



FOR construction purposes, this crawler really breaks down into three main parts: the tracked crawler platform, the superstructure which houses the cab and engine, and lastly the booms. The logic is to work upwards, so I will deal with them in that order.

TRACKED CRAWLER PLATFORM

Obviously the most important feature of this machine is the tracks. I have used industrial ming belts that are made by Goodyear for printing presses. These belts are fairly expensive, as they are industrial quality, but they do look rather good on the model. However, there is an alternative and that is to make your own from wood. Each link is made from wood and pinned together. The wooden frames to hold the belts and all the roller wheels need to be fairly strong. The two inner frames are held together by three sections of wood that are through mortised and tenoned into the two inner frames. The two outer frames are held together by spacer blocks that are held in place by screws.

The simplest method of working is to treat the inner and auter frames as pairs and fix hem together with tape. Mark in the position of all the roller wheels and drill all the necessary holes for the axles. If you fail to treat the frames as pairs, it is highly unlikely that you will get the axle holes to line up on assembly. Once all axle holes have been drilled, chop out the mortices on the two inner frames. The three sections of wood holding the inner frames together need to be fairly substantial, as they will take all the weight of the machine. The centre section will hold the roller bearing race on which the whole machine swivels.

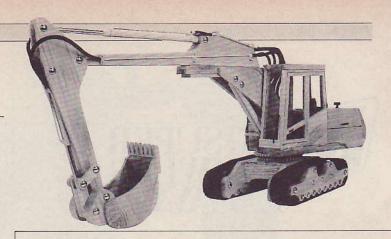
Once all the mortice and tenons are cut, shaping of each individual piece can start. The outer frames require quite a lot of work with particular amention being paid to the semicorcular shapes between the nollers.

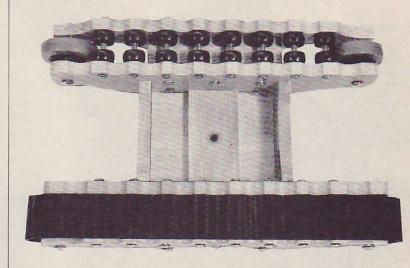
Platform assembly

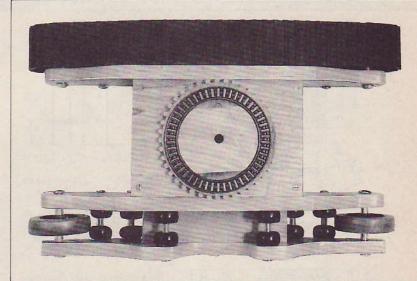
To start the assembly glue and screw the spacer blocks onto the outside edge of the inner frames. Now glue and cramp the three centre sections holding the inner frames together. Do check that they are square and that there is no twist in the frame. Using the axle offcuts, push the rods into the end holes to align everything before screwing the outer frame to the spacer block. It is very important that the holes are aligned before the outer frame is screwed onto the spacer block. Screw into place the top platform, which ties together all the three centre sections.

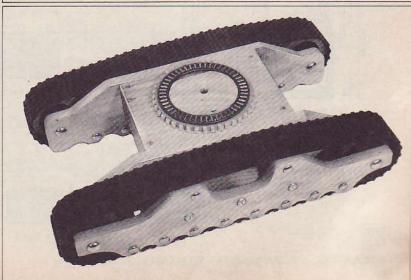
Wheels and belts

Fit all the small black roller wheels with a plastic tube spacer between each one. Before fitting all the spring caps, make sure that the wheels rotate freely. The large wheels at either end of the frame are now fitted. Once again plastic tubing is used as a spacer either side of the wheel. The belts are now fitted. If you find the belt too tight you will have to remove the belt and one of the large wheels at one end. Using a round file very carefully elongate the hole. Be careful to elongate the hole the same amount in both frames. Reassemble the wheel and belt. If you feel that the belt does not track properly then you must 'pack up' one side of the axle in one of the frames. Be prepared to spend a few hours setting up the tracks to run properly. You will get a great sense of satisfaction when all is completed as the belts make a lovely chattering sound as they will run over all the tiny roller wheels.

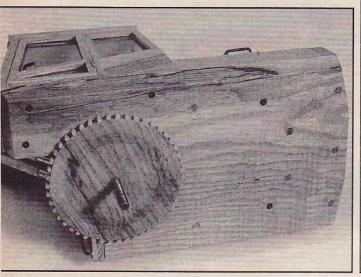


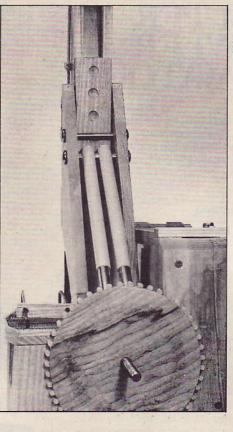










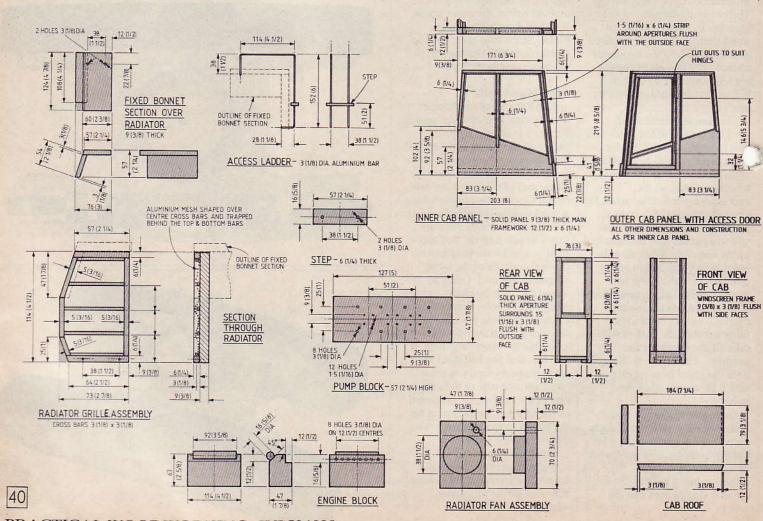


SUPERSTRUCTURE

The base of this is formed by one piece of timber which is bevelled on its underside. From the dimensions given, counterbore all the screw holes, and the hole to take the main bolt holding the superstructure to the crawler platform.

Cut out and shape up the two longitudinal members that hold the boom arm in place. It's best to work on them as a pair. Holes must be bored in these pieces to take the pipes from the engine to the compressor.

The two longitudinal members are held together at the front by a single piece of timber that runs the full width the base. Halving joints are now cut in both longitudinal members and the crossmember. At the back of the machine, the longitudinal members are housed into the back of the engine compartment. The back of the engine compartment is a solid piece of timber which has to be



carefully shaped up. From the drawings you will need to mark onto the timber the various angles that it is necessary to plane. As the shaping progresses offer it up to the base just to check that all is well.

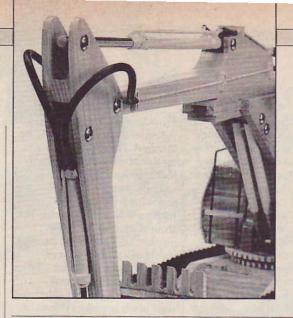
The longitudinal members, front cross-member and engine compartment are now secured onto the base by screws that pass through on the underside. The side pieces of the engine compartment are now glued into place. The opening bonnet sections are now shaped up, and hinged in place. The radiator is made and the grille mesh cut and fitted. You will find uminium mesh of the type used to repair cars ideal for this job.

The cab

The cab is made from sections of timber glued and butt jointed together. Make a full-size drawing of the cab and glue the pieces of timber together over the drawings. Use a piece of greaseproof paper to cover the

drawing to prevent the glue sticking. Assemble both side frames in this way. The door is now made and, using small brass hinges, fitted to the frame. The cab side frames can now be glued together using small sections of timber. Perspex is cut and fitted to all window frames. The degree of detail in the cab is really up to you, but JCB have made their cabs to a very high specification. The finished cab is now ready to be fitted to the base, but before this can be done, the boom arm and bolts have to be fitted to the longitudinal members.





MAKING THE BOOMS

In this particular machine there are three main boom arms. The first arm is securely bolted to the longitudinal members. This arm consists of three main pieces, the arm itself and two triangular pieces that fit on the side.

A unique feature of this JCB is the sliding boom which gives the real machine the ability to reach much further without the need to change booms. However, in the model it does create a considerable amount of

work to get a realistic working mechanism.

Onto the inside of the triangular pieces are glued two strips of timber that act as slides for the boom. At the top of the boom arm, a brass roller ball is fitted which locates in countersunk holes on the underside of the sliding boom. It is advisable to make all the parts for the two booms before gluing anything up as some careful adjustment of parts will be necessary.

PRACTICAL WOODWORKING, JULY 1990

9 (3/8) RADIUS POSITION OF 28 (11/8) 140 (5 1/2) ** 51(2)*12(1/2)* 9(3/8) SLIDE STOP SCREWED TO SIDE OF SECOND BOOM ONCE IT HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED THROUGH THE FIRST BOOM 3/4) 149(57/8) 9 (3/8) DIA 2 60/4) DIA 86 (3 3/8) 20 (3/4) RADIUS Ta 44113/41 32 (1 1/4) FIRST BOOM ARM SANDWICHED BETWEEN TRIANGULAR PLATES FIRST BOOM ARM TRIANGLE SIDE PLATES 41 (1 5/8) 152 (6) 9 (3/8) 619 (24 3/8) 41 | 1 5/81 289 (11 3/8) 2 HOLES 6 (7/4) DIA (177) 9 HOLES 9(3/8) DIA x 3(1/8)
DEEP EQUISPACED DN 25(1)
CENTRES 47 (1.7/8) 12 (1/2) RADIUS BUCKET LINK PLATES SECOND BOOM - FABRICATED WITH 3 PIECES OF TIMBER MAKE 2 - 9 (3/8) THICK FIRST BOOM ARM SLIDING RAIL ASSEMBLY 6 (1/4) 98 (3.7/8) POSITION OF BUCKET LINK PLATES 51(2) RADIUS S HOLES 6 (1/4) DIA 70 (2.3/4) 44 IT 3/41 RADIUS SIDE PIECE DUTLINE OTHER MAJOR DIMENSIONS AS FOR THE SIDE PIECES.
THE BOOM IS FABRICATED BY
GLUEING A SIDE PIECE ON
EITHER SIDE OF THE CENTRE PIECE AS INDICATED HERE 64(2 1/2) RADIUS 51(2) RADIUS 454 (17 7/8) 25 (1) RADIUS 41 THIRD BOOM CENTRE PIECE - 22 (7/6) THICK THIRD BOOM SIDE PIECES - MAKE 2 - 9 (3/8) THICK

ONTINUED

CONTINUED

Having prepared the first arm, now tackle the second one that actually slides. From the dimensions given, shape up the second arm. Carefully machine the block on the underside of the arm to fit exactly into the slide rails of the first boom. Great care is necessary when gluing the slide rails onto the triangular sections of the first boom arm. In practice I did this using greaseproof paper to prevent the glue sticking in slideways and to the sides of the machined block.

Having constructed two arms, the third arm is comparatively simple. The bucket requires careful shaping and in my case laminating together two pieces of mahogany to get sufficient width from which to cut the shape.

Hydraulic pistons and linkage

If this project was to appear in Model Engineer then I have no doubt that everything would work, but as this is basically a woodworking project then providing that the arms actually pull in and out I for one will be satisfied. However, this is a matter of choice and certainly leaves room for ingenuity.

The hydraulic cylinders were made from copper central heating tube and the piston rods from brass rod. A certain amount of rubber strip packing inside will give some very realistic hydraulic effects. Pipes and hydraulic tubes look realistic in black coax cable as used in car ignition systems or vacuum tubing also used in cars.





HARDWARE AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

★ End wheels 3in. dia. 4 off,

* Roller wheels 11/sin. dia. 40 off.

Axle material 5mm (3/16in.) dia. and 6mm (1/4in.) dia. m.s. rod. Spring caps 30 off to suit 6mm (1/4in.) dia. rod. 40 off to suit 5mm

(3/16in.) dia. rod.

* Roller bearing race (or lazy Susan) for turntable bearing.
Studding 9mm (3/sin.) dia. bolts with nuts for securing boom arms,
Brass sprung roller ball catch for sliding boom extension. 25mm
(1in.) brass butt hinges 6 off. Plastic tubing to act as spacers on
axles. 15mm o/dia. copper pipe for hydraulic cylinders. 12mm
brass rod for hydraulic pistons. Black rubber tubing for flexible
hydraulic hose (vacuum tubing for cars). 3mm (1/sin.) dia.
aluminium rod for handles, pipes and other details. Aluminium
mesh for grille (as used with car filler repairs).

* Timing belt for tracks.

* Perspex for cab windows.

ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM RICHARD BLIZZARD ★

Set of two timing belts suitable for JCB 820
Set of four 3in. dia. wheels with eight spring caps
Set of forty 11/8in. dia. roller wheels with 40 spring caps
Other axle pivots and 20 spring caps
Roller bearing race

£32.50
£17.50
£17.50
£12.50
£13.00

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