

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

MAN TGS + Palfinger PK 100002



The fine detailing on the MAN truck.

This MAN truck has a large Palfinger PK100002 loading crane which is a machine in the 100-tonne class. It is in the colours of Kibag, a Swiss company, and this 1:50 scale model has been commissioned by Heavy Transport Models from Conrad.

The truck chassis has the transmission and suspension modelled in plastic and the front axles have linked steering. The tilting MAN cab looks good in Kibag livery with colour-coded door mirrors and sharp looking graphics, but there is no number plate. At the rear of the model there is a beacon light, towing hitch and wheel chocks.

To facilitate the operation of the Palfinger, twin outrigger

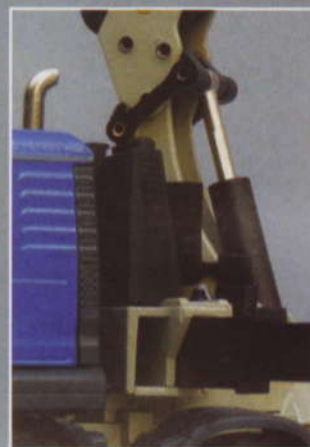
pads can be lowered at the front, and there are two more at the rear and on each side of the crane. The knuckle-boom portion of the crane looks realistic and has some good graphics and there are simple equipment boxes around the base. The bottom boom sections are metal and the eight telescopic sections are plastic. The hydraulic lift cylinders are stiff enough

to enable the boom to be posed in any position without slipping down. The telescopic sections have some friction between them to hold set poses but would not support much load without the telescopic sections slipping. With the boom fully extended an impressive model results and

it reaches to a height of 48cm.

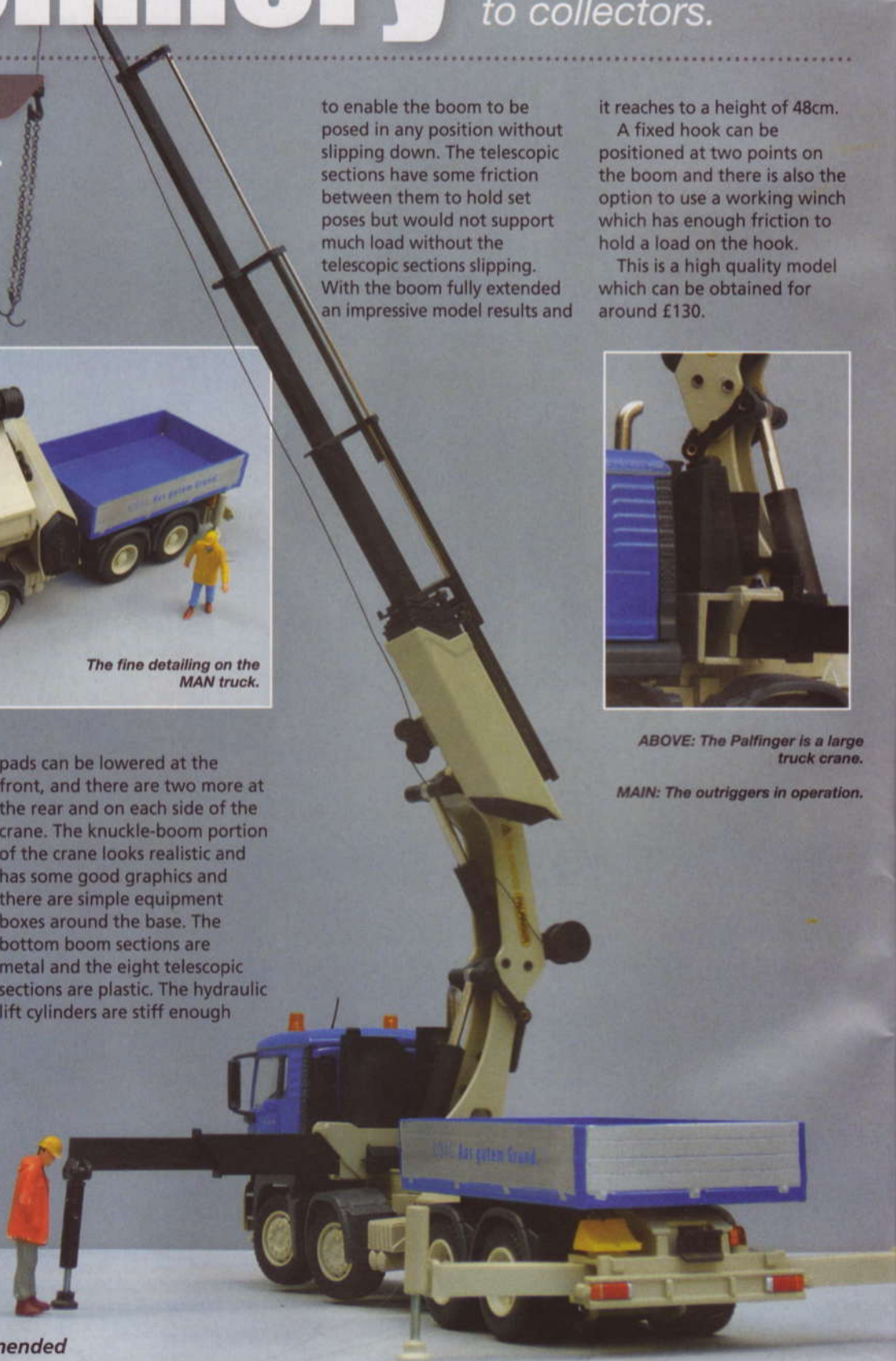
A fixed hook can be positioned at two points on the boom and there is also the option to use a working winch which has enough friction to hold a load on the hook.

This is a high quality model which can be obtained for around £130.



ABOVE: The Palfinger is a large truck crane.

MAIN: The outriggers in operation.



Overall rating: *Highly recommended*

Hitachi ZAXIS 1000 high reach demolition

Overall rating: Outstanding

The Hitachi ZAXIS 1000K-3 high-reach machine has an operating weight of over 100tonnes. This limited edition 1:50 model from NZG has an Ohsumi FE500 crusher and it is the colours of Avenir Deconstruction, a French demolition company.

A clear instruction sheet covers the main features of the model and a few spare track links are also included which is always a nice touch.

The track frames are good with working rollers on the top edge and surprisingly also inside the bottom of the frames, and the drive sprockets are nicely detailed.

The metal tracks are made to a high standard with detailed pads. Separate support outriggers are provided for when the tracks are removed.

The body has fine casting details all around including panel

handles and grilles. The cab is metal including the falling object protection and the windows are tinted, and inside the controls and seat are modelled well. A door on the cab side of the body opens to allow access to the centre.

The counterweight consists of four separate slabs, and together with the removable tracks, the body can be posed on a suitable low-loader.

The boom sections have hydraulic pipes modelled within the casting and there are excellent rubber lines representing the flexible connections. The range of movement is very good, and the metal crusher rotates and has opening jaws.

This is a very nice quality model which is finished well in the Avenir livery and looks impressive because of its overall size. It is good value at around £160.



The detailed cab and body

The Hitachi high reach demolition machine is a big model.

Volvo EC460CL excavator

Overall rating: Recommended



The Volvo excavator in Van Dalen colours.

The Volvo EC460CL excavator has an operating weight of around 50tonnes and this 1:50 scale version of the model by NZG is in the colours of Van Dalen, a Dutch company.

The metal tracks are mounted on detailed frames which have working sprockets and idlers and the lower rollers are moving parts. The body is almost all metal with the result that the whole model is quite heavy. Detail inside the cab is good, and the windows are slightly

tinted and have the glass frame finely delineated. A mirror, beacon light and wipers add detail.

The rest of the body has grilles formed within the casting and there are a number of metal grab rails, and an opening cover reveals the engine. At the rear the counterweight attachment mechanism is modelled, although the counterweight is not removable.

The modelling of the hydraulics is very good with a detailed hydraulic unit at the



The opening engine cover.

boom foot and hydraulic lines modelled in rubber. The boom and stick movement is good and the cylinders are stiff enough to hold any pose set and the bucket has a very good range of movement too.

This is another quality model with some very good detailing. It looks attractive in Van Dalen's colours and can be obtained for around £85.

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