

Small Plant & Machinery

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



The triennial BAUMA equipment exhibition was held in Munich in April, and as it brings together the world's largest collection of plant manufacturers, it is also a place where new models are announced. Liebherr displayed a couple of new Conrad models, a MK88 mobile tower crane and the new TA230 articulated dumptruck. The MK88 has a novel feature which is working flashing beacon lights. Conrad also had a large Vögele 3000-2 paver and a Case CX240B long-reach excavator appearing. There were four new Volvo models premiered. These are being made by NZG and include a large EC460C excavator and an L50F wheel loader.

REVIEWS

Caterpillar 854K wheel dozer

Norscot is the maker of this model which although it is in the standard 1:50 scale, is large and reflects the massive size of the real machine. It has big and chunky wheels with rubber tyres, and the rear axle floats to allow movement over rough terrain.

The model has nice hand railing, although it is plastic. The main body is all

metal and this makes the model heavy. Casting details are good, with texture on the walking areas, and various panels and grilles represented. The cab is metal and has wipers and mirrors, and nice beacon lights on the roof. At the front, the blade is solid and robust, with good details such as anti-wear plates. The hydraulic cylinders

for controlling the blade are plastic, and the colour match is slightly off, which detracts a little visually.

The functionality of the model is good and the main features work well. The articulated steering provides a good range of movement, and the blade can be raised and lowered, and also tilted forwards and back.

This is a large and impressive model and can be obtained for around £100.

Overall Rating: Recommended

Left: The model recreated the huge dimensions of the real machine.

Below: The Caterpillar 854K wheel dozer.



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



Above: The Dieci Pegasus 50.21 with jib.

This is a model of an unusual rotating telehandler produced by Dieci of Italy. The model is 1:50 scale and is made by the Italian model company, Ros. It comes with two attachments, a lifting jib and a basket, and usefully, an instruction sheet to describe how the model works.

Dieci Pegasus 50.21

The simple tyres are mounted on plastic hubs, and both axles steer independently. The outrigger beams are metal and slide open smoothly and, after screwing down the pads, the weight of the model is easily supported. The body has a side opening panel which reveals some engine details. The body is cast well, and the cab is quite detailed although it is plastic. However the colour match is so good it is hard to tell. The boom has good detailing within the casting, and the four sections telescope out well to produce an impressive model. The two attachments provide flexibility in display, and are fixed using pins. The lifting jib is a plastic part but it has a nice swivelling hook at the end. The basket is also plastic, and has extending ends to allow the size to be increased, although the handrails are rather wide for the scale, and the plastic lowers the quality of the model somewhat.

Although the model does not pretend to be of the highest quality, it is affordable at a price of around £35.

Overall Rating: Recommended



Above: Riding high in the basket.

New Holland B115B loader-backhoe



Above: The New Holland B115B.

This is a 1:50 scale model produced by NZG, and this is one of the first models it has made for New Holland since 1994. It has four-wheel steering, and the large tyres have a nice tread pattern and are mounted on detailed metal hubs.

The quality of the paintwork and graphics is very good indeed, with some of the smallest warning signs being absolutely tiny. Detail around the cab is good, with mirrors and lights, and the controls are visible inside.

At the rear, the stabilisers are



Above: Using the forks to load a truck. Below: The model features excellent backhoe details.

operational, and the backhoe arm is highly detailed with realistic hydraulic lines. It has the ability to shift sideways, and digging can be posed, including having the stick telescope like on the real machine.

At the front, the bucket is a working clamshell, and also has a couple of forks so the machine can double up as a materials handler. The loader arm is very well made and looks authentic.

This is a high quality NZG model, and although the price is relatively high at around £80, it does buy a very nice model.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended

