

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Liebherr LTM 1200-5.1 mobile crane

The Liebherr LTM 1200-5.1 is a five-axle, 200-tonne crane and this 1:50 scale model has been commissioned by Heavy Transport Models from Conrad in the colours of Kanson, a Hong Kong company. A comprehensive instruction sheet is provided, so this is a good model for a novice collector.

The wheels are good and various axles are linked and can steer to a sharp angle. At the front, the driving cab has good headlights and a loop for attaching the hook during transport. The carrier deck has an anti-slip surface and the two-stage outrigger beams are plastic.

The crane has a tilting operator's cab which is reasonably detailed, and there are folding plastic handrails

which can be lowered when the crane is travelling on the road. The counterweight consists of a variety of separate plates giving different display options. They include lugs for chains, and there are two additional triangular ballast blocks which slot in.

The main boom is raised by a single large hydraulic cylinder which is very stiff. The boom is a seven-section telescope with sections in the 'oviform' shape of the original, and they extend smoothly and lock into place. At the boom head the pulleys are metal and high quality.

The fly jib consists of a number of pieces and provides a variety of options with many different configurations possible in terms

of length and offset angle. The lattice work sections are fine metal castings and are joined with plastic pins. When fully assembled the model is impressive being around 2m tall.

The hook is a three-pulley block with a double hook. All the usual crane functions can be operated and the winch drum can be turned to raise and lower the hook.

This crane looks great in Kanson livery and is well made. It is a very limited edition and so is relatively expensive at around £200.



The crane set up to work.



The machine configured with a short heavy-lift jib.



The Liebherr 1200-5.1 on the road.

Overall rating: *Highly recommended*

Hitachi ZAXIS 210 excavator

The Hitachi ZAXIS 210 has an operating weight of 22 tonnes and this 1:50 scale model has been produced by Replicars of Japan.

It is a very detailed model and the metal tracks have detailed pads with individual bolt details and the track frames have small graphics.

The cab is really good and it features an opening door. The window frames are finely detailed and the grab rails are thin. The detail inside is excellent with a sculpted floor and a full set of controls, and the Hitachi name is printed onto the seat.

The body casting is to a good standard with various grille and panel details, and good graphics. One half of the engine cover is hinged and can be opened up to reveal a detailed engine.

The hydraulics on the boom and stick are very realistic with silver connectors on the hoses and pipes, separate pipes on the boom, and

the hose connections between the boom and stick are wrapped by tiny springs to represent reinforced hoses. The metal bucket is a good casting and can be detached from the stick.

This is a high-quality model which is mainly metal. It can be obtained for around £90 from the Hitachi Merchandise Shop: www.hcmewebshop.com.

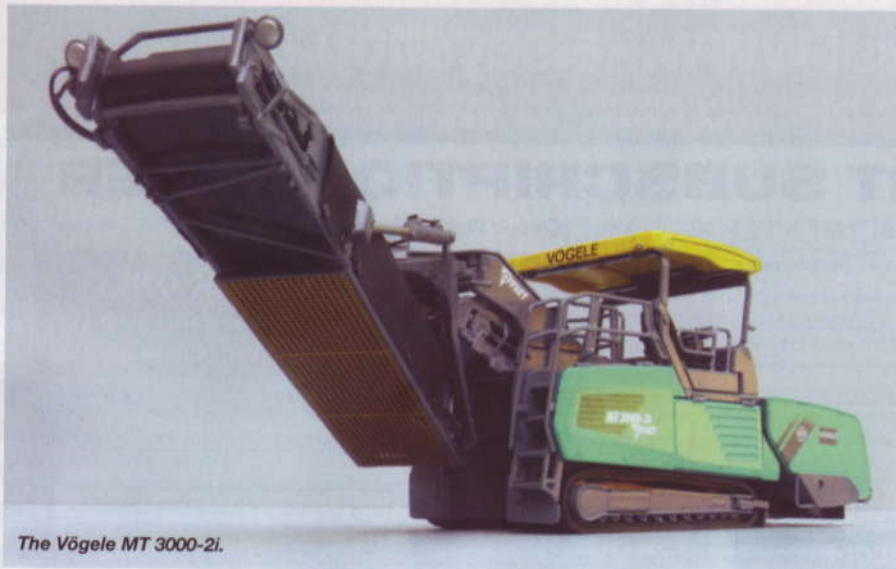
Overall rating: Outstanding

The Hitachi ZAXIS 210.

The opening door and detailed interior.



Vögele MT 3000-2i Offset PowerFeeder



The Vögele MT 3000-2i.

The Vögele MT 3000-2i is used to provide flexibility in roadworks operations. It has been modelled by NZG in 1:50 scale and the package includes a reprint of a brochure about the real machine.

The model has rubber tracks which are quite stiff to turn. At the front the hopper has rubber flaps at the front and the feed belt is rubber also. The hopper sides can slide and the bottom flap can be raised up to force material onto the belt. The body side panels have good graphics

and the panels open to reveal engine details.

The operator's area is excellent with a textured floor and two seats, and the control console is very detailed and it rotates and can move on a rail from side to side. Both seats can be rotated out to provide a better view forwards, and the seats also swivel. The canopy is metal and includes extending flaps. It can be lowered to provide reduced headroom during transport on a suitable vehicle.



The PowerFeeder receiving asphalt and feeding a paver.

Overall rating: Outstanding

The conveyor has excellent hydraulic lines and some fine detailing. It has a rubber belt and includes a fabric cover, and underneath there is a mesh screen. It can be raised and lowered, and rotates to either side realistically.

NZG has produced a very realistic model with plenty of details and features. It costs around £90.

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