

## Fan Club NEWS 02/2012 – English Translation

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

[www.procontechology.com.au/newindex.htm](http://www.procontechology.com.au/newindex.htm)

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Dear Fans,

In this edition we introduce in detail the autumn novelties for the PROFI line, the Pneumatic 3 and Cars & Drives construction sets! You will be anxious to know about the compressor, friction motor, etc. On page 2, you'll learn which prizes our products have been nominated for. We also introduce you to two teams from Germany and Croatia that successfully participated with fischertechnik in the RoboCup competition in Mexico. You can read a summary of FAN Club Day on Page 3. Our trainee has come up with a very special model idea – you'll be surprised – for the 41st FAN CLUB model ... We hope you enjoy the new FAN CLUB NEWS!

Have fun! Your Tobias.

#### **Colourful activity. The sixth international fischertechnik FAN CLUB Day.**

New item presentation, cool fan models, workshops with fischertechnik experts, science show and dowel seminar: colourful activity ruled the day at the sixth international fischertechnik FAN CLUB Day on July 8th in Tumlingen and Salzstetten. You can read more about it on Page 3.

#### **Air is in play. New: PROFI Pneumatic 3.**

Air in play with the new PROFI Pneumatic 3 construction set. You can build 8 different models from the 440 components, powerful and compact compressor, pneumatic cylinders, hand valves and hoses. Of course the assembly instruction and an instructive activity booklet with tricky tasks are included. You can read more about this on Page 5.

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#### **Invent with fischertechnik. Peter Lustig exhibit with tinkerer's workshop**

Everyone, whether 7 or 50 years old, knows the television series Löwenzahn (Dandelion). Who has not had Peter Lustig explain the world to them at some point? With metal-rimmed glasses on his nose, wearing overalls and sitting in a meadow in front of the large construction trailer, he has aroused children's, parents' and grandparents' curiosity for nature, science and technology for 25 years. Now through November 30th, Peter Lustig and some of his great inventions can be relived with a unique travelling exhibit created and planned by the Technikmuseum Freudenberg (Freudenberg Technical Museum) in close cooperation with the mundus.tv film production unit in Sieger, Germany. The highlight for children and young people: the technology, tinkerer and inventor workshop that was created by FRids e. V. and the local VDIn Club. Due to the high demand, the workshops will also be available after the exhibit is over. Here you can create and discover the world of technology with all kinds of materials and construction sets from the PROFI line. Of course, Peter Lustig was also available to look over the shoulders of the young designers.

#### **PROFILE - Diana Haizmann, new member of the fischertechnik team.**

Since January, we have had a new team member at fischertechnik. Diana Haizmann (25) organises trade fairs and events and answers your questions on site. Diana has been with the fisher Group since 2006 and completed her BA studies there. You might meet Diana at the Modellbau Süd trade fair in Stuttgart. She's already looking forward to your visit.

#### **Awards in a three-pack. Top construction set: ADVANCED Rolling Action and PROFI Pneumatic 3**

Award in a three-pack: fischertechnik construction sets were nominated again for both of the best-known toy prizes in Germany. The ADVANCED Rolling Action construction set was nominated for the TOP 10 toy prize, while the PROFI Pneumatic 3 construction set was nominated for both the TOP 10 prize and "The Golden Rocking Horse". We are very happy to have received such recognition. Products from fischertechnik and fischer TiP have been recognised many times over the years. The jury for "The Golden Rocking Horse" competition has now recommended the PROFI Pneumatic 3 as one of the 10 best toys in the "Games and Technology" category. The highlights of the year are recognised at the "Top 10 Toy" event.

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#### **Colourful activity at FAN CLUB Day. 750 visitors in Tumlingen and Salzstetten.**

At the fischertechnik FAN CLUB Day in July, 750 young and adult visitors admired the new products in Tumlingen and visited the production facility and special sale in Salzstetten. The doors had barely been open when most people went directly to a pinball machine that was created from the components of the new ROBO TX ElectroPneumatic construction set of the COMPUTING line and from many other components. Visitors were also extremely interested in the presentation of the novelties and in the exhibits of the fans who had come from all over Germany to present their models. A Ferris wheel with a diameter of 3.20 meters was exhibited, as was a chocolate machine, an automatic teller machine (ATM) and others. Another visitor magnet was the science show with the motto "Mechanics - motion is in play here". The computer workshops also attracted many listeners who were able to submit questions directly to the software developer. At the fischertechnik location in Salzstetten, fans could equip construction sets themselves and gain insight into the creation of a construction set with a tour through the production facility. There was also a lot on offer for younger guests at FAN CLUB Day: they could build colourful models of fischer TiP at play tables. Handicraft skills was required for building a wooden hand puppet as part of the initiative entitled "KiTec - children discover technology". And during story time, story tellers lead away big and small listeners alike into the world of fairy tales and wonder.

#### **Flying sombreros in Mexico. fischertechnik teams on the podium at the RoboCup World Championship.**

Second place in the SuperTeam competition for the SFZ-Rasuro team of the Schüler-Forschungs-Zentrums Osnabrück (Osnabrück Student Research Centre), third place in the Rescue A Primary Team category and a third place finish in the SuperTeam competition for Croatia. The results for the fischertechnik teams competing at the RoboCup World Championship in Mexico City were very successful. Laurenz Wohlfarth, Head of Export at fischertechnik, was on site to congratulate the teams on their performance. After their sensational second place, the SFZ-Rasuro team let their sombreros fly, since a spot for the fifth place team from the German RoboCup Championship only opened up after another team had cancelled. Secondary school graduate Simon Schwolow (17) and his team-mate Dennis Buchberger (15) were full of anticipation, since Dennis had managed to win the internationally represented RoboCup Dutch Open in Eindhoven (Netherlands) just a few days earlier in a different team constellation. More than 3,000 participants from all over the world had travelled to Central America for a week. Each team made three runs a day over three days. The best 12 teams then advances to the SuperTeam final. Each SuperTeam was made up of two teams that had to perform a new task which had been publicised the day before. Although the robots were very heavy due to the retrofitted steel toothed wheels and steel axles, the German team was in 15th place at the end of the preliminary rounds. And since

one team did not compete in the SuperTeam final, the two competitors from Osnabrück were able to move up again. The SFZ-Rasuro team drew a partner team from China, who spoke only broken English. The robots spoke different languages as well. When the limits of the (computer) language were overcome, everyone was amazed when the team of Team Huangpo No.1 and SFZ-Rasuro was declared the second place winner of the SuperTeam competition. The Croatian team was also elated. Both teams had qualified for the SuperTeam final. There one of the two fischertechnik teams cooperated with an Austrian team to claim third place.

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### Silent and fast. New: PROFI Cars & Drives.

The new PROFI Cars & Drives construction set offers you playing fun with a cool offroad vehicle. In addition, you can discover for yourself how vehicles can be driven with unusual ideas. With the support of the assembly instruction and the instructive activity booklet, you can build 8 different models from the 280 components, friction motor and other construction elements. The trike silently hurries toward the finish line. Driven by a rubber band that unwinds from the drive axle. The drive energy, which is contained in a flexible rod of fischertechnik components, will also amaze you – since it is only pre-tensioned with a cord on the drive axle. With sufficient puff, you can blow up a balloon that drives a vehicle with recoil energy, similar to the way an aircraft engine propels an aeroplane. If the wind is blowing, the three-wheeled vehicle moves like a kite buggy with a sail. But it can go even faster: with the friction motor in the back, the models dash off. You can learn how energy is created and converted to move vehicles with the help of the instructive activity booklet.

The offroad vehicle promises great fun during design and construction. The model is perfectly equipped for offroad adventure with a spring-mounted chassis and offroad tires. Additionally equipped with the PLUS Accu Set, the PLUS Control Set and the PLUS Motor Set XM, the offroad vehicle can be motorised and driven through the kids' room via remote control. fischertechnik PROFI Cars & Drives: • Ages: 8 and up • 280 components • 8 models • friction motor • additions: • - PLUS Accu Set • - PLUS Control Set • - PLUS Motor Set XM • - PLUS Sound + Lights • Price: 69.95 euros.

### KNOW-HOW

Did you know that Leonardo da Vinci drew the first friction motor? The motor consisted of wooden springs and toothed wheels. The springs were tensioned with muscle power and the energy transferred to the drive wheels after a locking mechanism was released. The friction motor from fischertechnik operates on the same principle. The steel spring is firmly attached to the housing. The energy created by tensioning the spring is transferred to the axle via the toothed wheels. And off you go. You can learn more in the instructive activity booklet to the construction set.

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### Moving medium: New: PROFI Pneumatic 3

Bus doors, lifting platforms and even space equipment function with the power of air. Compressed air can be stored and transported over long distances and it creates no pollution. Not for these reasons alone are many vehicle and machine movements carried out pneumatically. Air is the moving medium in the new fischertechnik PROFI Pneumatic 3 construction set. With the support of the assembly instruction and the instructive activity booklet, you can build 8 different models from the 440 components, compressor, pneumatic cylinders, hand valves and hoses. fischertechnik fans will be especially excited about the compact and powerful compressor. Powered by a 9-volt battery, the compressor generates the required compressed air. The compressor is more compact and produces more power significantly quicker than the previously used component. The various pneumatically driven working devices of the fischertechnik tractor are set in motion via hand valves. From the base model with steering system, you can construct 4 different tractor models: with a tree trunk grip, a front loader, a hay bale picker or an excavator. If you've always wanted to know how a double sliding door or a scissors-type lift works, then you can try it out yourself on both fischertechnik models. The ancient Greeks built a pneumatic catapult more than 2,000 years ago. To find out what kind of throwing power it had, you can simulate it with the fischertechnik catapult. Your friends will not only be amazed at this; you can also amaze them at your next birthday party with your fischertechnik balloon inflating machine. fischertechnik PROFI Pneumatic 3: • Age: 9 and up • 8 models • 440 components, compressor, 4 pneumatic cylinders, 4 hand valves, hoses, battery holder, • Additions: • - PLUS Accu Set • Price: 109.95 euros.

### KNOW-HOW

The word pneumatic comes from the Greek word "pneuma". And that means air. Pneumatics have been used since the beginning of the 20th century for drive and control technology. Not only for vehicles, machines and musical instruments, but also in space flight. The ancient Greeks built a catapult driven by compressed air more than 2,000 years ago. They used it to hurl shot and spears through the air. Ingenious compressed air equipment in a Greek temple was used to open heavy stone doors as if by magic. Here's how it worked: The heat from the altar fire warmed the air in a pressure vessel. The vessel was filled halfway with water. When the air was heated, it expanded and the air pressure in the pressure vessel increased. Since the expanding air needed more room, the water was forced into a water reservoir. This sank due to the increased weight and opened the door via a deflection. You can read more about this in the instructive activity booklet to the construction set.

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### GALLERY

Many thanks for continuing to send the numerous letters and e-mails with photos of interesting and funny fischertechnik models! Here we show you a larger selection of models. In addition, you can visit [www.fischertechnik.de/en](http://www.fischertechnik.de/en) to vote for the coolest model. Take a look! Please keep in mind that we can only consider photos that are sent via e-mail to [info@fischertechnik.de](mailto:info@fischertechnik.de).

### Congratulations!

"Puffels" is the name of the Penguins' cute pet. We had asked this question in our big competition in the 01/12 edition. Kai from Göppingen answered the question correctly. He's excited about his Wii console. Luis from Hochmössingen also knew the correct answer. As of now, he can spend time with his Nintendo DS. Congratulations and enjoy the prizes!

### Picture puzzle

Look very carefully at the small picture cutouts. They are missing in the large picture. When you have found the right location, write the letters from the boxes into the fields below to spell out the solution to the puzzle. Send the solution by December 31st, 2012 by e-mail to [info@fischertechnik.de](mailto:info@fischertechnik.de). Write "Picture puzzle 02/12" in the subject line. This time the winner will receive the new PROFI Cars & Drives construction set. The winner of the construction set will be notified in writing. The decision is final and there can be no appeal. Good luck!

### ZEIT LEO: Win children's detective stories and an annual subscription

Are you familiar with ZEIT LEO, the new magazine for boys and girls age 8 and up? How do you make good use of the internet;

what type of dangers lurk on the net? Why do Pixar film heroes inspire us so much? How do you cut out a real jack-o-lantern for Halloween? You can find that and much more in ZEIT LEO. All those who want to get to know ZEIT LEO should take a look on the internet. At [www.zeitleo.de](http://www.zeitleo.de) you can get more information about this magazine and read some of what's available. If you like ZEIT LEO, as a FAN CLUB member you can receive a trial subscription of 3 editions for the special price of only 10 euros. The quickest way to do so is via email at [abo@zeit.de](mailto:abo@zeit.de) or by calling 0180 525 2909\*. Ask your parents to indicate promotional code 897508. In addition, you can send us an email for a chance to win a ZEIT LEO detective edition for children and an annual subscription. Then you'll receive the magazine six times per year free of charge. Join in and send an e-mail to [info@fischertechnik.de](mailto:info@fischertechnik.de) with the subject "ZEIT LEO" by November 30th, 2012. Please don't forget to include your complete address and age. If you hope to receive presents other than fischertechnik for Christmas, then take a look with your parents or grandparents at the ZEIT shop on the internet at <http://shop.zeit.de/rein>. You can find the detective addition and other cool products for kids in the Kinderwelt section. (\* 0.14 €/min. from a German landline, max. 0.42 €/min from a mobile phone)

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### No. 41 – club model for your collection

You can build the current FAN CLUB model, a windmill, from the components of the new ROFI Cars & Drives and ADVANCED Universal 3 construction sets. It was developed by Tobias Ziefle. He is in his second year of training as a mechatronics designer at fischer. Tobias Ziefle states: The task was to build a model for which the friction motor provides the driving force. But the model was not supposed to be a vehicle and the traction motor was supposed to be smartly used. The cleverly devised transmission allows the tensioned spring of the motor to release slowly over a long period of time. This allows the blades to be driven for over two minutes. You will surely find other unusual ways to use the new friction motor. Have fun building the FAN CLUB model!