

Fan Club NEWS 02/2008

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Hello fischertechnik fans! You're sure to have followed the discussions on toy safety in television and on the radio. At fischertechnik the safety and quality of our product takes top priority - and has done for 43 years! Just one of the reasons why we attach so much importance to having our products 'Made in Germany'. The initiative "Yes to Germany" voted us Company Of The Month in May. More about that on page 2. We were simply overwhelmed by the onslaught of visitors to the Fan Club Day on 1 June. Nearly 1,000 visitors made the journey to Tumtingen - nearly four times as many as in 2007! Many thanks indeed on behalf of the fischertechnik team for your interest. Not even in our wildest dreams would we have dared to hope for such an onslaught. Which meant that this time visitors had to show more patience and understanding. Even so, the Fan Club Day was a great success. More about that on page 3. It just remains for me to wish you lots of fun in reading the News! Yours, Tobias

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Profile: Name: Marco Soil. Age: 30 years. Favourite building set: ADVANCED Super Cranes, because I think large models are simply great. Profession: CC I-certified business administrator. Job at fischertechnik: Marco makes sure that the deliveries sent to Europe and out into the whole world can get through customs without any problems and are received on time by our customers. To this end, he is responsible for coordination between production, the transport companies and the customers.

Profile: Name: Astrid Miller. Age: 38 years. Favourite building set: ADVANCED Car Tuning Centre, because I was personally involved in the development. Profession: technical draughtswoman. Job at fischertechnik: Astrid compiles the instructions for the building sets and supports the development department in developing new building sets.

fischertechnik on television: As part of the major outside broadcast feature of the WDR family show "Just Ask The Mouse" on 30 August, a ramp measuring 20 m in length was used to test the rolling behaviour of various barrels. Host Jorg Pilawa used a model ramp made of fischertechnik parts in the studio to show how the test worked, using tin cans filled with various different contents. The fischertechnik ramp was nearly 1 m long.

Award for fischertechnik: Two of our products were made "Toy Of The Year" in Belgium: these were the fischertechnik building set PROFI da Vinci Machines in the category "construction" and the fischer TiP tub 1000 (not available in Germany) in the category "Being creative and making things". The Belgian jury consists of journalists and decision-makers in the toy branch. They have chosen nine category winners every year since 1999. We were also successful in Germany too! The fischertechnik building set PROFI da Vinci Machines was nominated for the "Golden Rocking Horse 2008". The prestigious consumer prize for the Toy of the Year is awarded by the magazine Familie & Co and the German Association Of The Toy Industry (DVSI).

Like in a beehive: The pupils from List Integrated Comprehensive School were in great demand at the IdeenExpo in Hanover. Together with many reporters and visitors, even Lower Saxony's Minister President Christian Wuffw wanted to find out for himself exactly what fischertechnik and bees have in common. The pupils had reconstructed the "waggle dance" of the bees with fischertechnik "robot bees".

Company Of The Month: The internet portal "Yes To Germany." has elected fischertechnik GmbH "Company Of The Month". Once a month the portal presents a company "that has rendered special services to Germany as a business location". "Following various product recalls of other manufacturers, we have found that consumers once again appreciate the stable value of toys made in Germany", is the pleased reaction from CEO Marcus Keller. The product and company database "Who manufactures here" presents companies that manufacture products in Germany. This gives interested consumers and commercial purchasers an opportunity to search specifically for products and find out about the companies behind the products. We Say Yes To Germany! www.ja-zu-deutschland.de

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Sweating & spraying: The second Fan Club Day on 1 June was a great success, breaking all visitor records. Not even in our wildest dreams had we dared to hope that 1,000 visitors would come. The weather was on our side too. Sunshine and 28°C accompanied the fans on their tours of discovery. Visitors were presented with a highly varied program. The guided tour through the fischertechnik production took them along the path taken by a building set from the individual component through to dispatch. In the training workshop, fans watched apprentices making the fischertechnik parts. This year once again the highlight was composing the building sets in the production process. "Not as easy as you think, and pretty tiring" was the conclusion some of the fans reached. For the intrepid there was something really special on offer: the adventure course put on by the fischer works fire brigade included going up on the rescue platform to enjoy the view at a height of 30 m. This was so popular that the turntable ladder started to overheat and a 30 min. break was necessary. Those fans who stayed on the ground had fun with bucket pumps, test driving a fire engine or trying on the uniform. The twelve helpers of the works fire brigade and their six fire engines kept everyone happy. In addition, there was an exhibition of large-scale models and other new fischertechnik products. Visitors also had a chance to exhibit their own models. Curious fans enjoyed a question-and-answer session with the head of development and production. Introductory computer courses rounded off the range of attractions, together with the possibility of purchasing building sets in production.

Facts and figures: • 12 firemen "on duty" • 6 fire engines to be test driven, inspected and admired

• 7,500 m C-hoses were in use' 6,000 cans were "sprayed down" and put back up again' 1,000 skittles were knocked down and put back up again' 140 trips with the turntable ladder- 70 trips with the fire engines' 3 firemen with sunburn

To the stars: Christian Hehr is 35 years old. He works as an engineer with the European aerospace company Astrium, where he develops satellite systems. fischertechnik aroused his passion for technology at an early age and still accompanies him - even when he is making a satellite. Fan Club News: How old were you when you started playing with fischertechnik? Christian Hehr: I was given my first fischertechnik building set when I was three years old. Since then I have acquired more than 40 sets. I've never really stopped. Unfortunately these days I scarcely have any time for the building sets. Fan Club News: What was so special for you about fischertechnik? What was the appeal? Christian Hehr: fischertechnik is a technical toy. The parts are robust, well thought out and compatible with each other, and have been all along ever since the very first building set was developed more than 40 years ago. All parts are coordinated perfectly together. Not even the instruction booklets make an exception. I can well remember the Practical Electronics building set with its instruction booklet that taught me the basics of electronics. That is still invaluable to me today at work. Fan Club News: Can you recall any special experience you may have had with fischertechnik? Christian Hehr: Oh yes indeed. At school we used fischertechnik in technology lessons. It was a hot day and I had fastened four basic elements directly on the fischertechnik motor shaft to make a ventilator. When I switched it on, it falls apart because of the high centrifugal forces. One element flew right through the classroom, just missing the teacher. Fan Club News: Do you still use fischertechnik today? Christian Hehr: Yes, for example to simulate new developments. I have used fischertechnik to simulate an unhinging mechanism for solar generators with mechanical synchronisation. In addition, a few years ago I used fischertechnik to develop a system for measuring cloud formation on behalf of a Chinese customer.

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With air power: The pneumatic cylinder hisses, the humming compressor builds up the necessary air pressure again for the cylinder: factory noises from children's room? A gripper arm fitted with a vacuum sucker reaches for a card from a mixed stack. A sensor defines the colour and sorts the card onto the right pile. In another model, a pneumatic gripper arm draws parts in by suction and puts them down in another place for further processing. Discover pneumatic systems and vacuum with the new building set fischertechnik ROBO PneuVac (€179.95, 490 parts). Five different models can be made using a compressor with mini motor, a transport belt with mini motor, four pneumatic cylinders, a special vacuum sucker and the parts from the building set. Light barriers and a colour sensor permit a wide range of possible uses. You can also use electromagnetic valves to control the vacuum and pneumatic components. The ROBO interface, the ROBO Pro software and the Accu Set or Energy Set are required to operate the models. The ROBO I/O Extension and

the ROBO RF Data Link are ideal additions.

Profile PLUS Control Set: • Universal proportional 4-channel infrared remote control. Powerful infrared transmitter with 3 transmission diodes. Microprocessor-controlled receiver with 3 motor outputs (9 V 1250 mA) and 1 servo output. Microservo (4.8 16 V) for angle adjustments of $\pm 1-35^\circ$ and a maximum actuating moment of 1.7 kg x cm • 2 different frequencies can be adjustable, 2 receivers activated per frequency. Price: €69.95

Profile PLUS Sound + Lights: • 3 sounds, activated by push-button or digital inputs. Download of any sounds via USB port (format: WAV, 22 kHz, 8 bit mono) • 2 lamps (9 V, 1 A) • Illuminated caps in 4 different colours. Battery holder for 9V block (battery not included in the set) • Price: €49.95. Software and various sounds can be downloaded free of charge under www.fischertechnik.de/sounds. Here you can find the right sound for each of your models. Take a look!

Fun Code: Leonardo da Vinci produced many inventions and improvements for the armed forces. The catapult can be used not only for military purposes but also for great fun when playing with the fischertechnik model. We have designed a throwing circle for using the catapult, available only to fischertechnik FAN CLUB members. Access the www.fischertechnik.de website with your fischertechnik Fun Code and printout the PDF document. Here is your fischertechnik Fun Code: 69LDV21 VS.

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Brilliant constructions: Leonardo da Vinci was already fascinated by man's dream of flying way back in the 15th century. The model of his mechanical wings lets you simulate how the wings beat so that you can discover the secret of how birds fly. This and nine other constructions by Leonardo da Vinci, the great scientist, engineer and artist, can be reconstructed with the new fischertechnik building set PROFI da Vinci Machines (€59.95, 260 parts). The weight runs down a crank and triggers the movement of the punching hammer on the file cutting machine. The model simulates cutting the blank files with steady hammering. The file cutting machine was designed by da Vinci around 1500. In historical terms, this is deemed to be the first attempt to mechanize how the die drives into the body of the file. One example of how practical Leonardo's inventions were is his swing bridge. If ships were too big to pass under the bridge, two huge cranks on either side turned the bridge until the ships could pass through. Leonardo's catapult was a further development of a well-known war machine. He invented a more effective spring mechanism for slinging the heavy boulders and developed a quick clamping device with locking trigger for faster, safer recharging. Each and every model brings da Vinci's major technical designs to life before your very eyes. By trying them out and putting them together, you can discover the technical principles of his constructions with all the fun of playing. The instruction booklet "Leonardo da Vinci" with lots of illustrations and descriptions about Leonardo da Vinci's original constructions also provides lots of background information about how the models were developed. In addition you can find out all sorts of interesting facts about the life of the great scientist, engineer and artist.

Leonardo da Vinci exhibition: Universal genius. The Product Development course at Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences has been inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's plans, resulting in hands-on models. The special exhibition can be visited from 16 November 2008 to 15 February 2009 in the LWL Industrial Museum Henrichshutte in Hattingen. Museum opening hours: Tuesdays to Sundays and on bank holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays to 9.30 p.m. Closed on New Year's Day. www.henrichshuette.de

The Multitalent: Leonardo da Vinci was born on 15 April 14 in Anchiano near Vinci (Italy). In contrast to most people, in his brain the logical thought processes on the left side were connected to the artistic thought processes on the right side. This enabled him to be both artist and scientist at the same time. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, musician, anatomist, mechanic, engineer, natural philosopher and inventor with great success. His pictures such as the Mona Lisa are still world-famous in this day and age. His exact drawings of the human body are still used today in medical text books. As inventor and engineer, Leonardo was way ahead of his time. Many of his machines and constructions have meanwhile been reconstructed and still amaze people today. Leonardo da Vinci died on 2 May 1519 in France.

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Gallery: In the last issue we presented all the winning models of 2007. With a convincing result of 53.6%, you voted the "Jolly Robot" by Daniel as the "Model Of The Year 2007". He will be receiving a building set of his choice from the ADVANCED line. Congratulations! Second place went to Shin Yi (model Ferris wheel) with 24.5%, third place to Hauke (model egg painting rob) with 20.2% of the votes.

Many thanks for all the many letters and e-mails you sent in with photographs of interesting and jolly fischertechnik models! Please note that only digital pictures can be posted in the gallery on www.fischertechnik.de. Please send your pictures to info@fischertechnik.de

Competition: Become a genius! You have a choice of three answers to every question. If you know the right answer, then write the letter next to the answer in the box below - and you'll soon have the solution. Here's a tip: the answer is hidden in the texts on page 5. Send the solution on a stamped postcard to fischertechnik GmbH, Weinhalde 14 - 18, 72178 Waldachtal, Germany, to arrive by 31 December 2008, or send an e-mail to info@fischertechnik.de. Under ref.: please enter "Solution 02/08". We will be raffling a building set PROFI da Vinci Machines and 5 x 2 tickets for the special exhibition "Leonardo Da Vinci: Inventor And Engineer" in the LWL industrial museum Henrichshutte in Hattingen near Bochum among all competition entries. The solution for issue 01/2008 was: "Da Vinci". Congratulations to Julian from Enzklosterle, Manouk from Zwolle (Holland), Michael from Marsberg, Joey from Liebenburg and Stephan from Penzberg.

1. When was Leonardo da Vinci born? P 15 April 1452; A 2 May 1519; N 1 January 1499
2. What is the most famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci called? F The Catapult; R Mona Lisa; I The Swing Bridge
3. Where was Leonardo da Vinci born? O in Anchiano; E in Vinci; L in Paris
4. When did Leonardo da Vinci develop his file cutting machine? U around 1475; D around 1512; F around 1500 5. How many models can be made with the PROFI Building set da Vinci Machines? M 9; G 11; I 10

Find the mistakes: There are ten mistakes in the picture shown on the right. Can you find them?

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Instruction booklet: Winter service vehicle: to go with the approaching winter, we show you how to make a winter service vehicle from the building kits Universal" and the new product Road Sweeper. The vehicle has a snow blower and a salt and grit spreader driven by the vehicle's rear axle. Gear wheels, an angular gear, belts and chains are responsible for power transmission. The functional axle leg steering warrants outstanding maneuverability. The large loading platform offers plenty of storage space. Now the winter can come! Have fun making the model.