

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Keestrack Frontier



The Keestrack screening rocks.

Keestrack is a Belgian company which produces screening and crushing equipment and it has directly commissioned this 1:50 scale model of the Keestrack Frontier screener from a factory in China. The real machine has an output of around

350tonnes per hour and a transport weight of around 30tonnes.

The tracks are metal and are mounted on simple-looking track frames, although there are no working rollers. The metal body makes the model heavy with a quality feel and there are various grilles and other details around the sides, and some sharp and detailed graphics. The screen is a metal part with perforations.

The hopper sides have a good structure with small hydraulic rams, and they fold up and can be interlocked for when the screener is operating, or folded down for when the screener is being transported.

The three folding belts are modelled very well and they have real rubber belts which feel realistic. The belt structures are

detailed, with hydraulic lines which add an authentic touch. Some of the rivets used have large silver heads and these would have looked better either painted or as smaller friction rivets. Various belt rollers work and all of the belts can be made to roll and they have a good tension when they are folded out for use.

Keestrack has commissioned an interesting model of one of its products and it is solid and well made. It can be displayed set up working or as a very good transport load on a suitable vehicle. The price is around £90 and to order it contact Keestrack at info@keestrack.net.



There is very nice detailing on the body.



The Keestrack poses well on a low-loader.

Overall rating: *Highly recommended*

MAN 26.240 tipper Overall rating: Recommended

This model is of a historic truck, the MAN DHAK 26.240, which was popular in the 1980s. It is a 6x6 chassis fitted with a rock tipper body made by the German company, Meiller. Conrad has produced the model in 1:50 scale and the only assembly required is to fit aerials and mirrors, which is easy to do.

The chassis has the transmission and suspension modelled in a pleasing way with much of it modelled in metal. The front axle steers with a very good range of movement and the rear axles can float to a degree to represent suspension.

The cab is all metal and the lights within the front bumper have lenses, and the other lights are painted on. The bonnet lifts up to reveal a chromed metal engine and it is good that it can stay in a raised position.

Behind the cab is a well-detailed fuel tank. The rear light clusters can just be noticed within the casting but they are painted the same

colour as the rest of the chassis. The tipper body is all metal and has flexible black mud flaps in front of the rear axles, and it tips to a very good angle and can hold any pose set. The structure

of the tipper body is modelled well. This is a typically robust and well-made Conrad model. It has a high metal content and is well finished for a price of around £70.

Opening the bonnet of the MAN 26.240.



The MAN 26.240 tips its load.



MAN TGS + Liebherr HTM 904 mixer

Overall rating: Recommended

This NZG model pairs a Liebherr HTM 904 Mixer onto a MAN TGS 8x4 chassis. It is 1:50 scale and is in the colours of Van Nieuwpoort, a Dutch company which also operates in Germany and Belgium. It comes in an NZG-branded box with a window and is complete out of the box with no assembly required.

This is a heavy model with a relatively low plastic content. Underneath, the chassis is fully detailed in metal with only the steering linkages being purely functional as a modelling compromise. The truck rolls well and the front two axles have linked steering which can be posed to a good angle.

The cab is of a high standard with aerials, beacon lights and horns on the roof. The access steps are textured, there is a number plate and the lights look convincing. On the cab doors are handles which are realistic inserts.

Behind the cab, the exhaust and other aspects such as fuel and water tanks are rendered well. The wheel arches are metal throughout and the light bar at the rear has nice plastic lenses.

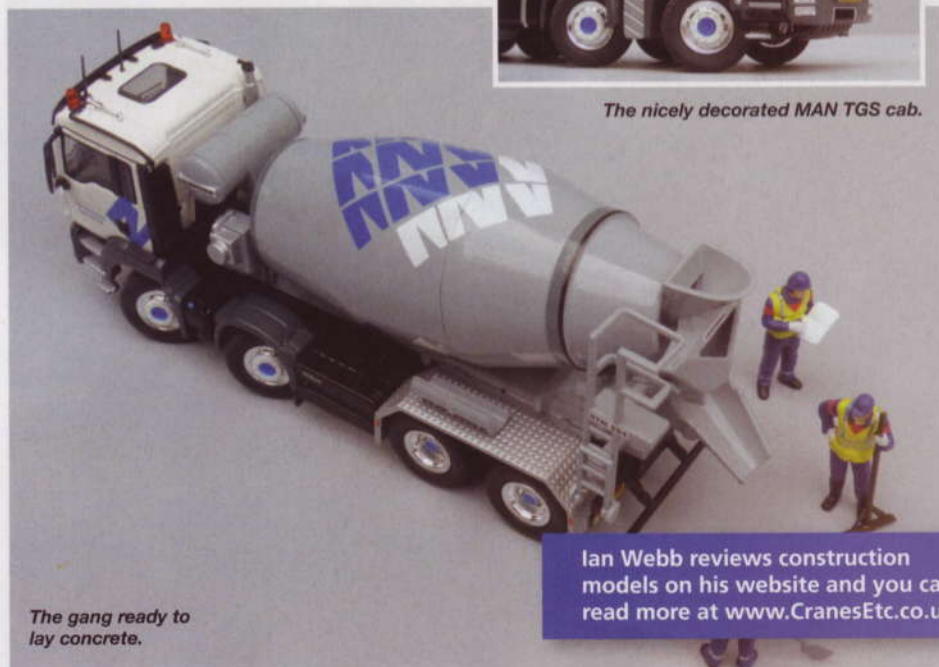
The mixer drum is metal with good decoration and it rotates very smoothly. The water tank and engine look smart enough and at the rear the access ladder and platform rails are a little on the fat side

for the scale, with the access ladder able to fold down. The loading funnel and discharge chute are metal, with the chute having full side-to-side movement.

This model has a quality feel due to its weight and very good paintwork and sharp graphics. It is a good-looking truck and is a limited edition model available for around £70.



The nicely decorated MAN TGS cab.



The gang ready to lay concrete.

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