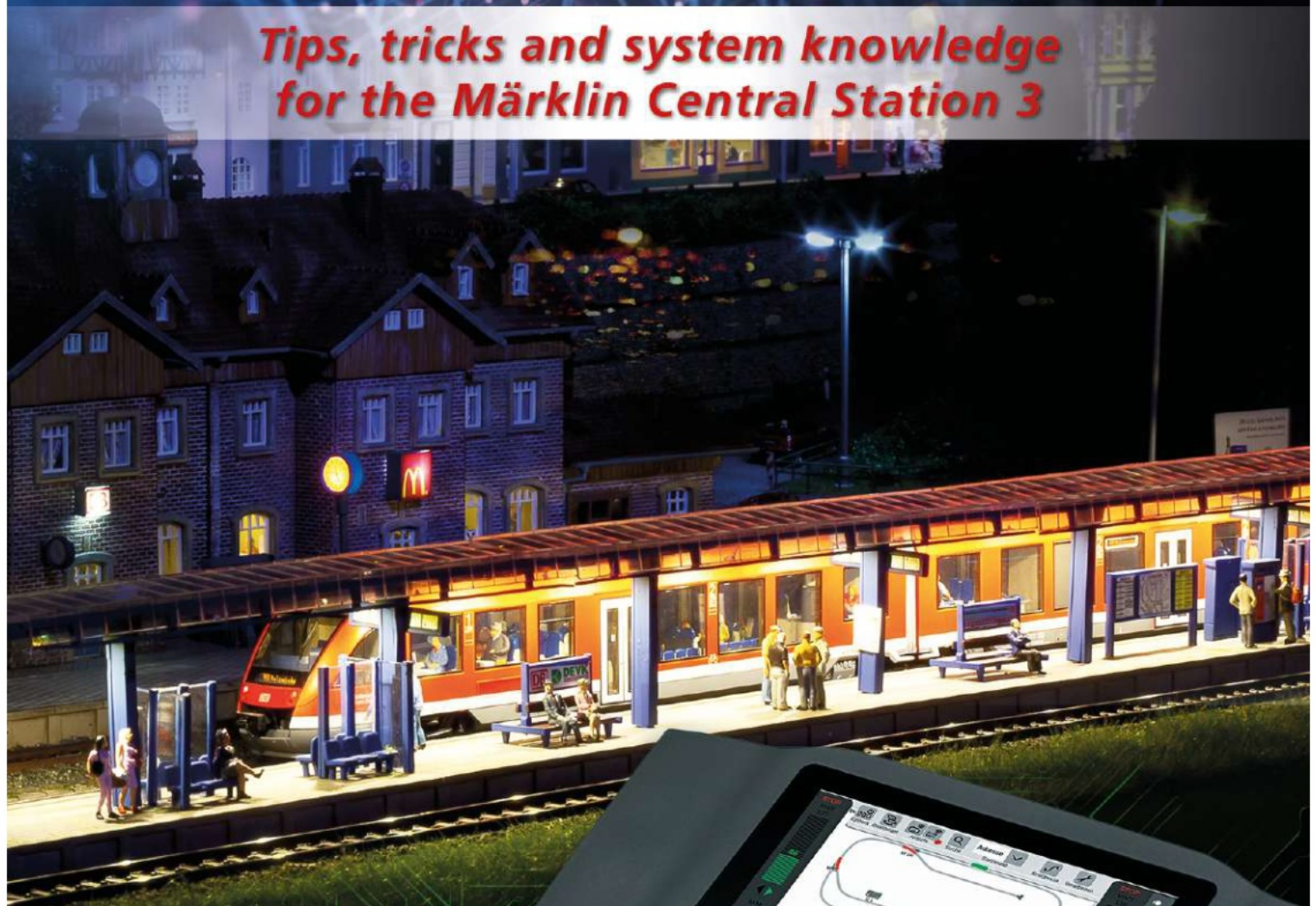


PRACTICAL GUIDE

CS3-WORKBOOK

*Tips, tricks and system knowledge
for the Märklin Central Station 3*

LAYOUT TUNING
STARTUP PROCESS
ERROR DIAGNOSIS



UNDERSTANDING AND MASTERING MÄRKLIN DIGITAL

WORKBOOK

SIMPLE. PRECISE. ALLCOMPREHENSIVE.

WITH TRIED AND TESTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL DECODER AND
SIGNAL MODULES TOGETHER WITH DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR
EXTENDED EVENT CONTROL

E-BOOK

WITH INTEGRATED SEARCH FUNCTION

STAND: CS3-UPDATE 2.6.1 (3)

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A word in advance

Märklin does it! And the model railroader can make something out of Märklin - namely a wonderful model railway layout according to his ideas and in familiar surroundings.

This guide provides all the information required to operate a model railroad layout with C-track. The aim is to make the hobby more accessible to model railroad enthusiasts and to provide them with an overall understanding.

At the same time, this document is intended to close the gap between previous descriptive aids and published specialist articles. Due to the complexity of the product range and the ongoing technical developments, it is difficult to provide coherent explanations. Nevertheless, the explanations presented here attempt to bridge the gap between basic knowledge and knowledge for advanced users.

Anyone planning to build a model railroad layout has a number of preliminary questions to answer. Creating a layout requires a wide range of skills. Creativity is already evident in the planning phase; reading various operating instructions and Märklin publications follows during implementation. In view of the rapid pace of product development, however, model train enthusiasts can easily lose track of things - especially if they are unable to maintain their hobby on an ongoing basis due to time constraints.

It is therefore the central concern of this work to take up the wealth of technical developments, the changed operating options and the description of accessories and to place them in an overall context. The scope of the work is inevitably considerable; on the other hand, the gaps in presentation remain small, so that the content should meet the practical needs of model railroaders. Despite its depth, model railroading is not a science for scholars, but a hobby for everyone - from an early age to old age.

In order to create an up-to-date knowledge network, the publication is designed to be interactive. Märklin supports this with a variety of contemporary media offerings. Since the release of the latest digital control centers, Märklin has produced numerous explanatory videos and made them available on YouTube to enable model railroaders to learn online. The videos show how to use the CS3, the MS2, the locomotives and the accessories. The guide links to this manufacturer's knowledge and embeds the most important contributions in the appropriate place. A sufficiently powerful internet connection is required to load the videos.

Märklin has released numerous updates since the CS3 was first released. The same applies to locomotive and sound decoders. A discussion of all Updates and new releases can be found in this workbook under point 1.1.3. This provides the model railroader with a condensed overview of the CS3 events of the past few years since the digital central unit went on sale.

May the instructions be a stimulating read and a valuable aid for the inevitable questions about construction and operation for beginners, newcomers, rebuilders and those interested in technology. With the help of the workbook, Märklin railroaders should always be able to enjoy the world's most beautiful hobby.

To ensure that this goal continues to be achieved, the major CS3 Spring update 2026 will once again provide an opportunity to update the workbook in line with the updates that are released. Many new features, improvements and the closing of capability gaps in the WebApp have once again made CS3 more user-friendly. The Changes in this edition are based on Märklin's accompanying update descriptions. This resulted in the opportunity arose to comprehensively revise all chapters of the fifth edition. An in-depth evaluation of the literature and media - including the relevant periodicals and the Märklin's YouTube channel - ensures that the workbook reflects the current State of knowledge reflects the current state of knowledge. In parallel to this numerous additional practical tips and tricks are again in the workbook again.

The workbook is based on the CS update 2.6.1 (3) from April 30, 2026. Märklin already published a new version 3.6.5 of the workbook on March 11, 2026 "mDecoderTool - mDT3" and on 12. March 2026 the extensive CS3 update 2.6.0 (13). However, as this still contained errors, Märklin felt compelled to release the correction update 2.6.1 (3) for the application programs, which fixed most of the bugs. As this update only