

For Immediate Release



September 30, 2022

First Full Renewal in 12 Years!

New *Thomas & Friends*™ Animated TV Series Set to Air This Winter

New *Thomas & Friends* Movie Set to Hit Theaters throughout Japan Next Spring!

PLARAIL's first (*) train to recreate the world of acrobatics with thrilling loop-the-loop action!

PLARAIL Go Go Thomas Loop-the-Loop Playland

To be launched Thursday, November 17, 2022

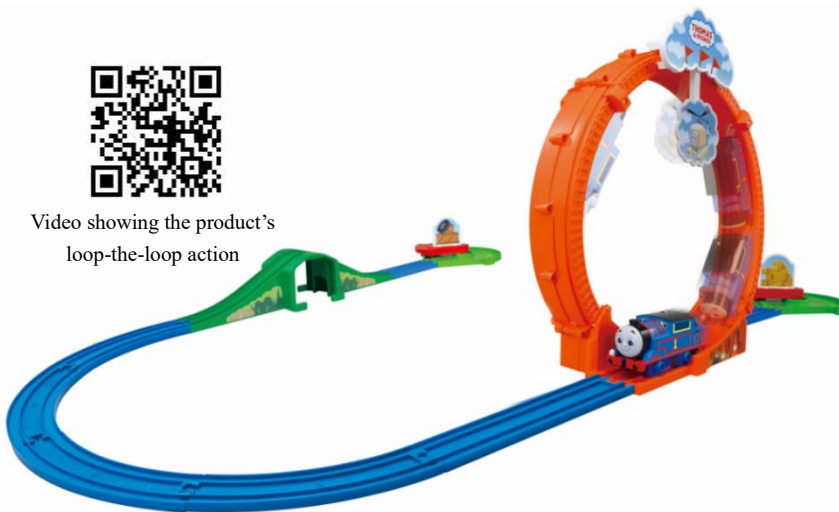
Thomas & Friends Products to Debut from Tomica and Choro-Q!

TOMY Company, Ltd.

TOMY Company, Ltd. (Representative Director, President & COO: Kazuhiro Kojima, headquarters: Katsushika-ku, Tokyo) will release the new PLARAIL **Go Go Thomas Loop-the-Loop Playland** railroad toy (SRP: JPY 5,940/tax included) to coincide with the airing of the new *Thomas & Friends* animated TV series on Thursday, November 17, 2022 at toy stores, toy sections of department stores and mass retailers nationwide, online stores, specialty stores for PLARAIL products PLARAIL Shops, and TOMY Company's official online store Takara Tomy Mall (takaratomymall.jp) etc.



Video showing the product's loop-the-loop action



Loop-the-loop scene in the cartoon



Go Go Thomas engine

Thomas the Tank Engine™ was created in the United Kingdom in 1945 and began airing as an animated TV series in Japan in 1990. This winter, thirty-two years after its original broadcast, NHK Educational TV will be airing a brand-new reboot. Since the broadcast of the first series in 1990, *Thomas & Friends* has used live-action model animation or 3D animation, and in rebooting the series hopes to reach audiences of an even wider range of ages and genders.



Go Go Thomas Loop-the-Loop Playland is an all-in-one toy product that includes Go Go Thomas cars, rails, and backgrounds with a new look characteristic to the new series. The energetic movement of Thomas in the animated TV series is depicted with a thrilling loop-the-loop. This dynamic loop-the-loop action is a first for PLARAIL*. The attached Go Go Turnaround Corner part included in the set allows the engine to turn around and change direction easily on a single railway track. This part creates a layout that lets the engine go back and forth on a single track. (Go Go Loop-the-Loop and Go Go Turnaround Corner are only for use with the Go Go Thomas Series and cannot be used with regular PLARAIL models.)

Set to be released as new products in the Go Go Thomas series are the **Go Go Thomas: Percy, Diesel, and Kana Friend Set**, which includes a new Japanese friend named Kana (SRP: JPY 4,400/tax included), and **Go Go Thomas Portable 3D Map**, a set that includes Go Go Thomas cars, rails, and a background that can be opened up and played with immediately (SRP: JPY 7,150/tax included).

The new animated TV series features comical, acrobatic movements unlike anything in the previous series as well as fast-paced storylines and fun songs that have made it a hit in the UK and the US, where it has already started airing.

This product will be the first in a series of Go Go Thomas toys, which feature a new look, to be released one after the other by the TOMY Company in addition to its existing PLARAIL Thomas product lines.

* Based on the Company's research data from its product catalogs between 1959 and 2020 (domestic products)

Features of the Products

■ **Go Go Thomas Loop-the-Loop Playland**

In the new animated TV series, Thomas performs loop-the-loops and other never-before-seen acrobatic moves. The loop-the-loop gimmick in the Go Go Thomas Loop-the-Loop Playland recreates this striking scene and depicts the comical, acrobatic movements of the new Thomas through a PLARAIL model. The Go Go Loop-the-Loop has rims on the sides of its rails and a dedicated chassis to make looping the loop possible.

The Go Go Turnaround Corner part makes it possible to create a layout that lets engines go back and forth on a single rail, making it easy for even first-time PLARAIL users to create rail layouts. This highly expandable PLARAIL set helps children freely expand and enjoy the world of Thomas.

This all-in-one product contains all three elements needed to enjoy PLARAIL—cars, rails, and a background—meaning you can buy it and start playing with it immediately.

■ **Go Go Thomas Portable 3D Map**

This all-in-one set contains cars, rails, and a background so you can open it up and start playing with it immediately. It can be folded up easily and there is storage space for two cars, making it easy to take outside the home. Connect it to other rails sold separately to create all kinds of layouts.

■ **Go Go Thomas: Percy, Diesel, and Kana Friend Set**

A three-car set of Thomas' friends, including Kana, a new Japanese friend debuting in the new animated TV series. The motor-powered Percy can, like Thomas, perform the loop-the-loop, while the chassis for the Diesel and Kana push cars can be swapped with Percy's so that they can perform the loop-the-loop as well. They can also be connected to the motor-powered Percy to create a three-car engine.

*Cannot run on the Loop-the-Loop Playland when connected.



Go Go Thomas Portable 3D Map



Go Go Thomas: Percy, Diesel, and Kana Friend Set

Product Outline

Product Name: Go Go Thomas Loop-the-Loop Playland

SRP: JPY 5,940 (tax included)
Launch Date in Japan: Thursday, November 17, 2022
Package Contents: Go Go Thomas (powered car) x 1, Go Go Loop-the-Loop x 1, Harold with cloud x 1, Go Go Climbing Down A x 1, Go Go Climbing Down B x 1, Go Go Turnaround Corner A x 1, Go Go Turnaround Corner B x 1, corner rotation parts x 2, corner signboards x 2, straight rails x 2, curved rails x 4, ½ straight rail x 1, sticker x 1, a form for ordering additional parts x 1
Dimensions: Approx. W 410 × D 115 × H 365 (mm) *When laid out
Batteries Required: 1 AA alkaline battery *Batteries are sold separately.
Product Video: youtu.be/-pWH_BX9A2c
Official Website: www.takaratomy.co.jp/products/plarail/tettei/thomas_set/gogo_playland

Product Name: Go Go Thomas Portable 3D Map

SRP: JPY 7,150 (tax included)
Launch Date in Japan: Thursday, November 17, 2022
Package Contents: Go Go Thomas (powered car) x 1, portable 3D map x 1, special map slope rails x 2, windmill x 1, windmill blades x 1, plate x 1, sticker x 1, parts order form x 1
Dimensions: Approx. W 420 × D 115 × H 375 (mm)
Batteries Required: 1 AA alkaline battery *Batteries are sold separately.
Official Website: www.takaratomy.co.jp/products/plarail/tettei/thomas_set/odekakemap

Product Name: Go Go Thomas: Percy, Diesel, and Kana Friend Set

SRP: JPY 4,400 (tax included)
Launch Date in Japan: Late December, 2022
Package Contents: Percy (powered car) x 1, Kana (push car) x 1, Diesel (push car) x 1
Dimensions: Approx. W 290 × D 45 × H 230 (mm)
Batteries Required: 1 AA alkaline battery *Batteries are sold separately.

(Information for all three products)

Recommended Age: 3 years and up
Sales Channels: Toy stores, toy sections of department stores/mass retailers in Japan, specialty stores for PLARAIL products PLARAIL Shops, online stores, TOMY Company's official online store Takara Tomy Mall (takaratomymall.jp), etc.
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Official Website: www.takaratomy.co.jp/products/plarail/tettei/thomas_set/gogo_thomas
Product Video: youtu.be/Hk2vv6jCHI8

Future Product Plans

■ Product Name: Thomas Tomica, 3 Types (TH-01 Thomas/TH-02 Percy/TH-03 Nia)



SRP: JPY 825 each (tax included)
Launch Date in Japan: Mid December, 2022
Recommended Age: 3 years and up
Package Contents: Car x 1
Dimensions:
Thomas: Approx. W 27.0 x D 38.5 x H 59.0 (mm)
Percy: Approx. W 27.0 x D 37.5 x H 57.5 (mm)
Nia: Approx. W 29.0 x D 38.5 x H 59.0 (mm)
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*Products still under development. Images are for illustration purposes only.

■ Product Name: Choro-Q Thomas & Friends, 3 Types (Thomas/Percy/Kana)



*Products still under development. Images are for illustration purposes only.

SRP: JPY 1,210 each (tax included)

Launch Date in Japan: Late December, 2022

Recommended Age: 3 years and up

Package Contents: Car x 1

Dimensions:

Thomas: Approx. W 30.0 x D 50.0 x H 40.0 (mm)

Percy: Approx. W 30.0 x D 50.0 x H 40.0 (mm)

Kana: Approx. W 30.0 x D 50.0 x H 38.0 (mm)

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About Thomas & Friends



Thomas the Tank Engine is the name of a character which is extremely popular among preschool children, celebrating the 75th anniversary of publishing of the original book in 2020. After appearing in *The Railway Series* created by Briton The Rev W Awdry, Thomas the Tank Engine became a popular character. Afterwards, the series was made into a TV series in 1984 by Britt Allcroft, a British TV producer. To date, more than 500 episodes have been aired in more than 230 regions around the world in 67 languages. In Japan, its history dates back more than 45 years since the publishing of the children's book and more than 30 years since the first airing of the TV series, which is currently aired on NHK Educational TV. This series has many touchpoints, including a wide variety of events, theme parks, and movies in addition to products such as toys, picture books, and apparel.



The latest film in the series, *Thomas & Friends: Race for the Sodor Cup*, is scheduled for its Japanese release in the spring of 2023.

■ Official Website: Thomas & Friends Channel

www.thomasandfriends.jp/

■ Animated TV series broadcast on Saturday at 5:25 p.m. on NHK Educational TV

<https://www.nhk.jp/p/thomasfriends/ts/Y1LVJ282JW/>

■ *Thomas & Friends: Race for the Sodor Cup* Official Website

<https://movie2023.thomasandfriends.jp/>

[What is PLARAIL?]

“PLARAIL” (Sales agent: TOMY Company) is a long-running series of railroad toys that marked its 60th anniversary of the sales launch in 2019. It is a brand loved across three generations. The prototype of “PLARAIL” is the “PLASTIC TRAIN AND RAIL SET” which was launched in 1959 as a toy made from plastic, a new material at that time when metal and wood-made toys were the mainstream.

The iconic blue rails were designed in a size allowing it to be played on the “chabudai” (a low, Japanese-style dining table), which families gathered around to have a pleasant time back then. This specification remains unchanged even 60 years after its sales launch and you can still enjoy playing by connecting the rails made at that time with the newest ones.

We will continue to develop PLARAIL as a brand that will teach children about their society, enhance their growth including creativity, and nurture communication of children and their parents under the familiar and attracting theme of “railway.” So far, a total of more than 182 million products of approximately 1,900 types have been sold in Japan (as of March 31, 2022).

Inquiries on *Thomas & Friends*

IP Promotion Division, Public Relations and Marketing Department, Sony Creative Products Inc.

Tel: 03-6738-8156 (Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 6:15 p.m. on weekdays, except New Year holidays)

URL: <http://www.scp.co.jp>

For press inquiries, please contact:

Public Relations Division, TOMY Company, Ltd. Tel: 03-5654-1280 Fax: 03-5654-1380

For product inquiries from consumers, please contact:

TOMY Customer Service (Japanese only) Tel: 0570-041031 (Navi-Dial)