



Flexibly operate the train just like a real train driver!

PLARAIL One-Hand Grip Controller

”You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller” Series

To be launched on Thursday, November 9, 2023

Accelerate, slow down, stop and reverse the train while having six levels of speed control.

TOMY Company, Ltd.

TOMY Company, Ltd. (Representative Director, President & COO: Kazuhiro Kojima, headquarters: Katsushika-ku, Tokyo) will roll out the one-hand grip PLARAIL controller “You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller” series, which allows you to flexibly operate a “PLARAIL” train.

This product series will be released as three products: two of those are “You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa” and “You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller CROSS LINER,” which are sets made up of the “Grip-Type Master Controller” and a train (SRP: JPY 5,280 each/tax included), and the third is “You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa DX Set,” which is an all-in-one set made up of the “Grip-Type Master Controller,” a train, rails and scenery parts (SRP: JPY 11,000/tax included). The product series will be on sale from Thursday, November 9, 2023 at toy stores, toy sections of department stores and mass retailers in Japan, specialty stores for PLARAIL products “PLARAIL Shops,” online stores, and TOMY Company’s official online store “Takara Tomy Mall” (takaratomymall.jp), etc.



The Grip-Type Master Controller is a one-hand grip controller modeled on the “Master Controller” device installed in the drivers’ compartment of a train that is used to operate the train. By operating the controller, you can flexibly operate the train by adjusting the speed level as well as accelerating, moving forward at constant speed, stopping and reversing the train. The controller allows you to select from six speed levels. It is possible to perform such controlled operations as “departing the station while slowly accelerating,” “gradually slowing down,” “adjusting speed,” and “coming to a full stop at the station,” thereby allowing children “wanting to flexibly control the train just like a real train driver” to fulfil their undying wish.

The controller has been designed to be simply operated while gripping it with the other hand so that users can view the “PLARAIL trains running at a timing of their choice from a viewpoint or pose of their choice.” Users can enjoy from their preferred viewpoint, such as operating the trains from a distance and viewing the train coming into a station from their favorite viewing angle. In addition, it is possible to use two Grip-Type Master Controllers to operate two trains separately, and it is possible to replace the body of the Grip-Type Master Controller IR Chassis*¹ with the body of another PLARAIL train, so that users can drive their favorite train.

(*1) The chassis part of the PLARAIL car that contains both the motor and the wheels.

The brand message of PLARAIL is “Driving Imagination,” and PLARAIL products are marketed as products that allow you to enjoy “reproduction of longings and creative originality,” which is the essence of playing PLARAIL. This product series gives users the enjoyment of experiencing not only “watching” the trains but also “operating” them as they wish with “freedom of expression” using the “Grip-Type Master Controller” modeled on a real-life controller.

Product features of “You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller”

① The controller enables finely controlled operation like a real train driver! You can have six levels of speed control, as well as accelerate, slow down, stop and reverse the train.

Using the Grip-Type Master Controller, users can finely adjust the train speed to six levels. By tilting the lever forward, the train will move forwards slowly, each time the lever is tilted further forward, the train will gradually accelerate, and when the lever is tilted backward, the train will slow down, and after that reverse, thereby reproducing realistic stopping and station departure. The user is able to make finely controlled operations, just like a real train driver. For example, when departing a station, the user can gradually accelerate the train, and when arriving at a station, the user can gradually slow down the train. Also, when stopping in the train garage, the train can be reversed and then brought to a complete stop just before the buffer stop.

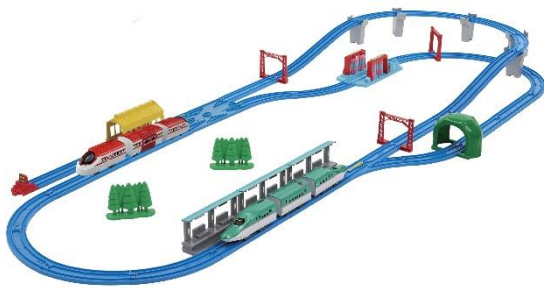


② One-hand grip and intuitive operability! Easily play from a viewpoint or pose of your choice!

The controller has been designed to be simply operated while gripping it with the other hand so that users can enjoy the “PLARAIL trains running at a timing of their choice from a viewpoint or pose of their choice.” The final design was reached after repeated user research to find the easiest grip method and most intuitive operability. Users can enjoy from their preferred viewpoint, such as operating the trains from a distance and viewing the train coming into a station from their favorite viewing angle.

③ Using two Grip-Type Master Controllers, enjoy operating two trains at the same time!

The ability to switch between two different bands (A and B) is supported by the Grip-Type Master Controller. This enables two controllers to be used so that two trains can be operated separately. (For example, band “A” is selected on the “Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa” and on the Grip-Type Master Controller controlling it, and band “B” is selected on the “CROSS LINER” and the Grip-Type Master Controller controlling it, thereby allowing the two trains to be operated separately.) Friends and family members can enjoy setting up situations, such as have a train pass the other train, a train get passed by the other train, or both trains run at the same speed.



はやぶさを
「A」バンドに設定



クロスライナーを
「B」バンドに設定

④ Exclusive train colors only for “You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller” series!

Exclusive colors are provided only for the “You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller” series for both the “Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa” and “CROSS LINER” trains. The color of the “Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa” is a special specification true to the real-life Hayabusa. The color scheme even includes such details as the color of the driver’s seat. PLARAIL Railway ^(*) Commuter Super Express Train “CROSS LINER” is a train established to run on the new airport line, and the exclusive red color train is different from the product already on sale.



“Shinkansen Series E5



“CROSS LINER”

(*) “PLARAIL Railway” is a fictional railroad company “founded” in 2019 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of PLARAIL. It was born from a desire to satisfy children’s yearning for railroad from both aspects of real and virtual, by producing videos and official websites, etc. to create connections with railroads that are difficult to go see in the real world and new introductions to railroads they have never seen before.

⑤ Broaden the scope of play! Control your favorite train by “swapping over” train bodies!

It is possible to swap the train body on the chassis used for the Grip-Type Master Controller, thereby making it possible to drive favorite trains with the controller. For example, it is possible to broaden play by mounting the body of a freight train on the chassis and link up freight cars carrying goods, or alternatively, by mounting the body of a train fitted with sound recordings, such as running noise, alert whistle or in-train announcements in order to incorporate realistic sounds of a train in operation.

■ Example of a swapped-over train



“S-14 E6 Series Shinkansen Komachi (with Magnetic Coupling)”

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“S-32 E235 Yamanote Line (with Opening/Closing Doors)”

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“S-25 EH500 Kintaro”

© TOMY Approved by JR Freight

* The train described is the version as of July 2023 * Please refer to this website for a list of trains whose bodies can be swapped over.

URL: www.takaratomy.co.jp/products/plarail/tettei/set/gripmascon/pdf/vehicle.pdf

*** Simultaneous Launch ***

“You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa DX Set” (SRP: JPY 11,000/tax included)

This product is an all-in-one set that contains the Grip-Type Master Controller, a train, rails, and scenery parts. Using this set, you can create a large track circuit layout of approx. 180 x 70 cm. Rails and scenery parts such as a station, train garage, and train wash are included in the set to boost the fun of playing with the controller. Users can control the “Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa” with the Grip-Type Master Controller and pretend to be the train driver they aspire to be.



<Product Outline>

■You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa

SRP: JPY 5,280 (tax included)
 Product size: Approx. W38 x H120 x D100 (mm) (Grip-Type Master Controller)
 Package contents: Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa (with Grip-Type Master Controller IR Chassis) (1), Grip-Type Master Controller (1), sticker (1)
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■You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller CROSS LINER

SRP: JPY 5,280 (tax included)
 Product size: Approx. W38 x H120 x D100 (mm) (Grip-Type Master Controller)
 Package contents: CROSS LINER (with Grip-type Master Controller IR Chassis) (1), Grip-Type Master Controller (1), Passenger block (1), middle car door (2), sticker (1)
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“You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller Shinkansen Series

“You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller CROSS LINER”

■ You Drive! Grip-Type Master Controller Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa DX Set

SRP:	JPY 11,000 (tax included)
Product size:	Approx. W38 x H120 x D100 (mm) (Grip-Type Master Controller) Approx. W1,800 x D700 (mm) (when track circuit layout is deployed)
Package contents:	Shinkansen Series E5 Hayabusa (with Grip-Type Master Controller IR Chassis) (1), Grip-Type Master Controller (1), straight rail (10), curved rail (13), Double track outer curved rail (2), turn-out rail (R) (1), New sloped rail (2), auto-crossing rail (1), train wash (1), train garage (1), buffer stop (1), single line overhead wire pole (3), standing tree (2), station (3), tunnel (1), PC bridge pier (5), sticker (1)
Copyright:	© TOMY “PLARAIL” is a registered trademark of TOMY Company, Ltd. Product commercialization licensed by JR East
Launch date in Japan:	Thursday, November 9, 2023
Recommended Age:	3 years and up
Sales channels:	Toy stores, toy sections of department stores/mass retailers in Japan, the specialty store for PLARAIL products “PLARAIL Shops,” online stores, TOMY Company’s official online store “Takara Tomy Mall” (takaratomymall.jp)
Batteries required:	1×AA alkaline battery (car main unit) 2 × AAA alkaline battery (controller) *Batteries are sold separately.
Product Website:	www.takaratomy.co.jp/products/plarail/tettei/set/gripmascon/
Product Video:	youtu.be/fm3INDGAu0M



■ What is PLARAIL?

“PLARAIL” (Sales agent: TOMY Company) is a long-running series of railroad toys that was launched in 1959 and will mark its 64th anniversary in 2023. 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 for more than 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.” Up to present, a total of 1,962 types and more than 186.4 million products have been sold in Japan (as of March 31, 2023).



For press inquiries, please contact:

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For product inquiries from consumers, please contact:

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