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CHICAGO MODEL HOBBY SHOW SET FOR OCTOBER 14-16, 1988

The 4th annual Chicago Model Hobby Show is scheduled for 4 to 10 p.m., Friday, October 14th, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, October 15th, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, October 16th at the O'Hare Expo Center.

More than 350 exhibitors will be on display, including Märklin. Joining us will be our Digital consultant, Dr. Thomas Catherall. If you attend, stop by Booth 1930 and see our display of new items and the Digital System. See you there!

MÄRKLIN CLUB—USA

HOT TRAKS

Fall, 1988

Volume 4 Number 3

HOT TRAKS is the official quarterly newsletter of the Märklin Club, P.O. Box 795, Elm Grove, WI 53122

DB Passenger Car Colors: The Final Word

By Jeff Stimson
Special Features Editor

The last issue of HotTraks dealt with the changes in the German Federal Railroad's passenger service since the end of World War II. In this article I would like to finish this discussion with a report on the newest color schemes for DB passenger cars.

Several years ago rumors began to surface in the West German model railroad press that the DB was considering new paint schemes for its locomotives and passenger cars as part of an ambitious plan to establish a new corporate identity for the railroad. There were photos of various designs applied to a class III electric locomotive and a set of four passenger cars, two cars for express trains, one baggage car and one commuter car. For the most part, these designs lasted in real life no longer than a few days. In some cases, two different designs were painted on the same car, with different designs appearing on each side.

Märklin reproduced two sets of designs in 1986, one as a special set for 1986 only, #2859, and the other design as a separate locomotive and four separately available cars, the #3172 class III electric and the #4220 through #4223 cars. The separately available locomotive and cars lasted barely two years and were quietly discontinued at the end of 1987, although the 1987/88 catalog still lists them.

Now, for 1988 only, Märklin has introduced a set in Z-gauge, #8111, in HO, #2862, and in HO Digital, #2662. The set is comprised of a class III electric locomotive, two express cars, and two commuter cars. The color schemes for these sets are of great interest because each scheme represents a different type of DB passenger service.

Before discussing the colors for the cars, a few words need to be said about the locomotive. All DB locomotives are to be painted Inter City (IC) red. This will convey the concept of a universal power unit for use with any sort of train. The frame of the locomotive and the row of vents on the side of the locomotive are to be painted in what the Germans call "gray brown," or what we might term charcoal gray. Each class of locomotive will have a decorative area on each end that will be painted light gray. This area has been jokingly called a "bib" in the West German press because of its obvious similarity. Lettering will also be in light gray, while the DB emblem will be in IC red.

Apart from locomotives, red in the DB's new corporate identity will symbolize the railroad's top passenger service—the Inter City and Euro City expresses. The cars used in these trains are equipped for speeds as high as 200 km/h (125 mph), and will be painted light gray with a

Continued on page 2, column 1



window band of IC red, complemented by a pink stripe beneath the window band. The car frame and trucks will be "gray brown." The lettering and DB emblem for these cars as well as all other passenger cars will be the same as for locomotives. The scheme described above will be applied to both 1st and 2nd class cars, as well as dining cars and the IC mail cars.

Blue is a carryover color from the old cream/blue scheme so familiar from the Märklin catalogs. It will be applied to cars to be used in the Interregio network of expresses designed to feed passengers to the IC/EC trains from cities not in the latter's network. All cars used in these trains, including dining cars and mixed 1st class/2nd class cars with a maximum speed of at least 160 km/h (100 mph), will be painted light gray with a blue window band, complemented by a light blue stripe beneath the window band. Trucks and frames will be treated like the IC cars.

The German Federal Railroad's commuter services are divided into two parts, the regional City Bahn and the urban/metropolitan S-Bahn. The City Bahn includes the "Silverliner" cars as well as various railcar sets. The paint scheme for these will be light gray car bodies with a window band of turquoise, complemented with a turquoise stripe beneath the window band. Car frames, trucks, the DB emblem, and lettering will be done as described for other series of cars.

The cars used in the S-Bahn commuter service (the x series corresponding to the Märklin catalog #4183, #4184, and #4185) will have the same light gray bodies, but the window band will be orange. The complementary stripe will be yellow ochre. All other parts of the cars will be painted the same as for other cars. Class 111 and 141 electric locomotives, used solely for S-Bahn trains, will also have light gray bodies and a large side stripe of orange with a smaller stripe of yellow ochre. All other details such as frame and trucks, lettering and the DB emblem will be the same as other DB locomotives.

These color schemes mark the first serious attempt by the DB to identify whole trains (including all services contained in those trains) by color. The TEE color scheme of cream and red distinguished premier service trains with their exclusively 1st class only service. However, the symbolic meaning of these colors began to be diluted when TEE cars were used in mixed 1st/2nd class Inter City trains with their 2nd class cars in the cream and blue scheme more readily identified with the less prestigious D-Züge (ordinary expresses).

The German Federal Railroad started repainting their rolling stock in the new paint schemes starting in 1987 as units were scheduled for maintenance or inspections. It still may be possible to see a mixture of the old and new "corporate identity" on DB passenger trains this year and next.

Club Members' How-To

Creating A Trackside Caboose Diner

By William Harold Smith
Membership #6692
Lebanon, VA

While passing through a town in Georgia in 1981, I noticed a sight that caught my eye and fancy; a diner made from a caboose... actually, the caboose was on a section of track and had been secured in place and was decorated in a pink and light blue motif of the 1950s era. Not only was it down right spectacular, it gave me an idea for a special addition to my layout — build my own trackside caboose diner! The more I thought about it, the more I realized what a great idea it was for any layout, HO or Z-gauge.

Whether you decorate in HO or Z-gauge, you will need these same basic items:

1. The first thing you need is a caboose. In HO, #4563 or #4564 work well. In Z-gauge, #8636, #8640, #8670, #8679, or #8680 work well.
2. You need a piece of straight track. In HO, one piece of K straight track #2209 (8 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") is fine. In Z-gauge, one piece of Z straight track #8500 (4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") will suffice.
3. For lighting purposes, you need one HO dual lamp station light, #7281. For Z-gauge, two station lamps, #8958.
4. Landscaping is important for authenticity. For both gauges, you need about 20 evergreen trees, and various colors of lichen.
5. Your parking lot will require a 10" x 4" piece of thin cardboard for HO. If you prefer two parking lots, use two 6" x 1" thin pieces of cardboard for Z-gauge. (For Z-gauge parking lots, Märklin recommends cutting the cardboard to scale.)
6. You'll also need a thick tip black marker, a ruler, gray construction paper, and white glue.

Now you're ready to begin.

STEP ONE

Center your caboose on your track, glue it in that position, and let dry for at least 24 hours.

STEP TWO

Find an area next to your highways where you'd like to build your trackside diner.

STEP THREE

Position the caboose and track in the location where you want your diner. Be sure to leave ample room for sidewalks and your parking lots. Once you've found the best position, glue the caboose and track in place. Again, you should give it ample time to dry.

STEP FOUR

Take the cardboard and, with your black marker, color it black. This will create an asphalt parking lot. Position it accordingly, then glue it into place.

STEP FIVE

Use the gray construction paper to make sidewalks. You need one sidewalk coming from each set of caboose steps, and connecting with a trail sidewalk which leads to the parking lot. For HO, cut two 1" x 4" strips and one 1" x 10" strip from the construction paper. For Z-gauge, cut two 1/2" x 2" strips and one 2/3" x 6" strip from the paper. Position accordingly, using the smaller strips to lead from the steps, then glue in place.

STEP SIX

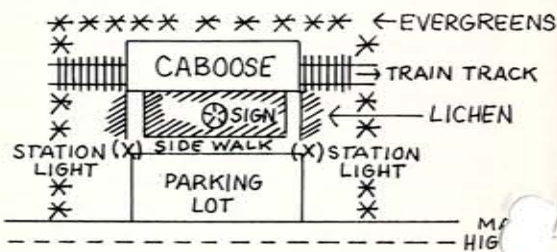
To install your Z-gauge station lights, drill a small hole in each corner of your parking lot. The HO dual station light is best positioned in the middle of the parking lot at the base of the trail sidewalk.

STEP SEVEN

Insert the station light wiring through the holes, lead the wires to their power source, check to see if your lights operate properly, then glue the station light or lights in place and hold until secured.

STEP EIGHT

Decorate sidewalk and parking lot area with lichen. Place 10 evergreen trees behind the diner and five along the trailing sidewalk to the parking lot.



STEP NINE

Make two homemade signs with the name of your diner. For instance, you might call it "Boxcar Willie's." Decorate as you see fit and glue on a cardboard backing. Then, after the billboard has dried, glue the billboard either on top of your caboose, or in the front of your caboose in the middle of the yard of the sidewalk areas. You can create a billboard using toothpicks for poles. Just glue the billboard to the "poles." Once the billboard glue has dried, make a hole for inserting the billboard in the same section, or in between the sidewalk areas and front yard of the diner.

STEP TEN

This is an optional step, but it adds a tremendous amount of realism to your layout. Plus, by adding figures of people to your sidewalk and autos to the parking lot, you will create a new vibrant and active hot spot to your layout.

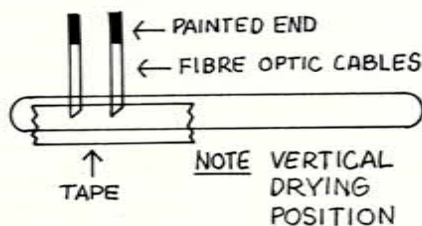
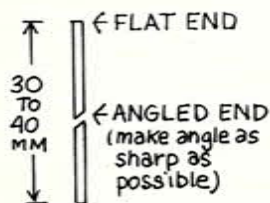
Modifying TEE Passenger Cars So They Have Red Taillights

By Frank M. Meek
Membership #3708
Alexandria, VA

The following instructions and diagrams show how to modify your Märklin Z-gauge lighted TEE passenger cars so they will have red taillights. The idea was based on an Arnold kit that I saw several years ago which is used to modify their lighted N-gauge passenger cars.

You will need the following items for each locomotive you wish to modify:

1. Fibre optic cable, 20 mil (0.020 inch diameter). I got mine from HANDIKITS, Box 143, Hatboro, PA 19040 which use to advertise in Model Railroader. However, I have not seen their advertisement in several months. Their prices were \$1.00 for 10 feet and \$5.00 for 60 feet, plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
2. One bottle of DEKA-transparent paint, #29 Crimson. This is available from DEKA-Farben GmbH, D-8025 Unterhaching, or in the U.S. from Decart Inc., Lamoille Industrial Park, Box 309, Morrisville, VT 05661, 1-802-888-4127. (Their sample pack #024P also contains bottles of blue and green translucent paints.)
3. Tools: a new single-edged razor blade, a pair of tweezers with pointed tips, tape, a popsicle stick or small piece of wood, some liquid glue, and a 0.8mm drill bit as is found in most miniature drill kits.



STEP ONE

Cut a 15-20mm length of fiber optic cable, making a very sharp angle cut across the cable; one end of the cable will be flat, the other angled. Cut a second 15-20mm piece with a flat cut. The idea behind the angle is to allow as much light as possible to reach the inside of the cable and ultimately the flat end of the cable.

STEP TWO

Tap the angled ends of the cable to a popsicle stick (or other small piece of wood). Dip approximately 5-7mm of the flat ends of all your cables into the paint. Remove them immediately, and position the flat ends so that the paint will run away from the flat ends. One coat of paint is generally adequate. Let the painted cables dry in a vertical position overnight.

STEP THREE

Remove the roof, the two cardboard end pieces, the clear plastic light diffuser and the light bulbs from your lighted TEE passenger car. Examine one end of the car—you will notice two small depressions on either side of the lower portion of the door. Using the drill bit in your fingers, twist the bit in each of the two depressions, applying light pressure until the bit breaks through. This should only take a few turns. Do the other hole in the same manner.

STEP FOUR

Insert the angled end of the fibre optic cables through each of the holes. Tap the ends of the cables even with the surface of the car with your fingernail. The angle ends will be in a position approximately below where the lamp is installed. You may glue the cables in place on the inside of the car by using a brush-on glue against the cable/wall of the car. I have found that the plastic diffuser generally holds the cables in their proper places.

STEP FIVE

Reassemble the car and test. If the red taillights are readily visible in a lighted room, particularly at higher voltages, and in a darkened room with just the layout lights, the improvement is quite good. You may want to consider doing both ends of each car—the coupled ends of cars are only visible on curves and this allows you to form trains easily as you choose. Also, since the Crimson paint is a slightly different color from that of the TEE passenger cars, it is a slight improvement to their appearance.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Märklin Club member Frank Meek offers excellent instructions for modifying TEE passenger cars by the addition of red taillights. However, due to the expertise needed and the small confines of Z-gauge cars, we recommend this procedure for enthusiasts with a thorough working knowledge of the internal components and construction of the cars.

Ken Brzenk
Maintenance Tip Editor

Editor's Note: Club members William Harold Smith and Frank M. Meek each will receive the new "Early Years of Märklin" stein for submitting a how-to article.

Z-Gauge City Bahn

By Joe Brown
Märklin Club Coordinator

Coming this fall is Märklin Z-gauge set #8107, the model of the German Federal Railroad's chic new City Bahn, a commuter train operating between Cologne and Gummersbach in northern Germany.

The prototype train has a very interesting background. The DB was, admittedly, having problems with low usage in commuter trains. The equipment being used often dated back to the 1950s. Its appearance was worn-out and the comfort level was declining.

To remedy the situation, the older cars were completely renovated. Their interiors were refurbished and their exteriors were given a bright, attractive paint scheme of orange and light gray. Accessibility was improved by providing more frequent daily runs and even runs on Sundays. Park and ride lots were placed near the stations. Convenient snack areas were added. Advertising increased dramatically. As a result of all these efforts, passenger traffic between Cologne and Gummersbach increased 35%. This was so impressive that the City Bahn concept is being expanded all across Germany.

The term "City Bahn" means city train. The City Bahn is an updated form of the S-Bahn, or Stadt Bahn. Like its predecessor, City Bahns still operate on the basis of commuter shuttle trains. Usually, a City Bahn consists of a locomotive, a small number of commuter coaches, and the pilot car, in the rear of which is an engineer's cab. Because of the close proximity in which urban communities are located, it is much easier to shuttle trains to and from rather than switching on/off different locomotives for northern Germany's many "dead-end" stations. Once the City Bahn reaches its destination, its passengers disembark. After other passengers board, the train simply reverses direction with the locomotive pushing, rather than pulling the train. The engineer transfers to the control cab which, on the previous trip, was the end of the train.

Märklin's model #8107 captures all the vitality of the City Bahn with its bold orange and light gray striping. Like the prototype, there is a stylized drinking glass on one side of the car to indicate the built-in dispensers for snacks and beverages. Also, the #8107 set comes with a class 218 diesel locomotive in the matching paint scheme, a 1st class commuter coach, a 2nd class commuter coach and a 2nd class commuter coach with a control cab. As with the prototype, illuminated triple headlights change color when direction of travel reverses and the white headlights of the locomotive become red marker lights.

This unique model is a must for Märklin fans. Its bold colors and design portray an exciting future for model railroading.

New Information From The Factory About Power Consumption On The Märklin Digital System

The factory has passed along information regarding typical power consumption values for the Märklin Digital System. The information is based on experience with large layouts.

Item	Approximate Power Consumption
Locomotive	10 watts
Light Bulb (Constantly burning, such as in car lighting or in a signal or turnout lantern)	1 watt
Solenoid Accessory Mechanism (at the moment it is activated)	6 watts
Turntable	10 watts
Magnet Crane	10 watts

The Digital transformer generates 42 watts, the maximum allowed under the UL regulations with which Märklin works. The Central Control Unit will process a maximum of approximately 50 watts. The Digital control panel (Control 80 and Keyboard units) consumes at least 8 watts, and closer to 40 watts when the maximum number of Keyboards (16) and Control 80 units (10) are in use. This means that one or more Boosters, each with its own transformer, must be added to the Digital System to provide sufficient range for the Digital command signals and sufficient wattage to power the trains and accessories.

Incidentally, don't let the name "Booster" mislead you. The "Booster" does not boost power to the layout, rather it boosts the range of Digital signal from the Central Unit. The transformer connected to each Booster provides an additional 16 volts, 42 watts to power the area for which that Booster is responsible.

The layout must be divided up into separate, isolated areas of power consumption or circuits with a Booster and transformer connected to each circuit. If you have a double track main line and a branch line, then each main line could be connected to a Booster, and the branch line could have its own Booster to satisfy its power needs. On a large system, it is better to run turnout/signal decoders directly to one or more Booster units, rather than connect them to the track. By doing it this way, the power supplied to the track will be used solely for the operation of your trains. It should also be noted that the number of Booster units you need depends on how many accessories you are operating on your layout.

Finally, the factory recommends that the Central Unit be used only for the

Digital control panel on particularly large systems. Booster units should be units used to convey the Digital signals from the Central Unit to the layout. This is an extra precaution to prevent overloads during a momentary peak use period which might otherwise cause the circuit breaker in the Central Unit to shut down the system.

New Digital Developments For DC Systems in 1-Gauge, 2-Rail HO, And Z-Gauge

You will soon be able to run your DC 2-rail layout with the Märklin Digital System! This includes 2-rail HO, Z-gauge, and 1-gauge. Märklin has developed new technology so you no longer have to flip dip switches on the decoder panel inside the locomotive. All DC decoders (1-gauge, 2-Rail HO, and Z-gauge) are easily programmed. Simply place them on an isolated section of track and, using the new #6032 Programmer, you can code your locomotives. The Programmer can also be used to identify locomotive addresses.

A different Central Unit will be available for DC operation as well as different decoders for DC locomotives (C 82) and solenoid accessories (switches, signals, uncoupler tracks). The Control 80, 80f, #6040 Keyboard, #6043 memory unit, #6050 interface, #6088 track detection module and #6001 transformer can all be used with Digital Z-gauge, 2-Rail DC Digital HO, and Digital 1-gauge.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The C 82 decoder panel is for 2-rail DC HO only. For the present, Z-gauge locomotives will only be available from the factory with the decoder panel already installed. The Central Unit for 2-rail DC systems (Z-gauge, 1-gauge, and HO) will allow you to operate both conventional and Digital locomotives on a Digital System.

Advanced components are also offered for Märklin 1-gauge Digital operations. The #6017 Mixer Unit superimposes Digital information over conventional current. This gives you a choice of running your entire system digitally, or operating your trains by conventional methods while at the same time running your signals/switches digitally. Decoder panels for both single and double motor units will be available as well as the k 86 decoder for 1 Gauge switches, signals or uncoupler tracks.

Available From
U.S. Authorized Dealers Only

The World's Smallest Railway Grows Again! Six New Models Added To The U.S. Mini-Club

The mighty steam locomotive with tender that for so many years was an integral part of the historic New York Central Railroad leads a pack of six new models now available exclusively from authorized dealers in the United States.

Joining the New York Central locomotive are a New York Central caboose, an Illinois Central box car, a Mobilgas tank car, a "Rail Gon" low-sided gondola, and a "Rail Box" box car. For the next 12 months, the only authorized source in the world for these new models is Märklin's network of authorized dealers in the United States. To learn the name and address of the nearest dealer with these new models in stock, call the Märklin Club toll free at 1-800-772-2490 (Wisconsin residents call 1-414-782-6381).

The New York Central USRA 2-8-2 Steam Locomotive

This powerful locomotive is one of several that were patterned after the fuel-efficient designs developed by the USRA during the first World War. The main purpose of the locomotive was to operate efficiently, yet still provide the motive power necessary to transport heavier freight loads during the war years. Following the war, this 2-8-2 steam locomotive was a significant "player" on the New York Central roster of locomotives, often pulling trains up to 40 cars and freight ranging from grain and textiles to petroleum and steel, as well as other manufacturing supplies and products.

Märklin has now faithfully recreated this vintage steamer in a classic Z-gauge model worthy of the New York Central name and its proud tradition. The locomotive bears the insignia of both the New York Central line and a subsidiary, the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie (P&LE) that must be examined with a magnifying glass to appreciate its precision.

Realizing that such a great beginning deserves an equally great ending, Märklin has also recreated the New York Central caboose renowned for "bringing up the rear" of most all of the trains pulled by this locomotive. The caboose also features the New York Central logo.

With both the locomotive and caboose now available, you have an immediate opportunity to assemble a train that is not only historic, but historically accurate as well.

**Illinois Central And Mobilgas Cars
Also Have Historical Significance**

Like the New York Central steamer and caboose, the Illinois Central box car and Mobilgas tank car have carved their own significant niche in the annals of U.S. railroad history.

The Illinois Central Railroad moved both agricultural and industrial products and supplies to and from destinations in the farm belt. Farmers relied heavily on the rail transportation to get their products to market. But the railroad also played an important role in the development of many major manufacturing centers throughout the Midwest.

The Mobilgas tank car carried oil and oil by-products (such as gasoline and heating oil) to communities all across America. Even today, the Mobilgas tank car is still seen on freight trains throughout the country. Because of this wide exposure, the Mobilgas tank car fits well with virtually any freight train you are assembling. The Mobilgas tank car features an attractive paint scheme with familiar Mobil Oil Company logo, Pegasus.



These new models have been added to the U.S. Mini-Club. Moving down from the top row, and left to right on each row, the models are (all prices are listed at suggested retail): the New York Central Locomotive with Tender, #8808, \$193.00; Mobilgas Tank Car, #8684, \$37.50; Illinois Central Box Car, #8681, \$25.00; "Rail Box" Box Car, #8682, \$25.00; "Rail Gon" Gondola, #8683, \$23.50; the New York Central Caboose, #8680, \$36.00.

**Putting Together
An Accurate 1970s Freight Train**

Also new this year are a "Rail Gon" Gondola and a "Rail Box" box car. Both cars are part of a pool of cars that are used by several railroad lines. The "pool" was established in the 1970s. As a result, the cars are correct with all freight trains. Line them up with one of our F-7 diesels and other freight cars of the period and you've got a typical East Coast freight train from the 1970s. You can even add on the Illinois Central box car without compromising the accuracy of your train as it wasn't all that uncommon for box cars to be transferred between lines to complete interstate shipments.

1-Gauge Update

Redesigned 1-Gauge Provides You With Greater Detail And Assures Exclusivity

A new chapter has been written in the history of Märklin's "big" railroad — 1-gauge. From detailing to its sophisticated drive system, 1-gauge products are now built with new and more exacting standards for excellence and authenticity.

And it all starts with the 1-gauge locomotives. All built with sturdy metal frames, powerful motors, and precision gear drives... the type of durable construction that guarantees years of trouble-free operation and, most importantly, fun. What's more, 1-gauge locomotives are now designed to run on AC, DC, or Digital power. With the introduction of a new 1-gauge decoder panel, converting your layout to the Märklin Digital System is quick and easy.

The cars of the Prussian train are an ideal example of Märklin's dedication to detail. The compartment cars, for instance, have separate air vents, gas lines on the roof, and ladders on the brakeman's cab. The class designation on each car is written in Arabic numerals and correctly corresponds with the designation of its prototype. This passion for authenticity also extends to the underside and frame of each car. For instance, claw couplers can be exchanged for the fully operational reproduction prototype couplers. This enables you to operate trains prototypically, buffer-to-buffer on curves over 2.1 meters (83") in radius.

To help protect against counterfeiting, and to help you protect against theft, all new 1-gauge trains and cars will be individually numbered. It is our hope that this, and all these improvements will help satisfy even the most demanding enthusiast's requirements for a hobby that is exciting and offers years of trouble-free fun, exclusivity, and lasting value.

New Club Member Benefit!

Preferred Pricing Offered On New Catalogs... Order Now And Shipping & Handling Are Free!

The Märklin Club has expanded its list of member benefits! As a Club Member in good standing, you can now order the latest Märklin product catalog through the Märklin Depot at the following preferred prices.

Item #	Catalog	Standard Price	Members-Only Preferred Price
15110	1988/89 HO	\$ 7.50	\$5.50
15300	1988/90 Z-Gauge	\$ 4.95	\$3.75
15500	1988/90 1-Gauge	\$12.00	\$9.00

The catalogs are done in full color and offer the most comprehensive assortment of locomotives, cars, train sets, and accessories in the world. Both the Z-gauge and 1-gauge catalogs are two-year catalogs; a special Z-gauge supplement will be published and offered free of charge in 1989.

Our new preferred prices are available to members only and only on orders placed through the Märklin Depot. To help introduce this new member benefit, the Club will pay the shipping and handling charges on any new catalog ordered before October 31, 1988 — an additional savings of **\$2.00 per catalog!**

To order, and take advantage of our new Members-Only Preferred Pricing and FREE shipping and handling, call toll free 1-800-772-2490 (Wisconsin residents call 1-414-782-6328). Or, if you prefer, complete and return the Special Order Form in this issue of HotTraks. And remember, our offer of FREE shipping and handling ends October 31, 1988.

Dealers Learn All The Latest Märklin Product News And Updates At Seminars

As a special service to both our valued network of authorized dealers and you, our loyal customers, Märklin, Inc., sponsored its third annual series of nationwide dealer seminars. These are intense two-day sessions designed to make your authorized dealer the most knowledgeable resource available to you when it comes to your questions and interest in Märklin trains and accessories. The sessions offered include: Digital

Certification Program, which dealers must complete before they can offer the Märklin Digital System; Digital Seminar, a comprehensive study of all the latest advances and innovations with Digital; and Conventional Märklin, which provided extensive hands-on experience on proper assembly, set up, and operation of Märklin trains, accessories, and other products, such as Metall. A list of dealers who attended these seminars in 1988 is enclosed.

We Invite Your Participation!

We know you're out there. The innovator with the unique Märklin layout. The perfectionist who developed an ingenious technique for adding realism to your structures. The enthusiast whose travels have expanded your railroad knowledge and appreciation.

The editors of HotTraks want YOU! We want your insight, knowledge, and inquisitiveness. Most importantly, we're willing to reward you for sharing it. You'll receive recognition in HotTraks, plus a very special reward. Depending on the length and complexity of the article you submit, you could receive:

- \$25.00 in cash
- The new Märklin sport shirt
- The new "Early Years of Märklin" stein
- The Märklin Club Coffee Mug
- The Märklin Club Baseball Cap
- An extension of your Märklin Club membership

Simply send us a feature article written by you, a how-to hint, a maintenance tip, as well as your questions and problems, and we'll send you one of the above rewards. Articles should be no more than 1,000 words long. If you're stumped for ideas, read what follows and remember... everybody has a story to tell, and we'd like to hear yours.

Share Your Experiences With Trains

Have you ever visited a faraway city or country, and had an experience that enhanced your love of trains? Maybe you've ridden the Orient Express? Or bought a Eurail pass and traveled the continent? Ever ride across the U.S. aboard an Amtrak train? Or aboard an earlier U.S. passenger train?

How did you get involved in model railroading? What part of this hobby do you find most fascinating? Tell us about your layout and why you built it the way you did. Do you prefer traditional layout scenes or something more exotic? How about your preference in railroads?

Take A Look At Your Layout

Have you recently solved a landscaping problem? Maybe you've found a way to enhance the realism of your structures, signals, crossings, landscaping, even your trains. Tell us how you did it. Give us a brief introduction about the process, and why you wanted to do it. Be sure to include a complete list of all the materials and time you need from start to finish.

Stumped? Ask Our Experts

Give our panel of model railroad experts a chance to solve your most perplexing modelling problems and answer questions about any aspect of your hobby, and we'll reward you with your choice of

a Märklin Club baseball cap or Märklin Club coffee mug.

Send Your Articles And Ideas To...

All feature articles, hints, tips, questions, and problems should be sent to: The Märklin Club, P.O. Box 795, Elm Grove, WI 53122. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, club membership number, and, if your article is published, your choice of rewards. The Märklin Club reserves the right to substitute rewards based on availability. If you choose the shirt, be sure to include your size.

Club Members' Q & A

Answers To Your Questions

The following questions were submitted by Märklin Club members John Suark, #5268, Dominique Rosenthal, #3287, and William Harold Smith, #6692.

Question: *Why are Märklin TEE cars such as #4085 or #4087 24 cm in length, while Märklin TEE cars #4095 or #4097 are 27cm?*

Answer: Cars #4085 through #4090 are older models designed to negotiate the M-track curves, whereas #4095-#4099 are newer designs. The intent of the more recent models was to give a more true-to-scale appearance.

Question: *In the TEE Vista Dome car, why do passengers sit so low in the dome? Isn't the purpose of a dome to see ahead or behind, not just on the side?*

Answer: The dome area was built lower than U.S. practice to satisfy clearance requirements. These cars were operated in trains along the Rhine River where the clearances for catenary in tunnels and on bridges were already very tight, which created the need to reduce the height of the domes.

Question: *Are the seats in the TEE Vista Dome reserved, or is it a lounge area open to all passengers?*

Answer: Lounge areas are open to all passengers. The two trains using the domes were the Rheingold and Rheinpfel, both being first class accommodations only.

Question: *What is below the dome in the Vista Dome car?*

Answer: Below the dome is an equipment and service area. To get from one end of the car to the other, one had to walk up and through the dome area. This is different from the American design where you could walk through under the dome.

Question: *Why do some TEE dining cars have a pantograph and others do not?*

Answer: Cars with the pantograph are a later design. The idea was that if a train was stopped in the station, the pantograph could be raised to the catenary to keep power in the dining car. The pantograph

automatically lowers when the train exceeds 35 km/h (approximately 20 mph).

Question: *Does Märklin have any plans to produce the French TGV (Train de Grande Vitesse) and if so, when?*

Answer: To our knowledge, there are no plans to produce the TGV. It is a good suggestion and we will pass it on to the factory.

Question: *Is there any chance Mini-Club enthusiasts will see another U.S. train set in 1989-90, possibly a Norfolk & Western "J" with six Pocahontas passenger cars (diner, mail, baggage, 3 coaches)? Märklin has not introduced a set in Mini-Club Z-gauge dedicated to the USA since the #8106 Chessie System train came out in 1984-85.*

Answer: There are plans being considered for another U.S. style train, but no further information is available to us at this time.

Club Members' Input

Membership Survey Helps Keep The Club On Track

The Märklin Club is committed to publishing a newsletter whose editorial content reflects the interests and expectations of our membership. From now on, when your membership renewal is due, you will be given an opportunity to critique and make suggestions regarding HotTraks and the Club.

What follows are the results from our first survey, and our plans to act on your recommendations that we expand our coverage to include more articles on layout building, technical tips and hints, product updates, railroad history, and maintenance tips.

We are already working in this direction. For instance, this issue contains important technical information on the typical power consumption of the Märklin Digital System. And there are many product updates as well, from new U.S. Mini-Club models to the Collector's Series Beer Car Sets, and more. Most importantly, you'll find that we've expanded our coverage of these new items to include a historical perspective of each. You'll also find Special Features Editor Jeff Stimson's column on new color schemes in the German Federal Railroad, and Märklin Club Coordinator Joe Brown's column on the history of Märklin's new City Bahn train.

The future is just as promising. In the next issue of HotTraks, you will find an article on building a layout, and much more. Overall, we have made a firm commitment to make HotTraks a much more informative and useful newsletter. And, as always, we welcome your comments and your input. In fact, there is an article in this issue that explains how you can earn up to \$25 cash for sharing your model railroading experiences with the Club.

Members-Only Series Cars

The 1988 Liberty Cars Have Arrived; Limited Quantity Still Available

Those of you who took advantage of your Märklin Club membership to order the 1988 Members-Only Series Liberty Car should have received your cars by now. For those of you who have yet to order, a few cars still remain in your choice of HO or Z-gauge.

The Liberty Car is the third edition of the Club's exclusive Members-Only Series of imprinted cars. The 1988 car, a tank car, is imprinted with an original piece of art featuring Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Also imprinted on each car is the Club's private Series Mark and the registered Märklin trademark.

Production was limited to 750 Z-gauge cars (\$25.00 each) and 500 HO cars (\$26.50 apiece).



A limited number of cars are still available. As a member, you're entitled to order one car in each gauge. When you order both gauges, your shipping and handling is FREE — a \$4.00 savings! To order, use your MasterCard or VISA by calling 1-800-772-2490 (Wisconsin residents call 1-414-782-6381). You can also order by mail using the special order form in this issue. Remember, orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the cars are gone, they're gone. If you don't want to miss this opportunity, call now — 1-800-772-2490 (Wisconsin residents call 1-414-782-6381).

Special Edition Cars

Collector's Series Beer Car Sets Now Available In HO And Z-Gauge

The popular Collector's Series Beer Car Set is now available in both HO and Z-gauge. The sets consist of six reefers, each specially imprinted with a different brewery logo. The logos are from some local breweries in Bavaria and the region around Stuttgart.

As you may recall from your last issue of *HotTraks*, the HO set, #4400B, is the second edition in this series. Breweries represented are from Stuttgart, and include: Haller Löwenbräu, Stuttgarter Hofbräu, RO Bier, Götz-Bier, Schwaben Bräu, and Lochinger Waldhornbräu.

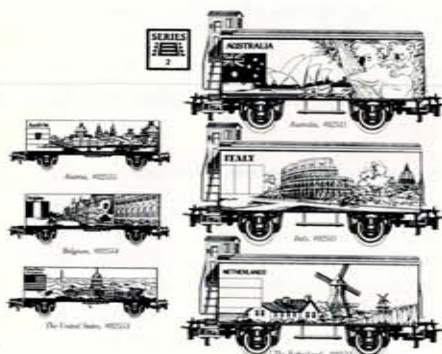
This will be the first Collector's Series Beer Car Set produced in Z-gauge.

The set, #8400A, features logos from Bavarian breweries, including Schmid, Weißenstephan, Schaffer Pilsner, Scherdel, Raubritter, and Deininger.

Production is limited to 500 sets in both gauges. The suggested retail price is \$159.00. The HO set is available now and the Z-gauge set will be delivered in October. Based on the tremendous response to the initial HO set, we would strongly recommend you visit your authorized dealer today and reserve your set.

International Series Cars

International Series 2 Cars Now Available



Authorized Märklin dealers across the United States are now offering second edition cars in the popular International Series. Nations represented in Series 2 are: Australia, Italy, and the Netherlands on an HO box car with raised brakeman's cab; Austria, Belgium, and the U.S.A. on a Z-gauge container car.

Car imprints were fashioned from original artwork commissioned exclusively for this project by Märklin, Inc. The imprints honor the people and culture of a particular nation. Märklin's registered trademark and official International Series Mark, which identifies the production year and series of the car, are also imprinted on each car.

Limited Production

Only 1,000 Z-gauge cars per nation and 800 HO cars per nation have been produced. The suggested retail price of the Z-gauge car is \$24.50, while the HO car is listed at \$39.95. Regardless of demand, there will be no additional production runs. Märklin dealers in the United States are the only authorized source worldwide for these cars. For the name and address of the nearest dealer with Series 2 cars now in stock, call 1-800-772-2490 (Wisconsin residents call 1-414-782-6381).

The International Series will extend over five years, with 15 nations eventually being represented. Three cars will be produced each year, with imprints alternating between gauges until all nations have been offered in both HO and Z-gauge.

Delivery Update

Anticipated Delivery Schedule

(Delivery Dates Are Set By The Märklin Factory, Are Approximate, And Are Subject To Change Without Notice.)

NOW IN STOCK

HO	2701	Primex Orient Express Set
HO	3311	Beautiful Lady of Württemberg 4-6-2 Steam Locomotive
HO	3017	Primex Berlin S-Bahn Railcar Set
HO	4019	S-Bahn non-powered trailer for 3017
HO	4213	Württemberg Coach, 3rd class
HO	4589	Primex Circus Box Car
1	5813	Prussian Compartment Car
1	5814	Prussian Compartment Car
1	5815	Prussian Compartment Car
Z	8112	"Chiemgau Railroad Set"
Z	8401	Structure
Z	8402	Structure
Z	8403	Structure
Z	8404	Structure
Z	8405	Structure
Z	8406	Structure
Z	8407	Structure
Z	8408	Structure
Z	8409	Structure
Z	8410	Structure
Z	8411	Structure
Z	8412	Structure
Z	8847	Swiss "Rail 2000" Electric Locomotive

SEPTEMBER

	1004	Metall Construction Set M30
	1018	Metall AC/DC Motor Use with #1021
	1021	Metall Transformer for #1018
HO	3611	Beautiful Lady of Württemberg Digital Version
Z	8107	City Bahn Commuter Train
Z	8808	N.Y. Central Steam Locomotive
Z	8680	N.Y. Central Caboose
Z	8684	Mobilgas Tank Car
Z	8683	"Rail-Gon" Gondola
Z	8682	"Rail-Box" Box Car
Z	8681	Illinois Central Box Car

OCTOBER

HO	2862	German Demonstration Train Set Class III Electric Locomotive in new DB colors with 4 coaches
HO	4214	Württemberg Coach 4th class
HO	3160	Austrian Electric Express Locomotive CL 1043
HO	3184	Swiss Diesel Locomotive CL 220
HO	4595	Primex Stake Car
Z	8108	Orient Express Train Set
	0303	Digital Book English Text
	6027	Central Unit for 2-rail DC systems
	6036	Control 80F for all systems and special function car
	6082	C-82 Decoder for 2-rail DC locomotives 5/pkg.

NOVEMBER

HO	3133	Belgian Diesel Locomotive Series 54
HO	3162	Italian Electric Locomotive
HO	4218	Swiss Lötschberg Railroad Coach 1st Class
HO	4219	Swiss Lötschberg Railroad Coach 2nd Class
HO	4788	Swiss ETRA Tank Car Set
	6087	k87 Digital Decoder Panel Use w/6027 (DC)
HO	0733	Service Manual English Text
HO	7180	Electronically controlled drive high efficiency motor kit

DECEMBER

HO	3304	German Tank Locomotive CL 80
HO	2613	Märklin HO Collector's Book

The following 1987 and 1988 New Items will not be delivered until 1989.

Z	0295	Layout Book, English text
	1019	Metall Control Unit
HO	4224	IC Open Seating Coach
HO	4225	IC Open Seating Coach
HO	4684	Flat Car w/pivoting transport cradle
1	5613	Home signal w/semaphore
1	5614	Distant signal
1	5625	Switch machine
1	6017	Digital Mixer for Märklin 1
1	6085	Digital Locomotive Decoder
1	6086	Digital Decoder Module for switches
HO	7205	Close Coupler
HO	7555	Reed Contact Set
HO	7556	Magnet Set
Z	9108	Digital Orient Express Train Set
Z	9112	Digital Chiemgau Train Set
Z	9808	Digital "Mikado" Steam Locomotive w/Tender



märklin depot



**ORDER TOLL-FREE
800-772-2490**

(Wisconsin residents call 1-414-782-6328)

NOW! Discover The Early Years Of Märklin With Commemorative Stein and Sport Shirt



THE MÄRKLIN EARLY YEARS COLLECTOR'S STEIN

A hand-thrown stone-glazed tankard engraved with an original art collage depicting the first Märklin trains and other historical highlights. Each stein also comes with an article about Märklin's history. Price: \$22.50 each; complete set of four \$76.

SPORT SHIRT WITH ORIGINAL MÄRKLIN CREST

Embroidered in red, black, and gold on each shirt is an original Märklin company crest. The shirt is made of 100% cotton traditional mesh interlochen knit and tailored for maximum comfort. Each shirt also comes with an article about Märklin's history. Sizes: S-36, M-40, L-44, & XL-48. Price: \$25.00.

Shipping & Handling Charges

Unless otherwise noted, the following shipping and handling charges will be applied to all items ordered through the Märklin Depot.

For orders totaling	Add	For orders totaling	Add
Up to \$10.00	\$2.00	\$30.01 to \$50.00	\$3.00
\$10.01 to \$20.00	\$2.50	\$50.01 to \$75.00	\$3.50
\$20.01 to \$30.00	\$3.00	More than \$75.00	\$5.00

International Orders

All payments should be made with an international money order in the appropriate U.S. equivalent.

International Shipping & Handling Charges

Surface Parcel Post

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery
For orders less than \$100, ADD \$7.50 U.S.
For orders more than \$100, ADD \$15.00 U.S.

Air Parcel Post

Please allow 1 week for delivery
All orders add \$25.00 U.S.



1-Märklin Club Mug, \$8.00; 2-Märklin Club Cap, \$7.00; 3-Märklin Pen, \$1.00; 4-125th Anniversary Magazine, \$4.00; 5-Belt Buckle, \$8.95; 6-Cloth Patch, \$1.30; 7-Märklin Tool Kit, \$9.50; 8-Club Car (Z-gauge), \$12.50; 9-Club Car (HO gauge), \$12.50.

MÄRKLIN MAGAZIN SUBSCRIPTIONS

Keep up with the latest news from Märklin through the German-text Märklin Magazin. This popular, full-color magazine is published six times a year and is packed with information, ideas and tips for beginners and experts alike. To subscribe for one year, send an international postal money order in the US dollar equivalent of DM 39.00 (German Marks) directly to the publisher at this address:
**Modellbahnen-Welt Verlag-GmbH
Stuttgarter Strasse 55-57
7320 Göppingen, West Germany**

The Märklin Club currently has a limited quantity of back issues from 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988 in stock. If you are interested in a specific issue, call us to see if it's available.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE MÄRKLIN DEPOT LIBRARY

The User's Guide To The Märklin Digital System, by Dr. Thomas Catherall, is a comprehensive guide on the Märklin Digital Train System. 132 pages. Stock #2675. Price: \$12.95.
Greenberg's Guide to Märklin HO Layouts, by Carl Weaver, offers detailed insight into designing and building model railroad layouts. 77 pages. Stock #2622. Price \$12.95.

INTERNATIONAL Z-GAUGE CLUB

Z-gauge enthusiasts interested in joining the Z-Club International should write to: Z-Club International, Schickstrasse 9, D-7000 Stuttgart 1, West Germany. First-year membership dues are the U.S. dollar equivalent of 104 DM, with dues of 84 DM each year thereafter. Non-European members are also charged an additional 30 DM for postage. Membership benefits are many, including an interesting bi-monthly magazine. The magazine is available in German text only.

BACK ISSUES OF HOTTRAKS AVAILABLE!

The Depot has several back issues of HotTraks in stock and is making them available to Märklin Club members FREE. Send a self-addressed, stamped #10 business envelope, along with your request. Issues in stock are: 1985, number 4; 1986, numbers 2 & 3; 1987, 1 & 2; and 1988, number 1.

MÄRKLIN CLUB—USA

HOTTRAKS

Märklin Club, P.O. Box 795, Elm Grove, WI 53122

HOTTRAKS is filled with valuable information, hints, and tips to help you get more fun and enjoyment from your Märklin railway system. In this and subsequent issues you will find:

- Features on all Märklin trains and prototypes, including historical profiles, reference material on Märklin sets, significant Märklin collections, and much more.
- A wide range of technical advice and information, especially valuable tips to improve the performance of your layout and to help you maintain it in tip-top shape.
- Profiles of Märklin layouts that are original, ingenious, unique, and truly outstanding. Complete with photos and helpful insights from the fellow enthusiasts who designed them.
- Detailed plans to help you with any type of track layout you want: large, small, flexible, portable, outdoor, and much more.
- Innovative thoughts on how you can expand your layout, including ways to overcome space limitations, enhance your operations and scenery, and more.
- Advance news of significant Märklin and Märklin Club activities, including upcoming trade shows, product developments, and other events of interest.
- Insight from you and your fellow Club members in the form of letters, answers to your questions, any tips, hints, ideas, and photos you want to share.
- Advance news and updates on all Märklin trains and accessories.
- Special offers for you as a Märklin Club member.

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