

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Caterpillar D10 with U-blade and ripper

The Caterpillar D10 was announced in 1977 and was the first modern dozer to use a high-drive sprocket. Classic Construction Models (CCM) of the USA has modelled the D10 in 1:48 scale. The model is packaged really well and the only assembly required is to fit the ripper tooth which simply pins into place.

The metal track pads are individually linked and detailed, and the high drive sprocket is really good with fine bolt details. The tracks roll smoothly and the rollers are moving parts too. Both track sets are linked transversely so they can move up and down alternately over rough terrain. The track tensioners also work.

Detailing around the body is excellent with metal grab rails and mesh grilles, and high quality anti-slip surfaces on various platforms. The cab has very good windows with replica seals and wipers, and there is a fire extinguisher on the outside. The interior detail is good too.

The U-blade is a large and heavy piece



Above: - The D10's U-blade is massive.

Overall rating: Outstanding

with anti-wear plates modelled along the bottom edge, and the ripper assembly impresses. Hydraulic lines run to the controlling cylinders and the cylinder jackets are of above average quality with good detailing and excellent colour match.

The U-blade raises and lowers, and can

be tilted forward and back, and the whole ripper assembly moves up and down with a very good range of movement.

CCM has produced a very good looking replica of the D10 and the high quality sets it apart from other mass produced Caterpillar models. It can be obtained for around £150.



Above: - The ripper assembly is complex.



Above: - The excellent detail on the high-drive sprocket.

Hamm 1911 roller

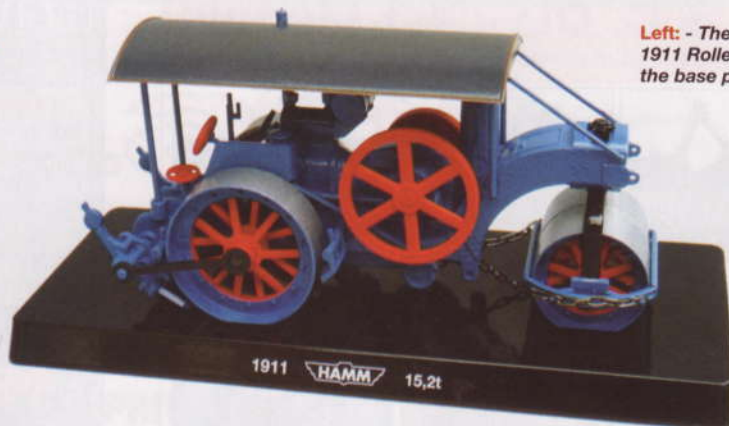
In 1911 Hans Hamm introduced the world's first diesel-powered road roller as prior to this powered rollers were steam driven. It was a three-wheel roller and had a weight of 15.2 tonnes. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the roller, Hamm has commissioned this 1:50 scale model made by Conrad.

It comes in a presentation box and includes a metal display base plate which is a nice touch. The rollers are metal with plastic spokes, including a split drum at the front. A nice detail is that the inside of the rear rollers is toothed for the drive mechanism.

The front steering chain is present and the assembly can steer to a good angle. There is a smart name plate on the front with the rest of the body being mainly metal. The rotating flywheels are plastic as is the steering drive mechanism but this has allowed some fine detailing of the worm drive at the end.

The rear rollers have scrapers and cutters modelled. The roof is metal with a smooth top, but looking inside it has a painted replica wood underside.

This is a good model from Conrad and is a fine tribute to this historic roller. It may become available through dealer channels later in the year for around £90.



Left: - The Hamm 1911 Roller posed on the base plate.



Left: - There is fine detailing, even under the roof.

Overall rating:
Highly recommended

Nooteboom six-axle ballast trailer

This is the latest model of a six-axle ballast trailer which is used for carrying the counterweight of large mobile cranes. It is produced by WSI in 1:50 scale and this version has a Scania R(6) Topline 8x4 tractor.

As usual for WSI, the tractor is impressive with very good chassis detail and the front axles steer to a limited degree. It also has a tilting cab which opens up to reveal a detailed engine block.

There is an excellent light bar on the cab with spotlights and beacon lights, and the door mirrors look very smart and include indicator lights. Particularly good is the

equipment tower behind the cab which has excellent mesh sides and internal details. Coiled air lines look realistic.

The rear of the Scania has very good diamond plate surfacing and the rear lights and number plate completes the detail.

The trailer is highly detailed with the deck surface on the flat bed having plastic replica timber decking. Along the sides of the deck there are tying points and excellent tiny graphics. There is also an opening spare wheel holder, although it is empty. Metal deck posts are provided and these plug into holes in the deck edge.

Underneath, the structure is really good and hosing extends from the front to each axle assembly. The axles are fully detailed with suspension that works, and five of the axles have steering which the rear four steering proportionally to a good angle. There are also hydraulic landing legs which can be screwed down.

The quality of the model is high and is in keeping with other scale models of Nooteboom trailers and it makes a good pair with a suitable crane model. It can be obtained from the Nooteboom webshop (www.nooteboomgroup.com/shop) for around £110.

Left: - The excellent equipment tower on the Scania.

Below: - The ballast carrier loaded (the load is not included with the model).



Overall rating:
Highly recommended

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