

Small Plant & Machinery

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

NZG has announced a number of new releases for the summer and including the giant Liebherr LTM11200-9.1 mobile crane in several limited edition European liveries which are sure to be very collectable. A variety of other models including truck mixers and excavators will also appear in limited edition special decorations. One new model is a Volvo EC 460 CLD which is a large machine with a demolition claw.

REVIEWS

Bucyrus 8750 dragline bucket

The largest production 1:50 scale model made is the giant Bucyrus 8750 dragline bucket which is produced by TWH Collectibles. It is over 2.8m long from front to back and its size and cost puts it beyond the reach of almost all collectors. However, it is possible to own a piece of the action as the dragline bucket is available for sale separately.

On its own the bucket is huge, and a

heavy piece of metal. It weighs nearly 1.5kg and is nearly 200mm long. The details are good with very impressive teeth on the front. The metal chains are also convincing being made of big independent links, and they are attached to a large spreader bar. The review bucket was configured and painted in the colours of ESCO, a supplier of real buckets, and the model is also available in Bucyrus black and

in CQMS configuration and colours.

This is an impressive item made in limited numbers and it makes a good heavy haulage load, or is interesting just as an unusual display piece. It costs around £150.



Above: The massive dimensions of the bucket.

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



Overall Rating: Recommended



Above: The Bucyrus 8750 dragline bucket.

Right: The FTF 6x4 tractor



Vogele Super 3000-2 tracked paver



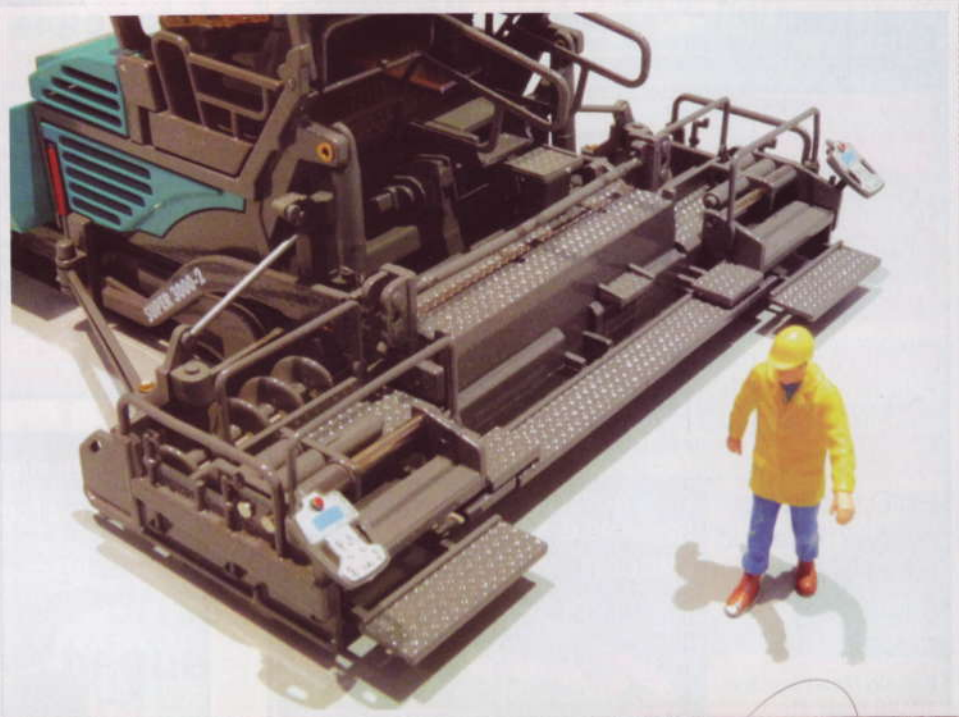
Left: The Vogele rigged with a wide screed.

Vogele pavers are German machines frequently seen on road projects. Conrad has produced this model of the Super 3000-2, which is the flagship machine in the current range. The box sets a good impression as it is high quality with black foam rubber inside and has a quality feel. Also included is a brochure about the real machine and this adds to the collectability of the model.

The paver is an excellent model. Much of it is metal, and where plastic is used it does not detract from the overall look. It has rubber tracks which roll well, and the casting of the body panels is very crisp with excellent paintwork and graphics.

The operator platform looks great with a textured floor and nice metal handrails. The control console is rendered very well and can be moved in position and the seats can pivot outwards to provide a better operator view. The canopy roof folds down for transport and this neatly lowers the exhaust pipe too. The canopy also has extending sections.

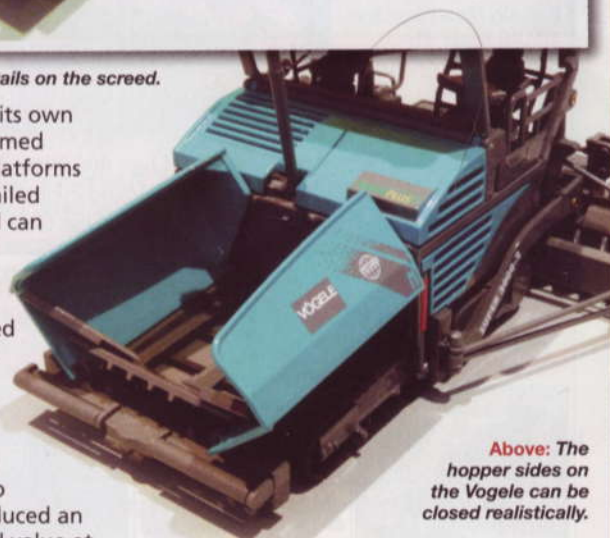
At the rear, the loading hopper is really good, with a realistic material belt, and the hopper sides can close to force material on



Above: The model features excellent details on the screed.

to the belt. The model comes into its own with the screed. There are well formed spreading augers and very good platforms and handrails, with two more detailed control consoles. The whole screed can be adjusted up and down for level and the cylinders that control this are stiff enough to hold any pose.

The real machine can be extended to a screed width of 16m, and the model comes with the parts to allow it to be extended and a very impressive looking paver results. To help the collector, good quality colour instructions describe how to adjust the model. Conrad has produced an excellent model and it is very good value at around £100.

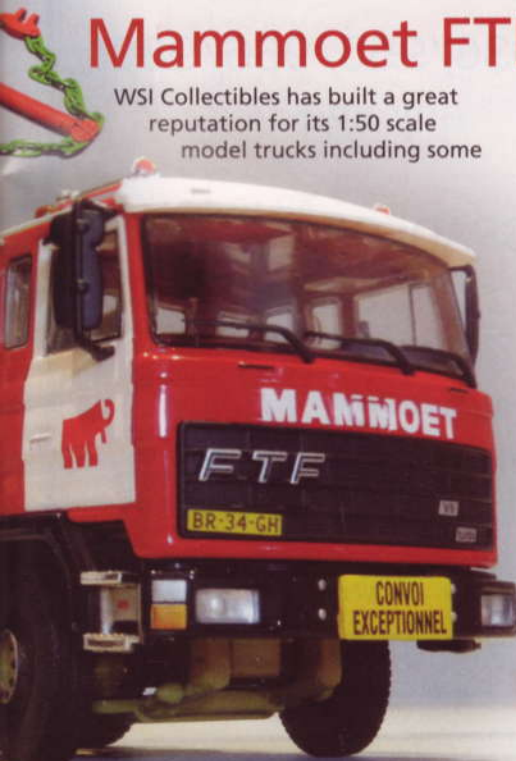


Above: The hopper sides on the Vogele can be closed realistically.

Overall Rating: Outstanding

Mammoet FTF 6x4

WSI Collectibles has built a great reputation for its 1:50 scale model trucks including some



classic tractors. Floor Tractor Factory was a Dutch company that made heavy haulage tractors up until 1995, and the Dutch haulage and lifting specialist Mammoet has added the FTF 6x4 tractor to its scale model range.

It comes in a very high quality box with the model contained within dense foam rubber, and it includes a collector card with a unique serial number which is a nice touch. The model is very detailed with excellent representation of the suspension and transmission components underneath. The wheel hubs and tyres are similarly good and the steering on the front axle works reasonably well.

Around the cab there are mirrors, wipers and some very fine grab rails. Interior detail is good too. The cab tilts forward significantly to reveal a detailed

engine block. Behind the cab there is more fine detailing with air lines and some authentic-looking batteries. This is a high quality WSI model of a classic tractor and can be obtained from the Mammoet webshop for around £65.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended



Left: The tilting cab reveals a detailed engine.

Win a model Manitowoc 4100W tower crane. Turn over to pages 50 and 51.