

Fan Club News 01/2005

CONTENTS

NEWS- page 2
General and important

TECHNOLOGY - page 3
Fly catching machine
Club Day Holland

ACTION CORNER - page 5
Games and puzzles!!!

NEW 2005 - page 6
All fischertechnik novelties 2005

FILER - pages 7 & 8
Club model no. 26

Dear fans,

Welcome to the pre-Easter Fan Club News. This year is a very special anniversary. Possibly you already know about it? fischertechnik is celebrating its 40th birthday!
fischertechnik was founded in 1964 by Professor Artur Fischer and was originally only intended as a Christmas present for customers and business partners. fischertechnik was officially premiered during Christmas 1965 on German television channel ZDF. The inventor donated the first 1,000 construction kits to the charity "Aktion Sorgenkind". The following year, fischertechnik was introduced to retail toy stores - and therewith began the success story of a construction kit system that is still unique today. The success story is documented with awards such as "Best Toy 1966", the "Oscar du Jouet" of 1970 in France as well as "Game of the Year 1976" in Holland.

Have fun reading and puzzling!

Yours
Bianca

Pro 7 with Galileo at fischertechnik

A three-man TV crew has filmed a report for the Pr07 programme *Galileo* entitled "40 years of fischertechnik - building blocks for life". The broadcast date is not yet certain, but we will inform you in good time via our homepage and newsletter.

Brightly lit rooms, spotlights, cameras and numerous metres of cable transformed several departments in Waldachtal into TV studios. The extravagantly produced report explains in six to eight minutes how a building block is created in many stages, the production and equipping of the Universal II construction kit and, of course, the enormous versatility offered by fischertechnik. "fischertechnik is an extremely complex subject, which is why we had to film at several locations", explains Peter Schels, author of the report, regarding the task undertaken by the film crew. The team filmed at various locations until late at night, including the CAD structural design of a building block, the individual stages of tool manufacture, production at a supplier and the equipping of the construction kits themselves.

The author gave particular attention to describing the various stages involved in tool making, and included sawing, turning on a lathe, milling, eroding, assembly and hardening in the film. In a family scene, the role fischertechnik plays in bridging the gap between the generations is explored, while scenes of children playing in the 60s were reconstructed in the studio.

Clicks at www.fischertechnik.de

Crowds at www.fischertechnik.de - 373,000 visitors, and 2.2 million pages accessed.

The most visited site was the forum (127,000) followed by the shop (126,000) and the Fan Club pages (53,000). You found the computing pages particularly interesting (39,000) and the big projects (37,000). The hits analysis puts German users in first place (50,400) followed by Switzerland (4,600), the Netherlands (4,100) and Austria (3,900).

Winners

Our winners from last year's stock clearances and trade fairs are:

- Tobias Spreer from 09306 K6nigshain (Leipzig Trade Fair)
- Pascal Hamburger from 89155 Erbach (Stuttgart Trade Fair)
- Simon Pflumm from 72379 Hechingen (Tumlingen stock clearance)
- Manfred Piesche from 45473 Muhlheim (Wuppertal stock clearance)
- Andreas Haspel from 65207 Wiesbaden (Weiterstadt stock clearance)

Many congratulations and have fun with the construction kits!

Newsletter registration

You are probably all very sad that Fan Club News now only comes out twice a year. For this reason we have decided to regularly provide all of our enthusiastic fans with a thirst for knowledge with up-to-the-minute news on fischertechnik. After Easter you will be able to register for the service on our homepage.

BAU 2005

The BAU trade fair in Munich attracted some 200,000 industry visitors. 1,850 exhibitors from 39 countries presented their products from January 17 - 22 in 16 trade fair halls. fischer was, of course, represented, According to the organisers it was 'the biggest building materials show ever to take place in Munich'. Product demonstrations and a skills test course with fischertechnik vehicles provided plenty of action on the 117 square metre stand.

Technology

1st place in "School pupils experiment"

The fully automated fly-catching machine by Jorg-Michael Weber (13) and Florian Wild (13)

Jorg-Michael and his friend Florian have won first prize in the Central Franconia regional competition in the field of technology at the 'School pupils experiment' (under 16 years).

Jorg-Michael got the idea for a fully automated fly-catching machine as they constantly annoyed and bit him at night. That's how he arrived at the idea of building and programming a machine that could catch the irritating flies for him.

Here's how it works:

A special substance attracts the flies into an open bottle, then a photoelectric barrier registers that a fly has entered the bottle, closes the gate in front of the bottle and creates a stream of air via a ventilator. Thanks to the artificial wind, the insect is blown into a container and cannot fly back out. In order to prevent the fly from coming back, they fixed a piece of flexible plastic foil onto the bottle's neck that flips back into its original position as soon as the ventilator switches off, thereby closing the entrance.

Jorg-Michael arrived at the idea for the bait when visiting his grandmother: he observed sticky little shields intended for catching flies placed amongst her flowers. He thought that a pleasant smelling and tasting yellow mixture could be attractive to flies and conducted experiments in this direction. Finally he came up with a mixture of honey and treacle which contained all the required characteristics.

Next, they attached a flap with a handle onto the container in order to let the captured flies out when necessary. Before Jorg-Michael and Fabian started building, they thought that a normal photoelectric barrier would do the job, however, unfortunately the flies were so small (for testing purposes they used little fly-sized paper balls) that the photoelectric barrier failed to register the insects. They had to reflect the rays of light from the two lamps in order to cover a larger area, and thereby provide surveillance for double the space. For this reason, they used a mirror.

Parallel to the structural design of the fly-catching machine, they designed the sequence of operations for it with the help of ROBO Pro software for programming the ROBO Pro Interface.

Their aim to develop and program the extremely useful machine came off splendidly!

"We would like to thank fischertechnik, as it is only due to their excellent construction kits that we were able to do something like this. We also want to thank the fans at fischertechnik's forum from whom we received many suggestions and tips that helped us in continuing the project."

The fly-catching machine was built with the Mobile Robots construction kit, the ROBO Interface, ROBO Pro software and various other fischertechnik components.

Have you also got a great invention? Then write to us either by post or Email. Maybe your construction will be featured in the next Fan Club News.

Club Day in Holland

The last club day in Schoonhoven near Utrecht in the Netherlands was once again a great success. Many fantastic models were exhibited.

Page 4

Letterbox

Page 5

Action Corner

Labyrinth

How does the racing car reach its friend with the tractor?

Spot the difference

10 differences sneaked into the picture on the right when the original picture on the left-hand side was copied. Can you find them?

Picture puzzle

Have a good look at the little pictures. Which strip of the main picture can you see them in? The strips are numbered from 1 to 11. These numbers will help you to match up the letters underneath the little pictures with the right strip. There is one letter under each little picture. Put this letter into the box with the number of the picture strip where you found the little picture. When you have finished, you will be able to read the answer.

Send off a stamped postcard or an e-mail with the correct answer to reach us by 30 July 2005. With a bit of luck, you can win one of 3 brand-new Advanced Classic construction kits worth €39.95. Winners will be notified in writing. The judges' decision is final.

The answer from News 02/2004 is: Year of technology

Alexander Schiedeck from 38170 Watzum has won a Universal II construction kit!
Congratulations: we wish you lots of fun with your new construction kit!

Novelties

Novelty offensive with jubilee construction kits

We are starting off the jubilee year with a novelty offensive. We are celebrating our 40th jubilee in the form of a jubilee construction kit. The go-ahead has also been given for five new Basic Line construction kits. There is also reason enough for ambitious fischertechnik designers to celebrate: the Computing Industry Robots construction kit has been thoroughly refurbished.

To celebrate our 40th jubilee, we have created a construction kit which deliberately carries on the tradition of the first construction kits - Advanced Classic (7+). It was the duty of those designing the construction kit to take from the construction kit historic components and new features to create both an element of familiarity and something completely new.

16 models can be constructed from the grey, historic basic building blocks and the red attachments. Models the simplicity of which is reminiscent of the originals from the 1960s. Restricting the components to the minimum also prompts children's imagination.

Playfully grasping everyday technology: kids can use the 115 building elements to put this didactic concept of inventor Artur Fischer into practice. fischertechnik's classic construction themes are brought to life with the aid of detailed instructions: various vehicles, toys, a crane and technical systems. Mums and dads are bound to recall a few childhood memories of their own, watching their kids building and playing with the true-to-the original models.

The luxurious packaging alone is enough to get you in a playful mood. Open up the lid on the construction kit: at a glance, you will see 115 clearly-arranged building elements and, on the inside, the history of fischertechnik: 40 years of building blocks for life.

New Basic construction kits

Vroom - the racing car on its search for the race track in the nursery. One more lap to the pit stop. Push the jack in place, change the tyres and fill up quickly. The new Basic Racing construction kit (7+) guarantees fast-action fun. Four different racing cars and the service station can be built out of 125 building elements. The kit also includes a figure and detailed instructions.

One, two, three ... Three different models can now be constructed from the new Basic Aircraft, Fun Cars, Tractors and Cranes construction kits (7+). The new "small" Basic construction kits carry on the successful themes from the Mini Kits which are no longer being produced.

Basic Fun Cars will be getting the go-ahead at Easter: Go Cart, Dragster and Buggy will transform the nursery into a car repair shop. It is take-off time once again with the Basic Aircraft kit: ultra-light planes, helicopters and an aeroplane buzz around the room. All models have a seat for a fischertechnik figure. The models from the Basic Tractors (with figure) and Basic Cranes kits will come out in the autumn.

Dance of the Robots

Industry Robots II

How are robots built? And how do you programme the control software? In the form of the fischertechnik Computing Industry Robots II construction kit (10+). With this kit what may sound complicated turns into a fascinating game - and not only for small technology enthusiasts.

The revised version of the tried-and-tested construction kit with 480 building elements is aligned to the new ROBO Pro software and the ROBO Interface. Professionals will be delighted by the varied programming options. Even beginners will easily get to grips with the technology and are introduced to it step by step in the form of sample programs.

The comprehensive instructions explain the construction of a beginner's model, a welding robot and a three-axis robot. The robot, driven by four powerful motors, can use its moveable gripper arm to stack or move workpieces.

The Computing Industry Robots 11 construction kit is the ideal follow-up to the beginner's ROBO Mobile Kit (10+). This kit is made up of 350 elements and 2 power motors for seven driving and one walking robot, ROBO Interface, the ROBO Pro software and a comprehensive manual.

Pages 7+8

Fan Club Model no. 26

Club model: crane truck

We are celebrating fischertechnik's 40th jubilee. To mark this occasion, this time we have developed a model based on an old, simple construction. This is how fischertechnik models looked at the beginning - using the classic colours of grey and red. Our crane truck is equipped with fifth-wheel steering and a winch with worm drive and is motorised. The model is constructed from the new "Advanced Classic construction kit (article no. 96781) and the "Mini Motor Kit" (article no. 30342).