

FAN CLUB News 01/2002

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Page 1: Editorial

Hi Fans,

A warm welcome to the FAN-CLUB-News 01/2002. In the meantime, the number of FAN-CLUB members around the world has grown to more than 26,000. We wish all the "newbies" a hearty "welcome to the club".

On page 2 we have some information for you about our internet activities, as well as those of some of our fans. The often expressed wish for an "online mailbox" has now been set up, and you can access it on our home page under www.fischertechnik.de -> "FAN-CLUB" -> "Gallery". If you'd like to publish models on the web too, you'll find the "rules of the game" on the next page.

And what will especially please you: the instructions of most old club models, which so many of you have asked about, are now available for downloading from the Internet – cost free, of course. And when you're already on our homepage anyway, you can also risk a look in our Forum!

You'll certainly remember our announcement about the 10-year anniversary of the "fischertechnik Club Nederland" last November? The event was a huge success. You'll find a report complete with pictures with impressions and lots of great models, as well as the date of the next "club day" on page 3.

Pages 4 and 5 are, as always, devoted to you and your models. So that we can present more of your developments here, we've reduced the text in order to make more room for pictures. I hope this will be in your interest. In case it's not, then feel free to mail me. Thanks for your feedback (which is of course very welcome for other questions too).

As you know, the Nuremberg Toy Fair is the most important trade fair in our field. Thus every year we present what's new from our side. On page 6 you can read about the fantastic things that we've come up with for 2002: a new Mini Kit, a ... no, see for yourself.

But wait a minute: this time the club model on pages 7 and 8 is a fascinating duckpin bowling lane, constructed mostly from the "Fun Park" and "Universal" building systems.

So we hope you'll enjoy reading on!

Page 2: Current news

New In the Internet

There's a lot happening on the web! We're very happy to see that over the last several months the forum on our homepage www.fischertechnik.de ("FAN-CLUB" -> "Forum") has come to be the heart of our fischertechnik community.

Whoever has questions about fischertechnik - regardless of content - will quickly find an answer there. And don't fail to visit the following websites as well:

www.3dprofi.de - Michael Samek offers a broad range of fischertechnik parts in CAD format along with genial animated models and videos in 3D.

www.ftcommunity.de.vu - the homepage of the community which is very active in the forum. Here you'll find some tips & tricks (e.g. infos about the vacuum technique of club member Paul van Damme), galleries for exhibiting self-made models and much more.

www.marmac.de.vu - Markus Mack programs software for fischertechnik, such as "Free Speed Joy": This lets you use a joystick to control your computing models!

www.ft-fanarchiv.de - the homepage of Andreas Wyborek, with instructions, models and much more.

www.ft-fanpage.de - Thomas Kaiser offers instructions, but also tips & tricks, e.g. how to set up your own interface.

www.ftcomputing.de - Profi programmer Ulrich Muller has made computer drivers available for VisualBasic, C/C++ and Delphi, as well as all kinds of information about programming.

And of course there are also other interesting links through www.fischertechnik.de under "Links".

GALLERY

The often wished for fischertechnik gallery, in which you have the possibility to present your models, is now online as well. So, as of now you can mail us pictures of your model.

Please note the following conditions:

- it must be possible to store the pictures in JPG format
- maximum file size 250 KB per picture
- maximum 3 pictures per model

Please send the picture files to our e-mail: galerie@fischertechnik.de. We'll then publish them on our homepage in the FAN-CLUB area under "Gallery".

By the way, we've also integrated a little bit of competition! You can vote for the model that you like best. The winner will receive a Mini Kit as recognition.

INSTRUCTIONS

Now you can download the old FAN-CLUB building instructions which so many of you have asked about from our homepage - cost-free of course. And we also plan to offer instructions for other building systems in the near future (yes, also cost-free).

So you can see: a visit to www.fischertechnik.de is always worth it!

fischertechnik convention

The fischertechnik community mentioned above would like to organize a meeting for all fischertechnik fans in the "real world" too and is planning the first "fischertechnik convention". This event will take place on June 8th and 9th, 2002 in the community meeting house in Morshausen (40 km south of Kassel, and thus practically in the middle of Germany). At the convention, naturally you can exhibit your own models.

You'll find more information on the home page www.ftconvention.de.vu. The organizers Heiko Engelke (e-mail: wah.sager@web.de) and Lothar Vogt (lotharvogt@lovogt.de) look forward to your suggestions and registrations. Alternatively, the e-mail address: ftconvention@web.de is also there for you.

Schedule of trade fairs for 2002

This year we'll be on hand at the following conventions:

April 17-21, 2002: Intermodellbau 2002, Dortmund: Hall 7, Booth 7056
April 23-26, 2002: Worlddidac 2002, Zurich (Switzerland): Hall 3.1, Booth 3.175
May 30-June 2, 2002: Modellbau 2002, Freiburg
September 4-8, 2002: Spielmesse 2002, St. Gallen (Switzerland)
October 11-13, 2002: Modell & Hobby, Leipzig
November 21-24, 2002: Modellbau Sud, Stuttgart
November 26-28, 2002: SPS/IPC/Drives, Nuremberg (trade fair for automotive technology)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Page 3: Report 110 years anniversary- the fischertechnik Club Nederland

As we reported in the last News, the fischertechnik Club Nederland held a big celebration for its 10th anniversary on November 11, 2001 in Schoonhoven, with lots of visitors. We would like to give you a few impressions of this memorable celebration and talk about a few of the fantastic models which made this event worth remembering:

(from left to right)

The models of Jan de Moell The Birthday Cake

Container Terminal by Hermann Mels / Impressions of a "Hall of Sound" / Bucket-wheel Excavator by Petr Krijnen

Horse-drawn Sleighs / . and Ski Slope by the Shot family / Champagne for the Anniversary

Rope Turning Section / . and models in the transport box of Mr. Derks / Model of a Fairground by Johan Dekker

Sorting Machine by Jos Geurts / The organ-playing Robot by Marcel Boch / Windmill and Tower by the Jansen

family

By the way: The Clubdag 2002 will take place on November 9, 2002, again in the "Tonzaal de Overkant", Wal 34 in Schoonhoven! Infos available from the Jansen family (e-mail: clemensjansen@planet.nl).

Pages 4/5: Mailbox

Gyrodyne from Moritz Graf

Playground from Wilhelm Brickwedde, specially constructed for the fischertechnik exhibition on November 11, 2001 in Steinfurt (more than 1,000 visitors!)

Cable railway from Moritz Graf

Flipper from Julia and Christian Gundlach

Praline dispenser from Simon Kammerer

Windmill from Marc Reichenbach

Coffee stirrer from Wolf Schulze

Crane from Clemens Kaiser

Snow plow from Thomas Richter

Wharf crane from Stephan Nolden

Mechanical claw from Michael Brandstatter

Flatbed truck from Dominik Drexler

Completely remote-controlled cable crane scraper from Sanke Neumann Water wheel from Bjam and Michael Voll. with scoops made of surprise eggs

Page 6: The fischertechnik news for 2002

At the Nuremberg Toy Fair (January 31 - May 2, 2002), accessible only to those in the toy business - such as purchasing agents and toy dealers - we are presenting this year's new products:

SUPER TRUCKS (Art. no. 77790)

Building system for six different heavy duty trucks, for truckers from 8 years of age: -

Semi-trailer

- Tractor trailer

- Tow truck

- Heavy duty crane vehicle with dual-axis steering and retractable supports

- Timber transporter with steerable trailer

- Flatbed truck

The models can be equipped with up to five motors, accumulator set, IR control, "Empfänger 2" receiver and lights. The building system contains more than 720 parts, including the special fischertechnik plans on hard cardboard. The flatbed truck has been constructed so that e.g. the caterpillar tracks from the "power bulldozer" can be transported.

The following accessories are suited as options: for motorizing the vehicle the "Power Motor Set" is recommended. The "Mini Motor Set" assumes the steering function. And of course the "IR Control Set" enables remote control of the models, while the "Accu Set" supplies the required current.

The heavy duty crane can be equipped with three additional "Mini Motor Sets" and the "Empfänger 2" receiver for the crane functions. The "Lights" for the headlights or as a hazard warning light round out the accessories for these models.

PROFI PNEUMATIC II (part. no. 77791)

8 models, approx. 350 parts - fresh air for the pneumatic system!

Excavator, fork-lift truck, snow plow, catapult and four more models bring - supported by the new, informative and didactically written accompanying booklet - the world of pneumatic systems closer in toy form. The building system includes such proven components as four double-acting pneumatic cylinders, three 4/3-way hand valves, the electrically driven compressor (consisting of an S-motor and an air storage tank) and is recommended from the age of nine.

MOBILE ROBOTS II (part. no. 77792)

How do "driverless transport systems", which deliver material to the assembly line in car factories as if from the hand of a ghost, function? How can robots follow heat sources?

The six models, together with the detailed accompanying booklet which explains the principles involved, answer these and many other questions about computer-driven traveling robots. The building system contains more than 300 parts, including two strong power motors for a new drive concept (only now with a gear ratio of 50:1), numerous sensors (contact, brightness and temperature sensors) and many other parts. And of course the building system also includes a CD-Rom with the LLWin Example Programs.

Also required are the "Intelligent Interface", the "LLWin 3.0" software and, for the supply of current, the "Accu Set". As a basic version, however, the "Computing Starter Pack" is eminently suitable. From 12 years of age.

TRACTOR (part. no. 77793)

With the new, classy Mini Kit you can till the soil: the tractor has steering that functions, a driver and a trailer coupling. The model, with more than 80 parts, is designed for 7 years of age and older.

BOX 1000 (part. no. 30383)

The ideal place to store all fischertechnik parts is here again! A large storage box with eight separate inserts, which in turn can variably be individually divided with 32 cells. The large, purpose-oriented 390 x 270 mm construction base plate from fischertechnik continues to serve as the cover (we don't want the parts to gather dust).

The following articles are no longer being manufactured and are available only as long as the - in some cases very limited - supplies allow: "Proti Pneumatic" (Art. no. 30494), "Proti Solar" (part. no. 30497), "Solar Set" (part. no. 30343), "Trike" (Art. no. 34988) and the "fischerbox" carrying case (part. no. 49955).

The new items will become available in the autumn. The "Box 1000" will be available from around April.

Pages 7/8: FAN-CLUB model no. 20 "Duckpin bowling lane"

This model exercises an undreamed of power of fascination! You'll certainly discover that it's very difficult to tear yourself away from this model. ..

The ping pong balls roar dynamically down the lane, are taken up quietly at the "lower station" and transported back to the starting end. After a time, the cycle becomes altogether elegant in character. A real eye-catcher!

The duckpin bowling lane is constructed from the "Fun Park" and "Universal" building systems (which may include the "Mini Motor Set" for motorization) in addition to the following extra parts, not included in the building systems: 2 x 37192 conveyor system and 1 x 32649 bags with 152 guide chain elements. And of course you'll need three or four ping pong balls from your local sporting goods store too, in case you don't have any (cost: about 2 to 3 Euros).

If you wish and you have enough parts, you can also extend your duckpin bowling lane and build in more curved sections and even sidings with their own separate tracks. And naturally you can then send in your modified models to the address for the gallery given on page 2. Have fun