

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Atlas 140W mobile excavator

Atlas was part of Terex but in April 2010 it became an independent company again. The 140W is a wheeled mobile excavator

with a maximum dig depth of 5.5m and weighs around 15t. NZG have updated its previous version of this model, the Terex 140W, and released it in Atlas colours.

The model has a simple chassis with good tyres mounted on metal hubs and the front wheels can be steered to a good lock. At one end of the chassis is the stabiliser beam, which is all metal, and at the other is a movable blade. The stabilisers can be moved into position and they can support the weight of the excavator.

The cab has good detail with tinted windows and raised frames, and inside

there is a steering wheel, seat and control levers. On the outside there are mirrors and lights. The casting of the body is very good, with grilles over the engine area being nicely shaped, and there are metal handrails. The graphics include maximum speed signs.

The boom is also well cast and detail is enhanced with very fine delicate rubber hydraulic pipes, and a full range of boom movement is possible. The bucket is nicely formed with sharp teeth. This is a high quality model to the usual NZG standards and can be obtained for around £70.

Overall rating:
Highly recommended



Above: The Atlas 140W.
Right: The detailed cab on the Atlas.

Nootboom Mega Windmill Transporter

The wind turbine industry has resulted in the need for large numbers of windmill components to be transported to worksites. This has caused the development of specialised transport and one such vehicle is the Nootboom Mega Windmill Transporter (MWT).

This is used to move nacelles and tower sections and this latest 1:50 scale model from WSI uses a four-axle jeep dolly and six-axle Scheuerle trailer towed by a MAN TGX XXL 8x4 tractor.

The packaging is very high quality with black foam rubber used inside a nice presentation box, and an instruction sheet describes the model's assembly.

The MAN tractor has very good chassis detail underneath with drive shafts, differentials and suspension modelled, and the gearbox is rendered in silver. The tyres have different treads on the front and rear axle pairs, and are mounted on detailed hubs which have good wheel nut details.

Although the front axles steer the range

of movement is limited. The cab is fully detailed with windscreen wipers, colour coded mirrors, and orange beacon lights, and it tilts forward to reveal the engine.

Behind the cab, the equipment tower is very detailed with various tanks and a fan on top which is covered by a realistic mesh screen. A fine grab rail and twin exhaust pipes are included and coiled air lines are available to plug into a trailer.

The Mega Windmill Transporter is made up of two components, the jeep dolly at the front, and a Scheuerle trailer at the rear.

The jeep dolly axles are finely modelled with suspension and steering components replicated. Small rubber tyres are mounted on detailed hubs with plastic wheel arches covering each wheel.

The standard of the detailing on the jeep dolly is very good with tiny Nootboom logos impressing as do the small controls and signage. The jeep dolly has steering on axles three and four but the range of movement is

small. Each axle also has working suspension.

The trailer consists of four-axle and two-axle Scheuerle module units connected together. They are very well engineered and detailed, with excellent independent suspension and the steering is proportional on the four-axle module and parallel on the two-axle.

The lift adaptors sit on turntables and each one has a nicely rendered generator, hydraulics box and fuel tank, and there are various hydraulic lines. There are excellent diamond plated walking surfaces at the lift adaptor gantry and the lift adaptors have a range of horizontal and vertical movement.

This is a complex model of excellent quality. Loads for the vehicle are available as separate items and the MWT looks great when posed with a nacelle or tower section. It is can be obtained from the Nootboom web shop (www.nootboomgroup.com/shop) for around £240.

Overall rating: Outstanding

Below: The MWT lift adaptors are hefty pieces of equipment.



Left: The Nootboom Mega Windmill Transporter (MWT).

Right: The MWT loaded with an optional Vestas nacelle.



Caterpillar 374D hydraulic excavator

Norscot has produced this 1:50 scale model of one of the larger Caterpillar excavators which has an operating weight of around 70 tonnes.

The tracks are metal and reasonably detailed and they roll well even though the rollers on the track frames are non-functioning.

The body details are good with a mix of both metal and plastic handrails, and

textured walking surfaces, while the cab has a detailed interior and falling object guard systems on the windows.

Norscot has paid attention to some of the hydraulics with plastic lines at the boom foot and running to the boom cylinders although strangely the main boom lift cylinders are not so endowed.

The large metal bucket is a detailed casting and the range of movement on the boom and stick is good.

Overall this is a reasonable model from Norscot which will sell for around £100.

Overall rating: Recommended



Above: Good hydraulics on the boom and stick.

Left: The Caterpillar 374D is a big machine.

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