

Small Plant & Machinery

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

Models in 1:50 scale look to be taking an interesting direction with the announcement that TWH Collectibles will be releasing two of its large mining models in radio-controlled versions. The Bucyrus 495HR Electric Shovel has been a popular model with collectors owing to its large size and high level of detail. The radio-controlled version will offer full functionality including independently working tracks. Even bigger, the giant Bucyrus 8750 Dragline will also be available to order as a radio-controlled model. Both these models will be available at the end of the year but will be pricey so it will be interesting to see if there is a market for them. TWH have also announced that a 1:50 scale version of the P&H 4100 XPC Mining Shovel will be released in August 2010.

REVIEWS



Right: The Kato SR-250R is a very highly-detailed model. Left: The Kato SR-250R is set up and ready to lift.



Kato SR-250R mobile crane

YCC Models of Taiwan has established itself as a maker of highly-detailed crane models and accessories focussed on Liebherr machines. It has now branched out and released this 1:50 scale version of a Japanese Kato rough terrain crane. This particular machine can lift a maximum of

25 tonnes and is of a type used where the crane needs to be fairly mobile on a site.

The model comes in outstanding high quality packaging consisting of a presentation box with a foam insert and this sets the tone for the model inside. The crane is very highly detailed, so much so that it is delicate in places and as a precision model it must be handled with care.

The tyres are excellent with the Bridgestone name realistically contained within the moulding and other small details are particularly pleasing. Tiny metal plates are included for placing under the outrigger pads and these have very fine grab handles. The cab has really good interior details with controls and dials visible, and the sliding door opens in an authentic way.

The boom is very highly detailed and is perhaps the most detailed yet seen on a smaller crane of this type. Some of

the pulleys are absolutely tiny, and the boom also has a working anemometer and mirrors attached. The high quality continues with the fly jib which has excellent hydraulic pipes within the casting and all the pieces of this complex part are made in metal. The fly jib is telescopic and can be set at various angles using the working luffing cylinder.

Collectors will be very pleased with this crane because of its accuracy and detail. Although it is relatively expensive for a crane of this size, at around £180, it is a very high quality model which is likely to hold its value.



Above: The cab details on the Kato SR-250R are particularly impressive.

Overall Rating: Outstanding

Kenworth T800W and Rogers trailer



Above: The flip axle on the Rogers trailer.

Heavy haulage models are interesting for collectors because they can be posed with other models as a load to provide a very interesting display. Sword Models is an American model maker specialising in precision scale models and it has recently released this 1:50 scale model of a Kenworth T800W tractor unit coupled with a Rogers four-axle trailer, which is referred to as a 'lowboy' in America.

The Kenworth is very detailed with even the chassis having brake lines running to each of the wheels. The wheels have very nice metal hubs with the appropriate tyre type on each axle. American trucks are often adorned with chrome and this is accurately reproduced on the Kenworth. It also has a number of interesting features including an opening engine cover, opening cab doors and the second axle can be raised out of service.

Turning to the trailer, the high detail level continues. The trailer axles have brake lines and accurate suspension modelling which has springs and works.

Below: Posing the T800W and Rogers trailer with a load makes a great combination.



Above: The imposing Kenworth T800W and Rogers trailer.

The trailer bed has a realistic-looking wooden surface and a structure which is nicely cast.

Particularly fine details are deck extensions which fold out to increase the width of the bed and there are very tiny loops which provide fixing points for chains to secure loads. A feature of the Rogers trailer is the final 'flip' axle which folds out of service, and the

third axle which can also be lifted, and both these features are replicated on the model.

The model looks particularly good when carrying a suitable load and this provides some great poses. It was presented in the colours of Mammoet and other colour schemes are also available. It can be obtained for around £165 which reflects the premium nature of the model.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended



Ian Webb reviews construction models on his website. Visit www.CranesEtc.co.uk for more.