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MÄRKLIN CLUB

# HOTTRAKS

Volume 2 Number 2

Spring 1986

*HOTTRAKS is the official quarterly newsletter of the Märklin Club, P.O. Box 242, New Berlin, WI 53151*

*New from Märklin for the USA*

## Special-Edition Cars Salute the Märklin Club and Miss Liberty

Here's exciting news for Märklin Club members and enthusiasts — two special-edition freight cars to add value and interest to your collection! These high-quality, precision-engineered cars, with their distinctive designs and handsome red, white and blue color schemes, are a must for true Märklin fans.



*Feature Story*

**märklin**  
CLUB

*Continued on Page 2*

**The contents of HOTTRAKS is designed for members of the Märklin Club. In these pages, (and in future issues) you'll find information of the following:**

- Stories about Märklin trains (or their prototypes); e.g. historical background and reference material on Märklin sets, significant Märklin collections and much more.
- Märklin technical information; performance and maintenance tips.
- Photos and stories about outstanding Märklin layouts.
- Track plans — small-space layouts, large-space layouts, portable layouts, flexible layouts, outdoor layouts, plus unusually innovative layouts.
- Ideas to extend your layout; e.g. overcoming space limitations, operations, scenery, etc.
- News of significant Märklin activity, including trade shows and other events, manufacturing developments, etc.
- Reader contributions — questions/answers, ideas, hints and kinks (including photos).
- New Märklin trains and accessories.
- Special offers for Märklin Club members.

## Special Edition Cars

Continued from Page 1

### Members-Only Märklin Club Car

Now you can illustrate your membership in the Märklin Club with this Märklin Club refrigerator car.

Märklin Club cars are available in both HO and Z-scale models, and are similar to #8600 (Z-scale) and #4415 (HO scale) Märklin refrigerator cars. The white car side provides an ideal background for the Märklin Club logo, which is attractively displayed in its official colors ("Märklin" in red; "Club" and "Established 1985" in black, USA in blue). The same design appears on both sides of the car; the roof is silver-gray.

### How to order

If you are a Club member, a special order form certificate has been included with this issue of *HotTraks*. You must use it to order your Märklin Club cars. Each member can purchase a maximum of one car in each gauge.

Each Club car is specially priced at \$12.50, plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. If you wish to order one car

in each gauge, the total cost is \$25. (postage and handling included).

Märklin Club cars are only available to Märklin Club members, and must be ordered with the special order form attached to the centerfold.

When we receive your order at Märklin, we'll send your Club car directly to you. We expect our shipment to arrive in June. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

### Statue of Liberty Car

Miss Liberty, our national symbol of freedom, is officially 100 years old this July. Now your train collection can recognize this momentous anniversary with Märklin's new special-edition Statue of Liberty cars.

Like the Club car, this striking new car will be offered in both HO and Z-scale models, in car body styles similar to the club cars. The roof is silver-gray, and the design appears on both sides. However, there's a significant difference between the HO and Z-scale designs.

The HO version includes a red, white, and blue background design symbolizing the American flag, which covers the car side. Miss Liberty is displayed in blue, and the legend "LIBERTY 1886-1986" appears in white letters within one of the red flag stripes. List price at your dealer is \$12.50.

The Z-scale color scheme is also red, white and blue. The car shows Miss Liberty in blue, with the legend "Freedom" in red, and "1886-1986" in black, against a white background. List price is \$12.50.

### Available this year only!

These Statue of Liberty cars are very special in another sense—they're available only during this centennial year, only in the United States, and only from your authorized Märklin dealer. They won't be available at any time anywhere in the rest of the world.

For the Liberty car, see your dealer soon. (If you're uncertain where the Märklin dealer in your area is, call us on the Club's toll-free line—800-772-2490.)



*If you aren't a Club member, why not join today? Call toll-free and you'll be able to take advantage of great special-edition collectors' items like this.*

(800-772-2490) **märklin**  
CLUB

*In HO or Z-scale, these limited-edition Liberty cars will add to any hobbyist's collection or layout.*

# Digital HO Distribution and Policy Statement

## *Components of the Märklin Digital HO System.*



Digital is here! And it's proving to be well worth the wait.

We have in our new price list 20 locomotives equipped with factory-installed decoding units. (The digital item numbers and their standard counterparts are listed below.) All digital locomotives have been assigned a 3600 series number.

The chief difference between a digital and standard HO locomotive lies in the engine's interior, where the reversing unit has been replaced by a decoder panel and microchip.

Märklin digital locomotives will operate on either a digital or conventional layout, but will only perform their specialties on a digital layout. Non-Digital locomotives will operate on a digitally controlled layout at three-quarters speed, with no speed control.

When its number is keyed into the control unit, the digital locomotive is ready for operation.

Headlights change over with the direction of travel on Digital locos with headlights at both ends and will maintain a constant level of illumination when the engine is stationary. Locomotives equipped with TELEX couplers and smoke units will function under the digital controls anywhere on your layout.

The decoder chip, with its eight switches, sets the engine's call number. The operator selects a number from 1-80 and sets these eight switches in the appropriate on/off positions.

The "brain" of the digital locomotive is the computer microchip, which converts data it retrieves into actual functions. The chip instantly recognizes whether the layout is conventional or digital and adjusts itself accordingly.

### Digital Locomotives

The following locomotives are available in Digital form from your authorized Märklin Digital dealer. The first item number is for digital reference, the numbers in parentheses refer to conventional counterparts.

- 3610 Class 012, German Federal Railroad (3310)**
- 3623 Class Re 4/4, Swiss Federal Railway (3323)**
- 3642 Class III, German Federal Railroad (3342)**
- 3646 Class 236, German Federal Railroad (3346)**
- 3650 Class Ae 6/6, Swiss Federal Railway (3350)**
- 3653 Class 120, German Federal Railroad (3353)**
- 3657 Class 103, German Federal Railroad (3357)**

- 3665 Class 260, German Federal Railroad (3365)**
- 3671 Inter City Experimental, German Federal Railroad (3371)**
- 3672 Class 212, German Federal Railroad (3372)**
- 3674 Class 216, German Federal Railroad (3374)**
- 3684 Class 050, German Federal Railroad (3384)**
- 3696 Class 86, German Federal Railroad (3396)**

Before you venture into Digital HO, be sure you learn about the intricacies of this fascinating new dimension of model railroading. Your authorized Märklin Digital dealer has had to complete a seminar on digital before he can carry the line, so he is a trusted, informed source.

# The Fun Continues: The Märklin SET Program

By: Mike Cary

The Märklin SET layout system, with its four carefully planned extension sets, integrate into the basic oval of track included with Märklin HO and Z-scale starter sets. Each new set adds to the operational capability you already have. All pieces snap easily into place, all wiring connections are color-coded, and no soldering is required. HO sets include M-track; Z-scale track is nickel-silver.

## For Your Information

The Märklin SET expansion sets we'll review in this issue can add a great deal of flexibility and variety to your railroad. No longer need you spend hours watching a single train go around an oval. You move into a world of endless variety — the world of railway operations.

In addition, the Märklin Toporama provides you with an easy way to get started with realistic scenery and landscaping for your layout.

Assuming you've already added the basic Expansion Set E and the Double Track T1 to the track that came with your original starter set, let's look at the remaining two track extension sets — T2 and T3. You can add either set next; the sequence doesn't matter. Each has been carefully designed to enable you to enjoy many of the challenges you'd find in operating a full-size railroad. Installation is simple, and the added interest and enjoyment are well worth the modest investment involved.

Complete information on all extension sets and the Toporama landscaping guide is contained in the 1985/86 catalogs — pages 26-27 of the HO catalog, pages 8-9 of the Z-scale

catalog. Incidentally, since these sets give you the ability to run two or more trains at the same time, you'll want to explore additional power packs for independent control. Your Märklin dealer can help.

### Completing the double-track main line

Station Passing Track Set T2 adds a great deal of flexibility with just 10 pieces of track, two remote control curved switches and the necessary electric hardware. The new track completes the outer oval of the double-track main line, and the new switches let you avoid running every train through the station.

With Set T2 in place, your trains can make scheduled station stops from either track, and you can switch trains back and forth from one oval to the other. This enables you to represent double-track mainline operations in miniature, running express and local trains in both freight and passenger service.

### Adding freight operations

The other expansion set, Marshalling Yard Set T3, adds many operational possibilities which introduce you to the essentials of freight service — loading, empty-car storage and loaded-car storage. The set includes a double slip switch, which provides four-way routing flexibility in a minimum of space. (It performs the same functions as two regular switches in about the same space required by one.) The set also includes two remote switches, 10 pieces of track, four bumpers and all necessary electrical connectors and hardware.

The resulting addition provides a three-track basic yard capability. It enables you to make up and break down freight trains, involving yard

and industry switching maneuvers. A spur track, or siding, is provided for loaded freight car pick-ups and empty car set-outs, to serve the industrial customers on your railroad. You could locate a plant next to the spur, or consider it as a team track — a public outdoor loading facility serving many customers who bring freight shipments to the facility by truck.

### Toporama adds realism

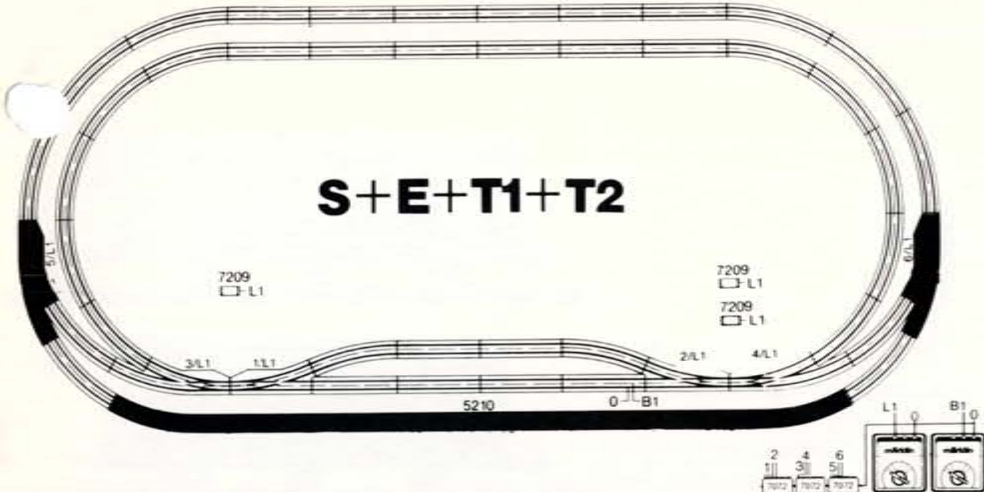
Imagination plays a big part in the enjoyment anyone gets from model trains. However, no matter how realistically detailed the trains are, most people find it difficult to project themselves into a real railroad setting — even in their mind's eye — while looking at model track mounted on plywood. The answer is to add some landscaping. When you get to that point, you should consider Märklin's SET Toporama.

Toporama is a multicolored, realistic landscaping guide specifically designed to match the railroad you build with the SET program.

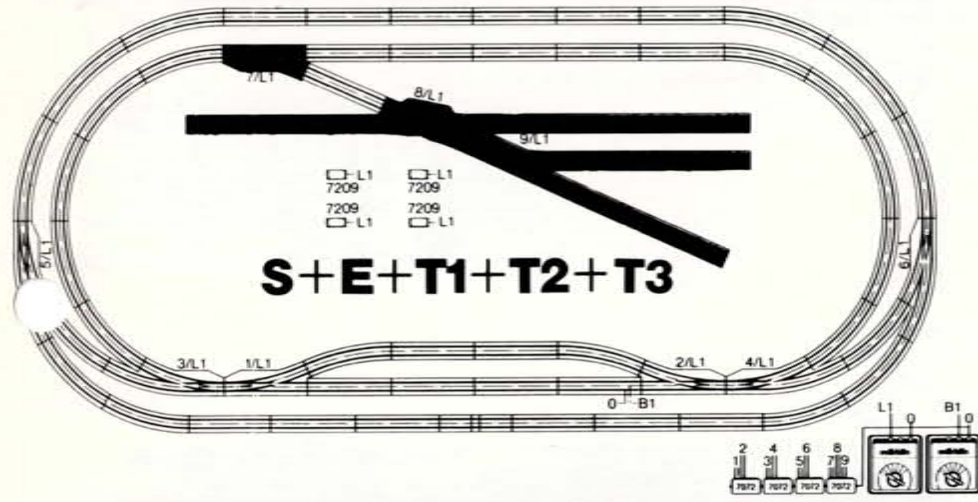
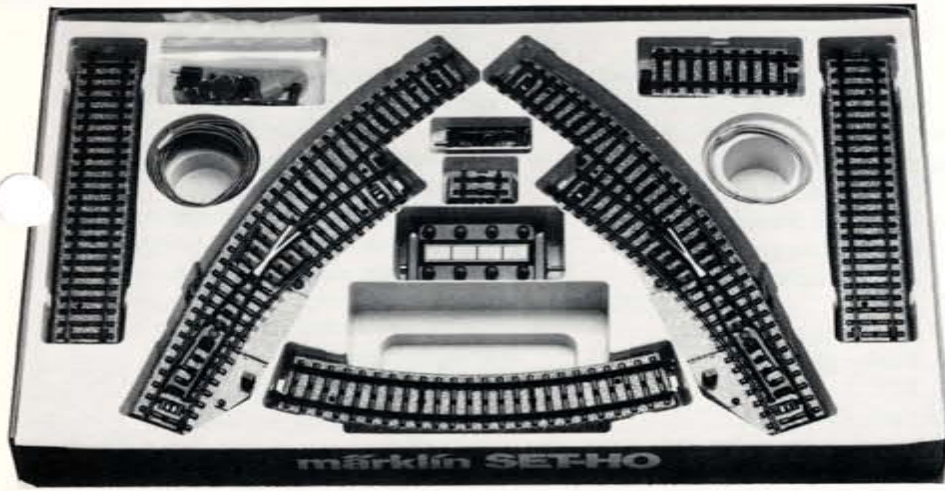
All areas for railroad right-of-way are clearly marked; the Toporama guide can be used with the beginning track oval plus expansion Set E, and any or all of the other expansion sets.

Roadways and driveways are indicated, too — there's even a pond. A grass-like flock has been applied to most of the remaining area, which gives you a surprisingly realistic texture and a big head start on landscaping. There are appropriate locations where you can add a station, plus several homes, stores, factories or other commercial structures.

Although it isn't absolutely necessary, Toporama will be a lot more durable if it is glued to the plywood, at least around its edges. The track screws will hold the central area in place.



*Set T2 in Z-scale (8193)  
and in HO (5193).*



**What's next?**

After you've added all of the SET program components, then what? That's up to you. You'll probably want to start by adding rolling stock and additional locomotives. You can also install a variety of buildings and other structures, plant some trees or shrubs, pave the roads, add signs and street lighting, put in a few vehicles and other details.

When you've incorporated all four extension sets into your layout, and fully explored the possibilities they offer, you'll know a lot about scale model railroading. For many Märklin owners, that's merely the beginning of ever-increasing enjoyment.

By that time, you'll have your own ideas for track plans and extensions. You can get plenty of ideas and suggestions from the brochures in the catalog — or from the Märklin Magazine. Layout track planning books also offer additional product information.

The track planning template is a big help in translating your ideas onto paper, and Märklin offers a "Track Planning Game" so you can check out plans and ideas in three dimensions.

Your layout can grow and grow, and can include virtually anything you want (and have space for). Märklin makes it easy to do, step by step.

*Set T3 in Z-scale (8194)  
and in HO (5194).*

# News About New and Future Deliveries

The 1986 New Items Brochure is loaded with items being manufactured in Germany. Look through the brochure that is included with this newsletter and see what we mean when we say there's something for everyone — whether you collect Z-scale, HO or I-gauge.

## Z-SCALE

To add to your rolling stock, there are three new items that are of note — all scheduled to be at your dealer this spring:

- 8646 Beer Car, Baden Brewery, 2½" ..... \$10.00
- 8715 Auto Carrier, (without cars) German Federal Railroad, 4⅞" ..... \$21.00
- 8952 Miniature Cars, set of 4 different models for 8715 ..... \$5.35

The Z-scale items listed below are scheduled to be delivered this summer. (All are featured in the 1986 New Items Brochure):

- 8650 Gondola Car, High-Sided, German Federal Railroad, 2⅝" ..... \$17.00
- 8651 Gondola Car, High-Sided, Swiss Federal Railroad, 2⅝" ..... \$17.00
- 8745 Passenger Car, First Class, Swiss Federal Railroad, 4⅞" ..... \$21.00
- 8746 Passenger Car, Second Class, Swiss Federal Railroad, 4⅞" ..... \$21.00
- 8747 Dining Car, Swiss Federal Railroad, 4⅞" ..... \$33.00

## HO Gauge

For the HO collector, a number of new items offer interesting possibilities for any layout. Of particular note are:

- 4182 Sleeper Car, Swiss Federal Railroad, First and Second Class Compartments, with interior details, 10⅝" ..... \$27.50
- 4437 Beer Car, Baden Brewery, 4½" ..... \$9.50
- 4676 Tank Car, Shell, with Brakeman's Cab, German Federal Railroad, 4⅞" ..... \$21.00
- 4750 Tank Car, Texaco, 4" ..... \$16.50
- 4761 Bulk Material Tank Car, German Federal Railroad, 4" ..... \$16.00



4203

Several more items are due in this summer. Of particular note is the five-piece German Federal Railroad Demonstration Train Set (2859, \$239), comprised of a Class III express locomotive, a first class IC compartment coach, a second class coach, a second class commuter coach and a baggage car. These items are not available separately.

Other HO items expected to be delivered this summer include:

- 4689 Gondola Car, High-Sided, Swiss Federal Railroad, 6⅜" ..... \$16.50
- 4690 Gondola Car, High-Sided, German Federal Railroad, 6⅜" ..... \$16.50



4202



3329

3629 (Digital)

2859



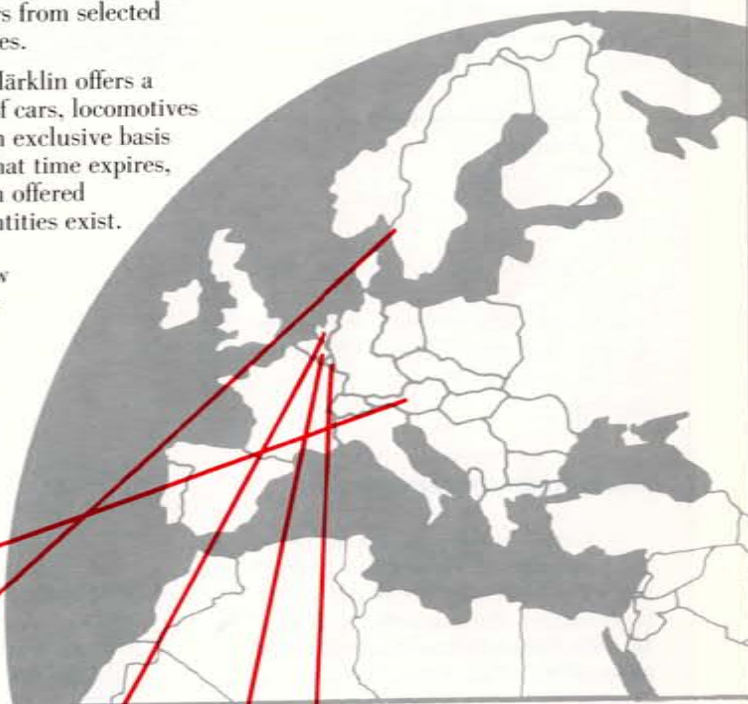
# Special-Edition Items Now Available in the US



As a special bonus to Märklin Club members, you are receiving advance notice of the availability of a limited number of special-edition cars from selected European countries.

As a rule, Märklin offers a country a series of cars, locomotives or train sets on an exclusive basis for a year. After that time expires, the items are then offered worldwide, if quantities exist.

Items that are now available include:



**Advance Notice!**

<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Suggested Retail Price
3105 Loco with tender, Class 674 . . . . .	\$97.00
3139 Diesel loco, Class 2065 . . . . .	\$115.00
3140 Railbus VT 21, with trailer VS 32 . . . . .	\$128.00
3166 Electric loco, Class 1141 . . . . .	\$162.00
4034 Express coach Bpz (Schlieren) . . . . .	\$28.00
4109 Coach Bi . . . . .	\$22.50
4110 Baggage car Dih (Donnerbuchse) . . . . .	\$25.00
4167 EUROFIMA car B 11 . . . . .	\$30.00
4407 Boxcar Gs . . . . .	\$10.50
4434 Low-sided Gondola Kimmo with cross- country car Steyr-Puch Mercedes G . . . . .	\$11.50
4444 Tank Car, ELAN . . . . .	\$13.00
4445 Tank Car . . . . .	\$13.00
4655 Oil Tank Car "Schucechat 2000" . . . . .	\$29.75
4670 Container Car, "Intercontinentale" . . . . .	\$21.00

<b>SWEDEN</b>	Suggested Retail Price
4178 Express car A 5 F . . . . .	\$34.00
4179 Express car B 8 . . . . .	\$34.00
4408 Box Car, Gs . . . . .	\$10.50
4409 Box Car, Gs-u "ASG" . . . . .	\$10.50
4672 "CHIQUITA" Container Car . . . . .	\$22.00
4673 "CO-OP" Container Car . . . . .	\$22.00
4688 Telescoping Svenskt Stal freight car . . . . .	\$33.50

<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Suggested Retail Price
4117 Express Coach, 1st Class . . . . .	\$28.00
4433 Low-sided Gondola E . . . . .	\$7.75
4641 Side-unloading Hopper Car FCS . . . . .	\$27.00
4770 "Scan Dutch" Container Car . . . . .	\$21.75

<b>BELGIUM</b>	Suggested Retail Price
3135 Railbus 551, with trailer 731 . . . . .	\$120.00
4069 Slumber Coach . . . . .	\$28.00
4113 Coach BC (Donnerbuchse) . . . . .	\$22.50
4114 Coach B (Donnerbuchse) . . . . .	\$22.50
4115 Baggage Car (Donnerbuchse) . . . . .	\$25.00
4118 Slumber Car "Railtour" . . . . .	\$34.75
4447 "Solvay" Tank Car . . . . .	\$13.00
4656 Side-loading Hopper Car Fds . . . . .	\$25.50

<b>LUXEMBURG</b>	Suggested Retail Price
3136 Diesel Loco, Class 450 . . . . .	\$119.00
4405 Box Car Gs . . . . .	\$10.50

**NOTE: These prices supersede prices listed in the price list effective February 1, 1986.**

## REMEMBER

Märklin always enjoys hearing from members of the Club. Please call us during business hours at 414-784-8854 for technical assistance on parts, warranty information or customer service questions. The toll-free number (800-772-2490) is for joining the Club and for dealer references only.

If you have stories, layout information or other tips to share with fellow Club members, send them to:

**Sherrie Schumacher**  
Märklin Club  
P.O. Box 242  
New Berlin, WI 53151

Please be sure to submit a black and white photo if your story is about your layout. All photos will be returned. Also: if your story is used in HotTraks, Märklin will send you a coupon good for \$25.

## A NOTE OF THANKS TO...

*Caryl Weisbecker, who had served as coordinator of The Märklin Club since its inception, is no longer with Märklin, Inc. She was recognized by Märklin President Fred Gates for her outstanding job in getting the Club off the ground.*

*Club correspondence may now be sent to Sherrie Schumacher.*

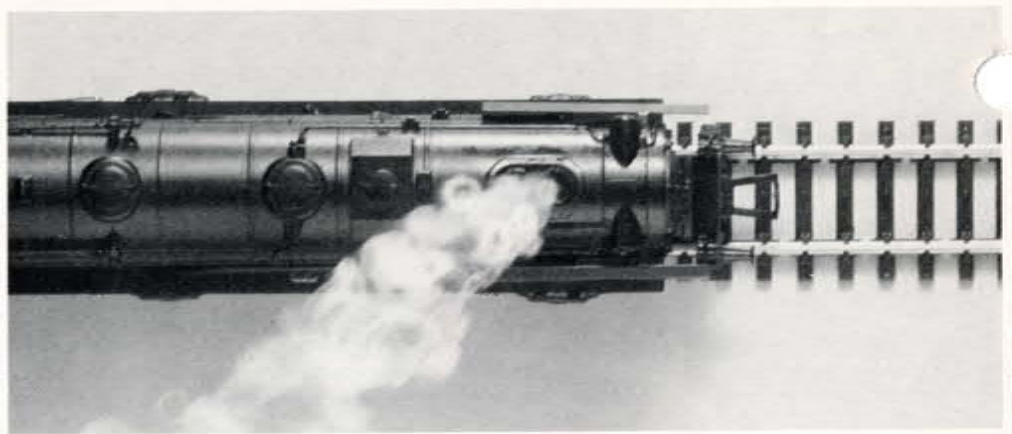
## SORRY WE'RE LATE

HotTraks is intended to be a quarterly newsletter available to members of The Märklin Club.

We apologize to our members for the tardiness in which this issue went to press and, ultimately, reached you. We hope you forgive us and look forward to the continued high-quality articles, tips, hints and layout ideas that we have in store for you in future issues.

Our next newsletter will arrive in August, and the following issue in November. We hope you enjoy them and welcome your comments on their contents.

The Editor



## Promotional Items From Märklin

To complement your Märklin layout, how about some promotional items to keep you in the Märklin mood even when you're away from your trains?

There are cotton/polyester knit T-shirts for all ages—children through adult—and all sizes. These red and black on white shirts come in three children's sizes—small (6-8), medium (10-12) and large (14-16)—and cost \$5.75. Adult sizes are small (34-36), medium (38-40), large (42-44) and extra large (46) and cost \$6.50 apiece.

Märklin also offers:

Cloth Patch, \$1.30  
Belt Buckle, \$8.95  
125th Anniversary Magazine, \$4.00  
Full-color Poster, \$4.00  
Lapel Pin (HO wheel), \$.50

Video cassettes—in either Beta or VHS format—are available for purchase or to rent. A \$5 refundable security deposit is required for each tape borrowed. Tapes are offered for purchase at \$35. Postage and handling charges for either of the above arrangements are \$2.75.

Video tapes available include:  
Tour the Märklin Factory—  
#767 VHS, #768 Beta  
Märklin Digital—  
#2664 VHS, #2665 Beta

**Send tape orders and requests to Sherrie Schumacher,  
Märklin Club, P.O. Box 242, New Berlin, WI 53151**

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Märklin Club, 16988 W. Victor Road, New Berlin, WI 53151

# HOTTRAKS