

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Sandvik MT720 roadheader



Above: The Sandvik MT720.

Below: Fierce cutting head mounted on a strong boom.

Bottom: The Sandvik MT720 has great detailing on the body.

A roadheader is a machine used for excavating tunnels in hard rock and Conrad has produced this 1:50 scale model of the Sandvik MT720 which in real life weighs in at 135 tonnes. The model comes in a high-quality box and includes an assembly sheet.

Although the tracks are plastic they are well made and roll well. The body is a complex piece of modelling with many engine and equipment components visible. The sides have removable clear plastic screens and there are folding plastic work platforms. Rear-mounted stabilisers can be lowered to steady the machine.

The top platform has anti slip texturing and the cab has debris protection on the windscreen and good internal detailing. At the rear is a long conveyor arm has some very good quality casting providing detail to the structure, and it has a real

rubber belt which moves. The conveyor can be rotated sideways and raised upwards at the pivot point, and can be set in three positions at the mid-point hinge.

A large spoil catcher is attached to the front and it can be moved up and down. It has a pair of rotating rotary blades which deposit the excavated spoil onto the conveyor.

The boom is a heavy piece of metal construction. Along the top the protection plates double as footways and have a textured surface, and they move as the boom moves sideways and up and down, and telescopes out. The cutting head is plastic but this has allowed some fine detail of the picks, and it rotates.

This is an impressive and unusual model. It has many parts and the high quality contributes to the relatively high price. It can be obtained from the Sandvik webshop (www.3pr.se/merchandise-shop) for around £215.

Overall rating:
Highly recommended



Caterpillar D7E track-type tractor

The Caterpillar D7E is a dozer in the 25-tonne class which was introduced in 2008 and its unique feature is the electric drive technology. It has been modelled by Classic Construction Models in the large scale of 1:24 so it is around 25cm long and 15cm high. It comes in a high quality box with no assembly needed.

The metal tracks are very good quality and robust. So are the track frames, and these have working rollers top and bottom, and good bolt head details throughout. The tracks are also joined transversely so they move up and down relative to each other.

Below: The Caterpillar D7E.



The engine area has fine handrails and the opening side panels have very fine perforations. Inside, there is a detailed engine with pipes and other components, and a silver radiator. Looking from the front, the radiator grille is metal and perforated and a large fan can be seen behind it which is a great detail.

The view inside the cab is impressive with the controls and computer console all looking realistic and the Cat name is printed on the seat back. An unusual feature is that the whole cab tilts over providing access to the generator and AC/DC power

inverter, and there are various cables and components to be seen.

The blade is a meaty chunk of metal with anti-wear plates fitted along the bottom edge. It can be raised and lowered.

Although 1:24 scale is unusual, a big and impressive model results. It looks great on a desk and is the kind of model that would have non-collectors looking. It costs around £300.

Overall rating: *Highly recommended*

Below: The Cat's opening engine panels and tilting cab.



Mack Granite Etnyre asphalt distributor

An asphalt distributor sprays liquid asphalt over a road or car park surface and this version has been modelled by Sword in 1:50 scale. Out of the box, the only parts to fit are the door mirrors and the battery cover.

The truck chassis is very detailed underneath with the suspension and transmission parts modelled in metal, and with excellent hoses to each of the wheels. The front wheels steer with limited movement and the front axle has working suspension.

The Mack Granite radiator looks great and the hood opens partially to reveal the detailed engine made of a number of components. The rest of the cab detail is excellent and the doors open and even the seats spring up and down.

The tank looks great with its lacquered finish. There is very fine rivet detailing denoting the panel edges and the top has a mesh walkway and a finely etched measuring stick. The opening cap to the tank has some very small graphics.

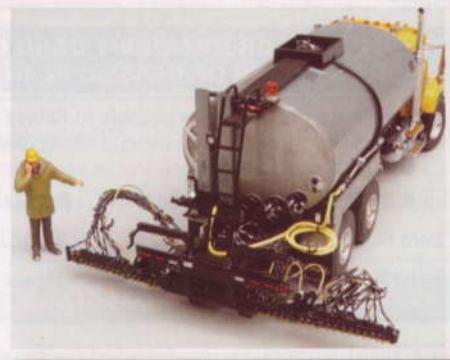
At the rear the distribution gear is a complex piece of modelling with many hoses in different colours and patterns. It can fold down to simulate spraying although it takes some effort to get it to sit horizontally.

This is a high quality model with very good attention paid to the tank and is available for around £135.

Overall rating: *Highly recommended*



Above: The Mack Granite Etnyre asphalt distributor
Right: Mass of detail at the rear of the Mack Granite.



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