

Fan Club NEWS 01/2007

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Hello fischertechnik Fans,

It was lots of hard work in the past weeks, but we've done it: The new construction sets, BASIC Boats and BASIC Service Station, are in the stores. With the new construction sets you can discover entirely new worlds with fischertechnik and these will become even more interesting with the construction sets coming in the summer and fall. The best thing about this is that the fischertechnik ships float and won't tip right over when they hit the smallest wave. Talking about waves, since we changed the design of our packaging, our brochures and our Website in the first wave, we have now come to the *Fan Club News*. The *Fan Club News* was to be fresher, cheekier and even more interesting. I think that we have succeeded! What do you think? Just write to me. I like to get mail. But first, I want to wish you lots of fun reading the new *Fan Club News*. Yours truly, Tobias.

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Giant Crane Collapses

Nobody expected that! A "mishap" of a special kind happened to our fan club member, Dirk Kutsch, at the fan convention in Mörshausen. Since the 6.50 meter crane model (Liebherr LR 1800) was too high for the presentation in the building, Dirk Kutsch set up his "giant crane" in front of the building. Five minutes after it was finished, a violent gust of wind caused the crane model with over 10,000 components to crash to the ground—completely stunned! But the whole thing wasn't too serious—the crane was only damaged on a few places. But this little "mishap" didn't damage the mood at the convention. Lots of visitors and exhibitors admired the fischertechnik models and exchanged tips. Thanks to all of those, who participated in this get together.

FAN CLUB DAY

The Fan Club Day will be on June 8, 2007 in Waldachtal. All fans and all of those who want to be fans are cordially invited. We will offer some great sales. There will certainly be something there for everybody and every age. Take advantage of the opportunity to experience fischertechnik live and take a look backstage, speak personally with fischertechnik employees and bombard us with questions! We guarantee you'll get a kick out of the races, great prizes for prize games and so on and so on, we can't tell you anymore!!! Just send an e-mail by April 30, 2007 to info@fischertechnik.de with the subject "Fan Club Day" or write to: fischertechnik GmbH, Fan Club Day, Weinhalde 14-18, 72178 Waldachtal, Germany. In May, we will send you exact information with the registration forms. We're looking forward to seeing you!

COOL FAN OUTFIT

We've thought of something special for you this year. As fischertechnik fans, you can now also wear the fitting outfit. This is not only for fan meetings or conventions, but you can also cut a great figure with our polo shirt and our baseball cap during recreational activities. The polo shirt is made of 100 percent cotton, feels comfortable and double seams on the shoulders, arm and neckline guarantee the highest quality. The polo shirt is available in the sizes S to XXL. With the fischertechnik baseball cap you can keep a cool head in the summer too. The mesh provides good circulation of the air. The size of the cap is adjustable and fits every head. Get your very own fischertechnik outfit now! You can order the polo shirt and the baseball cap from our partner, Knobloch: telephone +49 6731-49620, www.knobloch-gmbh.de.

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Squealing Tires

Make the kids' room into a race track! Wroomm—one more round then the speedster with the number one heads for a pit stop. The mechanics from Team Speed are already waiting at the service station for a fuel stop. As the leader, it's back on the track and then over the finish line. The mechanics from the fischertechnik Car Tuning Center prepared the racer perfectly. You can also have terrific fun with the new fischertechnik constructions sets, ADVANCED RC Car Set (49.95 €, June), fischertechnik ADVANCED Car Tuning Center (49.95 euros, June) and the fischertechnik BASIC Service Station (19.95 €, as of March). The construction sets contain sufficient building blocks to build all models at the same time and are the ideal addition to the BASIC Racing construction set: your kids' room will be turned into a motor drome. On a basic chassis, you can build four different speedsters with the construction set, fischertechnik ADVANCED RC Car, which has 160 individual parts. With wide tires, big exhaust pipes and a great big rear spoiler, the speedsters are waiting for the first test on the track: Slalom poles, obstacles and a ramp require that you have the ability to react and a good touch. Let's go!

FULL SPEED AHEAD

In the fischertechnik docks, you can build three different models from the construction set, BASIC Boats (29.95 €, as of March) and its 110 components: a fish cutter, a sporty speedboat and a tugboat. You can go fishing with the fish cutter. The big drag nets are put out and hauled in with two cable winches. Two hull elements, which are connected with fischertechnik building boards, are the basis for the big research ship from the construction set, ADVANCED Ships + More (79.95 €, starting in September). The ship makes research trips to far away destinations. With a shipboard crane, you can lower a mini-submarine into the water to explore the deep sea. With the 380 building blocks, you can also build a big cargo ship and other attractive boats. But you still have enough building blocks to build buoys, a landing pier and a beacon. And you can also unload the freight from the ships with the cranes from the construction set, fischertechnik BASIC Cranes.

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Picture Puzzle

Look very closely at the small picture cutouts, they are missing in the big picture. When you find the right place, write the letter, which is in this box, in the field below. When you are finished you can read the solution word. Send us the solution word on a post card, which has sufficient postage on it, by August 31, 2007 to fischertechnik GmbH, Fan Club, Weinhalde 14-18, 72178 Waldachtal, Germany or even better: simply send an e-mail to info@fischertechnik.de. Please write the subject as: "Solution Word 01/07." There is one of three new construction sets, fischertechnik BASIC Boats, to win and five tickets for the German Technical Museum (Deutsches Technikmuseum) in Berlin. The winners will be notified in writing. The jurisdiction of a court is excluded. Good luck!!! The solution word from the edition 02/06 is: "red wins." We congratulate the three winners, Vincent van den Broeck, Valentin Rosswog and Dominik Hayd!

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ROBOTS DANCE THE TANGO

New update version 1.2.1.17

Expanded Functionality of the RF Data Link

Now, up to eight interfaces can communicate through the RF data link in the download mode. The introduction to the subject is done using the example program, Tango, where two mobile robots dance the tango with each other synchronously. There are also new transmitter and receiver building blocks for this, which are available starting with level 2 (picture 1).

Direct Communication through Serial Interface

Starting with the newly created level 4, two interfaces can also exchange data through the serial interface. For this purpose, the interfaces are connected with each other by a crossed zero modem cable.

User Defined Commands

Available starting with level 4. It is now possible to define your own commands, for example, "forwards" or "backwards," which can be processed by the command elements in ROBO Pro. With this, a model can be controlled very simply (picture 2).

Your own commands can then be processed in a subprogram with the new element "waiting for command" (picture 3).

Commands can also be renamed with an additional new element, the "command filter" (picture 4).

With this for example, the command, "forwards," can be transformed into a ROBO Pro standard command, "left."

ROBOT WITH ALL SENSES

The fischertechnik ROBO Explorer discovers the world.

Unerringly, the robot orients on a marking on the floor, adeptly maneuvers around an obstacle, blinks and drives swiftly over the ramp using the crawler drive. The model from the construction set, fischertechnik ROBO Explorer, explores the world with all senses.

The construction set, ROBO Explorer (169.95 euros, starting in September) is the ideal expansion for the ROBO Mobile Set. With 380 components, you can build six different models. NTC resistor, photoresistor, optical color sensor, track sensor and ultrasonic distance sensor awake the spirit of the researcher. With the ultrasonic distance sensor, which is installed, the robot can identify obstacles at a distance of up to four meters and maneuvers confidently around these. The robot determines the ambient temperature with the NTC resistor. Tell the difference between day and night—the Explorer model can do this too with a photoresistor and turn the light on and off automatically. The capabilities, which the optical color sensor and the track sensor offer, are also fascinating. The robot model travels quickly and without distractions from light sources along the marking and also identifies colors. With two strong power motors and the crawler drive, the fischertechnik robots can also explore almost impassable terrain. The construction set is an ideal basis for use in the robotics competition, RoboCup, but also provides beginners with a basic vehicle for the quick understanding of the functionality of the control software. A program can be edited quickly with simple program building blocks.

We present all features and models of the new construction set in the 02/07 edition of the *Fan Club News*.

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For Collecting

Club model: sail boat with ramp

The new construction set, BASIC Boats, offers many features. The hull and deck construction can be built in a few steps and the sail requires your creativity: Paper, an old table cloth or a plastic bag are suitable for this. When the sail is hoisted, the sailing trip can start. To pull the boat onto land, we have built a ramp with a cable winch from the construction set, BASIC Cranes. Have fun putting them together.