

Towering Potain

Model collectors have waited a long time for a 1:50 scale tower crane to become available and at Bauma 2007 prototypes of two models were shown. The first to be available is the Potain MDT 178 topless tower crane from the Manitowoc Crane Group, made by TWH in China.

As befits the model it comes in a very large box over 1.1 metres long and this is because the model is supplied largely made up, with little assembly needed. It even has all of its reeving done, so this is an easy model for the non-expert and a clear



Trolley and hook

The operator's cab has opening doors and windscreen wipers on the windows. Electrical cabinets have realistic cabling which connects to the various motors and really enhances the quality feel of this model. The Potain MDT 178 has distinctive styling and the scale model copies this perfectly with the counter jib and counterweights being just like the original. The main jib is an excellent piece of model engineering being true and straight over its one metre length.



Detailed cab area



Excellent mast sections

instruction guide makes the building required very easy.

Size is not substituted for detail and this model is top notch in this regard. The mast sections are excellent and are complete with platforms and ladders and the ladders are even fitted with safety cages.

A model to look up to



A small metal key is provided with the model and this can be used to operate the hoist and the trolley mechanism. There is also a working service derrick and an operational concrete skip provides a load. The crane can be displayed at different heights up to 1.4m tall depending on the number of sections used in the mast. An optional climbing frame will be available for the crane soon and this will enhance the model further.

This is a high quality scale model which has excellent detailing and is made extremely well. Even with a price of around €400 it is very good value for money.

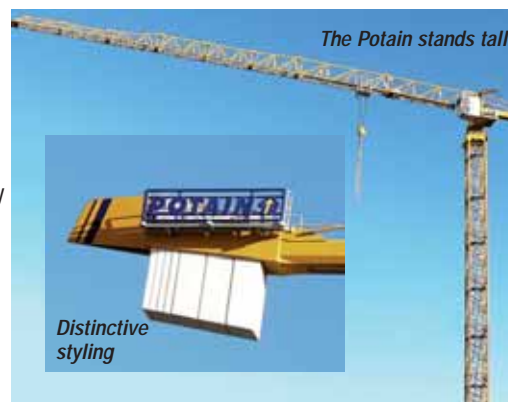
This is the first large tower crane model in this scale. TWH has done an exceptionally fine job combining top class model engineering with excellent detailing. Its size is such that anyone who sees it cannot fail but to be

impressed. It is first class and fully deserves to be a Cranes Etc Top Ten Model.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	27
Features (max 20)	17
Quality (max 25)	23
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	88%



The Potain stands tall

Distinctive styling

Battery book



The Trojan battery maintenance guide is a handy publication no matter what batteries are fitted to your aerial lifts.

Trojan Batteries has published a handy pocket sized book on the maintenance of deep cycle batteries. The booklet takes a very simple straightforward approach to looking after the batteries that are used on most aerial lifts.

The content is clearly structured, with no waffle and a clean, clear layout and good quality diagrams where necessary. Subject matter includes: A simple step by step checklist for routine inspection; Torque settings for different types of battery connectors; How to carry out specific gravity testing; Open circuit voltage testing; How and

when to top up with water; check points on cleaning, storage and charging; How to equalise wet batteries and connect them up for different power outputs and finally a glossary of battery terminology and a few lined pages at the back are left blank for notes.

Make no mistake this is not a bedtime read no matter how passionate you might be about deep cycle batteries. It is though a tremendously useful and helpful day to day guide for anyone who is responsible for looking after battery powered lifts of cranes.

Copies can be obtained from Trojan battery or from your local master distributor.

www.trojanbattery.com