

Demolition on a

While not as expensive as the full size machines they represent, models of construction equipment (and especially treasured high reach excavators) are a popular addition to desks and display cases. IAN WEBB reviews the most recent additions to miniature fleets for D&Ri

In recent years there has been a significant growth in the number and quality of diecast scale models of construction equipment, but the demolition sector has been less well served. However this has now changed with no fewer than six 1:50 scale models of demolition excavators appearing since the BAUMA exhibition last year.

Volvo has a significant programme of scale models available from its dealers and two new items are the EC260CLD demolition excavator and the EC700CHR high reach machine. The smaller machine is made by the German model maker NZG and is a typically high quality offering with very good detailing including cylinder guards on the stick. As with all the models here, the metal tracks roll freely and a full range of movement is possible on the boom and stick. The tool swivels nicely and can be posed open or closed.

The EC700CHR is a big model with a boom that scales at over 30m. It is unusual in that it appears to have been directly commissioned by Volvo from China rather than through one of the established model makers. It has some good features not present on the other models reviewed here such as extendible tracks and

The two Hitachi ZAXIS 870 LCH-3 models



The two Volvo models at work

Excellent detailing on the 870s



As an alternative, the models look great on a low loader



The Volvo EC260CLD

The smaller Hitachi ZAXIS 1000K takes a bite



small scale



a tilting cab. The detail level is good, if not to the highest standards of the other models, but it certainly looks impressive when posed standing over 60cm high.

Mini Hitachis

The other four models are all Hitachi machines. Two are made by NZG and are of the ZAXIS 1000K, which is a machine Hitachi sells into the Japanese market. For the models the base machine is the same, but one has a short boom arrangement and the other has a scaled 40m high reach boom. The detail



**The mighty 40m
Hitachi ZAXIS 1000K**

level is excellent with hardly any plastic used on the models at all and this includes the handrails that surround the machine. They also feature tracks that can be removed, leaving the machine stood on outriggers and, as the counterweight and booms are removable, they can be broken down to realistic transport loads and look great sitting on a low loader. For a dramatic display the 40m machine really impresses. The crushers on the models are also modelled well with an Okada TS-W2200V on the smaller machine and an Ohsumi FE500 on the high reach machine.

The other two Hitachi models are made by the Dutch model maker WSI and are of the ZAXIS 870 LCH-3, which is a similar size machine as the 1000K, but sold in Europe. These are the most highly detailed of the models here, and this is manifested by the opening doors and covers to the engine compartment that reveals fine details such as faithfully replicated cabling on the engine block. The hydraulic piping on the boom is also made of separate pieces rather than being formed within the metal casting of the boom. Inside the cab the Hitachi name even

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appears on the seat back in tiny writing. The functionality of these models is very good, with the counterweight being removable so they can be posed being transported.

Boom ends

The two WSI models differ with the tools attached. One has a Demarec Multi-Quick Processor and the other has a huge Demarec DRS-75 Shear. Both are functional, being able to rotate on their mountings and opening and closing, and they can also be removed from



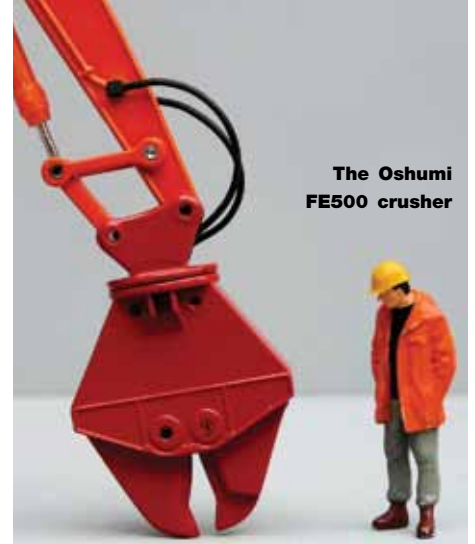
The giant Demarec DRS-75 shear



The Okada TS-W2200V crusher

their mountings by undoing a couple of bolts. A third version of the model is also available with a standard large digging bucket.

These demolition models are fine additions to the scale model arena and look great on



The Oshumi FE500 crusher

a desk or in a display case in the office. In fact, combined together with some tippers, a convincing model demolition site could be formed in an office reception area. They would also make a good corporate gift to customers or as a long service award to staff. As they are high quality they are also valued by collectors. They typically sell in the €100-180 (US\$140-240) range and a more adventurous company could also possibly order them to be made in company colours as long as sufficient quantity was required to make them economic, probably 200 or more. Hopefully more new demolition scale models will appear in time, perhaps from Liebherr and Caterpillar particularly.

To read more about these and other scale models visit the Cranes Etc website at www.CranesEtc.co.uk.



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