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Dear Madam/Sir:

In this issue of the Technical Information we are going to deal primarily with the product that is currently of the most interest to our customers: the Central Station, item no. 60213.

Updates for the 60213 Central Station

The software on the 60213 Central Station can always be updated in 2 different ways. Either, connect the 60213 Central Station by means of an Ethernet cable to a personal computer connected to the Internet, or load the software update from a personal computer on to a USB memory stick and use the latter to carry out an update on the Central Station.

In today's world updates are a regular process in personal computer and entertainment electronics for keeping the software in a unit at the latest level of the technology. These updates are usually made available by the manufacturer free of charge. An expansion of the software associated with a cost on the other hand is known as an upgrade. Regular updates for the 60213 Central Station are planned for future. Right now it will make sense to check the second half of every month to see if a new update is available.

The Ethernet cable required for direct connection to a personal computer is available in any computer specialty store. The second way is probably better for you as an authorized dealer. Go to Märklin's website (www.maerklin.de) and call up the pages "Products", "Tools and Downloads", and "Software Updates" one after the other. There, follow the instructions for copying the two update files on to a USB stick.

Now, all you have to do is connect the USB stick to the back of the 60213 Central Station, click on the menu item "Setup", and carry out the update from the USB stick without any other connection to the Internet. Tip: When selling a Central Station, you can download the latest software version from the USB stick to the Central Station as a service for your customer. Also, you can always keep your demonstration Central Station up-to-date without having to connect it to a personal computer. If you still have questions about the procedure for an update, our service staff would be happy to help you.

Calibrating the Screen on the 60213 Central Station

The 60213 Central Station has the function "Calibrating Screen" in order to adjust the position of the stylus on the unit's touch display. When you click on "Calibrating Screen", several crosses will appear one after the other on the screen. You have to touch them as precisely as possible with the stylus.

If an anomalous position should be touched during the procedure, the screen may be set in such a way that the stylus can no longer be used to select a function surface on the screen. This means that the function "Calibrating Screen" cannot be activated again in order to correct this problem.

In this situation connecting a USB mouse to the Central Station will help solve the problem. USB mice are available at any computer specialty store. After you have connected the mouse to the Central Station, turn the latter unit on and activate the function "Calibrating Screen" with the mouse pointer. Now, you can complete the calibration process with the stylus.

Update for the 60212 Central Station

Märklin's guiding principle regarding further developments of the operating system is to offer the customer a user-friendly, user-oriented solution that technically emphasizes the market leadership of the system. This means continuing further development of the products with regard to prototypical functionality and ease of use. The goal of our development is to offer the customer the maximum enjoyment in conjunction with the greatest level of prototypical realism. The newest result of this development and a worthy representative of what is currently doable technically is the new Central Station (60213).

On the predecessor model (item no. 60212) of the new Central Station Märklin pursued the strategy for the first time of developing a suitable hardware foundation and adapting this product constantly to the desires and needs of our customers by means of further software developments.

This strategy runs up against its limits however when the hardware no longer allows the necessary expansions. Like a computer, you reach a point sooner or later at which the performance of the hardware is no longer up to the requirements of the newer software. We have reached this point with the 60212 Central Station.

As an example, it is necessary more and more that a central controller includes a track diagram control board in order to simulate prototypical railroad operations. But, this can be achieved only with a high resolution color display. For this reason the new Central Station has a color display with four times the resolution of the previous unit.

Also, the RAM memory storage on the Central Station has been doubled compared to the predecessor version and the flash memory has even been increased by a factor of 8.

Another highlight is the fact that the processing speed of the processor is 10 times faster and the external connections have been expanded to bi-directional operation. This makes it rather clear that the new central controller represents a new milestone in digital technology.

For this reason further development of the older Central Station (60212) beyond the high level already reached does not seem viable any more. Even with the highest expenditure in development this unit no longer comes close to the possibilities offered by the new Central Station. Numerous new developments and new functionality that we have planned in the future for the new Central Station (60213) can no longer be supported by the older Central Station (60212) in terms of hardware.

Märklin continues to stand by the compatibility of our products. For this reason we at Märklin have decided to place the future of digital control on a more reliable footing. In the future, this foundation is only defined by the Central Station (60213), which is based on the latest hardware and software.

In closing, we need to point out that any possible manipulation of the Central Station (60212) through the installation of software not authorized by Märklin terminates the Märklin manufacturer's warranty. Märklin will therefore not assume any responsibility for a unit changed in this manner and will not be responsible for product liability. This also applies to damages resulting from the operation of a unit altered in this manner. In addition, Märklin's guarantee of adherence to the legal provisions for warranty coverage is terminated, when a Central Station altered in this manner is operated by the owner.

A Central Station (60212) altered in this manner will most likely not be usable any more as an auxiliary controller with the Central Station (60213). This will destroy the option of integrating this controller into the current system architecture.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information newsletter.

Best regards,

Your Märklin Service Team