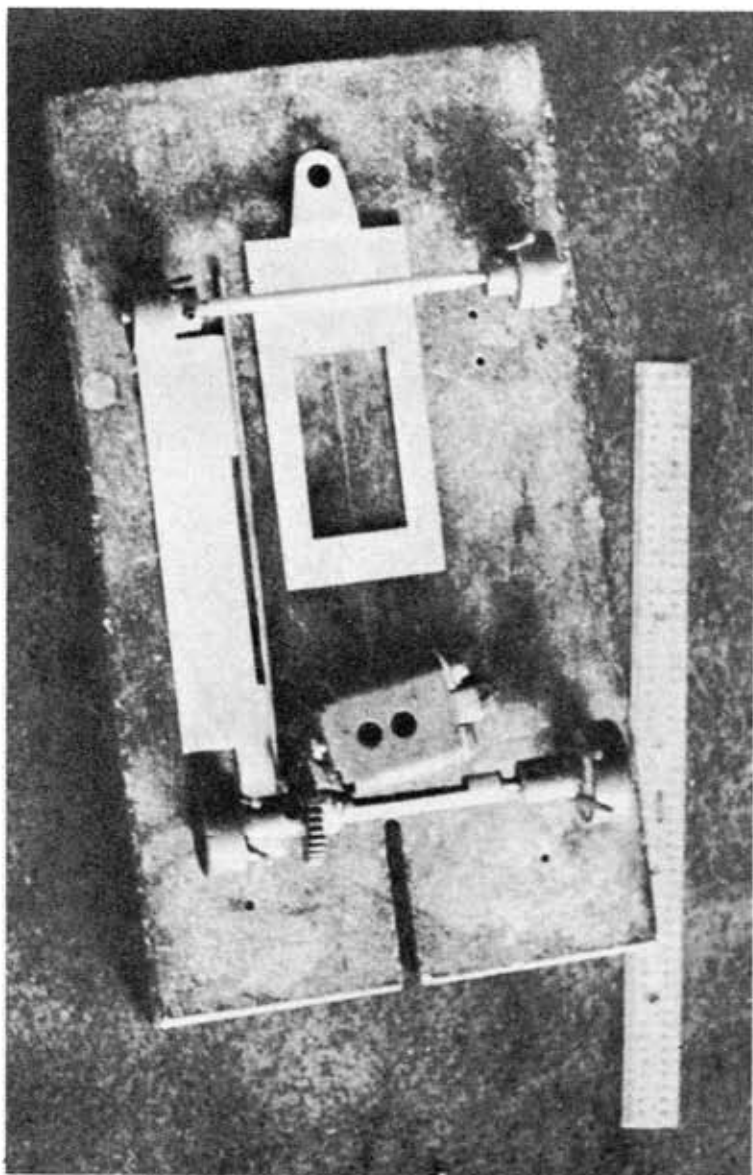




STEP 16 Just like the drop arm, glue-up the Camen bat pan.



STEP 17 Place the bat pan on the slate as shown. Don't worry if this looks backwards to you, there is a good reason for doing it this way.



STEP 18 This is how your finished masterpiece should look with your jig wheels and jig motor in place. We'll start at this point next month.



"If you don't know what to do at this point, you're beyond my help!"