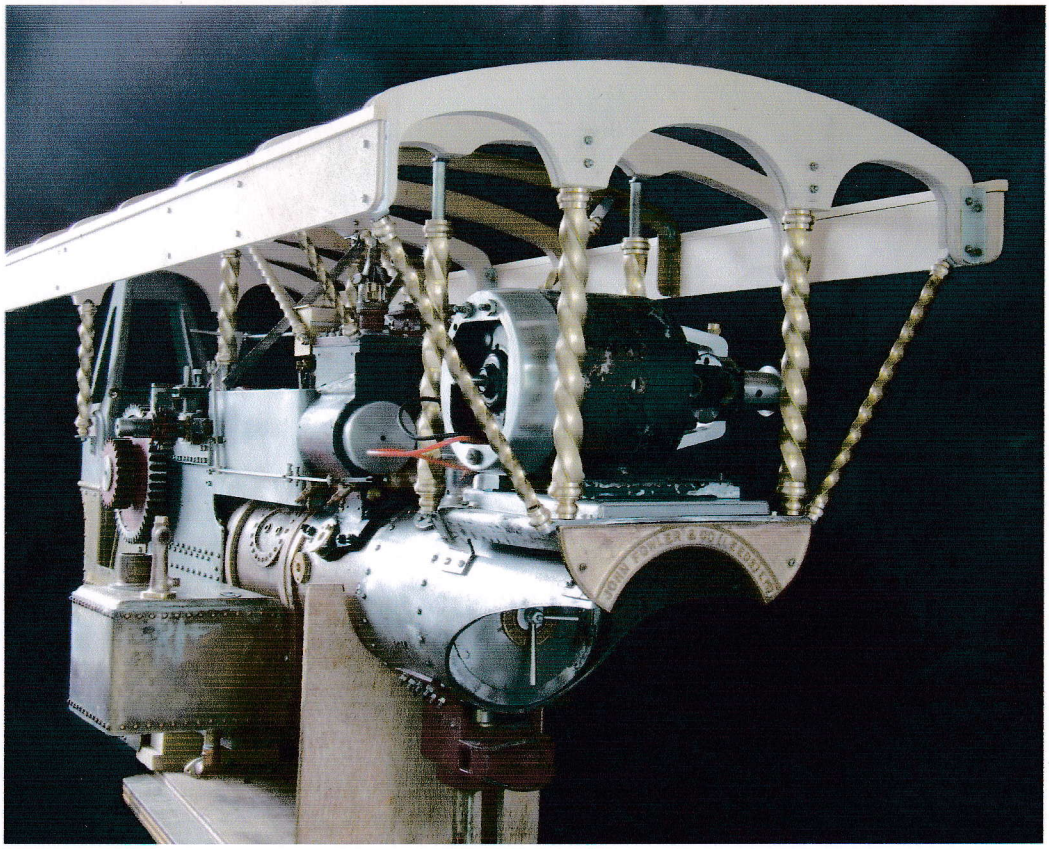
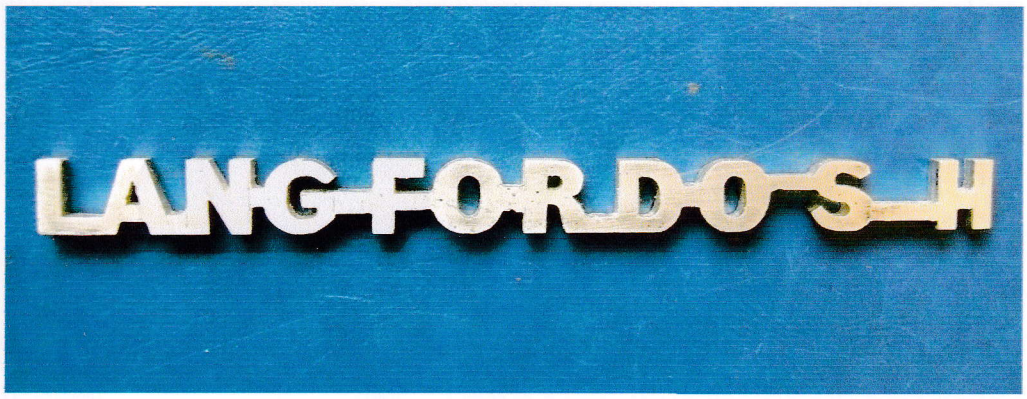
The dynamo

Acquiring a working dynamo proved to be more difficult than I first anticipated. Commercially available examples from motor vehicles tended to be the wrong size and with a total absence or concealment of a commutator. I eventually acquired an old rotary converter of the correct scale outside diameter. It was far too long however and I could not get it to generate any actual current. After sawing off the rear portion of the armature, I managed to fit a DC motor into the vacant space within the shell. The original commutator was then fitted in front of the motor and onto the same shaft, thereby maintaining a more authentic appearance of a DC generator.

The picture (right) shows the basic generator prior to it being given a full external makeover.





Producing the nameplates

Two pieces of 18 S.W.G. brass plate were soft-soldered together, then filed up to make a parallel strip. Letters were then cut from the plate using a selection of small drills and Swiss files. Backing plates and surrounds were produced from the same material and silver soldered together. The individual letters were then positioned and fixed within using soft-solder.

The picture (above) shows the anagram of the name on the partly cut letter-strip.

When producing miniature letters by this method, it is a great advantage if the letters can remain as part of the parent strip for as long as possible. There are several reasons for this, not least is that of losing individual letters once they are separated.

Choice of name

As the model was to represent a typical rather than specific example of a Fowler B6 showman's engine, I ruled-out the application of any name, known to have been carried by an actual engine. I looked instead, to icons of the period in which the model was to be portrayed – the mid 1930`s.

"Flash Gordon" was created by Alex Raymond in 1934 for a newspaper comic strip. His heroic exploits made him the science fiction hero of the day and embodied all the requirements and qualities sung by the traction engine salesmen of the day – strength, versatility, and endurance. In the film version, the hero was played by Buster Crabb who many thought to be extremely handsome – just like the Fowler B6.

The picture (right) shows a completed nameplate fitted to a nearly completed right-hand-side of the engine.

