

THE HOUSE THAT ALAN BUILT

No, it's not the beginning of a nursery tale — more like the end of those fairy stories about claimed power outputs. The house in question is located at the rear of Tal-Ko's premises. It may be small but to date, with it's contents, it has cost about £50,000.

The perky little building houses one of the nicest kart engine dynamometer facilities that you are likely to find anywhere in the world outside some in the USA and Japan. It continues the Tal-Ko tradition of constantly investing in the best, and most accurate, machines and tools that money can buy.

The hallmark of a good dyno set-up is the care that goes into the installation. Alan Turney has incorporated the finest in cooling towers, acoustic vents, storage sumps, electrics and plumbing in a purpose-built building to ensure a superb environment for the test cell itself.

After accuracy, the main criteria were that the installation should be highly automated and amply over-engineered to ensure that results could be repeated, and testing continued, only limited by the stamina of the supervising operator. It's a joy to behold — and quiet too!

▶ The extremely accurate electric dynamometer can nevertheless cope with up to 100bhp.



▲ Alan finishes attaching instrumentation leads prior to a power run of one of Ricky Grice's motors.

▶ All operations can be carried out in the safety of the observation room. The plotter on the left automatically produces the required graphs. The console to the right controls parameters to rigid pre-set limits.

