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PHYSICS CAN BE SO MUCH FUN!

New: PROFI Dynamic: Physics is much more than just mathematical formulas and equations, as proven by the new PROFI Dynamic construction set. It contains six models and comes with an extensive didactic activity booklet so that you can have lots of fun investigating physical laws and phenomena. You can find more about the new construction set and the high-speed ball looping with the new flex tracks on page 5.

BIG, BIGGER, TOY FAIR - Behind the scenes: Just imagine, a million different products, more than 70,000 novelties – and all just toys. That is the toy fair. Needless to say, fischertechnik was there too and takes you behind the scenes, because the fair is not open to children. Only retailers are invited here. Turn to page 3 for more.

HELLO FANS: This year once again, fischertechnik offers something for everyone with its new products. The two new construction sets from the JUNIOR line Little Starter and Jumbo Starter open the doors to the world of fischertechnik with new parts and fresh colors. The new best-selling ADVANCED Universal 3 conveys a basic understanding for technology with exciting ideas for 40 models and a comprehensive activity booklet – a "must have" for every fischertechnik fan! New, patented flex tracks take balls at high-speed through the looping that you can build with PROFI Dynamic – so that even physics is fun! ROBO TX Automation Robots bring high-tech into children's rooms. And you can also look forward to the FAN CLUB Day on 24 July – more about that on page 3. As you can see, there's lots to discover. So turn straightaway to the FAN CLUB NEWS! Have fun, Your Tobias

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PROFILE: Name: Irene Di Patti, **Age:** 52 years, **Favorite construction set:** PROFI Dynamic, **Profession:** retail saleswoman, **Job at fischertechnik:** Irene accepts and processes the orders coming from our customers. She is in direct contact with the customers and handles questions about on-going orders, purchases, prices, product availability and delivery deadlines. She issues membership cards to new FAN CLUB members and keeps the fan address data up-to-date.

Name: Michael Bronner, **Age:** 20 years, **Favorite construction set:** ADVANCED Universal 3, **Profession:** trainee in warehouse management and logistics **Job at fischertechnik:** Michael makes sure that consignments for Europe and the rest of the world pass through customs without any problems and are delivered to our customers by the requested deadline. This entails coordination with production, the transport companies and the customers. He also deals with queries coming in from our customers abroad.

GO ON AN ADVENTURE IN ODYSSEUM COLOGNE - Free entry for FAN CLUB members: Since the start of the year, fischertechnik has been cooperating with Odysseum Cologne. This is an adventure/knowledge park for the whole family. The Odysseum takes you on an exciting, eventful journey of discovery in the world of knowledge – an interactive adventure geared to discovery, participation, amazement and the joy of learning. Five elaborate theme worlds turn visitors large and small into adventurers and discoverers. The "Mission: red, yellow, green – discover traffic" uses fischertechnik construction sets. The Odysseum makes a special offer to fischertechnik FAN CLUB members: free entry to the Odysseum Cologne for a child or youngster on presentation of the FAN CLUB membership card and when accompanied by an adult. The adventure begins here: www.odysseum.de

WHO HAS THE BEST FISCHERTECHNIK GRANDPARENTS? Mum and Dad haven't got time to play fischertechnik with you. But perhaps you've got a super Granddad and a cool Granny who have got the time. Tell us why you've got the best fischertechnik Grannies and Granddads. They're sure to help you with your letters. If you want, you can also send us a picture of you and your grandparents. We look forward to receiving your post: fischertechnik GmbH, keyword Generation fischertechnik, Weinhalde 14 – 18, 72178 Waldachtal, Germany, tobias.brezing@fischer.de. Of course we will reward your efforts: all entries will come into the draw for three construction sets of your choice from the JUNIOR, ADVANCED and PROFI lines. We will also be publishing a brief text and a picture of you and your grandparents in the next issue.

CONSTRUCTION SETS NOW IN VDINI-CLUB: fischertechnik has provided twelve local clubs of the VDini-Club with the PROFI Oeco Tech construction set. This lets children discover how energy is made from the sun, wind and water. We hope the VDini-Clubs have lots of fun with fischertechnik. Have you heard about the VDini-Club? If not, take a look at www.vdini-club.de, or order the club magazine free of charge from kontakt@vdini-club.de. If you like math, are interested in technology and would like to discover and investigate with other children and youngsters, then this is something for you. The VDI (Association of German Engineers) has already set up a VDini-Club in a number of cities. Perhaps there's also one near you?

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IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL - Great show and heaps of work before the toy fair: Helicopters buzz through the air, a conjuror goes past, on the other side a cool DJ plays CDs, kids on scooters speed past and over there's the Haribo gold bear. Oh yes, and two seals grunt at the audience. Are we in the zoo, at the fair or a theme park? No, you won't believe it but we in a congress centre at NurembergMesse. Once a year, usually in early February, the toy fair turns two storeys into a real hullabaloo. Just minutes before it opens, things are still hectic with workers unpacking products, hanging up posters and putting make-up on models at the last minute to ensure that everything is ready for journalists, photographers, television and radio teams. News Show is what they call this part of the toy fair. fischertechnik has been part of it all for many years and presents the new construction sets, which you will see in greater detail later on in the FAN CLUB NEWS.

This year, we were visited by children reporters from a newspaper in Nuremberg with an article on the children who were already allowed to play with the new products during the News Show. But just three hours later, it's all over again and the toys are packed in big boxes and taken away, before the last phase begins to get the 120 square meter exhibition booth ready. This had been erected in four days by the booth builders, now it's the turn of all fischertechnik employees. The models are taken from big boxes and placed on stands and shelves, power supply cables are connected up, the spotlights adjusted, leaflets and information for our dealers are put in position. And, of great importance at the toy fair: the coffee machine is set up and the fridge is filled. Busy helpers then polish everything spick-and-span during the evening. Now everything's ready and the toy fair can begin!

FAN CLUB DAY ON 24 JULY 2011: Once again on 24 July 2011, fischertechnik will be opening its doors for you in Tumlingen from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the FAN CLUB Day! Come and take a look behind the scenes at fischertechnik, you're sure to be amazed! We have prepared a super program for you with many highlights. Use this opportunity to see our production facility at the new site in Salzstetten. Workshops, special sales, competitions and much more besides – this is really something to look forward to! You can even exhibit your own fischertechnik models. Please use the entrance in Artur-Fischer-Straße, Tumlingen. We look forward to meeting you! And don't hesitate to contact Tobias Brezing if you have any questions: e-mail Tobias.Brezing@fischer.de, phone +49 (0) 7443 12-4862.

ENTER JUGEND FORSCHT WITH FISCHERTECHNIK - Submit your projects and win valuable construction sets: More young researchers and discoverers than ever are taking part in "Jugend forscht" [Young Researchers]. This year, altogether 10,677 youngsters have applied to take part in the 78 regional competitions in Germany's most popular contest for young people. That's amazing! Once again, many teams have used fischertechnik for their entries in this 46th round. Perhaps one of the teams may even reach the national competition from 19 to 22 May in Kiel. We're keeping our fingers crossed. But there's more besides. Send us your project description with a photo to tobias.brezing@fischer.de, keyword Jugend forscht. The closing date is 1 June 2011. We can't wait to see your ideas! It doesn't have to be a table cleaning robot or a muesli machine. To show our gratitude, all submitted projects will come into the draw for construction sets valued at more than €600, and will be presented in the next issue of FAN CLUB NEWS.

LEARNING BY PLAYING WITH FISCHER TIP: You're sure to know fischer TiP. The creative material made of potato starch is ideal for modeling, building, gluing and painting. We have now developed the new Play and Learn! line with the theme boxes Numbers and clock, together with Safety in Road Traffic. Together with 500 brightly colored fischer TiPs, the boxes also contain cardboard templates, a sponge and cutting tool together with learning cards for sticking on. Your parents and grandparents can find more information on fischer TiP n the internet: www.fischertip.de.

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FUN IN A NEW DIMENSION

New - ADVANCED Universal 3: New cab and new wheels, models with caterpillar drive and the possibility of creating play worlds with up to three models!

Experience the new dimension of play with ADVANCED Universal 3. 400 parts can be used to make 40 models in different play themes. This construction set is therefore an ideal starting base. Together with many basic parts and versatile add-on elements, it also contains winches, wheels, caterpillar chains and gearwheels. Using the easily understood assembly instructions, you can soon make vehicles with steering, airplanes, helicopters with driven rotor, merry-go-round, cranes, crawler excavators, wind turbines or a cradle operated by a gearwheel. The ADVANCED Universal 3 construction set has enough parts to make whole play worlds with several models. Airplane, helicopter and rotating radar and radio tower turn your room into an airfield. Or "Caution, building site" when you get the conveyor belt, crane and truck up and running at the same time.

Universal 3: • 400 parts • 40 models • Extensions: PLUS Motor Set XS, PLUS Motor Set XM, PLUS Sound + Lights Set • Age: from seven years • Price: €69.95

• In the shops from July 2011

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF FISCHERTECHNIK - New: JUNIOR Little Starter and JUNIOR Jumbo Starter:

fischertechnik now has more appeal for children from an age of five years. The new construction sets in the JUNIOR line are even more fun, with the newly designed cab, multi-functional dump body trailer in bright green and the new wheels with rubber tires. Six models can be made with the new JUNIOR Little Starter construction set: digger, helicopter, tipper, articulated vehicle, flatbed truck and delivery van. The JUNIOR Jumbo Starter has even more to offer. It has enough parts to create whole play worlds with several models so that you can make up the crane, flatbed truck or both trucks to play together with your siblings and friends.
Jumbo Starter: • 135 parts • 16 models • Age: from five years • Price: €49.95 • In the shops since March 2011
JUNIOR Little Starter: • 60 parts • 6 models • Age: from five years • Price: €16.95 • In the shops since March 2011

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TECHNOLOGY

PHYSICS LESSON WITH LOOPING - New - PROFI Dynamic with new flex track:

What does a ball looping have to do with physics? More than you may think. At the latest when you have made up the ball looping with the new flex tracks in the PROFI Dynamic construction set, you will start to understand physical laws and phenomena with the help of the activity booklet. Physics is fun with fischertechnik! Slowly the ball is transported up with the elevator, it starts to accelerate, is deflected by switches and rockers and races down the new flex track through the looping. A ball track is not child's play but follows physical laws such as acceleration, the principle of conserving energy, the principle of linear movement, mass inertia or the balance of forces. In addition, five experimental set-ups illustrate simple laws of physics. For example, Newton's cradle consists of a series of identically sized balls all suspended at the same length. Why does the last ball swing to exactly the same extent as the first one when the cradle is set in motion? The principle of conserving momentum and energy says that the total pulse is always constant in a self-contained system. The PROFI Dynamic construction set will show you exactly what this means.

PROFI Dynamic: • 470 parts • 6 models • 1 XS motor • Holder for a 9 volt battery • Age: from nine years • Price: €99.95 • In the shops from July 2011

HIGH-TECH IN THE PLAY ROOM

New - ROBO TX Automation Robots:

Summing quietly, the manipulator arm moves in, swivels the gripper and lifts the cylindrical element onto a pallet. Now you can use the new fischertechnik ROBO TX Automation Robots construction set to simulate many of those procedures taking place in production buildings and warehouses that we never see. The construction sets contain 470 parts, two encoder motors, two XS motors and six push-button switches for making four different industrial robots. Driven by precisely positioned motors and made of robust aluminum profiles, the gripper robot, pivoting gripper, high bay storage rack and 3-axis robot are intended for continuous use.
ROBO TX Automation Robots: • 510 parts • 4 models • 2 XS motors • 2 encoder motors • Necessary: ROBO TX Controller, ROBO Pro software, PLUS Power Set or PLUS Accu Set • Age: from ten years • Price: €199.95 • In the shops since March 2011

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Gallery, gallery, gallery:

Many thanks for all the many letters and e-mails that you keep sending in with photos of interesting and cool fischertechnik models! Please note that we can only post digital pictures in the gallery at www.fischertechnik.de. You can submit your pictures with ref "Gallery" to info@fischertechnik.de. This issue shows the gallery winners for 2010. In contrast to last year, we haven't held a vote for the overall annual winner: we are of the opinion that the models of all gallery winners have deserved a prize. Ivan, Lasse and Kilian have received the ADVANCED Super Fun Park construction set. The next issues of FAN CLUB NEWS will once again be presenting a selection of the pictures sent in to us. Voting continues in parallel on www.fischertechnik.de.

THE QUIZ: 125 YEARS OF CARS

Join in and win a PROFI Mechanic + Static construction set:

How time flies. Everyone is talking about electric cars and vehicles with hybrid drive or fuel cells. But in fact, it's only 125 years since they first invented the car! Back in those days, cars looked like a carriage without a horse. Compared to today's cars, they chugged only very slowly over the bumpy roads. What do you know about vehicles and their technology? Have a think about it, then answer the nine questions and send the solution by 1 June to this address: fischertechnik GmbH, keyword Car Quiz, Weinhalde 14 – 18, 72178 Waldachtal/Germany, info@fischertechnik.de. All entries will come into the draw for a PROFI Mechanic+Static construction set so that you can make your own gear or steering system.

- 1. Where did Gottlieb Daimler make his first car? S:** Garage, **T:** Greenhouse, **O:** Barn
- 2. Where did Berta Benz fill the tank for the first drive from Bretten to Pforzheim? U:** Pharmacy, **B:** Petrol station, **L:** Post office
- 3. What is a planetary gear? A:** Small gearwheels moving on a track around the gear, **S:** A special design of a compact gear drive, **R:** A gear in a space glider
- 4. The inventors of the car used a piston engine to drive the first vehicles. Other types of engine were subsequently developed and produced. The most famous was a rotary piston engine. It was named after its inventor. What is the engine called? K:** Wobble engine, **U:** Wankel engine, **P:** Winding engine
- 5. A transmission consists of different gears that work together to change speed and acceleration. What does transmission ratio 1:1 mean? B:** The engine runs with the same revolutions and same torque, **E:** The engine transmits the power 1:1, **S:** One revolution of a gear covers a distance of one meter
- 6. In the first vehicles made by the car pioneers, the wheels on the axles were connected and driven in a rigid system. Later, the axle differential was developed from a planetary gear. Which tasks does it perform? I:** The axle differential compensates for the different distance that has to be covered by the wheels on an axle. The differential transmits the same force even if the speeds are not the same. **T:** The axle differential compensates for differing air pressure in the tires on an axle. **N:** The axle differential connects the chassis with the axles.
- 7. Which is the most frequently produced car in the world up to now? A:** VW Beetle, **M:** Toyota Corolla, **B:** VW Golf
- 8. The airbag is an important life-saving device in the car. Which was the first car company to offer airbags as a standard feature? P:** Mercedes-Benz, **L:** General Motors, **M:** Toyota
- 9. Who is the youngest Formula One World Drivers' Champion of all times? O:** Sebastian Vettel, **F:** Michael Schumacher, **H:** Super Mario

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FAN CLUB model No. 38

Tractor with trailer

The FAN CLUB model tractor with trailer can be made with the parts of the new JUNIOR Jumbo Starter construction set. The new wheels and tires help the tractor to make good progress even over muddy fields. The new dump body also looks good as an engine hood. The trailer can take ducks and other things. Have fun making the tractor!