

Small Plant & Machinery

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

One major new model available at the end of 2009 was NZG's model of Liebherr's giant LTM11200-9.1 Mobile Crane. This machine has nine axles and is the largest production telescopic crane available. In 1:50 scale the model is huge. It proved to be popular with all 600 units in Mammoet's red and black colours sold out before release, although models in Liebherr yellow were still available.

REVIEWS

Liebherr A924 Wheeled Excavator



Above: The detailed cab interior of the Liebherr A924.

Right: The Liebherr A924 makes an impressive display when posed with a model figure.

NZG of Germany is more or less Liebherr's preferred model maker nowadays and a recent release is the A924 wheeled excavator. It has a nice undercarriage with a reasonable level of detail and the tyres

Below: The A924 looks good on a low loader.

are particularly good and mounted on metal hubs.

The cab is very detailed inside with all the controls clearly visible and the outside has very thin metal grab rails, and mirrors

and a sun visor. The rest of the body is well made with high quality castings adding to the overall look of the model. Hydraulic hosing to the cylinders on the boom and stick further enhance the detailing.

The model has good functionality with the steering on one axle working. The blade and the two stabilisers work and can be lowered to make interesting poses. Both the boom and the stick have a good range of movement and the bucket attachment also allows it to pivot sideways. Also, removing a pin allows the bucket to be detached and it is only a pity that a few more work tools are not supplied with the model.

This is a very nice model in keeping with NZG's usual standards and is available for around £60 from the Liebherr web shop.

Overall Rating: *Highly Recommended*

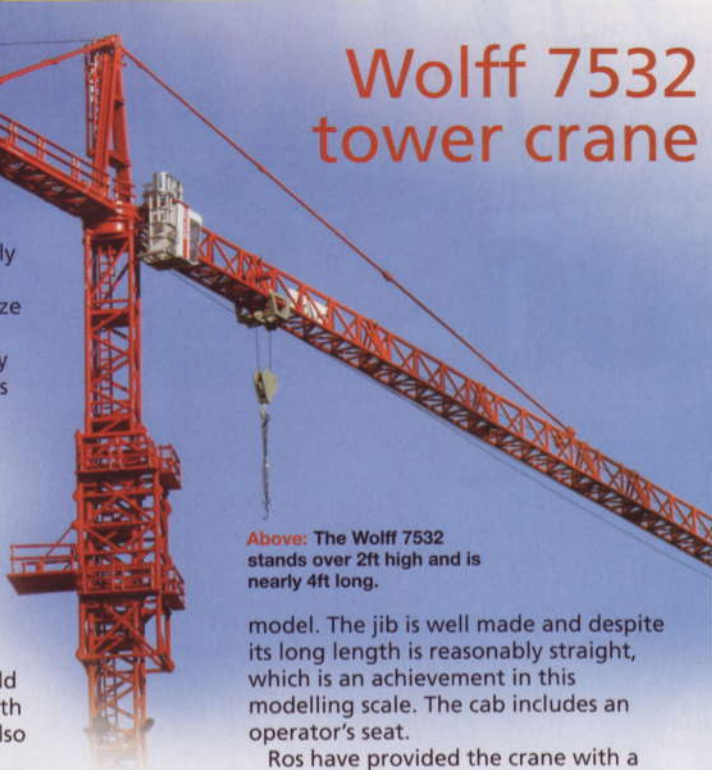
Ian Webb reviews construction models on his website and you can read more at www.CranesEtc.co.uk

Wolff 7532 tower crane

Tower cranes are usually modelled in 1:87 scale because of the sheer size of the real machines. Ros of Italy has recently introduced four models of Wolff tower cranes, of which this is the largest. As a model it stands over 2ft high and nearly 4ft long, end to end.

The crane comes in a very large box as it is largely pre-assembled, so it is very straightforward to build the model up. A CD with simple instructions is also included.

The main tower comes as a single piece but appears to be made up of separate sections which are glued together. It includes plastic ladders and platforms which add to the look of the



Above: The Wolff 7532 stands over 2ft high and is nearly 4ft long.

model. The jib is well made and despite its long length is reasonably straight, which is an achievement in this modelling scale. The cab includes an operator's seat.

Ros have provided the crane with a good level of functionality. It rotates well and the hook can be raised and lowered. Unusually, it also features a working trolley mechanism which is rare on this scale of tower crane. The crane is stable enough



Above: The Wolff 7532 is a realistic-looking model.

to hold a light load on its hook for display purposes.

This is an interesting model which is a very good representation of the real crane and can be obtained for around £110.

Overall Rating: *Recommended*

MAN TGS Dump Truck and Goldhofer TU4 Trailer



Above: The MAN TGS dumptruck model is a fine-looking piece of work.

Conrad of Germany has a long history of making construction-related vehicles and a recent release is the MAN TGS dumptruck which is coupled with a Goldhofer TU4 trailer. Although such a combination is rare in the UK, it does provide the flexibility of transporting a loader to a site so the dump truck can be immediately filled.

The dump truck is

a typical solid-feeling Conrad model. Underneath, the transmission details are reproduced, and good quality tyres and

hubs are provided. The cab looks good, with convincing headlights and a pair of orange beacon lights on the roof. Most of the model is metal and the dump bed feels particularly robust.

The steering on the truck works very well, and the rear axles have a simple floating mechanism to represent suspension. The cab tilts to reveal the engine. The tipping mechanism is particularly interesting as it can reproduce either end-on or side-tipping, although in the later case the side of the tipper body does not open.

The Goldhofer trailer is completely metal and to give the effect of a wooden bed to the trailer floor the casting is textured appropriately, and then painted to represent either wood or the trailer structure. The axles have a form of suspension and the ramps at the rear can be posed either up or down.

The model looks particularly good if carrying a suitable load on the trailer, and it can be obtained for around £100.

Overall Rating: *Recommended*



Above: The MAN TGS dumptruck is coupled with a Goldhofer TU4 trailer.