CHAPTER

32

Tall Vertical Open Column

This engine is patterned after a popular engine which is sold in kit form; however, it has a 1/2" bore and 1" stroke instead of a 1" bore and 2" stroke. It is quite simple all around and should be no trouble for experienced builders. Only a few items will be mentioned.

The BASE and TABLE use common machine shop practice. The steel Base has weight so the engine runs well without anchoring. Screws are used, up from the bottom, for the Columns as an aid in assembly, rather than threading them into the Base. The Rods that support the Arms square up easily so the cap nuts and base screws can be tightened. A little study will show how the Links and Arms produce straight-line motion. Hexagon stock was used on the engine shown. The flat faces of the hex make it easier to lay out and make the holes for the Rods.

The ARMS are made out of the solid. The 3/32" and 1/16" holes are drilled while the stock is square and then the 3/32" Arm and 3/16" Fork are milled or shaped. Solder the 1/16" x 3/16" Pins as shown.

The BEARING BLOCKS are tapped #5-40 and the Shaft center is laid out and center punched on one piece. Both Bearings are squarely mounted on the table and then this assembly is squarely mounted in the cross-slide milling attachment. The Shaft center is picked up with a wig-gler and drilled in easy stages, and then finally reamed to size. Bushings are optional here. These Bearings should be marked so they can be remounted in the position as they were reamed.

For the CYLINDER, make an accurate 1" x 1" x 1-3/8" (or 15/16" x 1" x 1-3/8") block. Lay out all the centers and lines on all faces and drill and tap all holes while the block is square. The Heads can be used as jigs after the center is bored for the Piston,
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keeping the bolt pattern square with the Steam Chest face. Turn and bore as in Step 1 and reverse in the lathe for Step 2. Make a milling setup for Steps 3, 4, 5 and 6. Rounding, as in Step 7, is optional.

The LAGGING is thin stock traced from a heavy paper pattern made by cut-and-try. Roll the metal to a diameter smaller than the flanges and carefully spring it in place.

The STEAM CHEST is laid out completely on an accurate 1/4" x 5/8" x 1-1/4" block. Center in the 4-jaw and turn each end and bore. Drilled holes form the radius for the inside opening.

In making the VALVE, try for freedom so it will float on the seat (steam pressure holds it down) and, at the same time, avoid sloppiness at the Valve Nut and Valve Rod.

Center 5/8" diameter stock in the 4-jaw for the ECCENTRIC. Brighten the O.D. and bore 1/4" for the Shaft. Offset .050" and turn 7/16" diameter. One method is to mount a square-ended bar in the tool post and bring it up against the stock. "Zero" the cross-slide collar and turn the chuck so two jaws are horizontal. Ease off the vertical jaws and back up the rear jaw about 1/16". Push the stock back, using the front jaw. Advance the cross-slide .050" and ease the stock back against the bar, using the rear jaw. Snug up all the jaws. Now, when the high spot just kisses the bar and then the chuck is rotated 180°, a .100" diameter rod should just pass between the bar and the stock. Spot the set screw on the centerline through the offset. It helps when you are tuning the Valve.

The FLYWHEEL shown was made from a salvage round-belt pulley. A Stuart-Turner 10H Flywheel is just right for this model or one can be made from 1/2" flat stock. Lay out and drill twelve 1/8" and six 3/16" holes as shown. Chuck in the four-jaw, gripping about 1/8" of the stock thickness. Center and turn the O.D., the 11/64" x 2-1/4" recess and the Shaft bore. Reverse and mount in the three-jaw, gripping on the rim I.D. and finish the O.D. and second recess. Apply layout dye to one entire web, scribe lines tangent to the holes and saw and file the spokes to shape.

The CONNECTING ROD is provided with a bit of adjustment so the Piston travel can be centered in the Cylinder length.

The PACKING is 1/16" strands unraveled from braided asbestos graphite Packing. Do not turn the Packing Nuts too tight. Turn them in lightly with the fingers. It is not strictly necessary to use this type of Packing.

Short pieces of soft wire in the #70 holes will keep the Links in place.

At ASSEMBLY, spot the Piston at one dead-center position and tighten the Eccentric with its axis at 90° from the centerline through the Crank. Temporarily fasten the Steam Chest and adjust the Valve so it equally exposes the Valve holes at each end of the stroke.

When the Piston is at one extreme of its travel no steam should enter the Cylinder.