

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

WSI have now brought to market a number of new models which have been in the works for a while. These include the Liebherr LTF1060-4.1 mobile crane and three models based on the Hitachi ZX870 excavator. All these models look very detailed, with the excavators perhaps setting a new standard for this type of machine.

REVIEWS

JCB Major loader MK I excavator



Above: The detailing of the backhoe is very good.

Universal Hobbies have produced this model of the very first JCB excavator ever made. It is a loader and backhoe mounted onto a Fordson Major tractor with cab, and over 500 of these machines were built. The model is in 1:16 scale, and it looks impressive for its large size and red and blue colours.

The tractor wheels are good quality rubber and the hubs are very detailed even including tiny tyre valves for maintaining the air pressure. This level of detailing is possible because the hubs, like other parts of the model, are in high grade plastic.

The tractor engine is metal and has good mesh grilles at the front as well as fine cabling and hoses within the engine itself. The inside of the cab looks very realistic with the controls and pedals present,

Below: The JCB posed digging with the support frame extended.



Above: The JCB MK I is a fine model of a historic machine.

including those for the loader and backhoe which have the rudimentary appearance of the original machine. There is a flip-down seat for operating the backhoe and the modelling of the hydraulic lines is excellent with authentic connection details.

The backhoe boom and stick are plastic, and the bucket is metal, and the front loader and blade is also a similar combination of materials. Fortunately, the colour match between metal and plastic parts is very good.

The working parts of the model perform well with the only issue being the weight of the backhoe assembly which means it is difficult to keep raised when driving along.

The MK I is a great display piece for the classic plant enthusiast and is available from the JCB web shop (www.yourmerchandise.com/jcbshop) for £110.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended

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

Menzi Muck A91 4x4 plus excavator



Above: The bucket can rotate.

The Swiss company, Menzi Muck, makes some highly original and innovative excavators which are very manoeuvrable. Two updated versions of the model have been released by Ros of Italy in 1:50 scale. The model reviewed here is the four-wheel drive version.

Ros has replicated the articulated legs of the machine very well giving a huge

range of movement and allowing some crazy looking poses to be adopted. This makes the machine ideal for working on slopes. The only minor gripe is the size of the rivets used for the pivot points on the model which are a little obtrusive.

The driver's cab is very detailed with an excellent interior which has some



Above: The Menzi Muck A91 excavator and its unusual wheel arrangement.

very fine detailing of the controls and instruments. The cab windows are also very nice with realistic looking seals around the edges. Other details include door mirrors and wipers, and a toolbox at the front.

The detailing of the hydraulics on the boom and stick is very good with either rubber hoses or metal lines modelled and there is a tiny lifting eye at the end of the stick. The bucket moves in two directions and the stick is telescopic so the machine can be posed digging in many different ways.

This is a very nice model of an unusual machine and it costs around £80.

Overall Rating: *Highly Recommended*

Doll log carrier

Conrad has a good line in heavy haulage models and a recent release is the Doll log carrier in 1:50 scale which has been produced in the livery of Anton Rupp, a German forestry transport company.

The tractor is a Mercedes Actros 6x4 and it is fitted with an Epsilon grab. The paintwork on the tractor is really attractive as the Rupp livery is striking, and the overall detail level is good. It has authentic-looking lights and the cab tilts forward to reveal the engine.

Right: Using the grab to load up the logs.



Above: The Doll log carrier looks great with its real timbers.

Behind the cab, the grab is modelled very well and it has a full range of movement, including a telescopic arm, and the grab works too. A couple of outriggers can be pulled out and lowered to provide stability when lifting logs. The operator's seat tilts forward when in transport mode which is a nice touch.

The two-axle dolly has its steering linked to the log support frame so they turn in unison, and there is a control cable that links to the tractor. Also supplied are a number of logs to pose on the model and these are actually pieces of wood finished to represent real logs and they look great.

This model has been made in limited numbers and is available for around £150.

Overall Rating: *Highly Recommended*