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German Magazine for Z Gauge



News and new products for Spring 2020

New releases of the year 2019
A review of the 2019 modelling year

Introduction

Dear Readers,

As soon as we have finished the turn of the year, we are already in the midst of announcements of new products. Sometimes this is also connected with new delivery date lists, which let long awaited models move further back again.

With excitement I travel to Nuremberg every year to look for and find all novelties, to discuss what has already been announced and to photograph one or the other of them already.



Holger Späing
Editor-in-chief

But there is always a bit of frustration when I notice each year anew how sluggish and reserved the response from the small series is. A few manufacturers actively get in touch and support our editorial team in an exemplary manner. Others wait until we ask for information from our side and are then just as cooperative.

But I'm always wondering about those who don't react even when asked, sometimes don't even maintain their own pages and often skip even the most important events for our gauge. This makes me doubt whether there is really a serious sales interest.

So every now and then I have to read about people who don't answer e-mails and phone calls at all, accept orders and then don't deliver or suddenly abruptly and seemingly for no reason stop contact with their customer.

None of this applies to the winners of this year's honorary award in the category Comprehensive Work! They were chosen because they have been a model of customer orientation for more than two decades and have repeatedly demonstrated a sense of what the market is missing and what they can contribute.

We are proud and happy that the Z-gauge has such role models. Many of these attributes also leave their traces in the other categories. Read the first article to find out which products, services and people we would like to honour for the year 2019.

Next, we will also take a look back. Every year has its ups and downs, exceptional events and precious memories. So it is worthwhile to turn the focus back and review what has moved us in twelve months in our hobby.

But then we also arrived in the present. We give two current book recommendations and list all the novelties that were to be seen or announced in Nuremberg. Likewise, we have not forgotten the important segment of small series providers this time either, and despite Altenbeken, we have collected what we could find out.

The result, I am sure, is again in February 2020 a colourful publication that is both, worth reading and informative. If you see things differently, I would like to join in the dialogue with you!

Sin-Z-erely,

Holger Späing

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We thank Andreas Hagendorf for his book review.

Date of publication of the German language version of this issue: 26 February 2020

Cover photo:
Märklin's Insider model 202, the 41 356 with oil firing, will appear at the Spielwarenmesse (International Toy Fair) - for a photo shoot in front of Faller's new Ochsenhausen train station.

New releases for the year 2019

Double win for Märklin

Shortly before the announcement of new products, we usually look back and award our editorial awards. In the categories locomotives, wagons, accessories and technology as well as literature, we award prizes to the best deliveries of the previous year that have excelled according to specified criteria. This time we are a little later, nothing else has changed.

Shortly after the beginning of the year, our editorial team gets together and reviews what has attracted particular attention in the Z scale market over the past twelve months.

The first task is then to go through the list of nominated products and manufacturers and to check whether this list is complete or whether further nominations are indicated. For example, we have also included the Swedish F5 luggage car (Item No. 46.225.01) from FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik in the car category and the Artitec hay wagon (322.028), also referred to there as the bridge car, for the category accessories.

The decisive factor for us is always that we are holding the model to be evaluated in our hands, i.e. we have been able to evaluate it personally on the basis of an original and, if necessary, measure it. This opportunity had arisen at short notice for our editor Dirk Kuhlmann with the Swedish model.



The Swedish F5 baggage car from Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik (Item No. 46.225.01) was one of the models that we subsequently nominated during a review. Photo: FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik

This is also the reason why you might miss one or the other model personally, which, in your opinion, would have deserved to be considered as well. An example of such new products could be the "Rote Pfeil" (Red Arrow) in the original form from SMZ, or the great conversions of Zmodell from the Ukraine.

We are also happy to give small series manufacturers in particular the chance to show us their best pieces and make them available for testing. This can also be done in the context of a trade fair or exhibition by prior arrangement. A way will surely be found in most cases.

Strengths and weaknesses, but also very general characteristics, will then be recorded by the respective editor and presented in the editorial office. The nomination will also be justified: In addition to the perfection of the implementation, the price-performance ratio, the significance to the market and new features for closing gaps in the product ranges, are particularly important.

However, only new shapes are taken into account. Since this term is elastic because the border between a partially new construction and a form variant is fluid, it often requires closer examination and sometimes case-related decisions. For example, the Aral tank car from Märklin (82324).



Only the separately applied brand plate of the adjuster distinguishes the Aral tank car (82324) from earlier Märklin editions. The editorial staff therefore had to decide whether this was sufficient to evaluate and include the model as a form new product.

Once all the arguments have been exchanged, the voting phase begins. Now all three editors determine their personal favourites in the individual categories. Their votes are sent to the editor-in-chief, who in turn has recorded his vote. After counting, it is clear who has won in the individual categories and also in what proportion of votes this was the case.

Since the introduction of our editorial prizes, it has not yet happened that all three editors' votes have been distributed among completely different models and that there has been no winner. Otherwise, a procedure would have been necessary to resolve such stalemate situations.

This also shows that decisions do not have to be unanimous and can be close. However, it is just as clear that in the preceding steps and discussions an equal understanding has already emerged as to what exactly was missing in the market and what was given to it during the period under consideration. Let us now turn to the individual categories and the winners:

Locomotives Category

Two models were nominated here, namely the NOHAB diesel locomotive MY 1131 of the EBS from FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik (49.125.01), and the Ellok of the E 41 series from Märklin (88353). These

are two vehicles which, despite their fundamental differences, have a lot in common and are both of the highest standards.

At the end of 2018, FR was brave enough to set a competitor model against a Märklin model that had been around for more than ten years, and where a new edition was long overdue.

The locomotive has occupied a niche where there seemed to be no gap (any more), and its economic success is particularly impressive. It is also an expression of a persistent, detail-obsessed and precise implementation. Dirk Kuhlmann writes: "It is rather rare that a locomotive stands out from my installations. This locomotive can." It is a highlight of the small series and at the same time "typically joyful".

The Märklin locomotive was able to assert itself because its implementation with attached handlebars and heater coupling as well as fine engravings and bell-type armature motor is on a par with the E 41. If it weren't for the pantographs on the roof, which are outdated, it would probably be perfect.



"The E 41 is the realization of what the Zetties have been wanting for years", writes Editor Joachim Ritter in his laudation, not without reason. "The largest remaining dream model among the Deutsche Bundesbahn (German Federal Railway) vehicles points to the future with a completely new design principle", adds Editor-in-chief Holger Späing.

The quality of the implementation and its significance as a major gap filler were therefore ultimately decisive for the victory in this category.

Wagons Category

There were few new items in this category in 2019. New in form were the Swiss sliding-wall wagons for contemporary postal traffic, but they looked familiar and almost familiar. Accordingly, they caused little excitement.

The Swedish F5 baggage car of the SJ (46.225.01) was completely redesigned and was released by FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik during the last quarter of 2019.

It is excellently produced, cleanly finished and perfectly complements the company's own range of passenger coaches for Scandinavia. As a niche product, however, it is only of minor importance for the overall market.

So the decision in this category finally fell unanimously on the Aral tank car (82324) from Märklin.

The only thing that is new about it is the attached company sign, but we have shown in detail how much this product update enhances the overall image. "A small model that we think we know is different from its predecessors", Joachim Ritter sums it up.

The only thing that remains to be added is that our decision was also supported by the many enthusiastic readers who responded to our report in the December issue.

Dealers also confirm that this wagon is in great demand and popular. Märklin also recognized this early on and consistently working on a continuation for 2020.

Accessories Category

With no less than three candidates, this category is well filled. Last year's winner Modellbau Laffont indirectly enters the race again, but this time with a Märklin article (89758), because he designed the fish bellied bridge based on the model in Plettenberg for the Göppingen full-range supplier.

It is characterized by a very good fit and is also suitable for gaining further experience with hardboard construction. In addition, it captivates with a fascinating appearance when several copies are arranged one behind the other and span a river valley.

Compared to the church "St. Johannes Paul II" by Archistories (404181), which was developed exclusively for the 1to220 Shop, a bridge seemed to be too unspectacular overall to win a prize here. Dirk Kuhlmann summed up his enthusiasm in a single sentence: "Faller can pack his part".

Anyone who knows their village church, which has been the most beautiful and suitable for many installation situations, will understand that the statement was not directed against the polystyrene kit. Rather, he emphasizes the versatility of this sophisticated construction and the individuality it radiates



thanks to the many individual parts, which also allow for modification, making it suitable for use in many countries.

But it is not for beginners, which is its only limiting feature. And so the majority decision was made in favour of the third candidate, which at first glance may not appear spectacular: the winner was the Artitec bridge wagon (322.028), a classic hay wagon in perfect design!



“Agriculture always works”, is how Joachim Ritter and Holger Späing explain their decision. Added to this is the fact that this topic has recently been well served by various manufacturers, and therefore opens up additional design possibilities.

Whether it's the freight train from Märklin's class 236 low side cars with roof comb locomotive or the Eicher Königstiger from Z-Doktor Modellbau, the theme area is ideal for a branch line idyll.

Our choice also honours the innovative power and filigree from Amsterdam, combined with really affordable prices. Artitec has developed into one of the most important suppliers of accessories for Z-gauge, and we would now like to raise awareness of this fact.

This is particularly evident on the hay wagon, as it is also the most beautiful, finest and closest to its role models that the 1:220 scale has ever seen.

Technology Category

In the last two years, this section has shown considerable leaps in innovation: The Car System for Z gauge has, like a close coupler with a sliding block (SMZ), opened up completely new horizons, and so the exciting question was how far it would be possible to go with it?

The retrofit kit for Märklin's diesel locomotive 236 123-6 from Exact Modellbau (19.10.3.11.1) with etched and cast parts covers the classic small-series repertoire and serves customers in an excellent way who are not satisfied with an off-the-shelf large-series model. This was made particularly clear by this example, as we have shown in this issue.



This locomotive has it in the truest sense of the word: The sound of the sound decoder (00.125.00) reminds of much larger gauges!

However, two Velmo products demonstrated the aforementioned innovative power even more clearly, because the future belongs to digital operation - even in Z scale. The swap board with multi-protocol decoder for Märklin's E 41 (LDS18061) was a challenge and a big investment for Claudius Veit.

However, the operational significance of the smallest ellok in DB's standard locomotive program and its role as an important desired model justified this development. The scope of performance and functional reliability correspond to Velmo's well-known level, because a robust decoder from Doehler + Haass works on the circuit board.

However, the DCC sound decoder for the NOHAB from FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik (00.125.00) offered a further improvement, allowing this diesel locomotive to show all its strengths in the model and draw attention to itself. With a demonstration film on our website, we have tried to make this a real experience for all readers.

So there was no question that we won in this category, as it was unanimously awarded to this model, with each editor having his own point to emphasize. Dirk Kuhlmann has "simply fun playing" with it on his layouts, Joachim Ritter speaks of the "last kick" that the FR model gets from it.



Holger Späing summarizes all the reasons as follows: "Two outstanding achievements have combined to form a perfect overall picture at NOHAB. Since it was barely enough for the locomotive itself, this award should be seen as praise, incentive, and recognition for both project partners involved!"

Literature Category

Four titles competed against each other here. This time there was no film among them, and all the works came from different publishers, although these can be reduced to three publishing groups. However, this made the decision less exciting and also not easier.

In addition to the classic railway volumes "Güterwagen Band 1.2" (VG Bahn), "Die Köln-Mindener Eisenbahn" (Sutton Verlag) and "Die V 160-Familie Band 3" (EK-Verlag), the title "Bitte volltanken!" (Klartext) also includes a work in the selection that is not directly related to the railway.

It was nominated because of its high quality and practical value in the authentic design of model railroad layouts, but is still more likely to be seen in an outsider or surprise role, while EK volumes are already traditional title contenders.

Nevertheless, this time the victory goes unanimously to Verlagsgruppe Bahn and Stefan Carstens with the book "Güterwagen Band 1.2" (ISBN 978-3-89610-653-7): Its importance for role model fans seems undisputed, perfectly researched and structured are the volumes of this series anyway.

But the fact that this is a perfect reference book also for all model railroaders who want to know a little bit more about their models, who plan to build their own models or who are just looking for pictorial ideas for modifications and individualizations was the decisive factor for their choice.

Here we would like to emphasize that the revision of the original volume and its division into two new books has also added value for the growing group of Reichsbahners following East German models. And especially for weathering and ageing of freight car models, the excellent work provides many suitable models.



Complete Works Category

In recent years, we have consistently found prize winners whose complete works we would like to honour and highlight.

We would like to honour many small and large innovations, which would not make it to the throne on their own, but also many years of special merit, sometimes even decades, for the Z.

The award winners for the year 2019 are no exception: anyone who has been loyal to the Z gauge and has been associated with it for ten, twenty or thirty years will surely come up with a name straight away when looking back over such a long time!

In his laudation, Joachim Ritter therefore aptly pointed out that this award was long overdue. Dirk Kuhlmann also joined in the vote, emphasizing how friendly the couple to be awarded the prize was and still is to their customers.

The gentleman of the duo likes to describe himself with “I am not the cheap Jacob”, but always pursues the ambitious goal of being able to fulfil every customer wish and to position himself broadly for this. And so many small and big problems end up in Aachen, to be solved there with suitable parts or products.

In terms of price, however, we would also like to take up the cudgels because, as Joachim Ritter rightly points out, all new and “bare” car models will probably be loaded here in an extremely realistic, fast and inexpensive manner.



Helmut (left) and Josephine Küpper from Aachen have rendered outstanding services to Gauge Z for decades, whether through creative cargo, accessories or spare parts. The excellent range of products has always been coupled with an extraordinary customer orientation and friendliness. Photo: Self-portrait

By now at the latest, all readers will have understood who is being honoured here: We are honouring Josephine and Helmut Küpper of Spur Z Ladegut for their decades of service to and for Spurweite Z with the 2019 Prize of Honour in the category of Complete Works.

Extremely customer-oriented, friendly, committed and active with heart and soul, they have really earned it. We are glad and happy to count them as part of the Z gauge community and hope that they will remain with us for many years to come!

New category for 2020

We congratulate all the winners and praise their outstanding achievements. Of course, we hope that this is also an incentive for all suppliers who have not received an award today to continue to work with such commitment and determination on solutions and products for nominal size Z.

In the future, we would like to open our editorial awards to all private individuals, well beyond the category of complete works. At the suggestion of our editor Dirk Kuhlmann, we have decided to also award the best system, segment, module or diorama on a scale of 1:220 from 2020.



In the future, we would also like to award a special investment of our readers, which we become aware of or particularly noticeable in the course of the year.

At the moment we are still thinking about an appropriate name for this new category, which sums up all possible aspects.

But in order to be able to consider and examine as many works as possible, we would be very pleased if we could build on the activities of our readers.

The upcoming exhibition in Altenbeken certainly offers plenty of fuel for our endeavours, but it would also be nice if model railroaders themselves would contact the editorial staff. This may be with their own contributions, which deserve a public showing.

Of course, we would also be pleased if you know suitable candidates you would like to nominate, because the

builder simply deserves to be awarded by us. The prerequisite is, of course, that the honoured person is willing to take a small step for the Z gauge public.

Participate actively, share your impressions and opinions with us! Z Gauge is a small, but closely linked and powerful community, which can and must confidently show what is possible on a small scale today.

- The webpages of our winners:**
- <http://www.artitec.nl>
 - <https://www.maerklin.de>
 - <https://spur-z-ladegut.de>
 - <https://velmo.de>
 - <https://shop.vgbahn.info>

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Note for English readers: The literature section that follows is not translated into English because the original texts of the books involved are in the German language. The original German is left here for information purposes only.

Erweiterung zur Fahrzeug-Bibliothek **Fortgesetztes Standardwerk**

Werner Oswald literarisches Werk „Deutsche Autos“ war allen Automobilbegeisterten bestens bekannt, die schnellen und vollständigen Überblick suchten, aber keine Lust hatten, große Packen an Katalogen zu durchwälzen und auszuwerten. Dieses Standardwerk ist aber auch ein hilfreiches Arbeitsmittel für alle Modellbahner, denn keine Anlage kommt ohne belebte Straßen aus.

Werner Oswald / Eberhard Kittler
Deutsche Autos
1975 - 1995

Motorbuch Verlag
Stuttgart 2019

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Die umfassenden Chroniken von Werner Oswald erlangten schnell eine große Beliebtheit und wurden zu wichtigen Referenzwerken für die Welt des Automobils.

In den siebziger Jahren hatte er begonnen, die Vielfalt des deutschen Automobilbaus zu strukturieren, auszuwerten und in einem Buch aufzuarbeiten. Die überarbeitete Wiederauflage dieses ersten Teils haben wir bereits vorgestellt.

Doch sein Wirken ging weiter, auch die Zeit zwischen 1975 und 1995 wurde in gleicher Weise bearbeitet, doch zu weiteren Veröffentlichungen kam es schließlich nicht mehr. 1990 erschien die letzte, von ihm editierte Auflage, die bereits auf zwei Bände verteilt werden musste. Werner Oswald verstarb 1997, gleichwohl blieb „Deutsche Autos“ über viele Jahre sein bekanntestes und längst vergriffenes Buch.

Eberhard Kittler nahm die Herausforderung an, sein Erbe auszuwerten, aufzugreifen, aufzuarbeiten und fortzusetzen. Als krönender Abschluss der Reihe erscheint mit dem hier vorgestellten Titel die komplett überarbeitete Neuauflage des Klassikers zur deutschen Pkw-Geschichte im Motorbuch-Verlag.

Komprimiert und kompakt, aber in einer modernen und ebenso attraktiven Aufmachung, schließt es nahtlos an den ersten Band an. Dabei handelt es sich eigentlich um den dritten Band der Reihe, denn den Titel zur Vorkriegsgeschichte haben wir in diesem Magazin bislang ausgelassen.



Im Rahmen der Messe-Neuheitenvorstellungen erschien es uns passend, unseren Leserinnen und Lesern zu den schönen Modellumsetzungen von Álvaro Cortes und Zcustomizer auch passende Vorbildlektüre an die Hand zu geben.

Mit einem unnachahmlichen Stil und kaum zu übertreffender Sachkenntnis wird hier nämlich die Geschichte der deutschen Automobilindustrie ab Mitte der siebziger Jahre bis kurz vor die Jahrtausendwende erzählt. Beim Blättern und Lesen haben wir kein Modell vermisst: Was uns bekannt war, findet sich hier in nahezu allen Modellen und Ausführungen wieder, dazu auch einige Typen, die uns in dieser Form nicht bekannt waren.

Nur ganz wenige „Exoten“ fehlen hier, die der Rezensent selbst auch nur aus den Beständen ihm bekannter Autosammler kennt und die nur Stückzahlen von wenigen hundert oder tausend Exemplaren erfahren haben, aber so ab Werk vom Band liefen.

Für den Zweck als Nachschlagewerk und Überblick, was im Darstellungszeitraum einer Modellbahnanlage typisch und verbreitet war, reicht dieses Buch aber mehr als aus, denn über diese Mindestanforderung geht es dann doch sehr weit hinaus.

Gerade auf solche Allerweltsautos wie den Opel Kadett, den Ford Escort oder auch Golf und Passat von Volkswagen kommt es den meisten doch an. Auch der damals ganz neue „Baby-Benz“, das Modell 190, ist eines der Fahrzeuge, die keinesfalls vergessen werden durften. Hier finden wir auch die in nur kleiner Stückzahl gebauten „Evolution“-Modelle wieder.

Penibel ist hier schließlich zusammengetragen und aufgelistet, welche Autos die Werkshallen verließen und schaffen eben Klarheit bis zum letzten Nischenmodell. Und genau dahinter steckt eine wahre Sisyphusarbeit: Beschränkte sich die Zahl der auszuwertenden Hersteller auf gerade mal sieben, erreicht deren Produktpalette in Summe schon rund fünfzig Grundtypen!

Die Recherchen erfolgten einst zeitnah und damit in der Zeit vor dem Internet. Die Zahl an Stunden für das Auswerten von Katalogen und Wälzern dürften kaum zu zählen oder auch nur ansatzweise zu schätzen sein.

Bezeichnend ist hier auch, dass der Umfang für die betrachteten zwanzig Jahre, trotz deutlich reduzierter Herstellerzahl, ebenso viel Platz beansprucht wie die dreißig davor liegenden Jahre. Lobenswert ist es also, dass die bewährte Struktur beibehalten wurde und ein sinnvoller Jahresschnitt möglich war.

So sind alle serienmäßig hergestellten Pkw, ausgenommen aber Kleinbusse und Geländewagen, in Bild und Tabellenform erfasst und werden mit ansprechenden sowie gut reproduzierten Fotos kombiniert. So spricht dieser Titel wieder einen breiten Kreis an möglichen Käufern an: Modellbahner, Autoenthusiasten und -sammler sowie Technikbegeisterte.

.....
Publishing pages with reference possibility:
<https://www.motorbuch.de>
.....

Einführung in die digitale Welt Hilfe für Digitalanfänger

Viele Werke, gleich ob Buch oder Sonderheft, beschäftigen sich nur mit der Baugröße H0, dem Umbau spezieller Modelle oder einem einzigen Hersteller. Für Digitalanfänger sind solche Produkte nahezu wertlos, weil sie Wissen voraussetzen, das sonst nirgendwo vermittelt wird. Unser Fachautor Andreas Hagendorf hat sich ein neues Buch, das dies ändern möchte, ganz genau angesehen.

Tobias Pütz
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Von Andreas Hagendorf. Ein großer Teil der Fachliteratur über digitale Modellbahnen für Wiedereinsteiger und Umsteiger ist einseitig ausgerichtet auf nur eine Spurweite - meist H0. Das möchte das vorliegende Buch anders machen - schon auf dem Titel wird prominent darauf hingewiesen.

Der Autor Tobias Pütz ist bekannter Fachautor, er verantwortet und schreibt auch für die Reihen „Digitale Modellbahn (DiMo)“ und „Miba-Extra Modellbahn digital“. Das fast quadratische Format des Buches ist leider etwas unhandlich, sinnvoller ist das Format DIN A4, das auch besser in eine vorhandene Bibliothek passt.

Dafür findet sich der Leser aber schnell beim Nachschlagen zurecht. Die Bilder und Grafiken sind qualitativ sehr hochwertig und durchgehend farbig. Gewählt wurde allerdings eine Schriftart ohne Serifen mit sehr großer Schrifthöhe; das ist für die Lesbarkeit nicht optimal.

Das Buch gliedert sich in sechs Kapitel, vom einfachen Einstieg über das „Plus“ von Digital, die digitale Infrastruktur und der Automatisierung von Abläufen, bis hin zur Technik dahinter. Zum Abschluss gibt es noch Basisinformationen und Hintergründiges. Dieses sollte wohl mal ein Glossar werden, wird doch in Kapitel Eins auf ein solches verwiesen.

Im ersten Kapitel wird das zeitlose Hobby Modellbahn allgemein beschrieben und es werden Unterschiede von Baugrößen und Systemen herausgearbeitet, um eine individuell passende Wahl treffen zu können. Es folgen ein wenig Markt- und Warenkunde, bevor der Autor einen Blick auf die verschiedenen Anlagen-Konzepte wirft.

Positiv anzumerken ist, dass Tobias Pütz bei der Systemauswahl Kombinationsprobleme nicht verschweigt und die Marktübersicht nach Spurweiten gegliedert ist. Leider springt er hier jedoch zu kurz, da er sich in Bezug auf die Spurweite Z nur auf europäische Anbieter beschränkt. Rokuhan, Micro-Trains und AZL etwa fallen so bereits unter den Tisch, obwohl diese zum Teil sogar eigene Gleissysteme bieten. Auch behauptet der Autor, dass die Digitalisierung in Spur Z nur privaten Initiativen vorbehalten ist. War

dies vor vielleicht zehn oder fünfzehn Jahren noch so, hat sich die Situation inzwischen gründlich geändert.

Klingt im ersten Kapitel die Systemauswahl nur kurz an, wird im zweiten Kapitel weiter ausgeholt. Es geht um die Unterschiede analogen und digitalen Betriebs sowie die wesentlichen Merkmale eines Digitalsystems. Aufgefallen ist mir hier, dass eine Betrachtung der unterschiedlichen Motoren und der Vorteile der Ansteuerung mit PWM durch die Decoder-Elektronik fehlt, gerade auch mit Blick auf das Langsamfahrverhalten insbesondere auf Weichen.

Im dritten Kapitel geht es um digitale Infrastruktur, also Zentralen, Busse und Decoder mit den Funktionen Steuern, Schalten und Melden. Dabei nennt der Autor neben den Vorteilen auch die Nachteile der Entscheidung für ein System. Heißt es weiter vorne im Buch noch, dass alle Systeme zueinander passen, wird hier durchaus eine Einschränkung gemacht.

Ist die Beschreibung der unterschiedlichen Typen von Zentralen und Decodern noch ausreichend, wird RailCom zwar erwähnt, aber weder hier noch später im Detail erklärt. Dabei ist es ein wichtiges Rückmeldesystem, das auch in Spur Z verfügbar ist.

Es folgt die Beschäftigung mit dem Automatisieren von Abläufen und Reagieren auf Ereignisse. Sehr schönen und detaillierten Beschreibungen zu digitalem Bremsen und ABC folgt das gute Beispiel eines automatisierten Pendelverkehrs. Spätestens hier hätte auch zumindest eine Erwähnung der vielen Software-Angebote folgen dürfen, doch leider fehlt dieses Thema komplett.

Die „Technik dahinter“ erläutert Tobias Pütz sehr verständlich und nennt das Handwerkszeug eines Digitalbahners wie Protokolle, die elektrische Kommunikation, die Einstellungen der Decoder mit Hilfe von Konfigurationsvariablen bis hin zur Fahrdynamik und der Mehrfachtraktion. Sehr lobenswert: Er schreibt vom „Einstellen“ und „Konfigurieren“ von Decodern statt vom häufig zu lesenden und dennoch falschen „Programmieren“.

Leider ist ihm hier ein Fehler unterlaufen: Die Gleisspannung für Spur Z liegt im Digitalbereich zwischen 12 und 14 Volt und nicht, wie er aus den nicht praktikablen NEM-Normen entnommen hat, 9 bis 10 Volt, mit der sich Digitalsignale nicht sicher übertragen lassen. Das letzte Kapitel des Buches bietet einen Ausflug in die Welt von Bits und Bytes, der damit verbundenen Rechnerei sowie einem Abstecher in die Elektronik von Dioden und LED.

Zusammengefasst hat es Tobias Pütz geschafft, das durchaus komplexe Thema der digitalen Modellbahn verständlich vor dem interessierten, aber unerfahrenen Leser auszubreiten. Er schreibt in einem lockeren Ton, nennt durchaus auch Nachteile und äußert sich ebenso kritisch, wo dies angemessen erscheint. Negativ aufgefallen ist da nur das schlechte oder gar nicht vorhandene Lektorat: viele Rechtschreibfehler, verstümmelte Sätze - beides sogar in Bildunterschriften - und der Verweis auf ein fehlendes Kapitel.

Insgesamt handelt es sich um ein Buch, das weit über den üblichen Tellerrand blickt. Es ist aber keine Schritt-für-Schritt-Anleitung im klassischen Sinne, sondern ein tieferes Führen des Lesers in die Materie, Kapitel für Kapitel.

Meiner Meinung nach liegt großes Potential im gewählten Stil des Buches: herstellerunabhängig und alle Spurweiten umfassend, ins Thema einführend und zugleich in Teilen auch ein Nachschlagewerk. Werden die kritisierten Punkte noch verbessert, dann kann es ein Standardwerk werden, das in keiner Fachliteratur-Sammlung eines Modellbahners fehlen darf.

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: Publishing pages with reference possibility: :
: <https://shop.vgbahn.info> :
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A review of the 2019 modelling year **Ups, downs and some surprises**

At the beginning of a new model railway year, we have always taken a look back at what we have been busy with and enthusiastic about over the past twelve months. We certainly want to carry on with this tradition and will present here our review of the 2019 as a fitting complement to the articles about new releases for 2020 and our awards for special models in this month's issue.

The new year began with a bang in January 2019. With Märklin's stake car Rmms 33 we were able to present a new freight car, which was not only well designed, but can also be used for many different railway modelling themes: After all, what is better suited for depicting cargo themes than a freight car that has a flat and fully visible loading area?

Only very few readers will have been surprised that this model also won the competition for best new 2018 release in the wagon category, in particular as it became available in retail shops during the Christmas business period. And Märklin also won also first place in the equally important and respected locomotives category, namely with its Kittel DT8 steam railcar in German Federal Railway livery.



The V 80, shown here as a sample, would certainly have been a possible candidate for the new releases of the year, but the delivery of the model is still a long way off. Märklin communicated unusually openly that a serious tool defect had to be fixed, which would also lead to production being rescheduled.

The previous Märklin victory in this category already dates back six years ago, and four years in the new wagon category. This clearly shows how strong the position of small series producers has become in the Z gauge segment of the market, once their models, which are of course usually more expensive than a large series product, are evaluated according to comparable and comprehensible standards. We would like to remind you, for example, of a close coupled Z-gauge model from SMZ, which also received an award.

And we should not fail to mention the series 94⁵⁻¹⁷ presented in the same issue, a highly modified and detailed version which Bahls-Modelleisenbahnen created from a Märklin model, that had probably the longest time lag from product announcement to delivery.

This keyword brings us to another perennial favourite of the Mini-Club range: Customers were eagerly awaiting the Märklin insider model of the V 80, DB's first diesel engine locomotive development, on which the new cardan shaft drive had once been tested in practice. Recurrent delays of the release data of this model was and still is a big test of patience for customers and finally even the subsequent Club model of the class E 41 has been released in the meantime.

The reported cause of the delivery delays for the V 80 are serious tool defects that Märklin has to repair, before this locomotive can be re-introduced into production planning. Currently, it looks as if these delays could extend into the fall of 2020. We therefore remain curious to see as to whether this will set a new negative record in terms of delays.

However, this is unlikely to apply to the quality of the locomotive itself, given that customer satisfaction seems to be given priority over fast delivery. The already published exploded drawing of the model promises constructive new approaches. We will continue to pursue this and keep you posted on progress!

Some amazement and joy was caused by our report about the good placements and victories of Z-scale entries to the Eisenbahn Magazin diorama competition 2018, also published in **Trainini®** 1/2019. After having had to hear so many times "That's very nice, but it's not H0", we didn't expect such a clear, honest and positive vote in favour of Z scale, but needless to say, we were quite pleased with it!



Our report on the Z-gauge victory at the diorama competition of the Eisenbahnmagazin caused astonishment and we also presented some works in the course of the year as part of our annual theme - but not this one, because we could not establish contact with its builder.

Sincere recognition instead of questions of faith in the field of model railroading - something seems to be moving. Our years of joint efforts with many, many representatives and communities of the Z-scale scene seem to start changing perceptions and establishing us as "serious" model railroaders in the long term.

February is the month of novelties: By the time of the annual Nuremberg International Toy Fair, all manufacturers of large and small series have usually announced their projects and plans for new models. Last year was no exception. However, we were the first to show prototype samples of Märklin's express steam locomotive 03 1001 as well as samples of the KlV 20 rail car, which Märklin wants to motorize.

At that time, the Shinkansen 500 in Hello Kitty livery had been in operation for about three quarters of a year. With the support of JR West, we were able to present the prototype in detail and in addition, we were able to discuss its Rokuhan model which was produced and licensed exclusively for the Japanese market. There is no question that this topic remained in people's minds for a long time.

Soon afterwards, our translator Christoph Maier and his family were lucky enough to be able to travel by this train. The trigger for the family's wish was of course the article that Christoph had translated and which made this pink bullet train famous here.



One of our three translators and his family took a ride in the Hello Kitty Shinkansen on April 16, 2019, and our printed February issue, which caught the attention of many of our readers worldwide, also made the trip and was also well received by the train's staff. Photo: Christoph Maier

Unfortunately, the month was also overshadowed by bad news: With Siglinde Dinkelacker, a merited Z-scale ambassador and warrior of many decades, had bid farewell to life. This sad news hit our readers and us right in the heart.

In March, we presented a Märklin model that many people first thought had been bought by Märklin from a supplier: Speculations as to whether it was American Z Lines or a German supplier, who had only been producing larger scales until then and once dared to make such an announcement, developed into downright conspiracy theories.

This was about the class E 41 engine, and Märklin just told us that the project was about observing the solutions of third parties and developing own ways for improving these. That's why their own design was also breaking new ground and that they would continue to do so in the future. The recently published new releases for 2020 confirm this.

We were also able to present a nice new item from the accessories area. Beautiful scale 1:220 churches that could be used on across a wide range of layout themes had so far been in scarce supply, but Archistories' nicely detailed new laser cut hardboard church model makes for a universal use and therefore a useful addition to the market.

With Wilfried Pflugbeil, we have also been able to win over a tinkerer who, with good ideas, excellent skills and a great deal of creativity, simply creates everything himself that is not for sale. This certainly makes him a great role model for many of our readers.



This extraordinary Era II layout would certainly have gone perfectly with our annual theme, but it was still under construction at the time. Our reader therefore explained to us the creative scratch building of the mechanical signal box. Photo: Wilfried Pflugbeil

The same is true of Axel Pieke's "Test track on a square metre, Mark II", a layout which in April kicked off our 2019 special focus theme series on layout design. His ambition was not layout engineering to the highest standard but simply to build an attractive and appealing layout that would fit into a very small space and that could be built with standard materials. What's more to say than "Mission accomplished!"

Meanwhile, Märklin delighted us with another V 36 version, this time with a roof cockpit, after a green DR version had already been cheerfully welcomed. The "Faszination Modellbahn" spring model railway fair had just completed its relocation.



Märklin's class 236 not only turned out to be an attractive locomotive, but also came with matching freight cars, which are also among the top models from Göppingen. After all, this design had won our "New Release of the Year 2018" award.

For the first time, it took place in Mannheim, which will remain the new venue in the future. A highlight of this exhibition was of course the enormously large US themed layout of US Z Lines Europe. Raffaele Picollo reported his participation in the "Osaka Z Day" and plays a major role in the fact that his Japanese hosts of "Baden-tani9" are planning a return visit to Altenbeken this year.

In May, two special projects were the subject of our monthly issue: FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik had entered the race with its NOHAB diesel locomotive, which deliberately and specifically competed with Märklin's models.

The implementation, especially of the digital model, was impressive and certainly a key reason for its economic success, which clearly exceeded even the boldest hopes.

In order to illustrate the impressively reproduced operating sounds and the lighting effects of the digital model to our readers, a short film appeared on our website in August to round off and supplement the test report.



Probably never before has a small-series model competed so successfully against an already established Märklin counterpart as the NOHAB model from FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik.

When the new design was announced, Harald Thom-Freudenreich could not have guessed that Märklin, too, would subject its NOHAB model to a product update and to introduce it into market as a novelty. New bogie covers were to correct the most serious error of the previous models, and metal-filled plastic was to make for more weight and better traction. We also presented this manufacturing approach in detail, including its prospects.

The report from the Intermodellbau fair, which took place in the middle of the renovation of the Westfalenhallen exhibition centre, was also included. Traditionally, Märklin's summer novelties are also announced here, many of which were not yet available at the time of going to press with that issue.

Almost at the same time, SMZ announced its "Red Arrow" Re 2/4 201 of the SBB, which as the original version is not simply a colour variant. Sondermodelle Z from Vienna thus launched another top model, which represents a seamless continuation of its own product range and was met, as expected, with great interest.

At the beginning of summer we were able to really get going: Following the report on the small layout in April, our main theme for the year got off to a good start. With a layout planning proposal and the presentation of diorama we published two articles. The diorama presentation was also a prelude to showcase to our readers some excellent Z scale contributions in the context of the focus theme.

Suitable for the hot and extremely dry midsummer of 2019 in Europe, we then presented the building of a diorama, which had also taken part in the EM competition. It was part 2 of a "Four-Seasons" series, which we had started ten years before.



The engineering report on our midsummer diorama suited the very hot and extremely dry weeks of July and August 2019. On our showpiece, a fire engine and a light railway meet on the country road.

The aim of the project was to create a worthy backdrop for showcasing new models of road vehicles and Saller's narrow gauge field railway. Unfortunately, it was announced shortly afterwards that the Zf field train program was to be discontinued and that existing stocks were sold off.

Although the motif and theme of this diorama was outside the main focus of our readers, it was nevertheless well received and repeatedly attributed to our editor Dirk Kuhlmann. Although this was not the case, we are happy about this impression. After all, it shows how much his techniques and reports influence upscale Z-gauge modelling.

During the main summer holiday season, one particular prototype topic also caused some discussion, as the corresponding model, which many are now looking forward to, was not announced until the autumn. We are talking about the 101 064-4 of the DB AG, which was covered with advertising for Märklin.

We had the exclusive privilege, alongside Märklin TV, to witness, experience, document and report on the process of this metamorphosis. This gave us the opportunity to understand what goes on behind the scenes when a new advertising locomotive comes into being.



A few weeks after our report on the decoration of 101 064-4 at the DB Regio workshop in Dortmund-Spähenfelde, the Märklin anniversary locomotive model for the 160th company anniversary was also announced for gauge Z.

Not entirely surprising, many readers had requested reports about museum railways and realistic train formations from the steam era with Z-gauge rolling stock. Concerning the former, we ventured to publish an article in the September issue, which presented two steam locomotive formations according to prototypical situations.

On our photos they were shown with correctly reproduced historic formations whilst regular operations might well have also includes carriages in red or ocean blue-ivory coloured paint schemes. Surely we will come back again to this topic in the future.

A new experience for us was also to focus on Rokuhan's Shorty chassis: If the shortened and minimized models are a hit in Japan, they will occupy at best a niche under our generally more generous space conditions and the European way of going about modelling.

Nevertheless they are also suitable for more ambitious projects, as our reader Thomas Hess demonstrated with his creation of a motorized wagon based on a Shorty chassis. We are already preparing a further, no less exemplary model, to be presented in 2020.

An eye-catcher in late summer 2019 was the ZFI annual wagon "BfB" on the basis of a Märklin model. The striking green brandy tank car was elaborately painted and printed and thus made for a true top model. Faller's autumn novelties, a cinema and a church, almost went unnoticed as they had been already presented earlier on a diorama at the Nuremberg Toy Fair.

Going back to standard models is not easy once one acquired the taste for the 3D print models from EtchIT and Z-Doktor Modellbau. The former has already been known for some time amongst enthusiasts and manages time and again to close gaps in the line up of Z-scale products. Björn Plutka, on the other hand, has gone from being a tinkerer to being a commercial manufacturer of small series and we were able to present him for the first time in September.



As an impressive newcomer among the small-series manufacturers, Z-Doktor Modellbau (Björn Plutka) made a name for itself in 2019. Examples of his skills are this Eicher Königstiger and this ladder wagon, which he made exclusively for us.

In October, we managed to divide opinions: While our “Norddeich Mole” layout proposal, for which several readers announced construction projects, proved to be a direct hit, our report on weathering wagons was met with a mixed response.

Some people appreciate reading about topics like this, consider them important and welcome the presentation of different techniques and working methods. However, the project presented, which was developed in parallel to a sister model for a report in Miba-magazine, was also criticized as being unsuccessful and not very realistic looking.

We would like to answer at this point that the applied weathering traces and structures were designed according to prototype images and can be considered to be realistic, but we do not have the publication rights for these images. Taste, on the other hand, is very much open to dispute. However, not all specimens of the same type show the same patterns and traces!

The autumn trade fair season started in Göppingen: The Märklin Days 2019 and the associated Z-Convention South Germany demonstrated once more Z scale modelling at the highest standard. Jens Wimmel (Zettzeit) announced a time-out. We sincerely hope to welcome him and his website back to the community when writing our annual review at the end of 2020.

We received an extraordinarily positive response from readers to our reports on prototypical situations in the November and December 2019 editions. Both the article on container transport of the German Federal Railways and the diversity of mineral oil logistics were perceived to be excellently researched by recognised experts who praised the high professional standards of **Trainini®** - this is a great incentive for the editorial team to keep up the level in the future!



Never before have we received so much and such a good response to our reports - via various channels - as in the months of November and December 2019, when we first reported on the container transport of the German Federal Railway and then on mineral oil logistics, each from the angle of the modelling and prototypical side.

But of course both topics were also well received by our regular readers who provided us with suggestions and ideas for similar articles.

Alexander Matthias Mack must have also been pleased, because the presentation of his small winter layout was combined with a book tip. We learned from several readers that they purchased the book and were enthusiastic about its exciting and stimulating story.

The end of the year was marked by several events: Firstly, the "Faszination Modellbau" Friedrichshafen as the last Autumn trade show, which also had a broad and high-quality Z-scale presence.

The second event was the International Model Railway Day, which we also celebrated with an exhibition participation. The focus was on the work with young people, but the Advent meeting as a whole is more widely perceived in the Z-scale community.

In 2019 it was time again that many Z-scale enthusiasts made their biennial pilgrimage to Zell (Mosel) to chat, dine together, drink a glass of wine and to present the public with a nice day at the exhibition.

This concludes our review of the year. Looking ahead, let me announce our new annual focus theme for 2020: following positive reactions last year, we have decided to place it under the heading "reader layouts". We will already start with this in the next issue!

The 71st International Toy Fair 2020 The newest items from Nuremberg

The 71st edition of the International Toy Fair took place between 29 January and 2 February 2020. Traditionally, this takes place in the toy city of Nuremberg, which was also once an important high mountain for model railways. Fortunately, we didn't have the impression this year that the number of exhibitors had shrunk noticeably again, even though the list is of course not as long as it was in the heyday.



Dr. Ulrich Maly opened the Spielwarenmesse (International Toy Fair) for the last time as Lord Mayor of Nürnberg.

Traditionally, the International Toy Fair begins on the evening before the first day of the fair with a grand opening ceremony attended by invited guests. In addition to a presentation at the beginning and a large buffet at the end, this event includes above all the presentation of nominated toys and the announcement of the winners.

The so-called "Toy Award" is presented in different categories, separated by age groups. A new feature is the awarding of a prize for the development of a newly founded company, in order to give creative ideas of company founders a media-friendly boost.

However, the awards, which are highly valued in the industry because they have an advertising impact, still lack an independent adult category, although there are many products for this target group in particular. If we consider them to have purchasing power and also observe the demographic trend, it remains a mystery why young people and adults are mixed up in the awarding of prizes despite differing demands and interests.

As a cross-reference to the importance of this age group we would like to mention the Danish supplier Lego: At the press conference, information on sales to adults was provided for the first time. According to this, one in ten Euros is accounted for by them and does not mean purchases by parents for their children.

But the beginning of a large trade fair also includes an opening speech. This honour usually goes to the Bavarian Minister President, but he was in Moscow on 28 January. And so this honour fell to Nuremberg's outgoing mayor Dr. Ulrich Maly, whom many of those present would probably have preferred anyway.

He opened the 71st edition of the International Toy Fair for the last time as a speaker and once again succeeded in interweaving the toy city of Nuremberg, and its most famous fair. He looked back on the many years of cooperation between the city as the owner of the fairgrounds and the cooperatively organized International Toy Fair.

It became clear that this fair does not necessarily have to take place in the Franconian metropolis, but that both partners are very interested in it. Conflicts of interest are in the nature of things, but so far the responsible persons have always reached their goal together in a spirit of esteem.

And so the status of Toy City has also become part of Nuremberg's, application for the European Capital of Culture, while the cooperation has also been extended for further years.



From the morning following the opening ceremony, the halls of the fair will fill with trade visitors from 9:00 a.m. for five days.

But there also seems to be a change in exhibitors. Here again, Lego is a good example. Sales in Germany in 2019 had risen by 3.2 %, the market share was confirmed. The core lines had even grown and every second child in Germany had received at least one new Lego product in 2019. The good mood, however, seemed to exemplify the entire industry.



The report also covered the goal of sustainability by 2030, a topic that has been high on the agenda for some time. Lego is receiving a great deal of recognition, even though the time horizon may not seem very ambitious at first glance.

In response to our enquiry, it was explained that it was by no means just a matter of being able to do without the plastic films in the boxes and to buy the cardboard boxes consciously and in a resource-saving manner. Rather, the focus of the development is to be able to produce Lego bricks in a sustainable way until then.

However, they must also not wear out, rot in the house or cellar or otherwise lose their durability. Therefore, this does not have to mean a change of material, but can lead to alternative manufacturing processes. A journalist colleague referred to the flexible Lego trees, which are made of polyethylene (PE), which has long been extracted from sugar cane instead of mineral oil.



Heki sed two beautiful H0 dioramas (see also picture on page 29 below) to promote their landscaping products.

We are curious whether such tendencies will also reach the model railway industry, after Vollmer's former advance on "bio-plastic" by Viessmann was apparently quietly and secretly buried. We have now reached hall 7A, where not only exciting new products, but also beautiful dioramas were shown.

+++ Acrylicos Vallejo +++

The special-effect colours introduced last year under the product name "Shifters" have been expanded to three combinations of six colours each. For the click scalpel, where blades are inserted and locked in place instead of being screwed down, there are fine saws for precision model making.

These are the products "Precision Saw Set" (Part No. T06008), "Mini Saw Blades" (T06009) and the "Modelling Saw Set with 4 Blades with Scalpel Handle" (T06001) with 0.24 mm thin blades throughout.

Not a new product, but perfect for the tiny applications in Z-gauge are the very narrow and inexpensive Vallejo Masking Tapes, which are 18 m long per roll.

They are available in widths of 1 mm (T07002), 2 mm (T07003), 3 mm (T07004), 6 mm (T07005), 10 mm (T07006) and 18 mm (T07001).



The narrow masking tapes with a width of 1 mm (top) and 2 mm (bottom) are also suitable for many Z-scale projects. Product illustrations: Acrylicos Vallejo

Because of the focus on military model making, however, Vallejo's program also includes new products apart from colours and tools that can serve us well. The Vallejo Scenics product line, for example, includes new, very fine tufts of grass under the name "Tuft", which can offer an alternative to the relevant accessory manufacturers.

www.acrylicosvallejo.com



AK Interactive starts with the third generation of its acyl colours. The screw cap offers a central recess for a colour sample drop, which helps with comparison and selection. Photo: AK Interactive

+++ AK Interactive +++

This Spanish paint supplier is well represented in many model making branches, also in the railway model making of the larger gauges. At the toy fair he presented his third generation acrylic paints, which are suitable for application by brush and spray.

There are 236 different colours available, which promise even better quality than the previous products. For example, the paint channel of a spray gun should no longer become blocked. Further information can be found on the supplier's webpages.

The 17-ml bottle in which customers buy their paints is also well thought out: The cap contains a small recess into which a drop can be placed in order to be able to read off the colour tone contained in it exactly at any time.

www.ak-interactive.com

+++ Artitec +++

Zetties have had this accessory specialist firmly on paper for several years now, as Artitec has become one of the most important manufacturers of 1/220th scale models, away from rolling stock and building models. And 2020 is no exception, as a number of new products have been introduced.

continued on page 33



A Ford 5000 (Item no. 322.300; picture left) and the “vulture car” for manure transport (322.031; picture right) enliven agricultural topics at Artitec.



The “Tin Lizzie” was the most built car in the world, ahead of the VW Beetle with 15 million units. Artitec honours this with a Z-scale model of the Touring version (322.033; photo above left), the red civilian motorcycle (322.038; photo above right) will certainly attract attention with its colour and filigree. Indispensable for military scenes is the MAN 630 L2 AE of the Bundeswehr (German Army) (322.032; photo below). All photos on this page: Artitec.

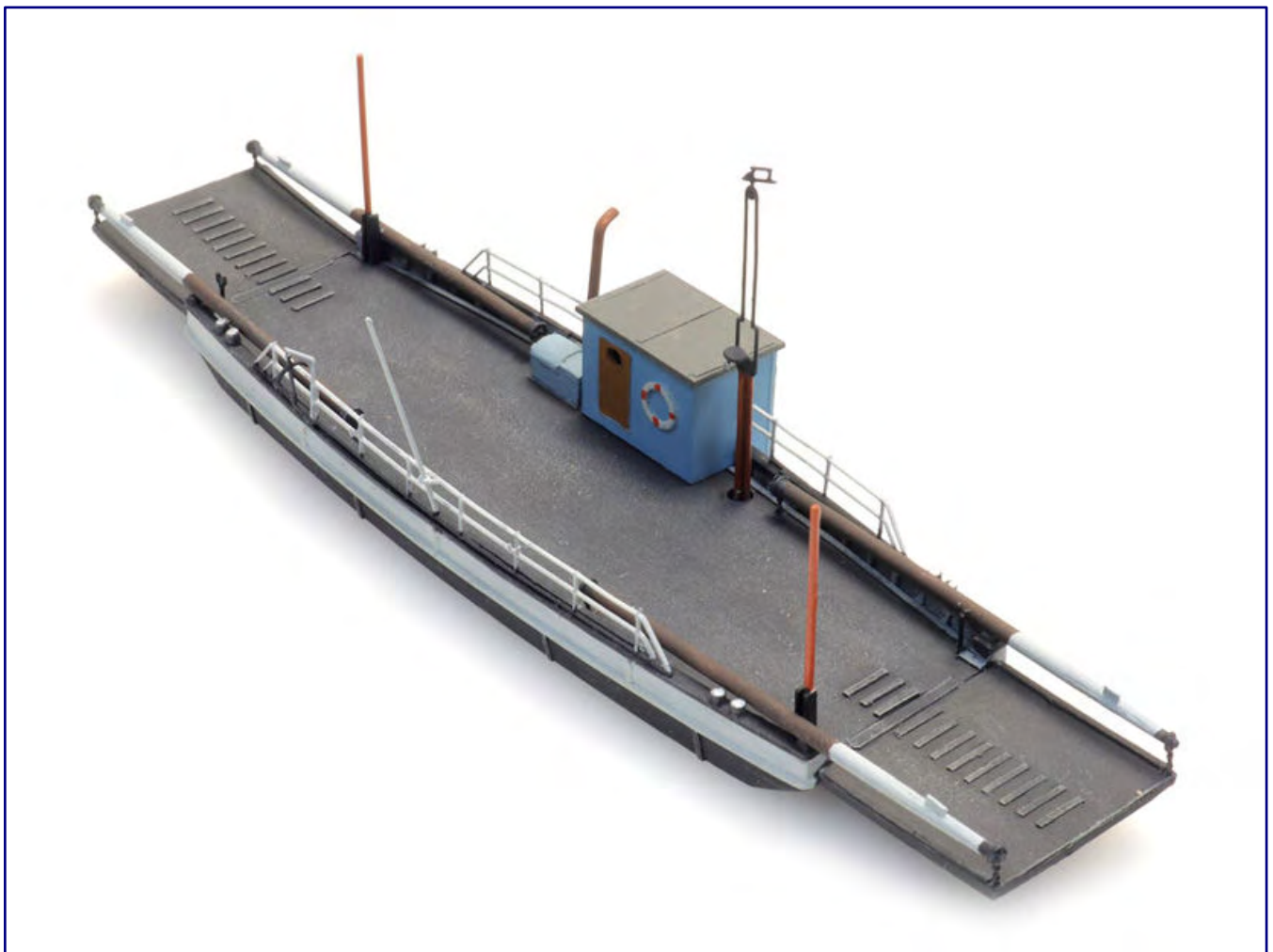


The agricultural sector is being strengthened with a new tractor model. This time a blue Ford 5000 (Item No. 322.030) was chosen, which also gets something to tow with the vulture (322.031). This term, which is not common in all regions, refers to a slurry tanker. With the mobile loading ramp (322.037), livestock can be loaded into freight cars.

The road traffic of Era I is enriched by a Ford Model T Touring (322.033), the legendary "Tin Lizzie" in open design. The original to the model was the first car in the world produced on the assembly line and until 1972, also the most built.

The US civil motorcycle (322.038) in red paint is a little more modern, with its fine design using etched parts.

For electrified sidings, the rolling ladder for overhead line maintenance (322.035) proves to be the perfect eye-catcher, as this yellow painted model also has the usual fine finish. The new Yaw Ferry (322.034) requires a bank section on a wider river and will look particularly good on the front edge of the layout. With its help, pedestrians and cars can be ferried across German waterways.



The rolling ladder for overhead line maintenance (322.035; photo top left) and the yaw ferry (322.034) bear witness to the incredible creativity and implementation quality in Amsterdam. Fotos: Artitec

There is also a new product to report in the military sector. Like the previously mentioned announcements, it has it all: the angular MAN 630 L2 AE Cargo (322,032) was widely used by the Bundeswehr (German

Army) and many conscripts will still remember it well. In future, it will also find its role in road or rail transport, where it will fill a real gap in the programme.

www.artitec.nl

+++ Artmaster +++

In Nürnberg (Nuremberg), this supplier presented small electronics for light-emitting diodes, which can be used to create replicas of campfires and flickering fires. In addition, the 2018 new products for nominal size Z (see **Trainini®** 2/2018) are now available.

www.das-kantoor.de

+++ Badger Air-Brush +++

New spraying equipment was introduced at this US manufacturer. The "Sotar 20/20 slim" is equipped with a soldered head, the spray cap can be unscrewed very easily for needle change. It is delivered with an 0.21 mm needle, as standard.

The "Sotar 20/20 V" has a special trick, which proves to be very practical, a 5 ml cup with finger cut-out. It also has a soldered head, which makes a classic nozzle seal superfluous.

The "Sidewinder" has a lateral ink feed, which can be used as a flow or suction system. A suction glass is then used for larger quantities of paint. The standard delivery is a nozzle with 0.3 mm diameter.

The nozzle head with needle protection is reversible in this model (180°). The higher finger lever leads to a longer lever travel and allows finer dosing of the paint. It is also available separately for other metal models.



With heights of 135 mm, the new larches can also be used on a scale of 1:220, here, the high trunk version (art. no. 6126). Photo: Busch.

In addition, a new primer “3D Prime” especially for 3D printed models will be released soon. It is intended to help conceal filament print strips and thus represents a kind of spray-on putty.

www.badgerairbrush.com

+++ Busch +++

Quite few new products that can be used for our purposes come from Viernheim this year. But the new larches, which will add to the range of different conifers with a very natural appearance in the future, seem very interesting to us.

The European larch grows in northern primeval and commercial forests, where it reaches heights of up to 40 metres. This means that models of up to just under 182 mm can be used, which means that even the largest models (185 and 200 mm) only just exceed the scale. Thanks to their lighter needles, they also stand out clearly from spruce and fir in the models.

With this we would like to present to our readers from the Natur Pur series the packs of 60 mm (Item No. 6122), 100 / 130 mm (6123) and as high-stem trees with a height of 135 mm (6126), each with two trees (see photo on page 34).

www.busch-model.info

+++ ESU electronic solutions ulm +++

The series of the new LokPilot 5 decoders is also extended by a micro-model. This tiny one, measuring only 8 x 7 mm and 2.4 mm thick, has soldered cables. As a multi-protocol decoder FX, it understands the formats DCC, Selectrix and Motorola, or, in a reduced version only, DCC.

Thanks to RailComPlus it registers fully automatically with a suitable digital control centre. Four-digit addresses and up to 128 speed levels are a matter of course. It is designed for up to 0.75 A motor current, has six amplified function outputs and two SUSI interfaces which could also be used as servo outputs.

In the nominal size Z, the new linear servo (Part No. 51806) with the dimensions 26 x 22.5 x 10.8 mm can only be used for switching points or opening and closing gates. Its mechanics guarantee very smooth running. Its electronics avoid the start-up flinch and humming under load.

www.esu.eu

+++ Faller +++

In Faller's new product brochure 1/2020, the cinema “Kandelhof” (art. no. 282795) and the church “St. Johannes Baptist” (282778) reappear, but these are rather indications of the upcoming delivery of both kits. We can expect a new laser-cut kit this year as well, because a previously unknown half-timbered building with brick-lined compartments was seen on a diorama at the fair (see cover picture).





The new station Ochsenhausen (Item No. 282709) is a colour variation of the previous model "Güglingen." Photo (also page 35 right): Faller

For May, however, the two-storey station "Ochsenhausen" (282709) was announced with rough facade plaster and wooden boarding in the attic. On the long sides there is a goods shed with a surrounding ramp on three sides and a bicycle shelter.

If the building looks familiar to you, please note that this kit is a variant of the station "Güglingen" in changed colours. The other new products at Faller are exclusively for landscaping.



The four sorted trees (181379) are a compilation of the two individual packages. Photo: Faller.

Thus, three products for the design of water bodies appear. Single component model water in 240 ml bottles is available in the colours blue-green (171657) and clear (171658). Waterfalls and other effects can be modelled with the help of "Water Effect" (171659; 60 ml).

On the basis of wire blanks, 4 alders (181378), 4 beeches (181377) and 4 sorted trees (181379) with a height of 60 to 70 mm appeared. Gritting material for covering soils is available in powder form as reddish clay base (170818), umbra-coloured subsoil base (170819) and ochre-yellow clay base (170820). The sand base (170821) has a grain size of 0 - 0.2 mm.

In the electronics area, a chain of lights with 52 LEDs (180662) appears in warm white light for connection to 16 volts =/~, but it is most certainly a little too large for Christmas trees in Z gauge. A busy house simulates the new LED building lighting (180678) with two speed levels for the light change (connection to 16 V ~ or 12 V =).

Distribution boards in the colours red (180801), yellow (180802), blue (180803), green (180804), and black (180805), as well as 30 plugs (180806) help to keep the wiring of the system clear. The mini-sound effects also appear interesting, which, when triggered, produce a sound sequence once in 5 to 25 seconds.

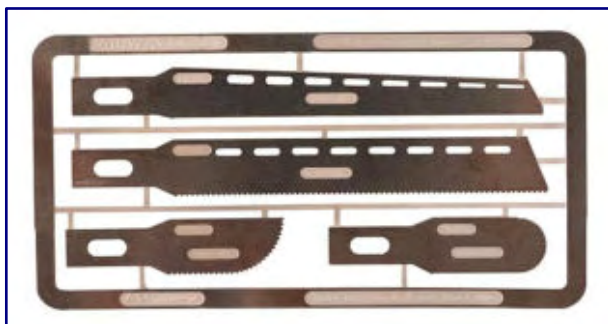
Offered here are “Dog Barking” (180250), “Animals on the Farm” (180251), “Birds Twittering” (180252), “Martins Horn” (180253) and “On the Platform” (180254). These electronics are also connected to 16 V ~ or 12 V =.



The 3-in-1 combination unit (170537) works wirelessly with a rechargeable battery and is charged via USB cable. Four interchangeable tips are also included. Photo: Faller

Further innovations concern the tool area. Faller offers its own LED hand magnifying lamp with stand (170535) and fivefold magnification. The “3-in-1 battery combination device for model making” (170537) allows cordless soldering, hot cutting and heat shrinking. Four interchangeable tips and a USB charging cable are included.

Interesting is the detail brush with interchangeable tip (172160). It is supplied with synthetic tips of 7 and 9 mm, two replacements are supplied with the replacement brush tips (172161). Typical tools for reworking printed models are included in the 3D Print Postprocessing Set (170536).



The 0.24 mm thin saw blades (170539) fit Faller's craft knife. Photo: Faller

Faller offers flexible masking tape with a width of 2 and 3 mm. The roll of 18 m length suggests that it is an article supplied by the distributor Vallejo. The saw blade set for handcraft knives (170539) with 0.24 mm wide blades for the finest separations is similar to the articles found there.

The fine saw blades fit the craft knife with 20 blades and “Soft Grip” (170540), which in contrast to the precision craft knife (170548) with aluminium handle is not new in the programme.

www.faller.de

+++ Heki +++

New Realistic Floras appear as sheets in the format 28 x 14 cm in the colours light green (art. no. 15100), medium green (15101), may green (15102) and dark green (15103). New Realistic leaves (15150 to 15153) are also available in the same colours, each in 200 ml.

Based on the conversion of the maximum growth heights of the model trees, almost all of the specimens are also suitable for the 1:220 scale, but this will only be credible in selected situations: 1 lime tree (19104), 3 poplars (19102) and 2 beeches (19103) are 18 cm high, which is sufficient for about 40 m real life specimens. At least poplars often appear much too small on model railway layouts.



The new realistic flora is also convincing in May Green (Art. No. 15102). Photo: Heki



The three poplars (19102) are among the typical trees for which there are no other trees of the right size in Z scale. Photo: Heki

A little imagination is required when using the 3 fruit trees (19100) at 12 cm and 2 pear trees (19101) at 14 cm height. As long as they are perceived as any type of tree, their height seems plausible.

If you want to create 1.30 m high wild meadows, you can also think about the wild grass fibres with 6 mm length: winter grass (33540), steppe grass light (33541) and dark (33542). With hair clippers, however, applied stalks can also be easily shortened.

www.heki-kittler.de

+++ Herkat Modellbahn-Zubehör +++

New from this supplier from Nürnberg (Nuremberg), which has been well-known for almost five decades, are indicator lights with LEDs in blue (Item No. 2233) and white (2235). They are designed for displays in the track diagram control panel and have a built-in series resistor for connection to 12-19 V \approx /. The outer diameter is 6 mm, the required drill diameter is 4 mm.

In many situations, the switching wire with an outer diameter of only 0.55 mm is also helpful. The 10-meter rings are available in the identification colours red (3620) and black (3625).

www.herkat.de

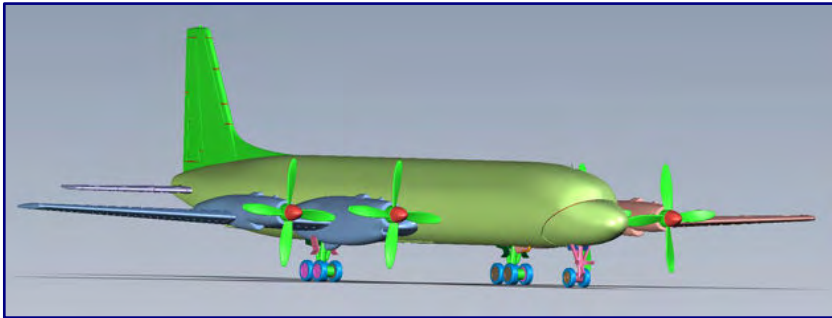
+++ Herpa +++

Eight years ago, the four-beam Ilyushin IL-62 had already been announced in the program for the 1:200 scale. However, due to a breakdown in the production process, the project could not be completed at that time.



The four-beam Ilyushin IL-62 with the distinctive rear support wheel in parking position will be redeveloped as a metal model in 2020, eight years after an initial announcement. CAD representation: Herpa

There is now a new start in 2020, and the machine is now manufactured as a metal model. The exact variants are not yet fixed, but at least for the fans of the Reichsbahn of the former DDR, it could become an important model that can fill the corners of layouts quite attractively.



The propeller-driven Ilyushin IL-18 is also one of the shape new products 2020 on a scale of 1:220. CAD representation Herpa

This is also true for another classic, the Ilyushin IL-18 with four propeller engines. From 1959 onwards, they were used by Aeroflot, which together with the air force operated some 600 aircraft. A further 100 aircraft were exported.

The new aircraft, which are planned for delivery in May and June 2020, are fortunately of a manageable size.

However, we limit ourselves to

models that have been in service in Europe and are therefore most likely to fit our readers' facilities: The most notable of these is BOAC's Vickers Viscount 700 "Scottish Princess" (Item No. 570817), which was rented and flew feeder flights for the company's overseas connections around 1971.

The Airbus A400M "Atlas" of the LTG 62 of the German Air Force (557207-003) succeeded the Transall at Wunstorf and is already the third edition as a lettering variant at Herpa. Among the Snapfit models, the Boeing 767-300 in the brand new colours of Condor (612647) deserves attention, as the new rolling stock in 1:220 scale is also in current focus.

It was also announced at the Spielwarenmesse (International Toy Fair) that the diorama accessories on a scale of 1:200 will be enriched with new items.

www.herpa.de

+++ Jordan +++

Each 300 ml flakes in six different colours (art. nos. 751 B to D, 752 B to D) from green to one red to brown tones are here on the new product label.

www.modellbau-jordan.de

+++ Joswood +++

Boxes as cargo are a product that goes well, which Joswood offers both unlabelled and sometimes also with labelling. Exclusive special series containers with inscriptions of well-known companies for the transport of machines have been developed in this way.

Jörg Schmidt also showed us an example at the trade fair which, with suitable load securing, could also find a place on a heavy goods vehicle of nominal size Z.

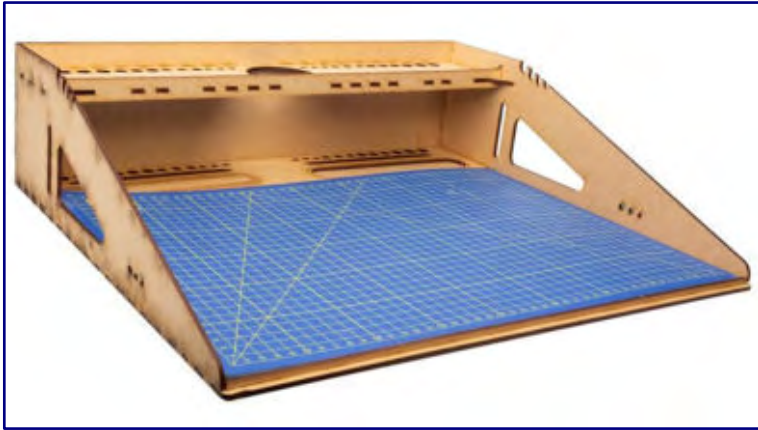
www.joswood-gmbh.de

Joswood also showed us a crate at the toy fair (picture on the right; here with DEMAG lettering), which would also fit on a Z-scale heavy truck with a different loading frame.



+++ Klaus Krick Modelltechnik +++

This supplier from the field of ship model making has introduced a very interesting "A3 Workstation" (Item No. 492454 / 492455 incl. cutting mat), which comes from the company Model Craft and can also be very helpful for other branches of model making.



The workstation in DIN A3 format is available either individually or with a cutting mat (in the picture). Photo: Klaus Krick Modelltechnik

This workstation offers a work surface for a DIN A3 cutting mat and is framed by laser-cut MDF parts (4 mm thick), which provide tool holders, storage and space for water pot, brushes and paints. The parts are easy to assemble by the customer and measure 46 x 39 x 12 cm. Thanks to its light weight and cut-in handles, the station can be easily carried to any desired location.

www.krick-modell.de

was presented. The US manufacturer from Chicago showed an enormous selection of materials in many sizes and dimensions.

www.ksmetals.com

+++ K & S Precision Metals +++

Here, a large range of plates, tubes, rods and strips made of stainless steel, brass, aluminium and copper for model making

+++ Lenz Elektronik +++

Lenz presented the new LH101-R wireless handheld controller at the toy fair. It differs from its cabled sister device only in the battery compartment. However, it can be used not only as a radio hand controller but also as a cable hand controller based on an XpressNet cable.

A software update is announced for the LH101 handheld controller, which allows programming an individual model railway time and reading decoders via the track.

www.digital-plus.de

+++ Mafen +++

This Spanish supplier has introduced traffic lights for larger scales, whose control electronics "Traffic Controller" is suitable for the traffic lights of a complete road intersection including pedestrian lights. As traffic lights on a scale of 1:220 are, to our knowledge, also designed by Ratimo, interested parties and those who build traffic lights themselves should keep an eye on this innovation.

www.model-fab.com/de/brand/mafen/

+++ Märklin +++

At the stand of the Göppingen-based manufacturer, the exciting question of this year's exhibition car, which dealers are given here as a thank you for their order, arises immediately.

This year, both Minitrix and the Mini-Club (item no. 80130) dedicated cars to the anniversaries “200th birthday of Robert Gerwig” and “175 years of Württembergische Eisenbahnen”. Besides different motifs on both sides, the roofs were also included in the print.



For collectors, the focus is on the annual trade fair gift in the form of a special car. The model for 2020 (80130) has two different motifs and also a roof print. The appearance of the side wall not shown here can be seen on its Minitrix counterpart.

This year's Messelok is a “Lollo”, which is on the road as V 216 of the Württembergische Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft (88669) around 1990. The locomotive, painted in attractive colours, has a bell-type armature motor and is painted with buffer plate warning paint.

The new product programme itself starts with a focus on 30 years of MHI. For them, the three-phase pioneer of the 120 series is reissued as a pre-series locomotive in purple/ivory (88527). The catenary conversion screw has been moved inwards, the direction-dependent front lighting has been converted to warm white LEDs and a drive system with a bell-type armature motor has been installed. Also the buffer plates are now larger.

Finally, Märklin also decided to build a company car of the type WGmh 824 in the state around 1985 (87210). It also appears as a unique MHI edition and comes with disco light without interior decoration. The colourful interior lighting is realized by a continuous running light.

In order to make the electronics invisible from the outside, some windows of the series model have a white background, which is not yet visible in the product pictures. It has a current buffer and, like the following wagon pack to supplement it, close coupling hooks.



The company car WGmh 824 (87210) is a premiere for Märklin in Z-scale and gets a colourful running light (photo above). It is supplemented by three compartment cars (87211) with special train signs (photo below). Both photos: Märklin

The special train is completed by a 1st class Am 203 compartment car and two 2nd class Bm 234 (87211) cars, also in ocean blue and ivory paint scheme. Compared to earlier editions, the cars have pictograms and an umbra grey roof. They also get an interior lighting, here of course constantly shining, but also buffered. To make them look more realistic, the cars have different interior fittings.

Already known was the class 41 Oil (88275) multi-purpose steam locomotive, which is the insider model 2020. We had already presented it at the announcement date, but we can now show it as a harmonious sample:



The handmade sample of the series 41 oil (88275) now documents the probably final condition of the model, where the circulating edge in front of the smoke chamber will not be set off in red, which cannot be seen on this photo. Also for the 2020 (80330) annual car a first-hand sample was shown, which shows colour and design (photo below right).

It appears with high sandboxes and a correct circulation, but for production reasons it will remain black in front. The Jahreswagen 2020 (80330) is a covered freight car G1 22 with Kuba Imperial advertising.



The other new products have a strong focus on the younger epochs, which is why the train package "175 Years of Railway in Württemberg" (81390) seems extraordinary for epoch I. The theme of this anniversary compilation is a freight train with passenger transport, in which all cars are fitted with spoked wheels.

It contains a T 9.1 steam locomotive, a 3rd class through coach with the most recent modifications, a beer refrigerator car, an open freight car and an acid pot car. All freight cars have a brakeman's cab, the operating status is indicated as 1907.



A class 0310 (88856) express steam locomotive for the normal program is to become the steam locomotive shown here. It has an F-train with a skirt car (87357) with DB lettering. Photo: Märklin

While the heavy class 85 tender steam locomotive appeared last year as a monument locomotive with features that it did not have in service, an authentic model for era IIa (88931) without wind deflectors is now appearing in a technically identical design.

A compromise, however, is the model of the 03 1014 from the Dortmund Bbf (88856) in steel blue livery. This is to a certain extent a re-edition from the former bulldog arrow train pack, but with the latest technical equipment. In this way, Märklin wants to give all customers access to a class 0310 express steam locomotive, even if this is done in a very compromising manner.

The express train skirt car set (87357) with close couplers was designed as a suitable car set. The cars (4 x 1st/2nd class AB4ü and 1 x dining car WR4üe in service around 1953) appear familiar, but have one important difference: Instead of a written out lettering, they now only have the abbreviation DB, which was used by the prototypes much more often.

In the area of the classical epochs, in which we are still in, some freight car new products are also appearing: After last year's great success with the Aral tank car, which we also awarded a prize for, Märklin is adding a blue model (82325), which now has a brakeman's cab. A Büssing truck with a flatbed, on which a removable tank is loaded, is also included as an appropriate accessory.



The successful Aral tank wagon from the previous year will be given an ultramarine blue brother (82325; photo above), which will be delivered together with a truck. The Silberling with Quelle advertising (87162; photo below).

The Prussian freight train baggage car Pwg pr 14 seemed to be very outdated. Märklin allowed it a reissue (86090), in which the long outdated sliding metal doors were replaced by laser-cut wooden-look parts without windows.



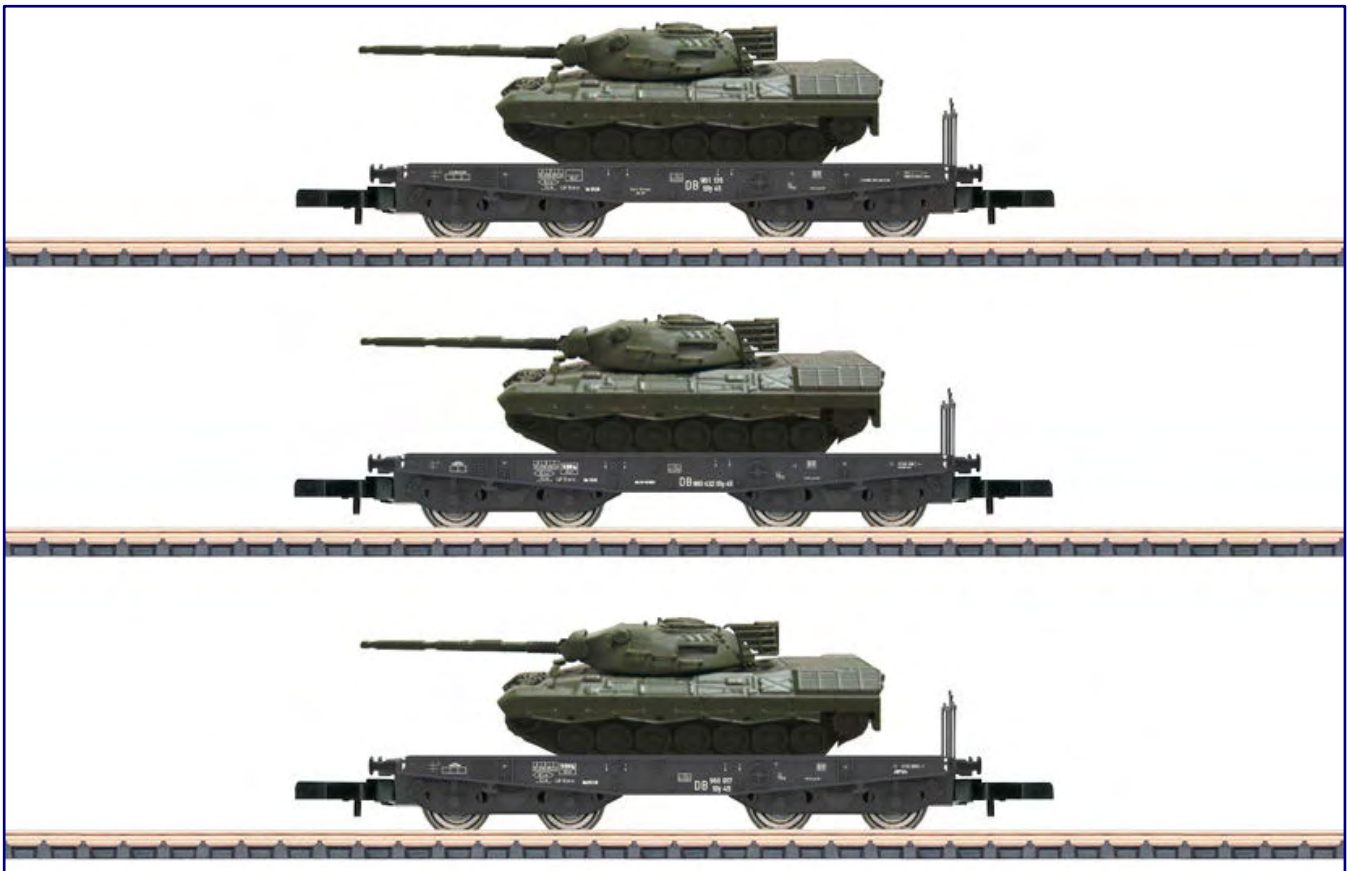
A classic from the early days of the Mini-Club is upgraded with a laser-cut sliding door (86090).

New in form are the four-axle heavy-duty wagons of the SSy 45 type, which, as Märklin also emphasized, were almost overdue, and which close an important gap in the program.

The start of the wagons with cast metal running gear is marked by three examples with bogies of the Minden-Dorstfeld type in a wagon pack (82229).

The offer also includes three Leopard 1A1 tank models from the company's own moulds. These plastic models have a rotating turret and can therefore be displayed not only in transport position.

Fans of the Reichsbahn in the former GDR can look forward to a three-part freight car pack (86689). It contains three Eas 5949/5971 open freight cars in Era IV condition. The DB models of the Eaos 106 form the basis.



The heavy duty trucks SSy 45 (82229) are new shapes that differ in terms of their lettering. The Leopard 1A1 photo of the Leopard 1A1 main battle tank, which is included in the delivery, has also been redesigned: Märklin.

In the field of passenger cars, the Silberling of the type Bnb 719 with Quelle advertising (87162) is a loner. It is delivered with ocean blue frame edge, interior fittings and close coupler. The blue and beige pair of cars "Deutsche Weinstraße" (87073), consisting of two examples of the WG3yge type, was built in 1980 and is the prelude to a theme that will be continued next year.

Now we get into modern times, because the class 103 (88545) is reissued in oriental red colouring with Ege-Keksen (Deutsche Bundesbahn (German Federal Railways)) in the state of 1992. Contrary to the first product illustration, it naturally carries single-arm pantographs, with which the 145 prototype machines were underway at the time.

In the transition period around 1994 it can certainly also run together with the intercity coaches Avmz 207 (87340), Avmz 111.2 (87241), Apmz 121.1 (87252) and WRmz 137 (87742), which also carry the product colours, but are already equipped with the Dürr-Keks of Deutsche Bahn AG.



Intercity traffic in product colours is currently only served by 1st class and one dining car. Nevertheless, gaps have been filled in here: The Eurofima compartment coach Avmz 207(87340; photo above) was not yet available in this version and the dining car WRmz 137 (87742; photo below) is now also experiencing its first scheduled service variant after the tourist train. Photos: Märklin

The car with the item number 87340 closes a gap in the programme at the explicit request of the customer, while the dining car (87742) is the first colour variation of the "Quick Pick", which was introduced with the tourist train. The class 216 diesel locomotive in its last colour scheme also belongs to Era V: Traffic red, it was only in service for a few years for DB Cargo (88791).

This brings us to the present day of the railway, where a new Vectron not only fills a large gap, but also implements a desired model that has been expressed several times. As class 193, it is in service for the Deutsche Bahn AG (88231) in traffic red livery.

The model has all the technical features that have become standard in recent years. We would like to explicitly point out the newly developed chassis, which, as introduced on the E 41, will have a pole pitch in longitudinal direction. It will also be equipped with correct bogie panels, so it is not technically based on the former Taurus. Märklin is presenting three Rils 652 (82426) sliding tarpaulin cars to accompany this innovation.



The Vectron is a completely new design and is not based on an existing chassis. As there were no hand samples yet, the photos of the class 193 of DB (88231; photo above) and for SBB Cargo (88232; photo below) are still photomontages. Correct for the future model are the bogie covers shown on the DB locomotive. Photos: Märklin

But the Siemens Vectron is also appearing in a second version at the same time, because the foreign railway authorities have not yet been considered. The special design for SBB Cargo (88232), in which the modern multi-system locomotive climbs up the Alps and reaches Germany, has an attractive effect. Only the four scissor pantographs no longer look contemporary here.



We know the EMD GP38-2 (88615) from the AZL program, but it is modified in the area of bogies and couplers for Märklin.

The SBB variant is also provided with a sliding wall car Hbbins from the Swiss paper manufacturer Tela, a appropriate freight car model.

Fans of the Österreichischen Bundesbahnen (ÖBB) (Austrian Federal Railways) can look forward to a version of the "Hercules" Rh 2016 (88880). It bears ÖBB markings and will now also be equipped with a bell-shaped armature motor.

It is matched with three orange Eurofima passenger coaches from the ÖBB package (87343), one of which is marked Amoz (1st class) and two Bmoz (2nd class). However, the NOHAB diesel locomotive of the MV series of DSB (88367) for Era IV has to do without cars. It continues the series of models made of metal-filled plastic from the previous year.



The Green Cargo articulated tank car, which was well received, is complemented by two siblings and two pocket wagons in one pack (82533) and a matching TRAXX RE 14 (88367) locomotive. Photo: Märklin.

Sweden will be served by a TRAXX locomotive of the RE 14 series (88484), which is underway for Green Cargo, the freight transport division of SJ. This is why a four-part freight wagon pack (82533) consisting of two DB Schenker Rail Sdgkms 207 pocket wagons with swap bodies for Green Cargo and two Ermewa SA Zacns "Green Cargo" articulated tank wagons for transporting aviation fuel is also being released in parallel.



Six telephone booths as architectural kit (89011). Photo: Märklin.

Well known from the AZL program is the US diesel locomotive EMD GP38-2, which was marketed there as an inexpensive entry-level model. Märklin is now releasing it as a blue and yellow Santa Fe version with the road number 2374 (88615). It will be modified so that it can also be used on Märklin switch tracks and has Märklin coupler pockets (change of the bogies).

The five-part US freight car package (82498) intended for them comes from the

Märklin shapes that have been known for decades and contains two covered and open cars and one tank car each. The models are labelled for the Penn Central, Western Pacific and the Northern Pacific and Rock Island.

This year's spring new models are rounded off by Easter cars (80420) for collectors, which fit in with the design of previous years, and, this time, are planned as high side cars. It will again be packed in a clear Easter bunny with Easter nest.

New accessories include six telephone booths (89011), which serve a wide range of eras as laser-cut architectural kits.

www.maerklin.de

+++ MBR Model +++

MBR Model has updated almost all previous year's announcements on its new product sheet, the first page is even completely identical except for the distant year 2019. But we have also discovered new things with fruit trees, which are still limited in scale 1:220.

The use of the cherry tree (art. no. 51-2316), whose height is indicated as 6 to 10 cm, is hardly to be restricted. As cherry trees can also grow to a height of 20 m, the model is quite suitable. The apple trees are indicated with identical height, which means that they are only scaled at the lower end of the scale.

You can choose between spring (51-2315), without apples (53-2304) and summer (51-2304) versions.

mbrmodel.eu/de

+++ Microrama Miniature +++

Microrama from Brittany has been proving to be a revolutionary in upmarket landscaping for some years now. Under this brand, embossing rollers for roads have now been introduced, which are also available for Z-gauge).



Among the various embossing rollers for paving there are also those for Z gauge. The rolled out, hardened and coloured material illustrates the working method of the Microrama product.

Ideally, the hand-guided rollers are used on a polymer paste that has been flat-rolled previously, for example in a pasta press. The resulting embossed plate is hardened in an oven or hot air dryer and then installed. It can still be aged and painted.

Gwendal Theis has also confirmed to us that a proprietary electrostatic device for gassing is still under development.

www.microrama.eu
www.microrama.online

+++ Minitrix +++

Not a new product, but worth a look, is the reversing loop module (part no. 66846) for easy switching of reversing loops in the DCC and in the Selectrix system, and also in PC operation. A magnetic switch is not required, the pole changeover is optionally effected via short-circuit detection or sensor tracks (current sensor). This product has also been designed explicitly for the voltages that are common on Z gauge.

www.minitrix.de

+++ Modellbaukompass +++

Heinz Wagner proves again and again to be a good advisor for all questions concerning sophisticated model making and the handling of spray guns. His sales department now also offers Gabbert's injection pens, which have been produced here for several years.

Tools and Vallejo colours can also be obtained from the Modellbaukompass. Although we were not presented with any new products of our own in Nürnberg (Nuremberg), we were very well guided through the Vallejo new items program, as can be read above.

For **Trainini®** readers, there is still a discount of 10 % on all orders. For this purpose the keyword "**Trainini**" must be mentioned in the free text of the order process. The discount is not shown directly, but will be deducted from the invoice.

www.modellbaukompass.de



+++ Noch +++

Heinz Wagner proves time and again to be a good advisor for. The most outstanding innovation of 2020 at the Wangen-based specialist is the third generation of the Grasmaster, with which landscape design was revolutionised just over fifteen years ago: For the first time, an electrostatic grass applicator was also affordable for private users, and could also be used without cables.

Based on experience and customer feedback, the devices were further developed and supplemented. We have known about the forthcoming introduction of the new product since

last year's International Toy Fair, because we have also reported back to the developers on experiences, suggestions and impressions that we have made ourselves or received from our readers, fortunately, we are still meeting with open ears, especially among those who are still interested.

So we are pleased that we will be able to test this third generation product in a detailed report. Even the permanent use of the professional device is already firmly planned and the corresponding model is firmly pre-ordered: We will probably be able to report our impressions to our readers as early as May 2020.



The two new Grasmaster 3.0 look familiar, yet different. The only difference between them is the length of their handles, here the professional unit (art. no. 60112). Photo: Noch.

As already indicated, the new product appears in two versions. The Gras-Master 3.0 (Art. No. 60110) replaces its predecessor, which had already been sold out by the manufacturer, and also works with a 9-volt block battery. The resulting voltage of 11 kV provides the same performance, although the predecessor was specified as 25 kV.

The operating time is three to four hours before the battery needs to be changed. By the way, the sales price has also been reduced by about one third compared to the previously offered comparable device!

The professional unit (60112) is in the old price range, but generates a much higher power at 16 kV voltage. Therefore, in the future, a fine dosing device will no longer be necessary, which will thus be eliminated without replacement. Eight AA batteries with a voltage of 1.5 volts each provide an operating time of 10 to 12 hours!

Common to both models is the scope of delivery with three plastic sieves (fine, medium, coarse) made of plastic, detailed instructions and the evolutionary design. The devices appear more compact and fit better in the hand, because now a torch (flashlight) housing is not used as a base anymore.



Grassing templates (60139). Photo:Noch

You can choose from Nordmann firs with 12 (21810), 14.5 (21811) and 18.5 cm height (21812) as well as spruce (21815 / 21816 / 21817).

A selection of new hardboard house kits caused eye rubbing when the new products were announced. While customers had waited a long time for the Wangen based design specialist to offer laser-cut buildings, most of them now looked strangely familiar, as they have identical dimensions and a similar appearance to the former Vollmer village series and a Märklin branch line station.

Company manager Thomas Schröder explained this to us on request. He explained that a replacement for the plastic models of these manufacturers, as well as a still-existing chapel from the earlier program was necessary to be able to continue to equip the fully equipped box systems in the future. Therefore, they had to have identical footprints and fit the style.

If they prove successful, other models based on different models and dimensions can be expected in the future. For the time being, Noch, with these new products, has modified its model railway suitcase layouts "Meran" (88303), "Interlaken" (88308), "Serfaus" (88313) and "St. Anton" (88318).

As a suitable addition, Noch has developed grassing templates (60139) made of laser-cut hard cardboard. They are used for the targeted covering of surfaces, around edges, to be able to grass tufts, stripes and spots in a targeted manner. You can either be spread over the surface coated with grass adhesive or stencil an application of spray adhesive. The latter application, however, reduces their useful life.

New grass fibres for use in nominal size Z can also be found in the new product range. With 4 mm fibre length in a 20-gram bag, the "meadow" (08361), "beige" (08362) and "light green" (08363) versions complete the range. Grass tufts with 6 mm length accentuate wild meadows and are now available in an XL-package with 104 tufts in four colours (07009), which is new in the program.

In the tree assortment, the appearance of various coniferous trees has been considerably improved and thus brought even closer to the original. Your needlework is now electrostatically flocked. You



Spruce with 18.5 cm height (21817). Photo: Noch.



From the “Bahnhof Zeil” (44305; photo above) and the “Dorf-Set” (44310; photo below) these samples were shown in Nürnberg (Nuremberg). Their appearance and basic dimensions are well known from earlier Märklin and Vollmer kits.

They are now also equipped with Märklin track again, which also applies to the Advent wreath “Winterzauber” (88063), which also receives the new buildings. It is also available with Rokuhan track (88064).

For other applications, the new building models are divided into three products. The Zeil station (44305) can be purchased separately, while the two residential buildings, and the farm are combined in a “village set” (44310). The field barn, the wooden barn and the chapel mentioned above have also been bundled into a “Small Building Set” (44315).



The premiere of hardboard kits for the Z gauge is supplemented by this “small building set” (44315), which was also developed to equip the company’s own suitcase layouts. Photo: Noch

Four new diorama packs, which consist of structural hard foam bases and all necessary design materials including Uhu wood glue, are missing a reference to our size due to enclosed figures or snow catches. However, they are very well suited for gaining experience in landscape construction, or for creating an attractive diorama.

Therefore, the neutral and individually available basic diorama bases “Tree trunk” (10001) and “Rock” (10011) should not be forgotten here.

www.noch.de

+++ Roco +++

For Roco’s Z21 new components and solutions are coming for the 60th anniversary. These are the “Z21 Pro Link Terminal” and the “Z21 Switch Decoder” with 16 DCC outputs for consumers, or up to eight turnouts. Via RailCom it can also be programmed via the main track. Six different operating modes are possible. Detailed information can be found on the manufacturer’s pages or in the new products brochures. The “Z21 App” also receives an update.

www.roco.cc
www.z21.eu

+++ Rokuhan +++

From the European distribution partner, no new Rokuhan products were announced at the International Toy Fair. However, we learned from Japan that further Shorty models are in preparation. But we did not receive any information about types and delivery dates, yet.

www.rokuhan.de

+++ Schreiber-Bogen Kartonmodellbau (Aue-Verlag) +++

Konradswil Castle, with its scale of 1:250 (Item No. 785), is certainly just as suitable for Z gauge as is Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris (787), whose conversion scale of 1:300 will certainly not have a fatal effect. This model was already planned when the original was severely damaged by a devastating fire in April 2019.

The ship "TS Hanseatic" on a scale of 1:250 (3322) comes from the Hamburger Modellbaubogen-Verlag, and consists of 1,335 parts (with alternative parts even 1,830). A laser cut set is available to complete the set (4322). The bow can be built as a waterline model.

www.schreiber-bogen.de

+++ Seuthe +++

For its 60th company anniversary a special edition of steam distillates is to be launched. Four bottles of 10 ml each contain the fragrances lavender, spruce, standard steam engine smell and a neutral, typical house smoke.

seuthe-dampf.de

+++ Silhouette Modellbau +++

For upmarket and sophisticated landscaping, Silhouette with its second brand Mininatur is a supplier that is indispensable. We are therefore always keen to see what new products and developments are presented here.

The new shrub mats can be divided into hedges or small shrubs and can then also be integrated in a scale of 1:220 at selected locations.

They will be announced in 13 versions: spring (250-41), summer (-42), early (-43) and late autumn (-44), white (-45), yellow (-46), late autumn brown (-47), red (-48), violet (-49), orange (-50), silver willow (-51), birch (-52) and weeping willow (-53).



An impression of the sheep pasture in spring (Art. No. 715-11; above) and the meadow in summer (713-12; below). Photo: Silhouette.

The new grass mats on a carrier foil have short fibres and are only 3 to 5 mm thick. They are easy to remove and can be cut up without tools. This makes them ideal for the small gauges, which is why they are also primarily our standard. The sheet dimensions are 25 x 30 or 50 x 30 cm.

Seasonally sorted, the result is a handsome selection for different areas of application: Cattle pasture spring (713-11), summer (-12) and early autumn (-13) and sheep pasture spring (715-11), summer (-12) and early autumn (-13).

The alluvial meadow of this series appears in four colours, which are not called seasonal, but are also designed in matching colours: spring (733-11), summer (-12), early (-13) and late autumn (-14).

www.mininatur.de

+++ Star Tec Products +++

New here is a vacuum tweezer for lifting tiny parts, as we are inevitably used to in Z-scale. It comes with interchangeable suction cups in three sizes. The tool can be connected to any commercially available vacuum source, or the in-house de-soldering station ST 804.

www.startecproducts.de

+++ The Cool Tool +++

A new emergency stop box with engine brake function (art. no. 164425) provides more safety on the power tools of the Unimat family. 12 A new "Playmake-4-in-1-Workshop" (801200) is designed for the use of the "Cool-Tools" by young hobbyists from kindergarten age.

Designed for beginners in woodworking, the tools can be easily changed between lathe, jigsaw, drill and grinder. The tools can be put on a Lego-Duplo plate or screwed on a wooden plate.

www.thecooltool.com

+++ Walter Merten Miniaturplastiken +++

With regard to the re-launch of various Merten figure packs announced for 2015 (see **Trainini®** 2/2015), we were advised that these were currently planned for release in the 3rd quarter of 2020.

www.preiserfiguren.de

+++ Weinert Modellbau +++

Useful for self-constructions or for super of regular kits is the announced protection railing to be able to equip staircases for platform and bridge exits (art.-no. 6869). The kit of nickel silver etched parts also contains a drilling template and is sufficient for 33 cm with a railing height of 1.5 mm.

www.weinert-modellbau.de



Demonstration of wax carving of (still to be scaled down) model figures during the toy fair at the Preiser stand, under the brand Walter Merten Miniaturplastiken

+++ Woodland Scenics +++

From the newly introduced articles for landscaping, two articles are also suitable for Z gauge. These are the following two grass strips from the new "Peel 'N' Place" series: "light Green Edging Strips" (light green; item no. FS780) and "Medium Green Edging Strips" (medium green; FS781).

woodlandscenics.woodlandscenics.com

+++ Zimo Elektronik +++

In the series of MS decoders presented last year, a variant is now appearing which could perhaps even be accommodated in some Z-scale vehicles. The MS490 delivered with soldered wires and the MS490 N, L equipped according to NEM 651, have dimensions of 19 x 8.6 x 3.5 mm and handles the DCC and MM protocols.

Currents of up to 0.5 A may flow at the four function outputs and up to 0.7 A at the motor output, which is also the maximum load. They have four function outputs and a SUSI connector; the speaker output can handle 1 Watt at 4 Ω Impedance.

www.zimo.at

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News and announcements in advance about Altenbeken

Small series new products at the beginning of the year

Especially in Z gauge, there are many large and small, but consistently important manufacturers, who do not or no longer travel to Nürnberg (Nuremberg). Among them are all US manufacturers for 1/ 220th scale, and also important electronics brands. That's why we have again this year diligently read out, telephoned and written the manufacturers' pages so that nothing escapes us and our readers.

If we get down to work early in January to collect all the new products that the New Year is supposed to bring us, then we have a much harder time in the even years. At the end of the first quarter, the traditional "Spur Z weekend" in Altenbeken takes place, and many small-series suppliers hold back their projects until then because they find the right setting and a large audience there.

Nevertheless, we have been able to tickle out one or two of them. We have also compiled further news for our readers, which make this an important reference book.

+++ A2 Models +++

Sales at this manufacturer, which we announced here a year ago, are continuing. Many articles are already no longer available! Who still has interest in the discontinued articles, should therefore hurry up. Available models of all scales will be sold unchanged with a discount of 20 % on the former price.

www.a2models.nl

+++ Álvaro Cortes +++

The hard-working Portuguese emphasises that he has no fixed annual programme which he could already announce at this point. So, in the course of the year, new products will appear that spontaneously come to mind and inspire him.

This year he will introduce 3D printed parts, of which he would like to show our readers wheels and rims, for example, which are assembled from separate parts. But he will also start with various motorcycle models, which cover a wide range and are delivered unpainted. The product pictures shown here give an overview.



A whole range of different motorcycle models form the main part of the current Álvaro innovations. Photo: Álvaro Cortes



The VW Golf IV is certainly an extremely important car model, not only for model railway layouts based on the German model. Photo: Alvaro Cortes

However, the focus of the new creations is once again on modern automobiles, among which the 1994 Mitsubishi Pajero five-door model, and the VW Golf IV (2002) almost fall out.

The Audi A6 as a saloon (Sedan) and estate (Avant or station wagon), which like the Porsche 911 / 992 have been built since 2019, are highly topical.

The Audi R8 and McLaren 720s are two years older, while the Dodge Ram dates back to 2010. This series is completed by the Jeep Wrangler Rubicon, which can almost be considered a classic.



Wheels made of 3D printed parts enhance many models (top left picture). The new models are also complemented by the Mercedes-Benz Sprinter (top right) and the Mercedes-Benz Atego with box body (bottom left), and as a tow truck (bottom right). Photos: Alvaro Cortes

Three commercial vehicles will be added. The Mercedes-Benz Sprinter appears as a panel van and still leaves some variation possibilities open for the future, such as police or rescue services. The Mercedes-Benz Atego will appear immediately as a tow truck and with a box, which was presented in two lettering variants.

alvaro_mcortes@hotmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/My-Z-scale-models/1648628058694887?ref=hl>

+++ Archistories +++

The presentation of the new products 2020 is only planned for the weekend in Altenbeken, so here there will be only a first foretaste.



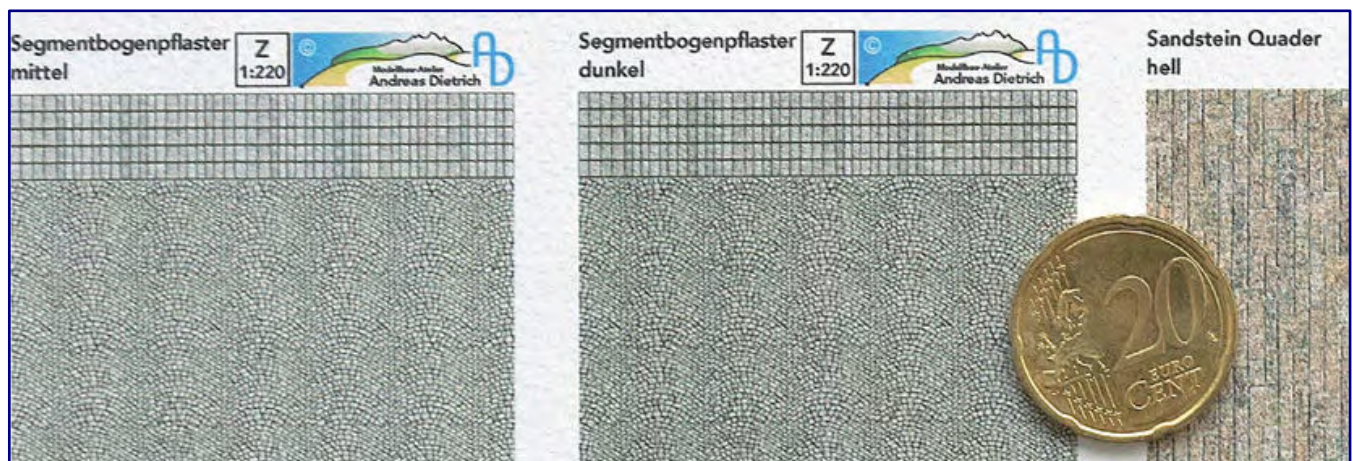
The cemetery set (item no. 408181) is not only just suitable for furnishing the surroundings of a church. Photo: Archistories

However, the cemetery set (Item No. 408181), which we are allowed to introduce at this point, is a bang: The parts made of polystyrene (only columns) and solid-coloured hard cardboard offer a variety of classic gravestones, eighteen grave borders and also a detailed mausoleum in a classical style.

www.archistories.com
www.archistories-shop.de

+++ Atelier Dietrich +++

There is a new category "Offprints" on the supplier pages. Here, Zetties find discounted scenery special prints, single pieces or whole series. Since Andreas Dietrich was asked again and again at trade fairs, whether it would not be possible to produce the wall and pavement prints from the program for Z gauge, a test is currently running to see the possibilities. At the fair in Mannheim some test prints will be ready for demonstration.



First sample illustrations for the paving and wall prints on a scale of 1:220: Atelier Dietrich

These prints are carried out with pigment ink (12-colour machine) on smooth blueback paper or on pre-embossed cardboard. The embossing gives the prints a very special feel and makes them look very natural. The matt printing surface can be further individually processed with colour pencils, pigment and spray paints, and adapted to the desired colour conditions. The dimensions of the sheets are 31.5 x 4.8 cm.

www.atelier-dietrich.at

+++ Avantgarde Modellbau +++

The Virginia oak with Spanish moss, which was announced last year, is now available, and so we can show a picture of this model here. Also available is Wisteria vine coverage.



A typical southern tree is the Virginia oak with the Spanish moss attached. Photo: Avantgarde Modellbau

New products for the year 2020 are avenue trees: lime trees, plane trees and oaks, all of which have a narrow crown and are pruned in the lower part to suit the city and the street. In addition, various flower arrangements will be offered.

Parallel to this, work is also being done on product maintenance and continuous development of the existing range. The branches and leaves of the trees have been further improved, which will now also allow for finely branched, bare deciduous trees and larches for winter themes.

www.avantgarde-modellbau.de
[motewe\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:motewe(at)gmx.de)

+++ AZL (American Z Line) +++

American Z Line traditionally presents new projects at the National Train Show, which we already reported on last year. Current novelties thus represent the deliveries planned in the near future. Among them are the light passenger coaches, which now carry the "noodle emblem" of the Canadian National.

The white-grey railcars are offered in the following variants: Sleeping cars 4-4-2 (Item Nos. 73013-1 to -3), 6-6-4 (73113-1 to -3), dining cars (73513-1 / -2), luggage cars (73613-0) and seating cars (73713-0).



Sleeping car 4-4-2 (Item no. 73013-1; picture top left), 6-6-4 (73113-3; picture top right), seating car (73713-0; picture bottom left) and 89-foot flat car with M270 in NATO mottled camouflage (901510-5NB; picture bottom right). Photos:AZL / *Ztrack*

In a limited edition, 89-foot TTX flat cars will again be offered in packs of four. All cars are loaded with two models each of the M270 multiple missile system launcher. The first three packs of the collection contain yellow painted cars, the other two are red-brown: NATO camouflage (901510-5NB), olive green (901510-5OA), sand (901510-5SB), NATO camouflage (901510-6B) and olive green (901510-6OB).



Die Containertragwagen-Einheiten erscheinen jetzt in rotbrauner Lackierung mit Anschriften der BNSF (906508-1). Foto: AZL / *Ztrack*

The recently introduced five-section Gunderson MAXI I container wagon units now appear in the brown BNSF livery with the familiar Swoosh logo (906508-1 to -4). Matching this, ten packs of orange 40-foot containers from Genstar are also being offered.

www.americanzline.com

+++ Bahls Modelleisenbahnen +++

Michael Bahls is currently developing rigid signals without illumination for use on dioramas or in not easily visible layout areas. Comparable products were previously part of the Schmidt range.

Soon, however, the gap left by this supplier will be closed with contemporary finished models, which, for example, have finely etched signal arms. A single-arm main signal of the standard design with narrow mast, a form pre-signal and a form lock signal will be offered. Bahls Modellbahnen has also included Bavarian signal arms in its development program, at short notice.



As a locomotive new product the very pleasing looking, double-coupled 98 120 of the Deutsche Reichsbahn-Gesellschaft, a locomotive of the former Oldenburg type T 2, is in preparation as a finished model.

www.lokomotiven-bahls.de

The 98 120 belongs to the former Oldenburg type T 2 and has a very harmonious structure.
Photo: Bahls Modelleisenbahnen

+++ Creativ-Modellbau Klingenhöfer +++

New figures of owls and squirrels are shown as a small foretaste of a new small animal composition that is currently being worked on. In addition, the internet pages have been redesigned and now offer easier navigation.

Furthermore, the packaging was changed: Most items are now in reusable shipping cans.

www.klingenhoefer.com



+++ Deluxe Materials +++

This British manufacturer announces on its pages with "Eze Epoxy Putty" a kneadable model putty, which consists of a resin and hardener. When mixed by kneading, it can be used for ten to fifteen minutes and closes holes and joints on almost all surfaces and materials.

An owl and a squirrel are two components of a planned small animal collection of C-M-K. The placement of the figures on the tip of the index finger illustrates their diminutiveness.

The also new "Looks like Glass" is suitable for attaching transparent plastic parts as well as for fixing on parts made of etched metals. It creates clear glass surfaces and can also be used to attach wet sliding pictures. It is probably an adhesive lacquer, as we already know similar products from other manufacturers in the United States and Germany.

But "Plastic Magic" sounds interesting in any case, as it promises stable adhesive joints after only ten to fifteen seconds drying time. This superglue is supplied in a glass bottle with an application brush and is described as low-odour. Whether the glue contains cyanoacrylate, which can leave a mist on model surfaces, was unfortunately not clear from the product information.

www.deluxematerials.com

+++ D&H Doehler und Haass Steuerungssysteme +++

At this manufacturer, who probably makes most of the decoders used in Z-gauge, the previous FCC digital control centre will be replaced by the new FCCX. It takes over the most important features of its predecessor: data formats SX1, SX2, DCC and MM, built-in booster/power pack, integrated USB computer interface and update capability.

Different from these, the new product also allows the direct connection of XpressNet handheld controllers, and, later on, also LocoNet devices. It can also update the firmware on decoders and load sound projects.

Furthermore, the FCCX features a galvanically isolated true USB interface, active current limiting for reading and programming car decoders, a reliable overload and short circuit protection and stabilized bus voltages. Both classic DIN and shielded RJ45 jacks are available for the SX-Bus connection.

The exact dimensions of the PD18A vehicle decoder for DCC, which is currently under development, have not yet been determined. Digital expert Claudius Veit (Velmo) assumes, however, that a low-cost alternative for pure DCC operation will open up here (analogue operation also possible), because a particularly flat model can be expected here. Compared to the DH decoder series there are only some minor limitations.

www.doehler-haass.de

+++ Donau Elektronik +++

We have found many new tools and aids on the pages of this supplier. Only a selection of these can be found here, and we advise you to visit their webpages to get your own overview.

One of the valuable working aides in many areas of model making is high-quality steel rulers. They are new from this supplier in lengths of 15 (Item No. MSL15), 30 (MLS30) and 60 cm (MLS60). What we always need are strands in different thicknesses and colours. For low currents the versions with 0.14 mm² cross-section are sufficient. These are assembled in eight different colours, red, blue, grey, black, yellow, green, brown and white, each 5 m long (119-885).

Twin heads are also available in different colours in rings of 5 and 50 m. They have a cross-section of 0.25 mm² (225-01 to -38 & 225-010 to -380).

shopware.donau-elektronik.de

+++ EtchIT-Modellbau +++

Several other models from the range for nominal size N are also to be released for the scale 1:220 in the course of the year and will be adapted accordingly in the near future. A German Red Cross ambulance with a box body will be released very soon.

The first model for the TT track is already finished and can be shown here as a sample. In this case, the 3D printing kit also contains the required wet decals.

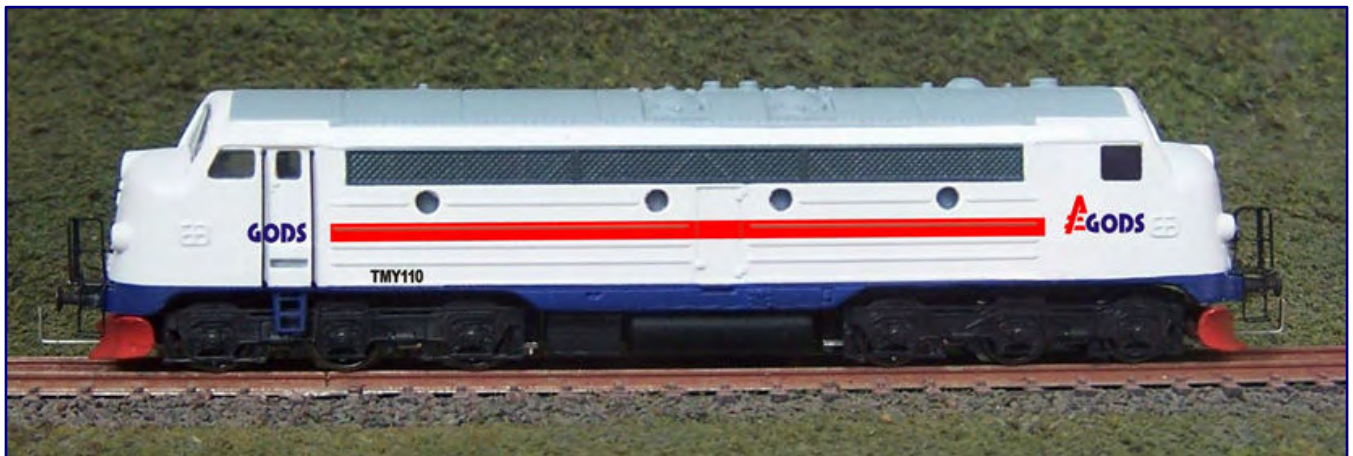
www.etchit.de



The DRK ambulance with box body can still be seen here as a sample of the TT gauge. Photo: EtchIT-Modellbau

+++ Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik +++

Now that the NOHAB diesel locomotive has proven to be extremely successful, the strong demand is being met with additional variants. In some cases, this is also associated with modifications through add-on parts and changes in shape.





The Rc6 of the SJ will appear as a small edition in black paint scheme with the road number 1392, and will look exactly like its sister locomotive 1366 shown here.

The TMY110 locomotive from the Tågab ("GODS"), the yellow 9505 from the Swedish company Strukton and, in a limited series exclusively for the 1zu220 shop, a STRABAG version will follow. But the Rc family also receives further additions in the form of the black Rc3 1060 of the Tågab and Rc6 1392 of the SJ.

New wagons planned are a Blå Tåget wagon set from SJ and a Swedish construction train for the Scandinavian market. The German customers will be offered open freight cars of the type districts "Villach" and "Linz", of which the first sample photos arrived just before the editorial deadline.



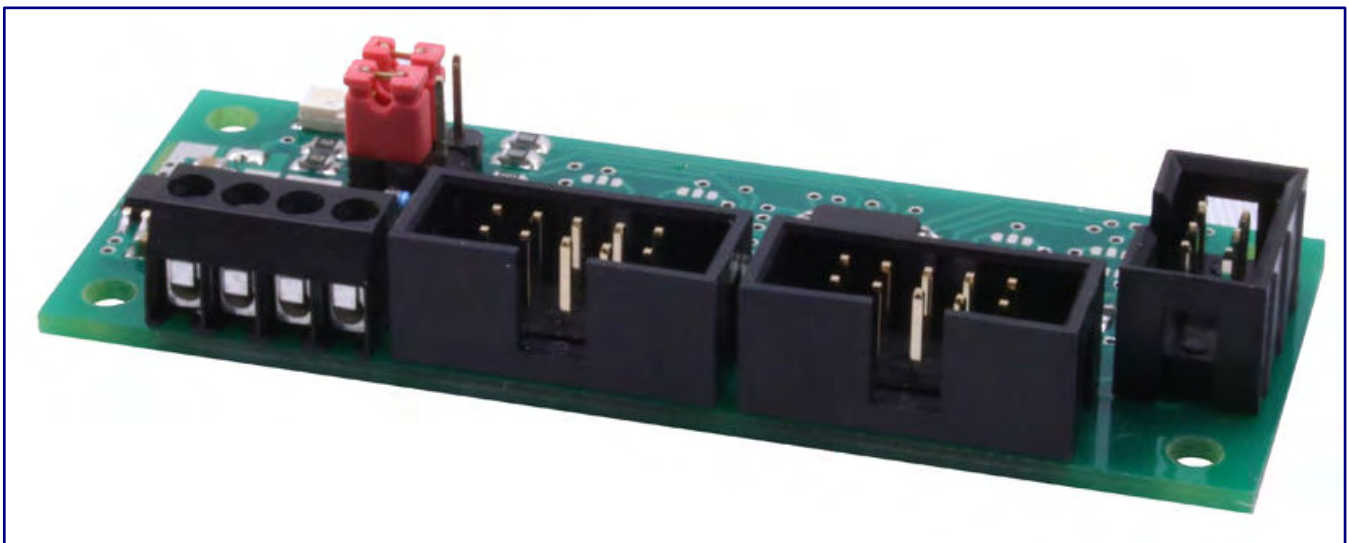
The open wagons of the "Villach" and "Linz" genus districts are two new designs that will have a metal chassis and plastic superstructures. NOHAB fans will have available the TMY110 "GODS" of the Tågab (photo on page 66 middle) and a STRABAG variant (photo on page 66, bottom). Photos (3): FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik.

As already known from the Omm 55, the wagons receive upper parts made of injection moulded plastic, the chassis is traditionally made of etched metal parts, and they are equipped with FR couplings and axles insulated on both sides. New container prints are planned in the accessories area.

www.fr-modell.de

+++ Heißwolf Modellbahnzubehör +++

In the second quarter of 2020, the serial switch bus SSB64 will be released, which should greatly simplify the conventional wiring of model railway systems. Up to 64 switches are connected to a transmitter module (SSB64-S, extension SSB64-B) in the control panel, whose position is transmitted to the layout via a thin two-wire line.



The serial switching bus as a transmission module (Part No. SSB64-S). Photo: Heißwolf Modellbahnzubehör.

The receiver modules (SSB64-E) distributed in the layout control relays according to the switch positions, with which turnouts, signals and track sections can be switched directly on site. This eliminates the need for complex multi-core cabling between the system and the control panel. The number of plug contacts between separable layout sections is also reduced considerably.

The simple mode of operation ensures problem-free application. At the receiver modules, it is only necessary to manually set the switches to which the relays (SSB64-R) should respond.

The proven SFR300, SFR1500 and GFR1500 controllers for analogue operation are now also available with a built-in control panel.

www.modellbahn.heisswolf.net

+++ High Tech Modellbahnen +++

New products were not announced by this supplier, because there are still backlogs to be worked off.

www.z-hightech.de

+++ JoWi Modellbahn-Hintergrund +++

The background specialist announces new half relief buildings for all scales on its pages. And so the new data carriers (Compact Disc) "Stadthäuser II" (town houses) (CD-002), "Wiener Stadthäuser" (Viennese townhouses) (CD-003), "Altstadt II" (old town) (CD-005) "Industrie II" (industrial buildings 2) (Item No. CD-012), "Bahngelände" (station buildings) (CD-013) and "Kleinindustrie und Siedlungshäuser" (light industry and relates houses) (CD-014) are also available for the small scale.

However, the CD "Heavenly Motifs" (CD-015) can hardly be half relief representations, but a classical background. By the way, these are also included in most of the previously mentioned selections.

www.modellbahn-hintergrund.de

+++ JSS-Elektronik +++

As you can read on the pages of this supplier, the production and sale of digital decoders and accessories has been stopped until further notice.

www.jss-elektronik.de

+++ LDT Littfinski Datentechnik +++

At the beginning of 2019, the business and brand were transferred from the former owner to Bühler Electronic GmbH with the LS Digital brand (<https://www.lsdigital.de>). There were no new products to be found on either side of the editorial deadline.

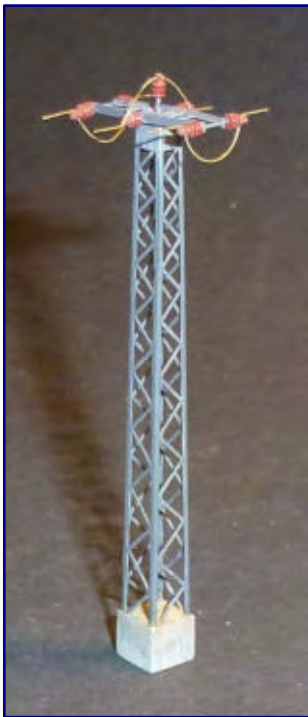
www.ldt-infocenter.com

+++ KoMi-Miniaturen (Zpur®) +++

In addition to re-editions of otherwise constantly out-of-stock agricultural models, KoMi-Miniaturen will also bring some real new products to Altenbeken. But these are strictly limited.



The slurry transport system (left) together with the driving cows with front yoke and coachman (right) are a small edition for the meeting in Altenbeken. Photo: KoMi-Miniaturen



20-kV- lattice power transmission tower. Foto: KoMi-Miniaturen

Such a special edition is a small series of only 10 slurry carts, driving cows with a front yoke and a coachman. This time a “prefabricated kit” was chosen: The model railroader receives ready colored figures and as a functional model a finished slurry cart.

All components of this kit are in a slightly aged everyday condition. So it is possible to display this model according to your own ideas.

As finished models are offered tricycles of the type Tempo 400 with wooden high and metal low platform as well as cattle transport superstructure with a KoMi pig included. The BMW R60 motorcycle is also offered as a finished model in various versions.

A further “prefabricated kit” is the 20 kV lattice power transmission tower, whose illustration shows an example of design. It is completely soldered and primed in grey, ready-made insulators are included. This means that it is possible for anyone to modify it according to their personal requirements.

And there is also something happening on the rail. Here is the finished model of a real factory wagon of the company Heidemann-Werke from Einbeck in preparation. It is based on the Oppeln type with brakeman's platform, but without brakeman's cab. FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik will exclusively manufacture 40 units.

This is a former and special private car: Bicycles were manufactured in Einbeck between 1953 and 1993, most of which are of the “Germany” brand. As one of the first bicycle manufacturers in Germany, this manufacturer also started production of the “Bonanza wheel”, which is commemorated with a matching model that is included with every wagon model.

www.komi-miniaturen.de

+++ Kreativ3.de +++

This supplier for self-construction needs has new roofing slabs also for Z gauge in his new offerings: Hollow Tile Old Roof (Art. No. MK 66007), Double Trough Old Roof (MK 66012), Curved Cut Roof Slate right ascending (MK 66220) and left ascending (Art. No. MK 66221)



Design draft for the HWE works wagon. Illustration: KoMi-Miniaturen

Model-making cardboard for the own production of buildings is now available with 0.50 mm thickness as sheets in DIN A4 format in beige (MK970050), as well as in 1.45 mm thickness in the same size, and natural white (MK970145). The material should not be cut with snap-off blades, but rather only with sharp scalpel knives.

www.modellkreationen.de

+++ Krüger Modellbau +++

To provide further weight to Märklin's V 100, this supplier is planning a cast brass weighting system (item no. Z98212.60). Gooseneck bogies (Z98808.01) in the same production method as well as etched steps (Z98842.04) for the end entries are intended for four-axle conversion cars.

www.krueger-modellbau.de

+++ MBZ Modellbahnzubehör +++

Thomas Oswald has sought personal contact with us and explained why, despite many ideas and suitable designs, he is not announcing any new products at this time: his production is currently fully utilized with about 300 orders per month from Z gauge customers alone.

Since he can barely keep up with the production of ordered goods, there is no time left for the time being to develop new ideas for production. He would like to thank explicitly for the good reception and the trust associated with it, but also asks for understanding for the current somewhat longer waiting times for customer requests of any kind.

In the course of the year, we will also announce any new products as soon as there are time available for this again.

www.mbz-modellbahnzubehoer.de

+++ Micro-Trains Line +++

With effect from 1 January 2020, this US manufacturer has made significant changes to the ordering and production process: A pre-ordering process will then start for all products with delivery dates starting in June of this year.

On the basis of the pre-orders received, the exact number of units produced will be determined, which in future will limit the freely available models in the specialist trade to what dealers are prepared to order without already having a permanent customer.

If the number of pre-orders is too low, the announced new product will be cancelled and not produced. Expensive and economically unviable slow-moving items are to be avoided. However, the principle described here also has exceptions, as aged freight cars and monthly models will continue to be exempt from this procedure in the future.

The following models are currently to be exported: covered 50' freight wagons of the ATSF with simple sliding door in red paint (Art.-No. 511 00 271 / 272), in brown paint for the Chicago North Western (510 00 471 / 472), in yellow-orange for the D&RGW (511 00 291 / 292), in turquoise for the New York Central (511 00 281 / 282) and in black for the Norfolk & Western Rd.



50-foot freight car of the Sante Fe (item no. 511 00271; photo above) and four-pack of 40-foot standard D&RGW cars (994 00 109; photo below). Photos: Micro-Trains

Shorter are the 40' standard freight cars of older design, which were on the road with brown paintwork for the D&RGW (994 00 109). In this case it is a four-pack, which is to be delivered as early as April 2020.

www.micro-trains.com

+++ MKC Modellbahn Kreativ Chemnitz +++

At Siegfried Künzel, new Z gauge articles are again planned for this year. Known from the larger gauges are the models which are now also planned for the scale 1:220: Euro pallets, 120-litre dustbins, fire hydrants with three connections, various concrete parts, concrete pipes and signal boards following the DR signal book.

The fine castings are in use on various installations without their owners knowing their origin. We would like to mention here the hanging or standing mailboxes, drop-jacket hydrants, and also beer and rolling hoop barrels.

www.modellbahn-kreativshop.de

+++ Modellbahn-Decals Andreas Nothaft +++

Andreas Nothaft has informed us about a whole series of newly designed decals, all of which are in principle feasible for the scale 1:220. However, since this also requires that there are matching models to be labelled, we have limited our selection somewhat. Nevertheless, almost all epochs are considered.



F-plates for telephone (art. no. 0185). Illustration: Modellbahn-Decals Andreas Nothaft.

The logos of the Swedish State Railways (art. no. 5775 / 5776), which are available in yellow or white, date from Era II. They were used between 1910 and 1940.

For Era III, the F-plates (0185), which could be found at all telephone stations of the Bundesbahn, are meant to identify a telephone along the lines.

The lettering set for a 170 hl car of the Harburger Oelwerke Brinckmann & Mergell, HOBUM (6607) for short, brings a little more colour into the grey of the tank cars.

Container wagons are already on the road in Era IV. The prelude for these wagons and soon also container lettering is made by type Sgns 619 of the DB (6606). In era V, the V 2001 is still in use and can also be found at the Bocholter Eisenbahngesellschaft. The 221 135, not converted by Märklin, can be inscribed with a new labelling set (6608) after repainting.

A new campaign with a fresh "bwegt" logo for local transport in Baden-Württemberg belongs to the present era VI. The lettering sheet (5607) contains three sizes with three colour variants for different vehicles.

www.modellbahndecals.de

+++ Modellbahn Digital Peter Stärz +++

The new WLAN adapter (WLAN-SX Z) is an adapter module for controlling locomotives and switching points as well as similar functions via WLAN. This can be done using a Roco WLAN mouse or a modern mobile phone. A new app "Stärz SX Control App" is available for free.

www.firma-staerz.de

+++ Modellbau Laffont +++

Also Stephan Laffont was again busy for the Zetties and announces two new products, which will surely find many applications on the machines of our readers. The semi-open multi-purpose hall in the style of the industrial architecture of the Rhine and Ruhr is an authentic building that can be extended at will by lining it up.

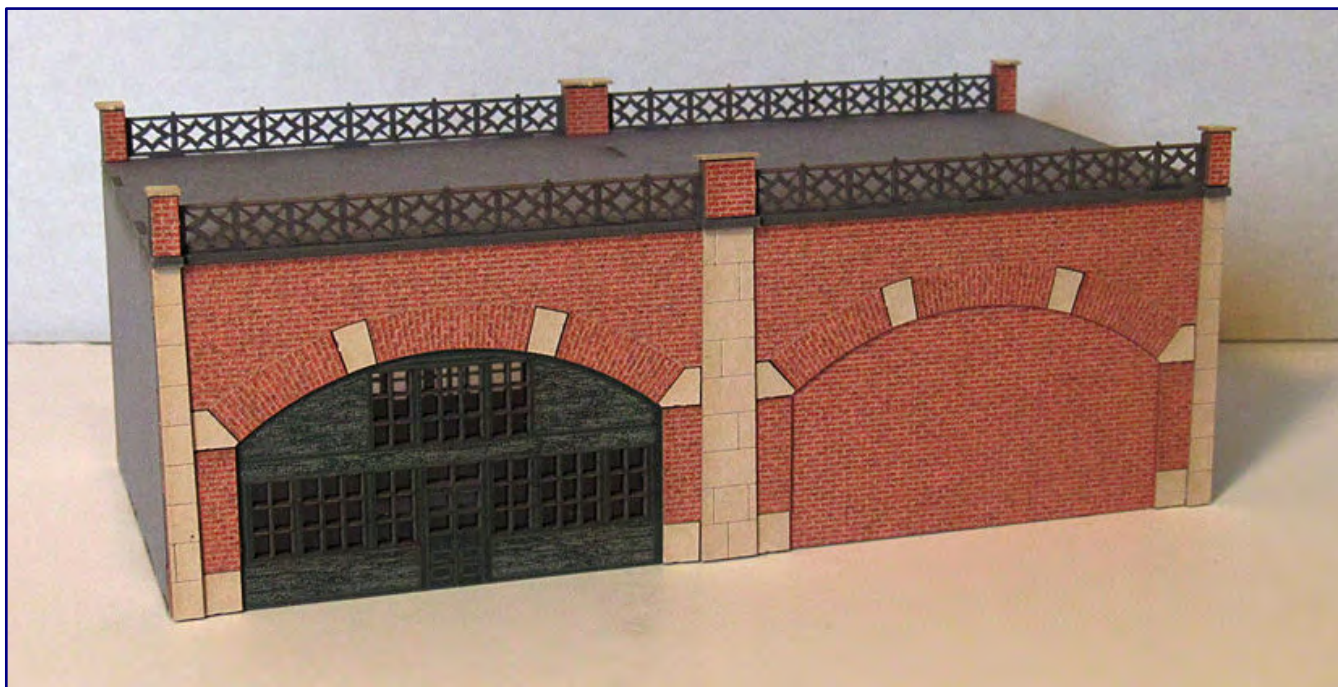


The semi-open multi-purpose hall, shown here as an H0 model can be used in a variety of ways and can be arranged in any order. Photo: Modellbau Laffont

It can be used as a locomotive shed, hall for parking trucks or buses, as well as a loading and storage hall. The photo shows another H0 design.

Certainly not only the surroundings of the Märklin station Hamburg-Dammtor is the arcade elevated railway segment usable. We also recall the former Pfeilerbahn in Hamburg or many scenes along the Berlin Ringbahn. In this respect, the double-track design is based on various large cities.

This kit is planned for late spring 2020. In addition to the shown version with a shop (see photo), a fully walled version (i.e. without shop) will be offered concurrently. In the coming years, additional segments will follow, also in arch form.



The arcade high-rise segment, which is also expected to be further developed, can not only solve space problems in the urban environment, but also specifically highlight the railway as a core element of the complex. Photo: Modellbau Laffont

These kits are characterized by the finest brick engraving also of the round arches and equally fine wood engravings on the window spaces.

www.modellbau-laffont.de



The red Bundesbahn ticket vending machine (Item No. 2089-5) from Modellland replicates an older design, which should fit well on almost any layout.

+++ Modellland +++

A DB ticket vending machine in red (Item no. 2089-5; see photo on page 74 below) does without the display panel that is common today, and thus undoubtedly represents an older type, such as the one that the Bundesbahn used in the 1980s at many stations, often in multiple units.

It would also be desirable to offer cigarette and chewing gum vending machines from the range for the larger gauges on a scale of 1:220. If you have a need for such everyday items from days gone by, you should contact the supplier.

If demand exists and feasibility is given, customers will find open ears here. It was no different with the ticket vending machine, which we needed in exactly this design for an ongoing project.

www.modellland.de

+++ NoBa-Modelle +++

NoBa-Modelle does not actually plan any fixed new products, but is continuously occupied with the conversion and realization of customer's requests.

The articles then offered in the control program are usually produced in film printing, but this manufacturer also offers particularly suitable models in high-resolution residual printing.



In the DB's double diesel locomotive V 188, the details of the body are much more apparent in the resin printing.

An example of this are the black pre-dyed housings of the diesel-electric double locomotive V 188 from the stock of the Deutsche Bundesbahn. With the addition of two Rokuhan Shorty bogies, the model can be operated.



The "Limburger Zigarre" (Limburg cigar) ETA/ESA 176 (photo above) and the Kruckenberg railcar are currently in preparation as 3D printed models. Photos: NoBa-Modelle

Also in preparation are the Kruckenberg railcar, the Danish MR/MRD 4082 double railcar closely related to the German 627/628 series, the SBB RAe 4/8 double railcar and the "Limburger Zigarre" ETA/ESA 176.



This picture gives an impression of the completely assembled and painted SBB double railcar RAe 4/8. Photo: NoBa-Modelle

A delivery van model that fits the Märklin 2020 museum car is the Hanomag F55, which is already part of H0 scale. The range is also being expanded with illuminated models, starting with the Citroën 11 CV gangster sedan, and a tractor with trailer.

www.noba-modelle.de

+++ Passmann +++

The small-series manufacturer Oliver Paßmann died unexpectedly on 25 January 2020. At this point in time we cannot make any statements about the future of his products and possible innovations. We ask his customers to consider his relatives and will inform you here if there are new findings.

www.passmann.com

+++ RATIMO Rainer-Tielke-Modellbau +++

Ratimo celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2020 and during this time Rainer Tielke has satisfied many customers with catalogue products and individual solutions. About a year ago, 3D printing was added to milling technology, which has given this supplier a broader base.

As a new product, a filling piece for the coupling shaft is planned for Märklin's new rail buses with article numbers 88166 and 88171. The parts offered so far do not fit here, because the housing has been slightly changed with the new editions.

Otherwise, two larger stations have to be designed and manufactured, because an essential part of the offer is custom-made. The Hamburg tram and suburban railway, which were already shown in prototypes at exhibitions, is still in the production stage.

Nevertheless, there is also a new product that is already available: Due to numerous customer requests, a bellows version for analogue models of Märklin's VT 085 multiple unit was developed based on the version for the Velmo digitized models. Here, the original plug connection is still used and allows travel down to radius R2 at 195 mm.

www.ratimo-z.de

www.rainer-tielke-modellbau.de

+++ SMZ Sondermodelle Z +++

The Viennese tinkerers are still keeping quiet about their current projects and would like to make them public as soon as possible. But they have told us that the new Vectron from Märklin will be given an ÖBB design when it is released this year.

Probably, this will also be the case next year, unless Märklin itself shows interest in this variant. The small-series specialists Iso impressed with the particularly attractive Railjet variant.

www.sondermodellez.at

+++ Spur Z Ladegut Josephine Küpper +++

Based on customer requests, this provider has developed new cargoes. Mirror glass granulate is available in three versions. For the Off 52 open freight car from older Märklin production (item no. 8622 and identical in construction), the colors blue (item no. Z-177-B), green (Z-177-G), and natural (Z-177-N) are available.

The same colours are also available for Märklin's Eaos 106 freight car (8650 and identical in construction) (item nos. Z-177-B / Z-177-G / Z-177-N), so that different coloured waste glass loads can be reproduced. The quartz gravel insert (Z-171-Q) made of original material is also intended for this type of wagon. The loading specialist emphasizes that this is not a plastic material.

www.spurzladegut.de



+++ SW-Modelle Sascha Waclawski +++

On the pages of this conversion and painting expert it is announced that only open orders will be completed and that the business will be discontinued shortly. The reasons given are the high workload at work and family reasons. It remains open, however, whether a continuation can occur in the future.

www.sw-modelle.de

+++ System Jörger +++

Because of illness he has advised on his website that there are at present delays in deliveries.

www.system-joerger.de

"Mirror glass granulate" load inserts for Märklin 8622 are now available in blue (item no. Z-177-B; photo above), green (Z-177-G; photo in the middle) and natural (Z-177-N); photo below). Photos: Spur Z Ladegut J. Küpper.

+++ Tams Elektronik +++

The SD-32 servo decoder, available since autumn 2019, is now followed by a sound booster with integrated amplifier. It is designed to reproduce the typical sound of modern, motor-driven barriers.

In combination with the already available automatic control, up to four barriers can be operated with a time delay, including light signals and acoustic warning signals.

The WD-34.M quadruple turnout decoder and the MD-2.BiDiB combined multi-decoder, announced in autumn 2019, are now available. The latter can control up to eight servos and four magnetic items, or be operated in analogue mode with two push-buttons and eight servos.

www.tams-online.de

+++ Trafofuchs +++

Trafofuchs continues to expand its programme of weekly market stalls: Two new vending carts for



sausage and cheese (Item Nos. S22 & S23) are added. These are ready-made models made of polystyrene with a display in the counter, a vendor and indicated goods. At the cheese trolley a small mouse, which is also recognizable for trained eyes, has sneaked onto the back shelf.



The selection of cyclists is also increased by one cyclist turning right (S24). The figure shows the intended direction with his right arm and has already turned the front wheel to turn off in the next moment. Thus the cyclist and his etched nickel silver bicycle fit perfectly at a road junction.

Apart from that, the focus of production is already on sufficient stock for Altenbeken. For health reasons, there are no further new products for the time being, but customers need not worry about this.

www.trafofuchs.de



+++ Velmo +++

According to feedback, Claudius Veit is currently working at full capacity with his products, which is why there is currently no capacity available for new developments. The focus of this supplier is, therefore, currently on the exhibition in Altenbeken.

www.velmo.de

The latest Trafofuchs innovations are as creative as ever: Sausage (item no. S22; photo above) and cheese wagon (S23; photo in the middle) as well as the turning cyclist (S24; photo below). Photos: Trafofuchs.

+++ Werkzeuge Peter Post +++

The product range around the precision knife (Art.-No. 01345) introduced last year is extended by a working station (01344). A solid aluminium block is used for safe storage of the knife; the station itself is fixed to the working surface by a screw.

Further extensions are different blade shapes (10 blades per packaging unit): Spare blades pointed (01347 / 01348) and hook shape (01349). The standard blade (01350) and 2 pointed blades (01351 / 01352) are also available packed per 100 pieces.



Mini planer (art. no. 01360) with a planing width of 35 mm. Photo: Werkzeuge Peter Post.

Also new is the mini planer (01360) with a planing width of 35 mm. Matching replacement blades are available in sets of ten (01361). The new 160 mm long clamping tweezers (02311) have no scoring.

A scale ruler made of aluminium with a length of 30 cm should be available at Intermodellbau 2020. It offers scales for the scales 1:87, 1:100, 1:160 and 1:220.

www.peter-post-werkzeuge.de

+++ Wilhelmshavener Modelle (Möwe-Verlag) +++

We found no less than three large sailing ships in the 2020 new products, all of them converted at a scale of 1:250: These are the "Gorch Fock 1" from 1933 (Item No. 1290) and her sister ships "Sagres" (1291) from Portugal and the "US Eagle" (1292).

www.papermod.com

+++ ZCustomizer +++

Car and truck models are currently very popular with Sascha Braun. They are implemented with the help of 3D printing technology, which often leads to amazing results. All the new products listed are in stock and therefore available. Further new products will be announced after the meeting in Altenbeken.



Not everyone is familiar with the Italian small truck Fiat 640, which is new in the program of Zcustomizer. Photo: Zcustomizer

First of all, two tractors should be mentioned, as the topic of agriculture is very popular. The tractors Farmall Mc Cormick Standard and a Hatz-Buchner are offered here. In Germany rather rarely to find were delivery and towing vehicles of the type Citroën H as well as the rustic small truck Fiat 640.

The Mercedes-Benz O6600 long-nose bus serves the early Era III and is one of the vehicle models with which this brand restarted its post-war production. One-time and only for a short time (1954/55) in use was "das blaue Wunder" (the blue wonder). The Mercedes-Benz racing car express transporter became known with this nickname.

This extraordinary vehicle in traditional Mercedes blue with an advanced driver's cab reached a legendary speed of 165 km/h for commercial vehicles and remained a one-off. Its demise came suddenly when Daimler-Benz ceased all racing sports activities in October 1955 with immediate effect. Fans of the brand with the star will be unable to overlook this model.



www.zcustomizer.de

The O6600 bus (photo above) was one of the first commercial vehicle series with which Mercedes-Benz got its production up and running again after the war. The racing car express transporter (photo below) belongs to the same vehicle category and became known as the "Blue Wonder". Photos: Zcustomizer

+++ Z-Doktor Modellbau +++

This still quite young small series manufacturer has taken on the construction of a new light shielding body for Märklin's 03.10 series, after this part was a weak point in our test. Instead of reworking it, as suggested, a better fitting replacement part can be purchased here. It makes sure that the boiler of the model lies low on the chassis as it was in the prototype.

www.z-doktor.de

+++ Zmodell +++

The latest innovation of the busy small-series supplier from Kiev (Ukraine) is the Spanish Ellok class 252 of RENFE (item no. 99129). It is based on the Siemens Eurosprinter as a prototype and can therefore also use a Märklin chassis.



The RENFE Class 252 locomotive (Item No. 99129), which is elaborately constructed from a Europrinter, looks extremely attractive. Photo: Zmodell

Nevertheless, some work will be done until the Iberian version is created from this older model: multi-layer painting of the body, chassis and roof lines, sealing of the roof opening for the switch and high-resolution printing of all addresses (pad printing on the driver's cab sides / UV printing on the side walls).

Technical adjustments are also being made, such as replacing the three-pole motor with a five-pole motor and replacing bright nickel-plated wheels and pantographs with black nickel-plated ones. The new pantographs will then be painted red and grey. The directional LED lighting of the model has been changed from yellow/red to warm white/red.

The model equipped with a digital decoder LDS48568 from Velmo is delivered in a self-designed sliding box in Märklin format and also contains detailed, colour printed instructions. The model can only be ordered via the contact information below.

It is also possible to contact the 1zu220 shop for information, but they do not import the model themselves, because Ukraine is not part of the European internal market.

www.facebook.com/Zmodelltrains/
[zmodell\(at\)ukr.net](mailto:zmodell(at)ukr.net)

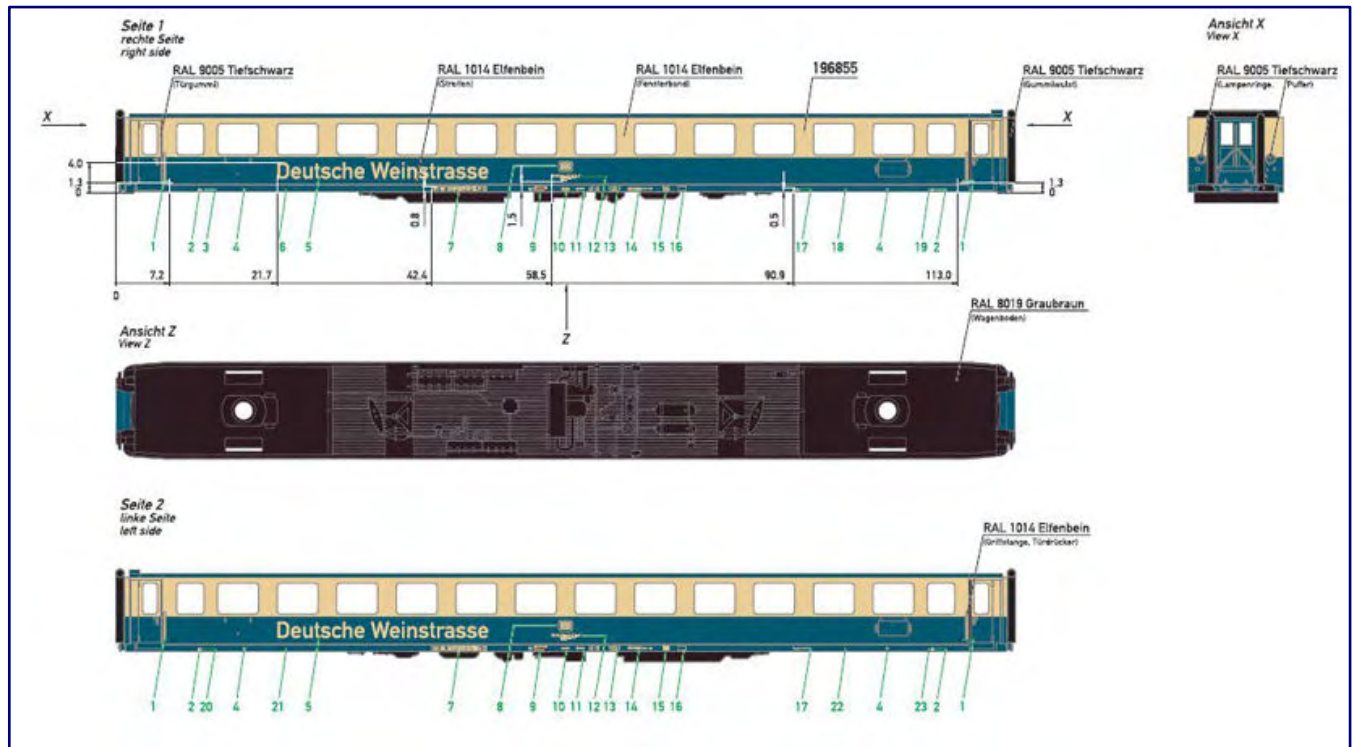
+++ Z Norm (Stefan Schmid) +++

Stefan Schmid does not yet want to reveal his new products, but also defers to the Altenbeken exhibition. On a diorama at Velmo's stand one or two new models should be on display.

[z-norm\(at\)web.de](mailto:z-norm(at)web.de)

+++ 1zu220-Shop +++

Not for sale individually is the model of a blue-red Krupp Titan SW L 80 with platform and tarpaulin produced by Wespe Models for the 1zu220 shop, which we have already introduced. It will only be sold as a supplement to the Märklin Insider Model 2020, if it is ordered from this dealer.



Design for the design of the WGM 824.4 "German Wine Route" (Item No. 98172), which was commissioned as an exclusive model by the 1zu220 shop from Märklin. Illustration: Märklin / 1zu220-Shop

Special models produced by Märklin for the "German Wine Route" were announced: The WGM 842.4 summerhouse car with the road number 50 80 89-43 914-7 (Item No. 98172) and the WGM 842.2 bar/paper car with the road number 51 80 89-80 903-3 (98182) have matching lettering and an ocean blue ivory paint scheme.

They will each be produced in an edition of 150 pieces and are expected to be available from the end of May 2020.

www.1zu220-shop.de

Grenzenloser Modellbahnspaß in 1:220

**8. Internationales
Spur-Z-Weekend**



ALTENBEKEN

28. und 29. März 2020

Samstag: 10.00 - 18.00 Uhr

Sonntag: 11.00 - 17.00 Uhr

Eggelandhalle, Gardeweg 8

33184 Altenbeken



Z-Freunde International e.V., Brandenburg 6, 56856 Zell/Mosel

www.z-freunde-international.de

Readers' letters and messages

Zetties and Trainini in Dialogue

Thank you for each letter to the editor and all the feedback that reaches us. Write us (contact details are in imprint) - Trainini® lives from dialogue with you! Of course, this also applies to all suppliers in Z gauge, who would like to introduce innovations here. A representative sample is our goal. Likewise, here we note any events or meetings with significance to Z gauge reference, if we are informed in time.



All components of the showpiece, to which our reader Manfred Forst refers, can be easily seen here. Three model railroaders have worked on it together.

Correction to the originators of a cell exhibit Zell Exhibition:

You made a mistake in your report on Zell: The sea rescue was built by Günter Falkus.

Hermann Kammler supplied the helicopter and the electronics. Michael Hess took care of the swivel arm of the helicopter and the Arduino programming.

Manfred Forst, per E-Mail

Leserfrage zur Fahrstromversorgung:

I have the problem that some of my locomotives have to be operated with at least 5 V. So it can happen that other locomotives run too fast. Is there a possibility to slow down the too fast locomotives electrically in the locomotive--I

think that changing the gear ratio is not possible? Thanks for your help.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Langer, Aachen

Answer from the editors: Changing the gear ratio is out of the question in our view. More would be required here than just calculating gradients. Suitable gear wheels also need space and holes in the right places. That would then come close to a fully new construction. Also, electrically, we do not see a reasonable way, as, for example, with resistors soldered into the too fast models.

The only approach could possibly be a high-quality speed controller that can be programmed individually for each model according to its characteristics. Such a thing exists at Heißwolf (<http://www.modellbahn.heisswolf.net>), we have informed about new products every year. Since this does not require any changes to the individual models, it would even be an elegant solution that does not obstruct anything in the future.

However, only one locomotive can be operated at a time. The throttle is not intended to control several models at the same time in one or more circuits. But if this meets your expectations, it would be worth a thought. Just call the manufacturer and describe your requirements. He will certainly recommend the right device for you. Perhaps, it could be tested before you buy.

Deliveries by Märklin in February:

Recently the orange-silver painted diesel locomotive class 221 of the RTS (item no. 88204) was delivered. The model, which has been converted to a bell-type armature motor, also benefits from the features that the V 2000 had brought with it on the same chassis basis: For example, for the first time a Märklin model of the more powerful V-200 series has a red-warm-white light change depending on the direction of travel.

To do this, the red lantern dummies had to be opened and fitted with light ladders. The lighting is provided by LEDs in keeping with the times. The paper print mask for the engine compartment replica also comes from the sister series, and the individual special features were planned for it from the very beginning, because the different engine compartment window arrangement only allows the appropriate view.



The latest version of the 221 series for RTS (part no. 88204) has angular buffers and, for the first time, warm white-red light changes.

The angular high performance buffers, with which the locomotive is on the road at RTS today, were also implemented, which is why it was very well received by the Epoch VI fans.

Recommissioning of two-system locomotives:

As the Eisenbahnmagazin reported in a February issue, a buyer has been found for some class 1812 dual-system locomotives from the DB shutdown management in Leipzig-Engelsdorf.

The railway logistics company (SEL) from Wankendorf (Schleswig-Holstein) has acquired 181 204-9, 213-0 "Saar" and 215-5 and is currently having them refurbished. 181 215-5 was already operational again and ran in traffic red livery until the final deadline on 3 January 2020, when only the DB-AG logo was replaced by that of SEL. It was leased to Nordliner Gesellschaft für Eisenbahnverkehr (Hannover (Hanover)).

In the meantime, its refurbishment has been initiated, in which it is to be given older paintwork - which is currently still unclear. 181 204-9 is scheduled for completion by the end of February 2020 and will then have its former blue paint coat back.



Also the 181 205-6, here once still in regular service before an Interregio in Koblenz Hbf, could soon be up and running again at SEL in combined transport. This will also open up new possibilities for the Rokuhan models in Era VI on the model railway layout.

There is also interest in the locomotives 181 205-6, 211-4 "Lorraine" and 218-9, for the "Lorraine" there is an intention to purchase, for the other two locomotives this is subject to the reservation that additional personnel with interest in this old technology can be found. They are to find a new field of application in combined transport (CT).

For model railroaders, this is an opportunity to create Rokuhan models with slight modifications, such as the application of a different company number and a new logo, to create additional variants and additional models for Era VI.

An obituary for Oliver Paßmann:

Completely unexpectedly, the small series manufacturer Oliver Paßmann died on 25 January 2020 a good two weeks before his 52nd birthday. He had made a name for himself in the Z scale community as a service provider for digital conversions and electronic solutions as well as a small-series manufacturer of technical accessories.

His customers, as well as those of Z-Bahn GmbH and FR Freudenreich Feinwerktechnik, especially remember him as a flicker-free interior lighting system with afterglow time for large and small series models. An existing interior could thus continue to be used. To match this, he had developed two generations of wheel grinders that ensured reliable current collection without measurable rolling resistance.



Oliver Paßmann
25. Januar 2020

Equally unforgotten is an electronic throttle, with which all Märklin models of the old generation of engines were able to be operated at a snail's pace and were thus able to properly support in shunting service.

Even this small selection of his work shows what universal talent was at work here and made Oliver a valued contact and business partner. He was straightforward and assertive. He stood up for his convictions and, if necessary, argued for his view of things.

With him, we are losing a competent and sincere person who was also able to listen and then immediately set about finding solutions to perceived problems. Our thoughts are with his relatives, especially his son Lukas and his partner Claudia Rantz.

New Artitec model delivered:

The accessories specialist from Amsterdam has delivered its model of a "Auto-Schutter" (Item No. 322.026), also known as a dumper. These vehicles are front dumpers and are often used on construction sites as a special form of dump truck. The best known German model of this type was made by the manufacturer Zettelmeyer.



In comparison to the sample from the 2019 Spielwarenmesse (International Toy Fair (see [Trainini® 2/2019](#), page 29), the series delivery of the Artitec front loader (art. no. 322.026) is once again much more filigree. The fine model also bears the typical signs of tough everyday use on a construction site.

Compared to the already very close to series production hand sample, which we had the opportunity to inspect at last year's Spielwarenmesse (International Toy Fair), the piece now delivered has improved considerably. It is manufactured in a combined construction of resin cast and etched parts. Especially the etched recess makes the model look even finer, which was hardly imaginable from the hand sample.

Two-piece for Z gauge at Miba:

The magazine MIBA shows how we Zetties want it to be! In its March issue, the technical journal from the railway publishing group published the first of two parts, which present the Edelweiss railway system "From Güglingen to Sägethal" by Götz Guddas.

This arrangement impresses with many self-built or modified vehicles on road and rail, button-press actions, well thought-out figure scenes and many more surprises. The photos were taken by editor-in-chief Martin Knaden at an exhibition.

It is also particularly impressive that Z gauge has even made it onto the front page of the current issue. We would like to recommend the successful portrait to our readers in any case!



First public exhibition in spring:

The first public trade fair in spring is traditionally Fascination Model Railways (<https://www.faszination-modellbahn.com>). It will take place for the second time, now from 13 to 15 March 2020, in the Maimarkthallen Mannheim. The fact that Z gauge is also well represented there once again is of great importance to the fair organiser of the ZFI. Sylvester Schmidt, already a point of honour.



The private layout competition with a total of six participants will also occur there again. Among them is Jürgen Tuschick and the digitally operated "Bahnhof Heinzenberg," a Z-scale exhibit that has already met with a very good response.

Many of the innovations from various suppliers previously presented in Nürnberg (Nuremberg), can also be seen there. Since many exhibitors, who tend to be small-series exhibitors, no longer take part in the Spielwarenmesse (International Toy Fair), real premieres can also be expected.

A visit is also worthwhile for Trainini® readers because of the 2 euro discount on the admission price granted by the organizer on presentation of his discount corner from the advertisement placed in this issue.

Good results at Märklin:

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) reported at the end of January that the hobby of model railroading is on the rise again. The managing partner Florian Sieber is quoted in it with the following words: "The model railway is out of the cellar corner again."

For the financial year ending at 31 March, it is forecasting sales of EUR 117 million, which would be growth of approximately 5% (previous year: 4%). According to market research figures, the average age of Märklin customers is

Bild rechts:

Von guten Zahlen und Tendenzen wusste Märklin-Geschäftsführer Florian Sieber am Rande der Spielwarenmesse zu berichten (Archivbild).





According to market research figures, model trains increasingly appeal to younger people, and the average age of model railroaders is falling again.

falling again, which is an indication of the success of the campaign for new and returning customers.

In recent years, the market leader from Göppingen has greatly expanded its range of products for children of various ages and adults who want simpler and cheaper models for (re)entry. The focus is on pointing out that model railroading is a hobby that spans and unites the generations.

The current deliveries of Micro-Trains:

Three different freight car models, mostly with two different car numbers, are reported by MTL for delivery in February 2020. 40 standard freight cars (item no. 501 00 291 / 501 00 292) are painted brown and bear the addresses of Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

The aluminium-coloured Union Pacific cars with yellow side walls and double sliding doors (501 00 301 / 501 00 302), which have the traditional logo in large letters on the left half of each car, also are the same type of car.

Also a standard car is the 50-foot long version of the C&O (505 00 421), which is the first car in a six-part Cameo series. The black experimental paintwork with yellow decorative stripes was rather short-lived on the prototype. The models are distributed in Germany by Case Hobbies (<http://case-hobbies.de>), among others.

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