

## Fan Club NEWS 02/2017 – English Text Only

For a copy of the fischertechnik newsletter/magazine (with pictures) see our webpage...

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

### Page 1

#### Dear Fans,

Quite a lot has happened in 2017, and I'm looking forward to telling you all about it in this issue of the Fan Club News. On the second page, you'll learn all about this year's digital Fan Club Day 4.0 and the new fischertechnik junior developer team, which was created during the Fan Club Day. If you want to read more about past events, then you'll find some information on pages 3 and 4. If you need to know anything about the Christmas party, you'll find just what you're looking for on page 5! Remote control vehicle fans will definitely be happy with the ADVANCED BT Racing Set. Just in time for the new fischertechnik design, our trainees have also developed a great FAN CLUB model for you (page 7). I hope you enjoy reading and have lots of fun with the newest issue of FAN CLUB News! Yours Diana.

#### fischertechnik has a new online presence

Have you been waiting in anticipation? If so, then we're happy to announce that the fischertechnik and fischerTIP websites have been completely overhauled. We've updated the pages [www.fischertechnik.de](http://www.fischertechnik.de)\* and [www.fischertip.de](http://www.fischertip.de)\* for you and given the pages a clearer organization. You can read more about it on page 3. \*click EN, in the top right corner, for English!

#### Welcome to the fischertechnik team junior members

This year's Fan Club 4.0 was a gigantic success for everyone involved. We'd like to thank you for taking part and taking advantage of the benefits of the digital Fan Club day. We're very glad we were able to add creative and talented fischertechnik fans to the junior developer team as part of the event. In the future, we will be collaborating closely with model builders on the junior developer team whenever we want to develop new models or similar projects. Excited to find out what happens next? We'll always provide information about the junior developer team on Facebook.

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#### FAN CLUB DAY 4.0

This year's Fan Club Day 4.0 was a very special and exciting new experience – not only for you, but for us as well. In the age of digitization, this was our first modern and interactive fan experience for all fischertechnik fans. We were able to help all of our international fans take part in Fan Club Day, communicate with one another live, and interactively exchange ideas with each other across national borders – all without having to travel around the world. Fans from a total of 27 countries took part in the virtual Fan Club Day 4.0, including fans from Taiwan, Peru, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Israel, and many other nations.

This year's Fan Club Day was accompanied by a diverse program of events granting exclusive insight into the world of fischertechnik. In addition to live chats and training sessions with our fischertechnik experts, virtual production tours, and lots of sweepstakes and exclusive downloads of special construction manuals, there was a major fan model exhibition. Every fan was allowed to submit their most creative fischertechnik model to us for the competition. We received a total of 84 models. Models came from builders aged 4 to 75. We thought this age range was great, and showed that our fischertechnik products appeal to every generation.

Models were graded by our expert jury, then we appointed the six selected model builders to the fischertechnik junior developer team. You can learn more about it in the report below. In addition, participants got to vote on all of the model images to decide who would win one of three trips to Europapark with overnight lodgings for the whole family. We want to congratulate the lucky winners once again. In addition to the model show, another highlight was our eleven virtual live training sessions on a variety of topics like 3D printing, robotics, and much more. These training sessions were carried out by our fischertechnik development team. The training sessions were offered in both German and English. A chat was held at the same time, allowing participants to pose questions during the training. Our development team got so many questions during some training sessions that they had to run over the planned session time.

Thanks very much for all the interest you've shown in fischertechnik. We had tons of fun at the first digital Fan Club Day, and we hope you did too. Video - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=r98aDn9l44Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r98aDn9l44Y)

#### OFFSPRING

##### Welcome junior developers!

Our junior developer team has been selected! We welcomed six creative model builders to our junior developer team as part of our Fan Club Day 4.0. This year, our fans got the chance to submit their most creative and most spectacular fischertechnik models at the fischertechnik Fan Club Day 4.0.

Our fischertechnik professional jury selected six of the most innovative and most creative models from the 84 models selected. These six winners were then appointed to our junior developer team. Junior developers get the chance to enjoy exclusive insights into the world of fischertechnik. Team members were invited to visit us in the Black Forest. There, they got some insight into production, got the chance to enjoy professional discussions with our developers, gained deeper insight into the development process that goes into fischertechnik construction sets, and worked on a current development project with our developers by taking part in a workshop. In the future, the team will get to be part of our development team as we create some new developments, contributing their ideas, concepts, and suggestions directly to fischertechnik. We will be working closely and regularly with our junior developers, informing them about the newest issues. We're very much looking forward to creative collaboration with our junior developer team!

## INTERNET

### **fischertechnik and fischertip with new websites**

Wow! Our new fischertechnik and fischerTiP websites are online. It has been completely overhauled, with a new and modern design. You can find extensive product information and helpful services quickly on both homepages. The websites now offer a clear structure, oriented towards specific target audiences.

One important new feature and improvement to our homepages is that we've made them mobile-friendly. This means you can easily view our websites at any time using your smartphone or tablet. We've completely redesigned our product pages for you. You can obtain more specific information on our products there. For example, the websites include detailed information on all technical product data, construction set contents, and the individual functional capabilities of our products. You'll also receive direct suggestions for a variety of add-ons to our construction sets, as well as free documents to download with helpful instructions. In addition, the website offers plenty of videos demonstrating different products and displaying their functions.

fischertechnik fans can check out the "Playing" area of the fischertechnik homepage to learn about our construction toys or the Fan Club. In the "Teaching" area, teachers can find information on how to use fischertechnik products in schools, and the "Simulating" area is available to our industrial customers, describing "fischertechnik models for complex processes."

Our "Service" area has also been broadly expanded; you can now use it to find answers to your questions as well as make suggestions or initiate complaints. If you find defective or missing components in your construction set, you can now submit a complaint easily through our fischertechnik homepage.

One other special feature of the fischertechnik homepage is the eLearning portal (link), which is now available directly on the website without a code. It's designed to help you understand the technology behind our products. There's no time to waste: get the didactic and other helpful materials for your construction set now.

Our fischertechnik FAQs have also been totally redesigned. The answers are sorted into easy-to-understand categories on specific topics, so none of your questions will go unanswered. Are you looking for exclusive building manuals, brochures and product catalogs, or other documents to download? No problem - you can also find all kinds of new downloads on our homepages. Downloads are carefully sorted into categories, so you can always find the right document to download quickly.

The fischerTiP homepage also offers our crafting fans extensive descriptions of materials and products on the new portal. In addition, the "Play and Fun" area provides creative ideas for using fischerTiPs. You can find creative crafting templates here that you can easily download at home free of charge, drawing and sticker ideas, and even a colourful model gallery where you can look at creative ideas and get inspired. You'll also find lots of tutorials you can use to help you copy some of the models.

We also have something totally new in store for you. Now, you can contact us directly with your suggestions and ideas using the contact form. We want to involve you in our product development process early on so we can create great new ideas together. We want our websites to be a way you can contact us directly, so you can send us your creative ideas, inventions, and designs. We're looking forward to hearing what you have to say! The homepages are looking a lot better, don't you think? See for yourself and check out [www.fischertechnik.de](http://www.fischertechnik.de) and [www.fischertip.de](http://www.fischertip.de) so you can browse through our new websites. We're looking forward to your visit! A little tip: Register in the Fan Club area so you can take part in great sweepstakes through our homepage and snap up some great prizes. You'll also find exclusive building instructions here. In the future, we'll be adding even more content to our fan area. It's definitely a good idea to visit our homepages regularly!

## NEW SUCCESSFUL SIA PROJECT

### **Development of Moaom Machine**

Five students at the Freudenstädter Technischen Gymnasium of the Heinrich-Schickhardt School developed a "candy packaging machine with online shop simulation" with the help of our fischertechnik ROBOT ICS construction set. The project was part of the Schüler-Ingenieur-Akademie (SIA - Student Engineer Academy). The SIA group, consisting of Moris Kotsch, Marcel Müller, Timo Pfau, Josua Schaible and Dustin Trabi, had a cool idea this time, deciding to design and develop their MAOAM machine. The candy packaging machine was constructed independently by the five technical high school students.

The customer can submit an order for a variety of different MAOAM flavours on a website. The system packages the MAOAMs accordingly, and orders the goods from a high-bay warehouse if necessary. A transportation vehicle delivers the goods to the packaging system, where they are packaged and prepared for shipping. The project was completed under the supervision of Mr. Bumiller and Mr. Gressing, who actively supported their students.

## CREATIVE

### **Record at the 2nd fischertechnik day in Karlsruhe**

Construct the longest "ping pong ball delivery machine" using fischertechnik components - that was the challenge we posed to 98 young engineers on 45 teams from six Karlsruhe elementary schools at the 2nd Karlsruhe fischertechnik Day. It felt like summer outside as the young engineers in Karlsruhe presented their machine elements to build the longest ping pong ball delivery machine to the 150 audience members. Each design was created for the same goal: to use the mechanically, pneumatically, or electrically controlled structure to move the ball to the next module. Conveyor belts, pneumatic accelerators, chain gears, and many other ideas were used to do the job. Finally, all of the modules were combined to create one big machine. The 19.7m long machine then started moving ping pong balls right away, to enthusiastic applause. We'd like to say "WOW" to all the students for doing such a great and creative job! The six elementary schools also got a reward. They were each presented with two large, jam-packed fischertechnik construction sets for their successful participation.

## FISCHERTECHNIK INSIDE

### More power for you

The fischertechnik team is growing! This year, we added five employees to fischertechnik in a wide variety of departments:

**Guido Schubert** will be providing his enthusiastic support to the sales department. He is responsible for marketing our fischertechnik teaching sets to German schools, and for ensuring our training models are used by industrial customers. "One thing I like a lot about fischertechnik is how topical our products are! Everybody's talking about "digitization" and the "internet of things" – with fischertechnik, it's easy to understand how modern technology really works through play, whether you're young or old, working at home or at school. I think that's cool!"

**Angela Losi** will now be supporting the dispatching and production controlling team. She will start right off with a major project, and will be restructuring the entire warehouse. The restructuring will provide relief to our production employees, especially, and reduce the distances they walk and the amount of time they spend looking for materials. "I especially like the variety my work at fischertechnik offers me. Every day is different, and exciting. I also find production planning very exciting; it's a lot of fun to plan out all the processes in production and make sure our customers are satisfied by providing on-time deliveries. Close team collaboration is especially important, I really like that about fischertechnik."

**Tim Müller** will be providing his helpful support to German / Austrian / Swiss (German-speaking regional) sales. If you ever call fischertechnik, there's a good chance Tim will be picking up the call. "It's fun to be in direct contact with customers, especially because fischertechnik appeals to such a wide range of people."

**Simone Winter** will be bringing a breath of fresh air to international sales, and will be the contact person for all customer inquiries coming from abroad. "It's always exciting to learn about new countries, cultures, and people, and to visit trade fairs and customers all over the world to talk to them about our fischertechnik products."

**Dr. Alexander Steiger** is another new member of the fischertechnik team. Mr. Steiger will be supporting the development team, working as an engineer to develop robotics construction sets. His duties include anything requiring programming at fischertechnik, and anything that includes sensors or actuators. "At fischertechnik, I've been able to turn my hobby into my profession."

We'd like to wish all of you much success at fischertechnik, and we're looking forward to working with you!

## MAKER FAIRE

### Lots of creativity and innovation!

Artworks from another world, fascinating machines, fighting robots, and fischertechnik in the middle of it all! With 800 makers at 170 booths, over 40 presentations and workshops, and 17,800 attendees, this year's Maker Faire in Hanover was a complete success once again.

Creative tinkerers showed off their innovative models once again this year, showing them off to the crowds. Some attendees had traveled great distances and taken long bus rides to participate in this year's Maker Faire. fischertechnik was also represented at the fair by 7 fan exhibitors and great designs. The audience was astounded by the cool fischertechnik models on display.

fischertechnik succeeded in generating a high level of interest. We'd already given out stacks of brochures and small fischertechnik gifts after just a short time, and our exhibitors were practically overrun with questions. This year's highlights were football, the TicTacToe game, the 3D printer, and the joint "Ping pong ball delivery machine" project constructed using fischertechnik products.

Attendees got the chance to operate and test out the different models on display. The light in the eyes of the astonished kids was rewarding to all the exhibitors. Video - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiVUMj6Hnr0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiVUMj6Hnr0)

## ROBOTICS

### Competition between student-built fischertechnik robots

This year, 15 teams from seven participating schools showed what you can do with a cool, student-programmed robot at the 3rd annual Karlsruhe School Robotics Cup at the Schüler Akademie in Karlsruhe.

This time, the competition took place at three different arenas. These were divided into the "rescue robots" arena (a discipline in the International Junior RoboCup), "parkers" (independent parking robots), and "cleaners" (a beginner competition where robots have to collect and sort balls.

All of the robots got the chance to show off their skills and collect points over two rounds. The teams' performance in the different arenas was truly impressive! Some of the designers spent many months developing their robots so they could show off their skills in the arena on competition day.

Three winners, one in each of the arenas, were crowned at the end of the day. The winners received prizes donated by us, as well as trophies and medals. Each team also received a fischertechnik construction set, and 1st - 3rd places even received a complete robotics set. The ASDF team from Helmholtz Gymnasium won for the "rescue robots" discipline, the Wilhelm II. team from Albertus Magnus Gymnasium won in the "parking robots" discipline, and the RTZ team from Ferdinand von Steinbeiss Berufsschule took home first place in the last discipline, "cleaning robots."

We'd like to congratulate everyone once again. Hopefully, we'll see you again next year at the 4th annual Karlsruhe Robotics Cup!

Also for the Carlo-Cup 2017, TeamRoBoss constructed an autonomous car. Video - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7pG3Md4btM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7pG3Md4btM)

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### MOTORSPORT

#### Be the winner on the racetrack with the BT racing set

Have you always wanted to know what it feels like to be a real racecar driver? Thanks to the fischertechnik ADVANCED BT Racing Set construction kit, now you can. You can use it to build three cool models, including a sleek race car, a roadster, and even a wheelie vehicle that only runs on its back wheels. You'll definitely impress your friends with these model vehicles.

The complete construction set has 360 parts, including motor and remote control, and contains everything young racers need. Uneven terrain is no problem for these three vehicles. Thanks to the suspension, you can easily drive these vehicles outdoors, such as in your backyard. The models' sleek designs mean they stand out not only for their speed, racing at approx. 1 meter a second (and even faster with battery), as well as for their looks. Your speedster has a dynamic style that makes it a true eye-catcher. The models can also handle cool parcours tricks, thanks to their functional steering. That means you'll easily race to victory on the track.

You can also control your racecars with your smartphone or tablet via Bluetooth, in addition to using the included controller. Ranges of over 10m are no problem. The speed of the geared motor and servo steering lock can be regulated to continuously variable speeds. The Bluetooth controller also provides continuously variable speed regulation. Thanks to the Bluetooth technology used, multiple Bluetooth control sets, or multiple different devices, can be controlled via Bluetooth in the same room without interfering with each other.

In addition, you can use one remote control to steer up to two receivers, i.e. two models or two different functions. In addition, one servo and three motors can be connected to each receiver. This allows for a wide range of uses. For example, you can use one receiver to steer and drive the vehicle, then use a second receiver to control a winch or similar device - all with just one transmitter.

Thanks to the new BT technology, you can now also easily steer your models outdoors in the sunlight. There won't be any reception problems if the transmitter loses direct "visual contact" to the receiver. The receiver can now be installed in a hidden or covered location in the model. You can also supplement and upgrade the construction set with cool extra features, such as lights and sound from our fischertechnik PLUS sets.

Want to drive your vehicle at night? The LED Set and Sound & Lights Set would be the perfect addition. Interested in the new BT Racing Set? Video - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=slluH\\_qBx1c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slluH_qBx1c)

### WE'RE BRINGING INDUSTRY 4.0 TO LIFE!

#### Using fischertechnik training models

Industry 4.0 and the "Internet of Things" – these are major topics in companies today. The internet offers almost unlimited possibilities already today, and the expansion continues. Companies are working to expand digital networking too. In the future, digitization will likely result in almost self-organized production for some products, also known as the "smart factory".

fischertechnik's training models can be a highly practical aid to big and small companies alike. Our training models can be used to provide a practical demonstration and simulation of some digitization ideas before they're implemented. This can often save time and money, and typically leads to better results.

Major group companies like SAP, IBM, or Deutsche Telekom are already working with training models by fischertechnik around the world, which help make complex processes easier to understand. SAP even has an official partnership with fischertechnik to do so.

Our fischertechnik simulations are used to extensively test functions and to provide demonstrations for customers and interested parties at software companies. For example, Ascora GmbH presented how a production system can be controlled from another location halfway around the world. In addition, networking can be used to read out and review machine data or complete maintenance work.

In the future, digitization will make production more flexible and more fluid.

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### Gallery, Gallery, Gallery

Thank you very much for the funny and interesting models you sent us. Are you creative, industrious, and often build your own models? Are you able to construct different creative models even without instructions? Do you always have really cool model ideas?

It would be a shame if no one ever saw them besides you and your family! Just send a picture of your original model creations to [info@fischertechnik.de](mailto:info@fischertechnik.de)

We will publish your picture on our homepage under "Playing – Fan Club"! In addition, we always show the best-looking models here in Fan Club News.

Have fun building, and we look forward to receiving your great model photos!

## NO. 51 FAN CLUB MODEL

### Heavy-duty transporter

Felix Wochele (17) is in his second year of training to become a mechatronics engineer, and is currently interning at fischertechnik. He got the opportunity to develop a cool new Fan Club model for you. To do so, he combined the ADVANCED Trucks and PROFI Mechanic & Static 2 construction sets. He built the drivable vehicle with the help of the truck building instructions. Combined with the rest of the components in the Truck construction set, the Mechanic and Static 2 construction set were used to create a semi trailer in this model. With an impressive length of 85cm, the new FAN CLUB model is one of the longest models in the fischertechnik product portfolio. Thanks to stub axle steering, the trailer is easy to steer despite its long length, and can easily be driven backwards. He developed the idea for this model while building with both construction sets. "I saw the long components in the Mechanic and Static 2 construction set right away, that's why I immediately thought of a nice long design like a truck. I've seen the back wheel technology on lots of trucks. That's why the technology behind the model is very realistic." We're excited about our new FAN CLUB model, and think you'll like it too! We hope you get lots of fun and enjoyment out of building and playing.

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