

# PIKO



## *The special class 101*

Our PIKO Expert model for the 30th anniversary of PIKO Spielwaren GmbH



## 1992 - 2022

You're probably thinking to yourself, „PIKO has been around a lot longer than that, hasn't it?!“

And you are right! The birth of PIKO model railroads already occurred in 1949, when the first model railroads in H0 gauge were presented under the name Pico-Express at the Autumn Fair in Leipzig. In the course of the following years, the company, which was located in the toy town of Sonneberg from 1952, developed into the largest model train manufacturer in the former GDR. However, after reunification, all was not well for the former VEB PIKO Sonneberg. The Treuhandanstalt (privatization agency) had liquidated the combine, of which PIKO was a leading member, and the company was on the brink of extinction.

But things were to turn out differently. At the Nuremberg Toy Fair in 1992, the then supervisory board of PIKO approached a potential buyer - with the request to reconsider the purchase option.

His counterpart was Dr. René F. Wilfer, who had already visited the PIKO premises in Sonneberg with his wife the year before. Both had been successfully employed in the model railroad sector in the „West“ for several years and dreamed of one day running their own production company in the toy sector. Dr. René F. Wilfer seized the opportunity to make his dream come true and founded PIKO Spielwaren GmbH in April 1992. Shortly afterwards, this company submitted a purchase offer to the Treuhandanstalt in Berlin. After numerous negotiations, the contracting parties signed the purchase agreement on April 30, 1992, 5 minutes to 12.

In 2022, PIKO Spielwaren GmbH will celebrate its 30th birthday.

On May 01, 2022, it will be 30 years since the Wilfer couple first set foot over the threshold of their company. 30 years have passed since Dr. René F. Wilfer saved the traditional company PIKO from a certain end with a lot of courage, confidence and a suitcase full of ideas.

For this special occasion, PIKO presents a special class 101 in H0 gauge. The highlight of the PIKO Expert model is the two differently printed sides.



Side view 1

The traditional company sends greetings from Sonneberg, thus referring to its close connection with the German toy town in the Thuringian Forest. The sender, however, only reveals itself to the viewer when looking at the back of the shiny silver rolling „postcard“. With stamp and postmark, the anniversary model makes its way to you.

In addition to the sharp contour printing, the model convinces with the usual PIKO Expert quality. From the delicate metal single-arm pantographs to the free-standing handlebars, windshield wipers, and steps to the detailed bogie, the locomotive impresses with the highest precision and model building art. Not only in the display case, but also on the home layout this special model cuts a fine figure. Both sound versions feature the latest PIKO SmartDecoder XP 5.1 sound ex works and also carry the PIKO TrainSound® onboard seal of quality. For uncomplicated, subsequent digitization, the analog model also has a modern PluX22 digital interface.



Side view 2

Electric locomotive class 101 - 30 years PIKO anniversary era VI

51110

51111 **PIKO TrainSound®** onboard

51112 **PIKO TrainSound®** onboard