

The Märklin Company



People who have been allowed to experience the magic of a Märklin model railroad keep this experience in their memory. They may want to come back to this experience later. Because the charm and prototypical, true-to-life character of Märklin models fascinates young and old. This fascination is our motivation. And, it is a component part of the vision that we would like share with you. This fascination is our motivation. And, it is a component part of the vision that we would like share with you.

Tradition

In the 160 years of its existence as a company Märklin has developed from a small factory for tin toys to a producer of high quality metal toys known around the world: Today, Märklin is the world leader for all important gauges in the model railroad market. No other manufacturer offers the possibility of adding to existing layouts and collections over the course of many years and of expanding systematically. We thus link generations through experiencing technology.



Quality

The standard for our products is reproduction that is as close to the prototype as possible in technical terms as well as in the impression and feel of our models. We use raw materials as close to the prototype as possible, different types of metal, alloys, sheet metal, aluminum, high quality plastics, and even wood. Enthusiastic collectors all over the world are proof of the quality and enduring value of our products.

Innovation

A high degree of engineering know-how has always been present in our models together with the work of skilled hands. Our goal has always been to offer our customers solutions on the cutting edge. We are particularly thankful and proud that the ideas and commitment of our customers have found their way into our products resulting in many improvements in detailing and new developments. We are thus presently able to offer an assortment that enables an unusual depth of play experiences in which everything goes together perfectly even after many years.



History

In 1859, Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Märklin founded a company that produced all kinds of everyday goods as well as artistically moulded doll's kitchen accessories, miniature carriages and toy prams. Having lived in Goeppingen, Germany since 1840, the master tinsmith married Caroline Hettich from Ludwigsburg, Germany in 1859.

Caroline worked enthusiastically in the company. The energetic woman particularly liked the idea of expanding the business with toys for girls. At a time when rapid transport by stagecoach or railway could be an adventure even within national borders, the shrewd commercial traveller not only built up a sales network in southern Germany, but also in Austria and Switzerland.

She is said to have been the first female travelling saleswoman of her time. The orders went well and Märklin grew. Unfortunately, the family suffered a bitter blow. Theodor Friedrich Wilhelm Märklin fell down the cellar stairs of his house and injured himself so badly that he died at the age of just 49.



Despite this heavy blow of fate, his wife preserved the company. The success is certainly due to her persistent dedication and a good dose of courage. Two years after her husband's death, Caroline Märklin remarried in the fervent hope of finding support in the battle for her sons' inheritance. In 1886, the children's stepfather also died and they returned to the company, now already very independent to take on responsibility.

Caroline determined the fortunes of the company for a few more years and kept coming up with new toys. At the age of 62, the Märklin maker from the very beginning steps down and hands over the company to her sons. Eugen and Karl Märklin took over the company in 1888 as Märklin Brothers. At this time, the product range included doll's kitchens, carts of all kinds, models of ships, roundabouts, spinning tops and floor runners.

The company expanded through the strategically clever takeover of the tin toy manufacturer Ludwig Lutz in Ellwangen, Germany in 1891. In the same year, the Märklin brothers presented a clockwork railway with a track system in the shape of a figure of eight for the first time at the Leipzig Spring Fair. The two entrepreneurs thus laid the foundations for the worldwide success of the Märklin toy railway.

Märklin



Märklin can celebrate its 165th anniversary in 2024. However, from what was initially a fairly broad range of toys, over time the company focused on the manufacture of "electric trains" in various sizes. The outstanding quality of the products made the name Märklin synonymous with model railroading worldwide. Even today, the material metal is an essential element in the manufacture of locomotives, which thereby gain additional value in addition to their proverbial reliability and performance.

Märklin Gauge H0: The majority of Märklin products are manufactured in this 1:87 scale. Thanks to the high operational reliability of the Märklin H0 three-conductor AC system, Märklin has helped to make this size the most widely used in the world. All Märklin H0 locomotives have been digitally controllable as standard since 2000.

Märklin Gauge 1: Märklin builds the "king gauge" of model railroading on a scale of 1:32. Size 1 products are characterized by particularly prototypical detailing and excellent running characteristics which, together with the high weight of the model due to the use of metal, convey a fascinating model railroad experience. Of course, the system provider Märklin also supplies all the track material in gauge 1.

Märklin Gauge Z: It's not only when space is at a premium that model railroaders opt for Gauge Z on a scale of 1:220. In Europe, Märklin is the only large-scale manufacturer of the "smallest", which appeals not only to passionate layout builders but also to collectors and lifestyle enthusiasts of both sexes.

Märklin my world: The child-friendly models (for children 3 years and older) are not just toy trains, but come very close to their original models in a reduced scale. The remote-controlled model railway is easy to set up. Even without tracks, on smooth ground, the three speed levels as well as the light and realistic sound functions of the robust locomotives are great fun. This toy train brings the perfect railway experience into the children's room.

LGB



Also rich in tradition are the products of the LGB brand, which has belonged to Märklin since 2007. At 1:22.5, the Lehmann large-scale G-gauge railroad represents the largest scale in the Märklin house today. As a weatherproof toy train, LGB models are particularly suitable for outdoor use and offer a lot of recreational and play fun for large and small railroad enthusiasts as a garden train. Swiss narrow gauge railroads and American models in particular are focal points in the LGB program and are therefore also especially in demand in these regions.