

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb looks at what is new in the scale model world, and reviews models of interest to collectors.

Among the new models expected soon is a new Sandvik machine from Conrad. This will be the latest in a series of Sandvik models and is the UJ440i tracked jaw crusher. It will be a welcome addition of a type of model rarely produced and should be available in the autumn.

TWH have announced some more Grove Crane models. This time it is a couple of variants of a four axle mobile crane. They they should be available later this year and also in some special company liveries.

REVIEWS

Ruston Bucyrus 22RB Shovel

This is a recently-introduced model which will be of particular interest to *Classic Plant & Machinery* readers as it is of a famous historic machine. The 22RB was a particular workhorse of the construction industry in the 1960s and was a flexible machine that could be configured for a variety of applications including lifting, dragline operation and shovelling.

This model has been produced in 1:50 scale by Engineering Model Developments (EMD) and is the shovel version. A backhoe version has also appeared, and it is hoped that crane and dragline versions will follow in future also.

The model comes in a nice box and includes a reprint of an original Ruston Bucyrus brochure which will interest collectors. As for the model itself, it is quite small as the original machine itself was only around 20 tons, but it is very

detailed and of excellent quality. It has really good metal tracks and these are mounted on very nice metal sprockets.

The body of the model is in the famous cream and maroon colours, and includes a number of opening doors so engine and cab details can be seen close up. The boom and shovel are also faithfully rendered with extra care taken to paint the rivets, so that the visual effect is very good. A great feature is the working mechanism and by using the supplied keys you can operate all of the shovel functions, and these work very well indeed.

The model is available in two variants, the 22RB which was the

version sold in Britain, and also the 22B, which was the Bucyrus Erie version sold in America. The models are the same with just different markings. Overall, this is an excellent historic model and is available for around £180.

Overall Rating: Outstanding



Above: Excellent tracks and detailed cab.



Above: Nicely made shovel with working flap.

Right: The Ruston Bucyrus 22RB shovel.



Grove GMK 5110-1 Mobile Crane



Above: The Grove in road-going configuration.

This is the latest version of a five-axle mobile crane produced by TWH Collectibles for Grove Cranes. The real machine is rated at 110 tonnes capacity, and has a main boom which can reach 51m, and can also have a fly jib added.

There is a small amount of assembly of the model required which involves fitting some mirrors and attaching the fly jib. There are no instructions but it is fairly straightforward. On the plus side, the model is reeved in the factory so the hook is already strung which saves a fiddly task.

The model is extremely detailed for a mobile crane. This even extends underneath, with the hose lines to each axle and wheel reproduced. Inside the driving cab both a fire extinguisher and seat belts are replicated. A host of tiny graphics are applied to the model, which gives it a busy and authentic feel. There are however a couple of minor points which are less good. The pulleys in the boom head and hook are one single block rather than separate sheaves so lowering the hook is not very smooth. Also the tie off point on the hook is a little bit too large.

The features of the crane are good with the telescopic boom opening up smoothly to produce an impressive pose. There is also flexibility in the add-on fly jib which can be set in a variety of ways.



Above: Lifting a large beam.

Right: Loading itself with counterweights.

An undocumented feature is that the counterweight can be removed by undoing a couple of screws underneath and this allows the crane to be posed in a realistic travel configuration.

This is a high quality model from TWH with very good detailing. The paintwork and graphics are very good and relatively little plastic is used so the overall feel of the model is right. A particular strength of this and other crane models is the large variety of display poses that are possible which adds interest to a collection. It is a little pricey at around £250.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended

Ian Webb reviews construction models on his website and you can read more at www.CranesEtc.co.uk



Above: Tiny warning signs on the outrigger.

