

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Kenworth T908 and Drake trailer

The long haulage distances in Australia have resulted in some special transport solutions and TWH Collectibles have produced this 1:50 scale model of such a rig. It is in the colour of Doolan, an Australian heavy haulage company.

The tractor unit is a Kenworth T908 prime mover and it is really impressive. Kenworth trucks traditionally sport a lot of chrome and the model accurately reproduces it in the smallest detail. At the front the bull bar includes lights and very fine mesh and it folds down to allow the engine cover to open and reveal a highly-detailed engine.

Underneath, the chassis is authentically modelled with the transmission elements all present. The steering works as does the suspension, and the mud flaps are rubber which is another great touch.

The graphics and other details on the cab are excellent given how small and intricate they are and as an example the fuel tanks have tiny 'no step' notices and mesh steps. Both doors on the cab open and a very detailed interior can be seen.

The trailer continues the very high standard. It consists of a separate dolly and a 'swingwing' trailer which both open up in width to enable wide loads to be carried. The dolly has lots of intricate cabling and fine detailing. Spare wheels are mounted on the structure and these even include tiny locking bolts so that individual tyres can be removed.

The swingwing trailer is excellent and is almost all metal. Throughout the structure are realistic details such as hydraulic hoses, and there is a small control console and hydraulic pump. The swingwing

mechanism works very well, allowing a variety of width settings, and the ramps at the rear can be lowered to facilitate loading.

This is a very high quality model with some extraordinary details and it is not surprising the first run was a sell-out success. This new release is available in a number of colours and liveries from the Drake shop (www.thedrakeshop.com) and will probably sell for around £300.

Overall Rating: Outstanding



Above: The model has excellent details.
Left: The imposing Kenworth tractor.

Above: Loading the trailer with the rear axles spread.

Below: The Drake trailer opened up to carry a wide load.

Scania L60 and Nootboom trailer



Continuing the haulage theme is this 1:50 model of a classic truck and trailer combination that may be of particular interest to *Classic Plant & Machinery* readers. It is made by NZG of Germany.

The truck is a Scania L60 and it is modelled very nicely. The chassis detail is quite good including the main elements of the transmission, and the tyres are



Above: The Nootboom trailer carries another classic – the 22-RB.

mounted on metal hubs which have the wheel nuts detailed. The steering works well.

At the front there is a Dutch number plate and the big nose and large headlamps recall a bygone age. There are some excellent tiny Scania badges on the bonnet. The rest of the truck is modelled simply with the carrying deck entirely of metal but with a wood grain effect visible in the finish. At the rear there is a towing hitch and the lights are painted on. The paint work on the whole truck is excellent.

The Nootboom ADU trailer is metal with the exception of the replica timber

decking. The model engineering is very good and the trailer is extendable and can be pinned to maintain different lengths. At the rear, the rather quaint loading mechanism is implemented with the two independent rear axles swinging sideways to allow a load to travel onto the deck. The trailer also has a very good finish.

Although this model has been out for a while as it is a classic model it is timeless. It can be obtained from the Nootboom webshop (www.nootboomgroup.com/shop) for around £130.

Overall Rating: Recommended

Mercedes Actros truck mixer

Truck mixers have been a common model over the years as they are readily branded

in different company

colours to form corporate

promotional items. The latest

offering from Conrad of Germany is a Stetter mixer on a three-axle Mercedes Actros chassis and it is in the colours of

German company Godel Beton.

The main parts of the chassis are metal with some of the smaller components in plastic including the wheel hubs. Conrad models have always had excellent steering and this one is no exception with a really hard lock being possible.

The cab details are very good with colour coded mirrors on the doors, and aerials on the roof. It can also be tipped forward a little to reveal the engine

underneath. Behind the cab the exhaust looks great with a perforated finish and realistic pipe.

The mixer drum is metal and this gives the whole model a very solid feel. It also turns very smoothly. At the rear the access steps and chutes are metal and the main discharge shut can be rotated out to let the concrete go.

As a truck model it is very pleasant and it would pose well with other construction models. It can be obtained for around £70.

Overall Rating: Recommended



Above: The chute at the back put into position. **Left:** There is good detailing on the Actros cab.