

FC-NEWS 02/05

Hello fischertechnik friends!

This time we have again prepared great topics for you. It starts on page 2 where we have summed up the most important events since the last news. Please notice the important dates for this year. In the past you have always received a letter from us in which we have mentioned the fairs and the direct sales, but this year it will no longer be sent by paper, instead as an email newsletter. So note the dates right now or sign up as a subscriber of the newsletter on our new Internet page. On page 3 we present amazing models that are designed by fans. Do you also want your models to appear on this page? You can just send us a letter or an email with pictures of your own model. On page 4 you can see as always our letterbox with your great models. Can you find yours? The "Action Corner" on page 5 seems to be popular, and that is why we have kept it up. Of course there is something you can win this time. Finally, last but not least our Fan Club Model, this time you can construct a "boxentruck". So start constructing and here we go! Have fun!

Yours, Bianca.

Fans visit fischerwerke

Due to the 40th anniversary of fischertechnik we organised a fischertechnik day. Many fans found the path through Waldachtal. Even 50 members of the Fan Club of the Netherlands arrived by coach. The fans visited Tumlingen and a fischertechnik supplier, but they also got the chance to experience the fischer-museum. The climax of the programme was when the fans visited the assembly of fischertechnik. They were able to buy some bargains at a real fischertechnik direct sale. Yet the possibility to talk to, and to question Hartmut Knecht, the head of development and production of fischertechnik, was at least as important for the fans as the direct sale.

Plugs more important than money.

At the ZDF show (German television) "Unsere Besten- Die größten Erfindungen" (Our best and greatest inventions), 3.2 million people (14,5% market share) could convince themselves of the quality of fischer plugs. From March 30th until April 30th 2005, more than 60 000 German citizens participated in a survey where they had to vote for what was in their view, the greatest invention known to humankind. During two hours Johannes B. Kerner presented the 50 most mentioned masterstrokes. The fischer plug was ranked 41st, even before money. Together with Artur Fischer, Johannes B. Kerner presented the fischer plugs, and also fischertechnik. After the small talk the invention of the plug had to demonstrate its power: a fischer SX8 held a washing machine weighing 291 kg onto a concrete slab.

fischertechnik tower did not break down

In July 2005 the "Tigerenten Club" (German television) began an interesting experience. The topic of the programme was "The construction of a high rise". During the show three teams constructed high rises out of different materials. The tower made of fischertechnik was the highest with 1,20 m, and also the most stable.

Franks robot that tickles

Why can't you tickle yourself? Laughing is healthy: But tickling yourself? That doesn't work. However, we will show you a trick so that it becomes possible. The brain should be baffled. That means that the tickle stimulus is not directly allowed to follow the movement of the hand. Our brain can differentiate between important and unimportant stimulus. Therefore only certain impulses/stimulus become part of our awareness. So it is possible to tickle yourself, but only with the help of a robot to baffle your cerebellum: a tickle automate is guided by a remote control and runs over your foot after some delay. The consequence: You can tickle yourself because the tickle stimulus is astonishing. In the following Frank Linde describes how he came to it: In January 2004, fischertechnik asked on the forum of the homepage if

anybody would be interested in constructing a robot that tickles within two weeks for a TV show. After some telephone calls and emails Siegfried Kloster and I had the job. The machine should, at the press of a button, fulfil a movement of tickling. We agreed with the film agency to use a feather that would move up and down on the foot of an actor. Actually it is really easy to do, but we decided to use an arm of a robot with six axes and a grab because we wanted to show that with fischertechnik you are able to construct more difficult things. The film was made in a room at the University of Cologne. The team consisted of an actor, an editor, a cameraman and a technician that was responsible for the light and sound. After three hours the scenes with the robot were finished! Each scene was rotated, discussed, easily modified and again rotated – and done from scratch again, again, and again! Nevertheless it was really interesting to see how a film is generated. We could not help much, but we took photos and listened to the team. After the presentation on the Club Day in Veghel, I deconstructed the robot and constructed it again in a completely different way. Revisualised, I presented it in Mörshausen and in Schoonhoven. This "knickarmroboter" weighs 9,2 kg (approximately 3 kg counterweight) and is powered by altogether ten motors. In the picture on the right you can see how its arms are arranged. If you need further technical information concerning the robot you can find it at www.fischertechnik.de under fanclub/projekte.

More beautiful, better, faster

The new appearance of the fischertechnik on the web. As of October 2005 the new fischertechnik Homepage will be activated with a great new look and will be technically up to date. Concerning the colours, we have orientated a new and cool design, which you know well from our catalogue. The known domains like the forum, the gallery and the links stay the same but have been improved. Fans have a new "Log-in" function, and registered users have more options e.g. they can access all Fan Club news. We also have a new "Fun Corner" where you can find fun games or different display pictures. Of course on this new Internet page you can apply for the fischertechnik Newsletter, so that you are always well informed.

The history of fischertechnik

40 years of the fascination of fischertechnik

In 1964 Artur Fischer invented the first brick for fischertechnik. Since then the classic of all construction kits offers lots of possibilities. The focus is on the fantasy: fischertechnik offers possibilities for playing that are not confined to construction with guidance, but instead allows full bent creativity of the junior constructors. Having this focus in mind fischertechnik was consequently advanced, and now reflects the newest standing of techniques. The basis of the system was, and still is, the basic brick that can be added and enlarged on all six sides. At the bottom of our survey you can see what different models have been made out of this brick during the last 40 years. In 1998 Artur Fischer had the newest brainwave invention, when at the age of 78 he invented the creative toy "Artur Fischer TiP". It is a creative material with which you can build, tinker, stick and paint. The main attraction of it being that the TiPs are made of vegetable starch and food colouring, and that is why you do not need any adhesion.

Club Model: "Boxentruck"

Our racing cars also need a "boxentruck" on which they can easily be transported from one starting position to another. The truck consists of our construction kit "Super Trucks" and the new construction kit "Basic Racing". Now the racers can really be caught.