

Small Plant & Machinery

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

One of the more unusual areas of model collecting is tower cranes. Because the real machines are so large, models are often produced in the smaller 1:87 scale. Ros of Italy has just introduced four new models of German Wolff tower cranes which will make an interesting display piece for those with the space.

NZG's model of the large Liebherr PR764 Dozer has now appeared at dealers, and for classic plant collectors a photo has been released of the historic Caterpillar 966A Loader which Norscot is releasing very soon.



REVIEWS

Doll five-axle semi-trailer



Above: Loaded with a Conrad ABI piling rig.

Conrad has released its latest heavy haulage model and it is unusual because it is of a semi-trailer made by the German company, Doll, which has not had its products modelled in 1:50 scale before. The model comes in the colours of Bloedorn, a German haulier.

The tractor unit is a three-axle Mercedes

Actros. Underneath, the transmission components are well-detailed in plastic, and the tyres are mounted on good hubs. As usual on Conrad models, the steering works very well. The cab is reasonably well detailed, and tilts to reveal an engine block inside.

The Doll trailer is a five-axle unit and the axles all steer together in an impressive way, which is also proportional in that the rear axles steer more than the front ones. It has a nice textured surface, with two ramps at the rear which are cast well to include the structure. The semi-trailer is also extendible which makes it much



Above: The Doll five-axle semi-trailer.

longer for certain loads. Overall, this is a very nice model, and when it is loaded with a suitable piece of machinery it makes a great display piece. It should be available for around £120.

Overall Rating: Recommended

KramerAllrad 350 mini-loader

The KramerAllrad 350 is a new release from Universal Hobbies and is a 1:50 scale model of a very small German wheeled loader. This means that the model itself is also very small and it looks quite tiny when placed against other models in the same scale. Unusually, the model comes in a plastic display case so this is one that should be immune to dust.

Despite the small size, the quality of the model has not been sacrificed. Even underneath there is hosing running to each of the wheels.

The cab detail is very fine, with windscreen wipers and mirrors, and an

orange beacon light. The interior of the cab is also highly detailed.

The hydraulic cylinders on the front bucket have hoses running to them, and some of the applied graphics are really small, yet still legible. Functionality has not been compromised either, with both axles having linked steering. The bucket raising and tilting mechanisms also work very well.

This is a surprisingly good model from Universal Hobbies and it will please collectors. It is very small, but is really excellent value at around £17.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended



Above: The KramerAllrad 350 mini-loader.
Right: Good functionality – steering axles and tipping bucket.



MAN TGX

A major European company in the field of lifting and heavy haulage is the Dutch firm, Mammoet, and it has commissioned many models in its famous red and black colours. One of the

latest models is this MAN TGX tractor with a ballast box, and it is made by WSI Collectibles. This vehicle is typically used for towing heavy trailer loads.

WSI has built a reputation for highly detailed models and this one is no exception. Looking underneath, the transmission and suspension details are excellent, and the tyres on the steering axles have a different tread pattern from those at the rear.

The cab detail is very good with accurate graphics and some very nice details such as air horns. There are also a set of four spotlights on

the roof although they have a slight blue tinge which looks less realistic. The cab tilts to show the engine block, which is nicely detailed.

Behind the cab is an excellent fuel tank with very fine details and realistic-looking air lines for connection to a trailer. The ballast box is removable allowing the tractor to be connected to a trailer through a standard connection.

The MAN TGX is available in a limited run of 500 models at around £70 each, which is justified by the highly-detailed modelling.

Overall Rating: Recommended



Above: Tilting cab reveals a detailed engine.
Left: The MAN TGX.

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