

## FAN CLUB News 01/2001

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### Page 1:

#### EDITORIAL

Hi Fans,

Welcome to the FAN CLUB News 1/2001. We would particularly like to greet over 3,000 new members who joined the fischertechnik FAN CLUB after the last edition.

As usual, you will find the "market" on page 2. Earlier, it used to be difficult for us sometimes to include all advertisements on our homepage, but now the "market" on our homepage [www.fischertechnik.de](http://www.fischertechnik.de) (under "FAN-CLUB") is being used more than before. For further information, please refer to page 2.

We would like to thank everybody who took part in our construction kit idea competition (refer to page 2). Unfortunately, the number of people who took part was less than we had expected. Our development department will take all suggestions into consideration. The winners have already been informed. On the next page, you will also find information about the new fischertechnik gift voucher which you or your parents can order as of now.

On page 3, we have introduced the fischertechnik Club Nederland. This page also includes a report about the robot project of the technical school of Dortmund in which a "gentleman with roses" was used in the "hobbytronic" fair in Dortmund.

On the double page 4/5 you will find the new items of fischertechnik introduced in 2001, namely the new BASIC construction kits "Mechanics" and "Vehicles" and the large construction kit "Fun Park" (more than 900 parts). With the kit "Eco Power" from the professional series, we want to introduce the regenerative sources of energy "sun, wind and water" to you through smart models and experiments. We have also described the complete chain "producing energy, storing energy and using energy" in detail in the accompanying brochure. Last but not least: "Bionic Robots", another computing construction kit for the construction of computer controlled robots who can walk.

The models designed by you are included in the "letter box" on page 6. This time, the FAN CLUB model on pages 7 and 8 is a combination of the mini-kits "Trike".

We hope you enjoy reading the FAN CLUB news.

### Page 2:

#### WHAT'S NEW ON [www.fischertechnik.de](http://www.fischertechnik.de) ?

We installed new software on our homepage for the "market" and "forum" at the beginning of March (you can find both under "FAN CLUB" at [www.fischertechnik.de](http://www.fischertechnik.de)). So now you can offer your construction kits on our home page as well. In addition, you can make contributions connected with fischertechnik in the online forum.

We want to try and achieve a better dialogue - especially with you, our members - through our forum. So go ahead and join us!

We are going to provide old construction instructions, in particular the FAN CLUB models, on our homepage. We are working on it at the moment and it should be completed by late summer.

If you want to be informed about everything connected with fischertechnik, you can also subscribe to our Newsletter free of charge. You can find out how it works at - guess - [www.fischertechnik.de](http://www.fischertechnik.de)

## **CONSTRUCTION KIT IDEA COMPETITION**

Thank you very much for taking part in the construction kit idea competition. We received a large variety of highly interesting suggestions from you - including everything you can think of ranging from a train, laser pen to a mine. In fact, one of the requests was to have a construction kit for manufacturing components on one's own - an excellent idea, but it cannot be implemented easily.

We will now examine your suggestions in detail to find out which ones can be implemented in the form of construction kits. We might be able to implement some suggestions as soon as next year.

The winners of the fischertechnik gift vouchers have been informed in the meanwhile.

**Page 3:**

### **"CLUBDAY" IN HOLLAND**

As some fans already know, there is an independent, very active fischertechnik club with over 200 members in Holland.

The "Clubday", which was visited by a large number of people, took place last year on 4th November in Schoonhoven, Netherlands. The main highlight of this event was an exhibition with fairground models such as giant-wheels, merry-go-rounds with gondolas suspended on chains, bumper cars and several other things which could not be printed here. You can also construct similar models with the "Fun Park" kit which will be introduced in autumn.

The 10th anniversary of the fischertechnik club in the Netherlands shall take place on Saturday, 10 November 2001, in Schoonhoven from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This anniversary will include a large fischertechnik model exhibition in which models from the early years of fischertechnik, starting from 1965, until today as well as models developed by the customers will be presented. All those who are interested are welcome to visit this exhibition. The entry is free of charge.

Schoonhoven is situated in the middle of Holland, about 30 km south of Utrecht, and is easily accessible via highway A2 of the Netherlands. The anniversary will take place in Tonzaal in Schoonhoven. Address: De Overkant, Wal 34 Te Schoonhoven (near Parochiehaus).

In case you require further information, please contact the family Jansen, Stevinstat 19, NL - 2871 XE Schoonhoven (Tel. 0031/182383057, e-mail: [cjansen@jarnojansen.nl](mailto:cjansen@jarnojansen.nl) )

### **GENTLEMAN WITH ROSES AT THE hobbytronic FAIR IN DORTMUND**

The excellent fischertechnik "gentleman with roses" constructed by Eva Koch, 16 years old; during the computer fair "hobbytronic" in Dortmund (14.02.-18.02.01) received a lot of attention by the press.

The "gentleman with roses" built on the basis of a "Port Crane" construction kit (in combination with the Intelligent Interface and our software LLWin 3.0) was developed within the scope of a robot construction competition organised by the technical college of Dortmund. Through this competition, Professor Bernd Aschendorf, who is in charge of this project, wants to arouse the interest of young people in professions related to engineering and information communication.

More than 20 schools from North Rhine-Westphalia are already participating in this project. The goal is to construct a robot with fischertechnik components which can immobilise the devices of the other participants in a later competition. The "Intelligent Interface" controls the machines with our software LLWin 3.0

The "gentleman with roses" gave roses and other flowers to the visitors of the fair on Valentine's Day.

**Page 4/5:**

### **NEW KITS 2001**

Kits for kids

As every year, there will be a few new fischertechnik items this year too which you can buy from autumn onwards.

### **BASIC**

First of all, there is a new series we have developed - "BASIC". BASIC includes construction kits for beginners. Contrary to the mini-kits, these kits can be used to construct several models.

The new vehicle kit "BASIC VEHICLES" can be used to construct four models - for instance, a street roller or a fork stacker. You will have fun for a long time with the kit "BASIC MECHANIC" which has eight construction alternatives ranging from a letter balance to a garage jack. It is almost a "mini-universal". The construction kits contain up to 150 components and are recommended for an age of 7 years and above.

## **FUN PARK**

Rides with highly imaginative names such as "Top Spin", "Star of Rio" or "Moon Lift" attract the young and the old in fun fairs and amusement parks. Those who would like to find out the mechanism which makes the machines go up and down and makes them swing, spin and turn can try it out on their own with fischertechnik.

You can construct fair rides with the help of the construction kit "FUN PARK". The assembly of a 70 cm high giant wheel, a merry-go-round and an "Octopus" is explained in detail in the construction instructions. The "Octopus" with its clever driving system is the technical highlight of "FUN PARK" - two opposite, eccentric turning movements cause an additional up and down movement during the ride. At the same time, this construction kit, which consists of over 900 parts, is a large component reservoir.

Of course, there is no limit to designing further constructions by implementing new ideas or using additional components such as motorization with "Power Motor Set" or a string of lights with "Lights". "FUN PARK" is recommended for an age of 8 years and above.

## **ECOPOWER**

The new construction kit "ECO POWER" from the Profi series deals in a playful manner with the question: How can the regenerative sources of energy - sun, wind and water - be used for the production of electricity?

Iron mills, saw mills or other mills - our ancestors used regenerative energy carriers for operating mechanical equipment even hundreds of years ago. Water and wind power took the place of the muscle power of humans and animals. Today, the main focus does not lie on converting regenerative sources of energy directly into mechanical kinetic energy, but on the production of electricity. What possibilities do we have and how does it work? Those who are older than 10 years and have a thirst for knowledge can find that out with the help of the new construction kit.

With eight different models and a large number of experiments, the new experimenting kit demonstrates how sunlight, in addition to water and wind energy, can be used to produce, store and use electricity. For this purpose, the construction kit has solar modules and a small motor which is extremely easy to start and can be operated with a nominal voltage of 0.5 to 2 Volt. A gold capacitor is used for storing energy.

What is so interesting about this kit? Together with a wind or water wheel, the motor operates as a generator for the production of electricity. The energy which is produced in this way is enough to, for instance, illuminate a light emitting diode. In fact, if the produced energy is used to charge the energy storage device, it is even possible to operate more powerful consumers such as lamps or the motor until the stored energy has been completely used up again.

Besides the detailed construction instructions, we have also provided an illustrated accompanying brochure to assist and inspire you to try out new experiments.

## **BIONIC ROBOTS**

The construction kit "BIONIC ROBOTS" supplements the Computing series. The models are implemented with LLWin and "Intelligent Interface".

BIONIC ROBOTS are walking machines with 4 or 6 legs which are driven by two power motors and can walk forwards, backwards, to the left and to the right. The robots perceive their surroundings with the help of sensors and, for instance, they can get out of the way of obstacles on their path.

In addition to the construction instructions in the usual CAD style, an accompanying brochure explains the technical background of Bionic and the function of the software and gives you new ideas and tasks during your initial construction developments. The construction kit is recommended for an age of 12 years and above. In addition, the "Intelligent Interface", the fischertechnik software "LLWin" and the "Accu Set" are required.

## **ACCU SET**

The "Accu Set" will be optimised and a new battery charger will be added to it which can charge the accumulator even more quickly. The electronics will also be improved.

These new items will be available from autumn onwards.

**Page 6:**

### **LETTER BOX**

Robert Reiter from Berchtesgarden has sent us pictures of his excellent scrap baling press for motor cars. The crane, which is equipped with a magnet, transports the car into the press. Then the walls are pressed towards each other by a pneumatic cylinder and the vehicle is transformed into a cube.

This plane was built by Christian Haastert from Westerheim. The parts are from Master and other older supplementary construction kits.

Adolf Buchter from Emsdetten developed this automatic wood-working system consisting of a crane, a conveyor belt with a reciprocating saw as well as a ribbon saw, a circular saw and a circular cross-cut saw. This system has more than 8,000 fischertechnik parts, 200m cable, 15 motors and a large number of other components as well as light barriers. The crane is controlled by an interface.

Michael Werner from Bergisch-Gladbach also sent us photographs of his models. They included this brilliant tandem mountain-bike (including light, spring system, motorization, drinking bottle) as well as a paddle-steamer with life-boats, interior lighting, functioning helm and rotating paddles.

Hilmar Schubert from Jestetten is a fan of the comic character "Gaston" - a character with whom everything always goes wrong. The unlucky comic character drives a Rolls Royce built by Hilmar with fischertechnik. The car is naturally motorised.

The gantry crane developed by Hermann Ludicke is controlled with a Macintosh computer via an interface. The crane can pick up the containers very precisely from the ground and stack them or place them anywhere. The piece de resistance of this construction is the complex load gripper. As crane driver, Mr. Ludicke operates the machine with software he developed on his own.

S6nke Neumann has constructed this pick-up loader for the forestry. These machines can grip trees, saw them off, remove the bark and saw the trunk into handy wooden pieces.

**Page 7/8:**

### **FAN CLUB model no. 18: Speed Crane**

Did you know that it is possible to construct excellent new models by using various mini-kits?

The smart "Speed Crane", for instance, consists of one "Bulldozer", "Mini Crane", "Trike", "Beach Buggy" and "Helicopter" each. The crane can be separated from its traction engine, which can drive fast, so that you can also work on rough grounds. The chain drive allows you to use the crane in the woods or on steep slopes.

But that is not all. You can use the remaining components to build, for instance, a power wheelbarrow and construct other accessories such as a pneumatic hammer and other tools. In this way, you could - perhaps together with other fischertechnik models - have a whole construction site.

We wish you a lot of fun while constructing!