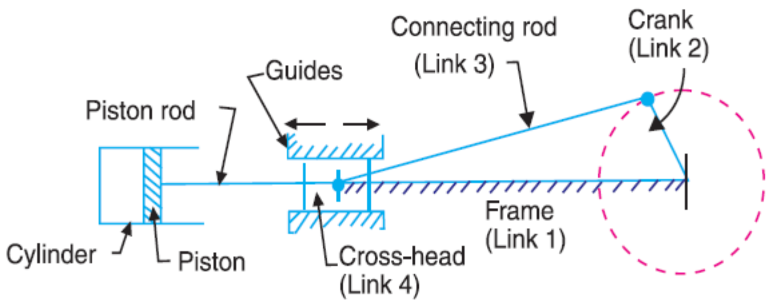

Figure. Single slider crank chain.

The link 1 corresponds to the frame of the engine, which is fixed. The link 2 corresponds to the crank; link 3 corresponds to the connecting rod and link 4 corresponds to cross-head. As the crank rotates, the cross-head reciprocates in the guides and thus the piston reciprocates in the cylinder.

Inversions of Single Slider Crank Chain

We have seen in the previous article that a single slider crank chain is a four-link mechanism. We know that by fixing, in turn, different links in a kinematic chain, an inversion is obtained and we can obtain as many mechanisms as the links in a kinematic chain. It is thus obvious, that four inversions of a single slider crank chain are possible. These inversions are found in the following mechanisms.

1. ***Pendulum pump or Bull engine***. In this mechanism, the inversion is obtained by fixing the cylinder or link 4 (*i.e*. sliding pair), as shown in Figure. In this case, when the crank (link 2) rotates, the connecting rod (link 3) oscillates about a pin pivoted to the fixed link 4 at *A* and the piston attached to the piston rod (link 1) reciprocates. The duplex pump which is used to supply feed water to boilers have two pistons attached to link 1, as shown in Figure.

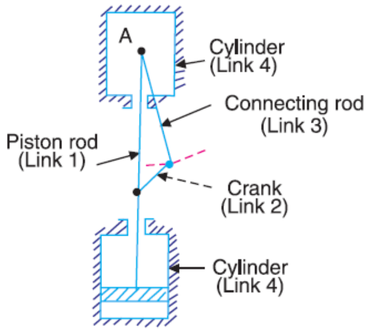

Figure. Pendulum pump.

2. ***Oscillating cylinder engine***. The arrangement of oscillating cylinder engine mechanism, as shown in Figure, is used to convert reciprocating motion into rotary motion. In this mechanism, the link 3 forming the turning pair is fixed. The link 3 corresponds to the connecting rod of a reciprocating steam engine mechanism. When the crank (link 2) rotates, the piston attached to piston rod (link 1) reciprocates and the cylinder (link 4) oscillates about a pin pivoted to the fixed link at *A*.

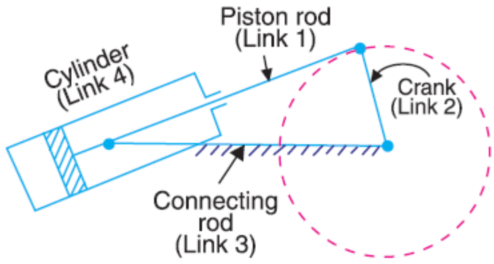

Figure. Oscillating cylinder engine.

3. ***Rotary internal combustion engine or Gnome engine***. Sometimes back, rotary internal combustion engines were used in aviation. But now-a-days gas turbines are used in its place. It consists of seven cylinders in one plane and all revolves about fixed centre *D*, as shown in Figure, while the crank (link 2) is fixed. In this mechanism, when the connecting rod (link 4) rotates, the piston (link 3) reciprocates inside the cylinders forming link 1.

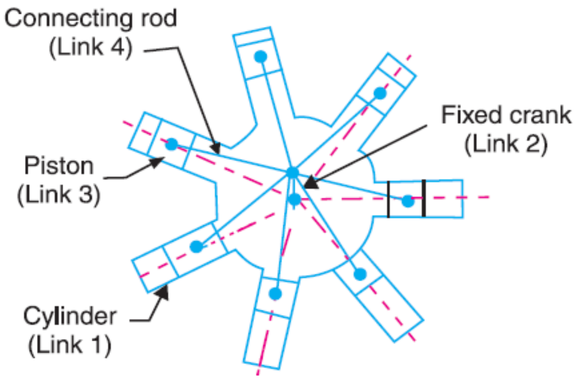

Figure. Rotary internal combustion engine.

4. ***Crank and slotted lever quick return motion mechanism*.** This mechanism is mostly used in shaping machines, slotting machines and in rotary internal combustion engines. In this mechanism, the link *AC* (*i.e.* link 3) forming the turning pair is fixed, as shown in Figure. The link 3 corresponds to the connecting rod of a reciprocating steam engine. The driving crank *CB* revolves with uniform angular speed about the fixed centre *C*.

sliding block attached to the crank pin at *B* slides along the slotted bar *AP* and thus causes *AP* to oscillate about the pivoted point *A*. A short link *PR* transmits the motion from *AP* to the ram which carries the tool and reciprocates along the line of stroke R_1R_2. The line of stroke of the ram (*i.e.* R_1R_2) is perpendicular to *AC* produced.

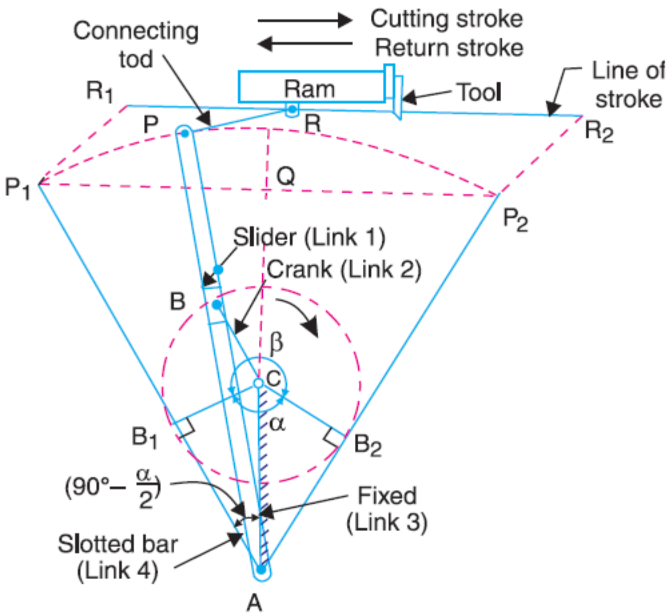

Figure. Crank and slotted lever quick return motion mechanism.

In the extreme positions, AP_1 and AP_2 are tangential to the circle and the cutting tool is at the end of the stroke. The forward or cutting stroke occurs when the crank rotates from the position CB_1 to CB_2 (or through an angle β) in the clockwise direction. The return stroke occurs when the crank rotates from the position CB_2 to CB_1 (or through angle α) in the clockwise direction. Since the crank has uniform angular speed, therefore,

$$\frac{\text{Time of cutting stroke}}{\text{Time of return stroke}} = \frac{\beta}{\alpha} = \frac{\beta}{360^\circ - \beta} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{360^\circ - \alpha}{\alpha}$$

Since the tool travels a distance of $R_1 R_2$ during cutting and return stroke, therefore travel of the tool or length of stroke.

$$= R_1R_2 = P_1P_2 = 2P_1Q = 2AP_1 \sin \angle P_1AQ$$

$$= 2AP_1 \sin\left(90^\circ - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) = 2AP \cos\frac{\alpha}{2} \qquad \text{..... } (\because AP_1 = AP)$$

$$= 2AP \times \frac{CB_1}{AC} \qquad \cdots \left(\because \cos\frac{\alpha}{2} = \frac{CB_1}{AC}\right)$$

$$= 2AP \times \frac{CB}{AC} \qquad \ldots (\because CB_1 = CB)$$

Note: From Figure, we see that the angle β made by the forward or cutting stroke is greater than the angle α described by the return stroke. Since the crank rotates with uniform angular speed, therefore the return stroke is completed within shorter time. Thus, it is called quick return motion mechanism.

5. ***Whitworth quick return motion mechanism.*** This mechanism is mostly used in shaping and slotting machines. In this mechanism, the link *CD* (link 2) forming the turning pair is fixed, as shown in Figure. The link 2 corresponds to a crank in a reciprocating steam engine. The driving crank *CA* (link 3) rotates at a uniform angular speed. The slider (link 4) attached to the crank pin at *A* slides along the slotted bar *PA* (link 1) which oscillates at a pivoted point *D*. The connecting rod *PR* carries the ram at *R* to which a cutting tool is fixed. The motion of the tool is constrained along the line *RD* produced, *i.e*. along a line passing through *D* and perpendicular to *CD*.

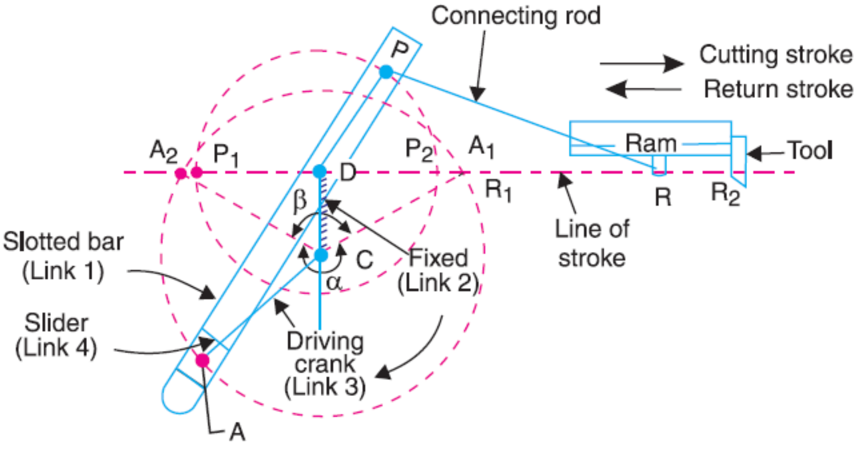

Figure. Whitworth quick return motion mechanism.

When the driving crank *CA* moves from the position CA_1 to CA_2 (or the link *DP* from the position DP_1 to DP_2) through an angle α in the clockwise direction, the tool moves from the left-hand end of its stroke to the right-hand end through a distance 2 *PD*.

Now when the driving crank moves from the position CA_2 to CA_1 (or the link *DP* from DP_2 to DP_1) through an angle β in the clockwise direction, the tool moves back from right hand end of its stroke to the left-hand end. A little consideration will show that