



POSTBAG

The Editor welcomes letters for these columns, but they must be brief. Photographs are invited which illustrate points of interest raised by the writer

THE BUSY BEE

SIR,—The enclosed photograph shows my pedal cycle fitted with a Busy Bee engine designed by Edgar T. Westbury. I made it from a set of castings supplied by Braid Bros.

I decided to try a different drive method to the roller on the back tyre principle. I fitted a small vee pulley instead, and from this pulley a vee belt $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide went to a larger pulley on the bottom bracket spindle—which was a longer one than standard—and this pulley had a ball

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race pressed into it so that it could rotate independent of the spindle it was housed on.

Firmly attached to this pulley, as near to the bottom bracket as possible, I fixed a small chain sprocket to take the drive to the back wheel.

I made this engine in 1953 and it has run very well. The big-end bush has been renewed once in that time. The gear ratio is about 13 to 1. The vee belt tends to act as a clutch taking the shock until going fast enough for smooth running, but once she is going there is no slip not even in rain. I get just over 200 m.p.g. The petrol tank is copper made from a water softener casing.

I am thinking of fitting a vee belt to

MODEL ENGINEER

13 SEPTEMBER 1956

A Busy Bee engine fitted to a pedal cycle by V-belt and a chain drive

