

Fan Club NEWS 02/2014 – 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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Fans, here's the best right at the start. The new PROFI Dynamic XL construction set has been declared overall winner of this year's "Golden Rocking Horse" toy prize. Readers of the familie&co magazine voted the construction set to be winner of the "Toy and Technology" category. Read more about this on Page 3. And with the printers still rolling, in this issue we will also be telling you in detail all about the new ROBOTICS TXT Discovery Set. We've spent a long time developing the new high-tech construction set, and now the time has come. Pages 4 and 5 shows you all that this new construction set has to offer. We wish you an entertaining read and lots of fun with the new FAN CLUB News! Yours Tobias

Fun and action with more than 1,000 fans at the FAN CLUB Day. Wow! More than 1,000 visitors from Germany and neighbouring countries came to Waldachtal at the end of July for the 8th fischertechnik FAN CLUB Day. Here the new construction sets were joined by altogether 20 attractions to provide lots of fun and action. Read more about this on Page 2.

Exploring with robots - new: ROBOTICS TXT Discovery Set. Get immersed in the world of robots with f1schertechnk, whether scoring goals or searching for secret trails in your room. The new ROBOTICS TXT Discovery Set includes a USB colour camera, the new TXT controller with touch display and much more besides. You can control the models with an app on your smart phone or tablet PC. Do you want to know what else the models can do? Turn to pages 4 and 5 for lots more interesting information.

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Action and fun - more than 1,000 fans at the FAN CLUB Day. We counted more than 1,000 visitors to the 8th fischertechnik FAN CLUB Day in Waldachtal-Tumlingen, where plenty of action-packed attractions were waiting on a warm sunny day at the end of July. This year the model show was a real highlight. From the Unimog with log trailer to a ship see-saw - every year we're so impressed at all the time and effort you put into your models. The new ROBOTICS TXT Discovery Set was naturally also the centre of attraction. On the football pitch, the robot not only demonstrated its ball skills but also celebrated each goal with the other players. You showed great skill and strength when it came to stacking crates. One fan even managed to build a 10m high tower with the crates. Even the spectators felt dizzy. By complete contrast, it was less tiring but just as interesting to watch the shooting sessions in the fischertechnik Film Studio as well as the magic show. We also offered an opportunity to take a look behind the scenes at our Salzstetten site, with a guided tour of the production facility and a chance to make up your own construction sets. Watch this space for information about what we have in store for you in the jubilee year!

Tower 21 m high. Full hall, record models! On 27 September 2014, more than 60 exhibitors from Germany and neighbouring countries presented their imaginative models at the fischertechnik Convention Model Show in Erbes-Budesheim. The 21 metre high tower made of fischertechnik was most impressive. See the video - www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xZLYUMSIBE

Learning can be fun - with fischertechnik. fischertechnik construction sets are used during lessons all over the world to help children learn. The School at Sportpark in Erbach even has a fischertechnik room and fischertechnik as a subject on the timetable. Thorsten Wohlgemuth is a teacher at this school and started the Future Workshop. The aim is to make children better prepared to start vocational training. A successful project: increasing numbers of children are opting to start vocational training when they leave school. The automation workshop introduces children from year 6 to the principles of mechanics and structural analysis, subsequently using fischertechnik construction sets to deal with trickier tasks. From year 9, the children use the construction sets and the ROBO Pro software to design and program an industrial production line with 10 models. The children present their projects to companies in the region. See - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jua0euXPIhg

fischertechnik press event - journalists in Waldachtal-Tumlingen. The media are supposed to convey information. To make sure they know what fischertechnik is doing, the companies invited journalists from technological and family magazines to Waldachtal-Tumlingen. The reporters found out just what the new ROBOTICS TXT Discovery Set can do and how fischertechnik makes school lessons real fun. The event was even attended by representatives from a Turkish education authority who talked about how fischertechnik is used in their schools. Mr Wohlgemuth, who you already met in the last article, presented his work with fischertechnik in his school's Future Workshop.

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NEWSLETTER - always well informed. Do you want to be kept informed about the latest products and competitions? And be the first to know about the most important topics and dates? Together with the website and the FAN CLUB News, we also offer the fischertechnik Newsletter. You can register for the newsletter on www.fischertechnik.de/newsletter. Your data will naturally be treated with all due confidentiality and not forwarded to third parties. You can register quite simply at any time using a link in the Newsletter.

Construction students in China. 170 teams from 89 universities and a sports hall full of fischertechnik. Around 500 students presented their fischertechnik models at the 3th fischertechnik University Competition in China. This year's task consisted in using fischertechnik to make the classroom of their dreams. The students had twelve months to prepare. We congratulate altogether 60 teams that were rewarded with a certificate and a trophy.

Commercials on TV and in the cinema. Wow, now you see fischertechnik on television and in the cinema as well. From mid-November to mid-December, commercials will be shown on Super RTL and in selected cinemas. Take a look at Super RTL to discover the world of fischertechnik. Needless to say that you can also see the commercials on the www.fischertechnik.de/en website and on the YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/fischertechnikTV

PROFI DYNAMIC XL as overall winner. And the winner is ... fischertechnik! This year the PROFi Dynamic XL was the overall winner of the 2014 Golden Rocking Horse. Readers of the familie&co magazine voted the construction set to be the winner of the "Toy and Technology" category, by a big margin. Many great products were competing in the final stage, but none of them had a chance against the new Dynamic XL. The jury's praise included in particular: "The clever ball obstacle course offers a wide range of possible variations and children will just love its sophisticated technology. It gives ball runs a new dimension, convincing both younger and older members of the jury."

Great fun in XL format - NEW: PROFi DYNAMIC XL. 1,250 parts promise great fun with the new PROFi Dynamic XL. It is now possible to make even larger, faster and cleverer obstacle courses. The steel balls speed round the 90 degree curves and shoot across the jump safely into the catch funnel, finding new paths all the time with the cross-over. This makes it far easier to learn the laws of physics. It's great not only to watch the steel balls race down but also to see how they're transported upwards by the various conveying systems. Assembly instructions for a combination model using the PROFi Dynamic and PROFi Dynamic XL construction sets can be downloaded from: www.fischertechnik.de/en/service/downloads/exklusive-construction-manuals

PROFi Dynamic XL: • From 9 years • 8 models • 1,250 parts • With mini motor, 2 rainbow LEDs, 31 flex-rails, 12 steel balls, catch funnel, 5 x 90° turns, cross-over, battery tray for 9V block (battery not included) • With didactic activity booklet on the topic of "Materials-Handling Technology" • Price: 149.95 euros • already in the shops.

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Know-How. While robots were still a figment of science fiction just a few decades ago, now they've become an indispensable part of modern life. They make cars, defuse bombs and dive into the depths of the oceans. Astronauts on their space flight missions also depend on robots for support. But it took many years of development work by dedicated research teams before the first robot vehicles could travel around on Mars.

Time to explore - NEW: ROBOTICS TXT DISCOVERY SET. Here we are! Here's the new high-tech construction set by fischertechnik: the ROBOTICS TXT Discovery Set. 310 parts, a new ROBOTICS TXT controller and the extended ROBO PRO software are just waiting for you to start making mobile and stationary robot models. Equipped with a colour camera, the TXT controller with coloured touch display and a combined Bluetooth/Wi-Fi radio module, your robot is capable not just of following lines and detecting movements: you can also control it with an app on your smart phone or tablet PC. Using the colour camera, the robot can also be guided with hand movements or coloured charts. Hand sign to the left: the robot moves to the left; hand sign to the right: the robot changes direction. Fancy a game of football with your new team player? The robot uses the colour camera to aim and shoot the ball into the goal. When he starts spinning around for joy, that's when the fun really starts. But that's not all. The fischertechnik robot is your ideal partner when searching for secret trails or for undercover investigations in your room. The camera guides him through your room, helps him evade hindrances and come to a stop, then turn left or right depending on the colours. And next time an unwanted visitor comes into your room, the robot will give you an alarm, for the best possible security in your room. Any of you who are still beginners will appreciate the completed program modules and example programs to help you get started. The set contains many sensors and actuators for turning the robot into a mobile research lab. The real-time clock integrated in the TXT controller works together with the temperature sensor to measure the room temperature at a certain time. In this way, you can start recording a complete temperature report. To see the TXT robot in action, simply click on: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ESq4O0-QAs

ROBOTICS TXT Discovery Set: From 10 years • 14 models • 310 parts • With ROBOTICS TXT Controller, ROBO Pro software, USB camera, 2 encoder motors, XS motor, 2 LEDs, 2 mini-switches, phototransistor, temperature sensor • With didactic activity booklet • Price: 369.95 euros.

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ROBOTICS TXT CONTROLLER Technical data: • Dual processor: ARM Cortex A8 (32 bit/600m Hz) + Cortex M3 • Memory capacity: 128 MB DDR3 RAM, 64 MB Flash • 8 universal inputs: digital/analog 0-9 VDC, analog 0-5KΩ • 4 fast counting inputs: digital, frequency up to 1kHz • 4 motor outputs: 9V/250 mA (max. 800 mA), fully variable speed; short-circuit proof, alternatively 8 individual outputs (for example for lamps) • Infrared receiver diode for transmitters in the fischertechnik Control Set • Linux-based open-source operating system.

Features: Touch display • 2.4" colour touch display (320 x 240 pixels) for easy operation of the controller. Features: Wi-Fi and Bluetooth • Combined Bluetooth/Wi-Fi radio module: BT 2.1 EDR + 4.0, WLAN 802.11 b/g/n Bluetooth or Wi-Fi connection to smart phone or tablet PC, TXT controller can be controlled with an app by smart phone/tablet PC (Android to start with).

Features: Loudspeaker • Integrated loudspeaker for producing auditory signals and other noises. Features: USB host • USB 2.0 device USB host interface with Mini-USB port for connecting to the PC, USB-A port for fischertechnik USB camera, USB sticks. Features: Micro SD card slot to extend the memory.

Description of TXT models (from left to right):

Camera man • Ventilating fan • Swiveling camera • Hand dryer • Barrier • Exploration robot • Trail searcher

Discovering electronics - NEW: PROFi ELECTRONICS Electricity comes out of the socket, sure. But have you ever wondered how the electrons flow? And how electricity is switched, controlled or amplified? The new PROFi Electronics has simple everyday models to answer your questions. Step by step, the construction set introduces you to the topics of electrical power circuits and electronics. How does a ship see-saw work? And how does an electric sliding door know when to open and close? 16 different models have been created with transistors, capacitors and resistors using 260 fischertechnik parts. You can find a description and instructions for additional programs and functions for the new electronics module at... www.fischertechnik.de/electronics For English translations see... www.procontechology.com.au/fischer/91083em.pdf and www.procontechology.com.au/fischer/524326em.pdf

PROFI Electronics: From 9 years • 16 models • 260 parts • With electronics module, XS motor, 2 transistors, 2 capacitors, 3 resistors, 2 mini-switches, phototransistor, temperature sensor, lens tip lamp, 2 rainbow LEDs and a battery tray for 9V block (battery not included) • With didactic activity booklet • Price: 119.95 euros • already in the shops

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Gallery, gallery, gallery, gallery Many thanks for continuing to send the numerous e-mails with photos of interesting and funny fischertechnik models! Here we show you a selection of models. In addition, you can visit 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. Photos from left to right - Description of the model, name (age) : Playground, Julia (8 years) • Cuckoo's house, Daniel (6 years) • Drawing machine, Paul (10 years) • Rack railway, Lukas (10 years) • Connect Four, Luca (from Slovenia) • Truck, Johannes (8 years) • High bay storage rack, David (13 years) • Copying machine, Matthias (13 years) • Scorpion, Jean (9 years) • Flight simulator, Marcel (10 years).

Congratulations! In the 01/2014 issue, Mr Farmer needed your help to bring the load lost from his tractor back to the right place in the barn. Finding the right path through the chaos led to the solution which is "Zugmaschine" (one of the German words for tractor). The prize, an ADVANCED Tractor Set IR Control, goes to Marcel from Freital. The solution for the model picture puzzle was "ROBO". Jonas from Bad Fallingbostal knew this and can look forward to a ROBOTICS LT Beginner Set. We sincerely congratulate all winners!

Letter puzzle Start with the part that has a dot on it. Find the next box with the matching shape. Once you've got all the boxes in line, you'll see the solution. Send your solution in an email with the subject "Letter Puzzle" by December 31, 2014 to gewinnspiel@fischertechnik.de. The prize is a PROFi Dynamic XL construction set. The decision is final and there can be no appeal. Good luck!

Silhouettes Which silhouettes belong to the coloured robot model from the TXT Discovery Set? Put the letters in the right sequence to find the solution. Send your solution in an email with the subject "Silhouettes" by December 31, 2014 to gewinnspiel@fischertechnik.de. The prize is the new ROBOTICS TXT Discovery Set. The decision is final and there can be no appeal. Good luck!

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Assembly instruction

No. 45 - FAN CLUB model Hot Wire for your collection. Use the PROFi Dynamic and PROFi Electronics construction sets to make your own "Hot Wire" - an exciting game of skill! Follow the flex-rails with the light barrier. You need a calm hand at the rocker and at the elevator. But be careful: as soon as you slip and interrupt the light barrier, the red lamp goes on. Press the button and start again. Have fun constructing and playing!