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Winter's On It's Way:

If longer evenings only mean more arguments about extended TV/movie watching, electronic game playing or family members vanishing to somewhere else to have fun, maybe it's time to make staying home fun!

Do you remember the good old days when you could set up great track layouts and then send your cars screaming around the track? Do you wish you'd had the opportunity to do this, but didn't? Now is your chance to revisit those dreams.

Slot cars are a comparatively inexpensive way to satisfy speed demons, young and old. The hobby brings both generations and peers together as they design and build track layouts, soup up their cars then race to the finish line.

There are no speeding tickets, nightmare crashes (only fun ones) or horrendous insurance rates. Children develop motor skills (and hand-eye coordination, too!) Adults can reach out and share a truly fun learning experience with both children and other adults.

There is no flat screen adventure that gives the same satisfaction as seeing excited faces urging their cars past competitors on the track or hearing the growl and whine of engines stretched flat out in a bid to steal victory from all comers.

This Holiday season is the perfect time to start or build onto your slot car racing setup. To help you achieve this, we've provided a special discount. Stop by the store and check out our selection.

Just a thought:

Today, make an investment in someone else's happiness.



Holiday Hours:

Tues Wed 10-7

Thurs Fri 10-9

Sat: 10-5

Sun 12-5

Mon closed

Xmas Sale - Nov 11 to Dec 11, 2005

15% off

All in-store Carrera slot car kits and wooden dollhouse kits

[We've been calling her donkey ears ever since we got her. What better costume than Eeyore?](#)

The day of the costume party dawned bright, sunny and clear. Huffing and puffing I straddled our dog Jessie and while holding her in a headlock I called out "right front leg in the costume." My husband Nic countered with a muffled "left rear leg in costume."

With her left front leg already in the costume, as soon as we let go she promptly fell over with a loud thump.

The costume wasn't long enough so it hogtied her. We had to make a decision fast before Jessie fell over again. Light dawns! Lop off the bottom half of the outfit from the tail down. Now we can get the front legs on her, still do up her zipper and Eeyore's head hangs behind her own, except for picture taking when she allowed us to pull it down over eyes.



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She got her picture in the Burlington Post and was quite pleased with herself too! Wore her costume with pride.

It was pure chaos at the park so we only stayed for an hour. You know it's crazy when I leave before the cake is served!



Drivers, Start Your Engines

Partial content from: www.hotslots132.com

We'll start off by assuming that you're at least slightly familiar with slot cars. Whether you are or not, come into the store and check out our setup. We guarantee you'll be impressed. It's all plugged in and ready to go!

Slot car racing has been around for over 40 years and consists of racing model cars with electric motors around a wooden or plastic track. If you need a Slot Car Racing 101 class, that's what we're here for and it's much better to do show and tell than just tell.

The most important decision when starting out is how much space you will dedicate to your setup. From this information, select the scale you want - either 1/32 or 1/24 are considered the most realistic choices. While track layouts can be set up to fit almost anywhere, you should note that 1/24 scale has larger track and will need more room.

We have all of our in-store kits labelled with their footprints, that is the length and width of space you will need for the track layout.

Next, decide on the type of track you require. If you have children or pets that might be playing with or chewing on your slot car track, those manufactured by SCX are made of a softer plastic that is less breakable and more digestible. This softer track is more desirable too, if you plan on making a rally or hill-climb track. You can also bank it and make a more undulating layout with a more flexible track.

For a more permanent layout that you put up and change infrequently, Carrera would be a good choice. Carrera track is made of a more rigid plastic that is smoother and wider. The beauty of Carrera is that the 1/32, 1/32 digital and 1/24 all use the same track. This makes it more suitable for serious racing (with an emphasis on "serious" here).

Only the Carrera Go series of 1/43 scale cars and tracks cannot be interchanged. These are beginners or entry level kits.

Both Carrera and SCX 1/32 scale kits and accessories are currently in stock. We can (and have) ordered 1/24 scale from Carrera for our customers who want it.

The best part of this hobby is developing your own racing strategy. Going fast down the straightaways and slowing on the corners is a given. You have to keep the car in the slot to maintain power to the engine. Once you learn the limits of yourself and your car you can push for the best possible times. However, if you want to try bumping the car in the next lane when you corner to try to de-slot your opponent's car, watch out! They may be better at this tactic than you are!

Wait a minute! Did we say digital back there? You bet we did!. As a matter of fact, we specialize in 1/32 digital slot cars from Carrera. With digital slot cars, up to 4 cars and drivers can compete on a two lane track, making it a more real world racing scenario.

The possibilities are so exciting. See you soon.



Tips and Tricks

Content from: www.slotcarillustrated.com

To 'true' slot car tires (make them round and hug the track), take some 150 grit sandpaper and hold or tape it on the track. With your free hand, hold the car backwards on the track with the rear wheels over the sandpaper. Next, give the car full throttle, and allow the car to settle down onto the sandpaper, making sure that both wheels touch the sandpaper evenly.

Let the tires spin on the sandpaper for about 10 to 15 seconds, then lift the tires off the paper and let them spin for a few seconds to cool them.

It's important to use a light touch, because too much pressure will sand down the tires without necessarily getting them true, may damage the gears or burn out the motor. If things start to get hot, you're probably pushing too hard.

Repeat, if necessary, until you're satisfied that the tires "look" round. Clean the tires with masking tape and do a few laps. Listen for excess noise on these laps. Only experience will tell you if it's tire noise, or just normal sounds.