

Palfinger PK100002

An increasing number of truck models are appearing with knuckle-boom loading cranes and the largest modelled so far is the 100 tonne/metre Palfinger PK100002. Conrad has produced this version mounted on a MAN TGS four-axle chassis. It is decorated in the colours of Wiesbauer, the German crane hire company and is modelled after a real truck in the Wiesbauer transport fleet.

The chassis is very detailed with the transmission and suspension modelled in plastic, but the main structure is metal, including the fuel tank and rear bumper. The two front axles have linked steering and can achieve a moderate amount of movement, the rear axle can also steer. The wheel hubs look particularly crisp and the tyres have a good tread pattern.

The MAN cab looks great because the Wiesbauer livery is striking and the detailing is very good, with colour-coded door mirrors and very sharp looking graphics. It tilts forward for service access and a plastic engine is revealed underneath. At the rear of the model there is a removable metal ballast box which can be used to carry loads, and when the box is removed it reveals a fifth wheel to enable a trailer to be connected.

The model has a number of outriggers to maximise stability and provide 360 degree lift duties on the Palfinger. At the front of the cab there are small twin front jacks which can be lowered, while at the

rear there are two stage plastic beams which have a long reach but could do with being more rigid. Outriggers are also located on each side of the crane, in the centre of the truck, and these pull out from the transport position and jack cylinders rotate downwards.

The knuckle-boom portion of the crane looks the part and has some good graphics and equipment boxes around the base. The bottom boom sections are metal and the hydraulic lift cylinders are stiff enough to enable the boom to be posed in any position without slipping down. The eight telescopic sections are plastic and similarly they have some friction between them to hold set poses. Each telescopic section has its own cylinder and piston although there are no hydraulic hoses modelled.

A fixed hook can be positioned at two points on the boom and there is also the option to use a working winch which has enough friction to hold a load on the hook. With the boom fully extended an impressive model results and it can reach a height of 480mm.



Cab decoration is excellent



Stabilisers at the front



Outriggers out and the crane working



The MAN TGS with Palfinger



The Palfinger reaches an impressive height

However although the extended boom can support its own weight it would not support much load without the telescopic sections slipping.

The strength of this model is that it looks great with fine detailing and the large Palfinger is impressive. It is collectible and reasonable value at around £130.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

Cranes Etc Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	7
Detail (max 30)	24
Features (max 20)	18
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	80%