

Fan Club NEWS 01/2012 – English Translation

For a copy of the fischertechnik newsletter/magazine (in German) see our webpage...

www.procontechology.com.au/newindex.htm

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Dear Fan Club Members,

We had hardly finished unpacking the many crates from the toy fair, before we had to start preparing for production of the first new items. So we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. By the time you read this new issue of our FAN CLUB News, the new construction sets ADVANCED Rolling Action and COMPUTING ROBO TX ElectroPneumatic will already be in production. With both, the flying balls are sure to be great fun. These construction sets are introduced in detail on Pages 4 and 5. And our new employee in development explains to you how a construction set is developed from an idea on Page 5. We hope you enjoy our new FAN CLUB NEWS! Your Tobias

RACING CHAIN REACTIONS

Here the name is the program: ADVANCED Rolling Action. If you have always wanted to develop a chain reaction, this construction set is just what you need. And best of all: With this construction set you can design your track for the ball obstacle course to be even more racy with the PROFi Dynamic construction set. This is explained in greater detail on Page 5.

PARTICIPATE & WIN - Sixth international fischertechnik FAN CLUB Day

Mark the 8th of July in your calendar so you can't overlook it, because this is when fischertechnik will hold its sixth international fischertechnik FAN CLUB day. Once again we have planned a versatile program for you as well as your family and friends. And best of all: You can win a weekend for your family in the Black Forest!

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WHEN TELEVISION RINGS - fischertechnik Family Tacke on n-tv

Image, your doorbell rings, and a television crew is waiting in front of the door. This is what the Tacke family in Münster experienced just a few weeks ago. The television station n-tv did a feature on high-tech toys at fischertechnik at a fischertechnik family's own home. And the Tacke family is a real fischertechnik family: Because father Andreas and the kids, Tobias (11), Dominik (10) and Nadine (8) love building things with fischertechnik. Andreas Tacke started playing with fischertechnik when he was little and rediscovered these wonderful construction sets as his children reached the fischertechnik age. The TV reporter already knew that many adults like Andreas Tacke still have a lot of fun with fischertechnik. The family's house even has a separate room for fischertechnik construction sets and models - wow! But Andreas Tacke didn't even show it to the camera team, because the TV people were already so enthusiastic about the models the family had set up in the children's room and living room. Floodlights on, microphone in position, a few sentences to check the sound and then: Camera - Action. Naturally the camera team also took pictures in our production facilities and in the development department, so that they could later explain how ideas are developed into new construction sets and how the construction sets are produced. The children had the most fun, because they got to try out all the fischertechnik models in a special room. They had the time of their lives! And, if you didn't see the show on December 2nd, you can review it here at: www.n-tv.de/suche/.

Please enter "fischertechnik" in the search box.

HERE COMES TOM - THE POTATO HERO - fischer TIP in new packaging

Do you know Tom the Potato? No - then let us introduce you. Tom stole into the picture on every fischer TIP box - what a ham. In one he is waving friendly, in another he's wearing a pirate hat. But Tom is not only present on every new fischer TIP package - he also gives tips in the make-it-yourself instructions. The new fischer TIP packages are colorful - and practical. The large L and Premium XL packages have a handle. But, in addition to the packages, we have also given a great deal of thought to the tools. They are now made of biological plastic. This is a synthetic material made using wood fiber. It helps us save oil and recycle waste wood. Both help protect our environment.

AMUSEMENT PARKS and CRANES - 35 fischertechnik fans present models

The model show in Münster is always a red letter day in the calendars of fischertechnik fans. 35 fischertechnik experts from all over Germany and the Netherlands presented their models: Amusement park rides revolved next to cranes and industrial equipment. A study group from three schools also presented self-made robots. Crowds of young and young-at-heart visitors besieged the tables with the models. Remember the next date for the twelfth exhibit on November 18, 2012.

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PLAY AT SCHOOL - fischertechnik equips playrooms at schools

Play instead of math. Many of you would probably prefer that at your school too. But at school? Yes, that's right, because this year the PLAY AT SCHOOL initiative will equip 200 playrooms or corners in elementary schools. fischertechnik became a member in this initiative this year, because we know that with fischertechnik you can learn an awful lot. This is also the opinion of the experts at the transfer center for neuro-sciences (ZNL), who tested our ADVANCED Universal 3 and PROFi Oeco Tech construction sets for their learning effect and assessed them to be excellent according to educational criteria. And if you want us to furnish a playroom at your school with fischertechnik and other recommended toys, just talk to your teachers and parents. Then they can develop a concept and submit a list of what they need. But your parents and teachers will have to hurry: Both must be submitted by May 11, 2012. PLAY AT SCHOOL, Fellnerstr. 12, 60322 Frankfurt am Main, EMail: spielen-macht-schule@mzfk.de. A jury will select a total of 200 elementary schools from the entries submitted. In the fall of 2012 the winning schools will receive the toys for equipping the playroom. Details on this concept and application are available at www.spielen-macht-schule.de

PHOTOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION - New: QR code on packages and in brochures

You have certainly noticed the black and white squares and lines that look like a labyrinth on posters, or in advertisements and brochures. These are QR codes. QR stands for Quick Response. To do this, a smartphone recognizes the code and sends it to a web address, without you even having to enter it. This is the way it works: • You install a suitable App on your smartphone. • Then hold the smartphone in front of the QR code on the fischertechnik package or brochure. • Take a picture of it and you receive additional information on fischertechnik. Just that simple!

COME RIGHT IN TO THE FAN CLUB

COME-RIGHT-IN DAY -

Win a weekend in the Black Forest for your family.

When this issue of your FAN CLUB News appears, we will already be in the middle of making preparations for the fischertechnik FAN CLUB day on July 8th. As in previous years we want to offer you and your families an entertaining and informative day at our locations in Tumlingen and Salzstetten - because many of you will travel a long distance to get there. You will be surprised at all fischertechnik has to offer. And this year the trip to the Northern Black Forest is also worth while to see the Nagold State Horticultural Show. Just a few kilometers away from Waldachtal, fischertechnik is presented in the fischer corporate group pavilion. We will be raffling off a weekend in the Black Forest among fischertechnik FAN CLUB members. We will assume the costs for overnight accommodations including breakfast in Waldachtal and, of course, admission to the State Horticultural Show in Nagold for the entire family (children and adults). To participate, just answer this easy question: The international fischertechnik FAN CLUB day will be held in 2012 for the : A. fifth time B. sixth time C. seventh time. Write your answer on a postcard or send it by email with the reference "FAN CLUB Day" to: fischertechnik GmbH, Weinhalde 14 – 18, 72178 Waldachtal, Email info@fischertechnik.de. The deadline for entry is March 31, 2012. Legal recourse excluded. Prizes cannot be paid out in cash. Employees of the fischer corporate group and their family members not eligible.

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HIGHSCORE WITH AIR PRESSRE - New: COMPUTING ROBO TX ElectroPneumatic

Have you ever played a pinball machine? No? Then build your own pinball machine with fischertechnik components from our new ROBO TX ElectroPneumatic construction set. In the 70's and 80's these machines were the equivalent of today's video game consoles. You can't imagine how much fun it is to play with these machines. New game - new chance. And if you don't always want to play with a pinball machine, and are fascinated by technical processes and sequences, the new construction sets are sure to give you a great deal of pleasure. A gripper arm with suction cup lifts a component from the part feed. A optical sensor determines the color and sorts the part into the right storage bin. The construction set with new compact, high performance compressor, miniature motor, pneumatic cylinders and a special suction cup turns your room into a small factory. The components can also be used for construction of a ball obstacle course with a robot arm, which picks up the ball with a suction cup at the end and returns it to the starting point to start this fascinating game all over again.

The design and programming of the pneumatic motor is also fascinating. Electromagnetic valves allow the vacuum and pneumatic components to be programmed or actuated directly by a cam plate. For this purpose the valves can be connected to the fischertechnik ROBO TX controller. COMPUTING ROBO TX ElectroPneumatic: • 400 components • 4 models • 11 flex-rails • compressor, 2 electromagnetic valves, 3 pneumatic cylinders with spring, hoses, miniature motor, 2 light barriers, 2 pushbuttons, optical color sensor.

• Additionally required: Software ROBO Pro, ROBO TX Controller, PLUS Power Set or PLUS Accu Set • Related instructional material on CD ROM • Age: 10 and older • Price 179.95 Euros • At your retail dealer as of March/April 2012

EVERYTHING IN MOTION - As of June: New PROFI Line construction sets

With the two new PROFI Line construction sets below everything is in motion: Cars & Drives and Pneumatic 3. You can look forward to exciting models as of June. And to shorten your waiting time, we can already show you pictures of two models from the construction sets..

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RACING CHAIN REACTIONS - New: ADVANCED Rolling Action

It's fun to watch chain reactions - however setting up a chain reaction often takes a long time. But not with fischertechnik! With the new ADVANCED Rolling Action construction set you can create your own ingenious chain reactions with fischertechnik modules and flex-rails. This construction set is the ideal supplement to the PROFI Dynamic construction set, because it allows you to build even more loops and steep curves. Ready, set - go: The firing lever shoots the steel ball into the flex-rail obstacle course. The ball lands in the elevator with counterweight, which conveys it back up. A catapult then shoots the ball again through a loop, curves and a teeter-totter. Goal reached. The the game starts over again ... The six models can be set up on two fischertechnik base plates, providing the required stability for the constructions and guaranteeing you a great deal of continuous fun.

The three basic models explain the function of the active elements, making it easy to successful build the large obstacle courses. With just a few construction elements you can build a simple obstacle course with angular planes, an elevator or a miniature golf teeing ground. ADVANCED Rolling Action: • 270 components • 11 flex-rails • 4 balls • 6 models • Supplements: PLUS Sound + Lights • Age: 7 or older • Price: 59.95 Euros. At your retail dealers since March 2012.

DREAM JOB DEVELOPER - An Interview with Patricia Flack

Building with fischertechnik everyday. This is certainly a dream for many of you. For Patricia Flack (21) this has become reality. Since November of last year she has worked at fischertechnik as a new developer. She has developed models for the new ADVANCED Rolling Action construction set and the FAN CLUB model. Developer at fischertechnik: Is it really a dream job? Patricia: Yes, it is loads of fun and I know that many envy me. Many parents think fischertechnik is only something for boys. But you prove that is not true. Patricia: Yes, I never really realized that, because I have two older brothers and always played something technical with them. And I always knew that I wanted to learn a technical occupation after finishing school. At fischer I completed a course of training as a mechatronic technician. And then I simply applied for one of the jobs posted... How do you develop new models? Patricia: Often the themes and the approximate number of pieces are already specified for the construction sets. First I make a primary model, coordinate it with Hartmut Knecht, who manages the development and production department, and then I get feedback from colleagues in sales and marketing. The models are also tested by customers. That is very important. Then I usually optimize the functions, stability and details. When the primary model is finished, I start building the other models. And what is the best thing about your occupation? Patricia: It is a great feeling to see the models you developed yourself at a toy fair or in a package on a shelf. I am just as enthusiastic as you about a new model.

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GALLERY

Thanks for sending us all the letters and emails with pictures of interesting and funny fischertechnik models. Beginning immediately we will be showing you a larger selection of model photos. Parallel to this you can vote for the model you like best at www.fischertechnik.de/en. Take a look!

Please remember that we can only publish photos sent to us by email (info@fischertechnik.de).

SOUGHT - FOUND Contact fischertechnik-with fischertechnik fans

In earlier issues of our FAN CLUB magazine we had a column "fischertechnik fan seeks pen pal". And many pen pals found one another. Today hardly anyone writes letters anymore, because emails are much quicker and simpler. Our FAN CLUB member Ludger Mäsing has now set up a database to help people with similar interests find one another. Simply send an email to fischertechnik@versanet.de.

VDINI CLUB DAY IN HEIDE PARK - Participate and save for FAN CLUB members

On April 28, 2012 the VDIni Club will hold its VDIni Club Day in Heide Park in Soltau. fischertechnik is a VDIni Club partner and that is why you, as a member of the fischertechnik FAN CLUB can participate in this club day at highly reduced admission prices: You and your brothers and sisters (up to 18) only have to pay an admission prices of 15 Euros, adult companions 20 Euros. You only need to register at www.vdi.de/vdini-clubtag. The user name for FAN CLUB members is vdiclubtag and the password is heidepark. Please enter exactly as shown in small (lower case) letters. These highly reduced tickets are available only in advance online. The special price is not valid at the admission booth. Please show your FAN CLUB ID card at the gate, if requested. This VDIni Club Day with its large science and research show is worth looking forward to. The VDIni Club booth is located in front of the large wooden roller coaster. The VDIni Club is a technical club for children age four and older. With this club the Society of German Engineers (VDI) wants to awaken children's interest in the world of technology. The many regional clubs are always pleased to welcome new children, who want to participate. More information is available at www.vdini-club.de or send an email directly to kontakt@vdini-club.de.

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No. 40 – club model for your collection

XXL Ball Obstacle Course

Many of you have been looking forward to this: The add-on for the large ball obstacle course from the PROFI Dynamic construction set is here! For the FAN CLUB model we used additional parts and flex-rails from the brand new ADVANCED Rolling Action construction set. Get your construction set and let the balls fly through the XXL ball obstacle course. We hope you have a lot of fun building your new obstacle course!