

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Overall rating: *Outstanding*

Scania 143e + Goldhofer STZ-VL3 - Brouwer

Tekno is well known for its truck models and a particularly fine example is this 1:50 scale model of a 1980s classic Scania 143e 8x4 tractor, with a Goldhofer trailer. It is in the colours of Brouwer, a Dutch haulage company.

There are a large number of parts to fit to the Scania and these add a fine level of detail, and there also parts to fit to the trailer to allow different posing possibilities.

The Scania is a very detailed model with good transmission, wheel hubs and tyres, and the linked steering offers a small range of movement. Detailing around the cab is excellent with many tiny lights and the decoration is precise with many small high quality graphics that look realistic.

Other pleasing details include textured steps, grab rails, and a number plate. Under the cab is a detailed V8 engine that is made of a number of components.

Behind the cab, there are coiled air lines and lights. The cab tilts to give access to the engine, and can remain in a tilted position.

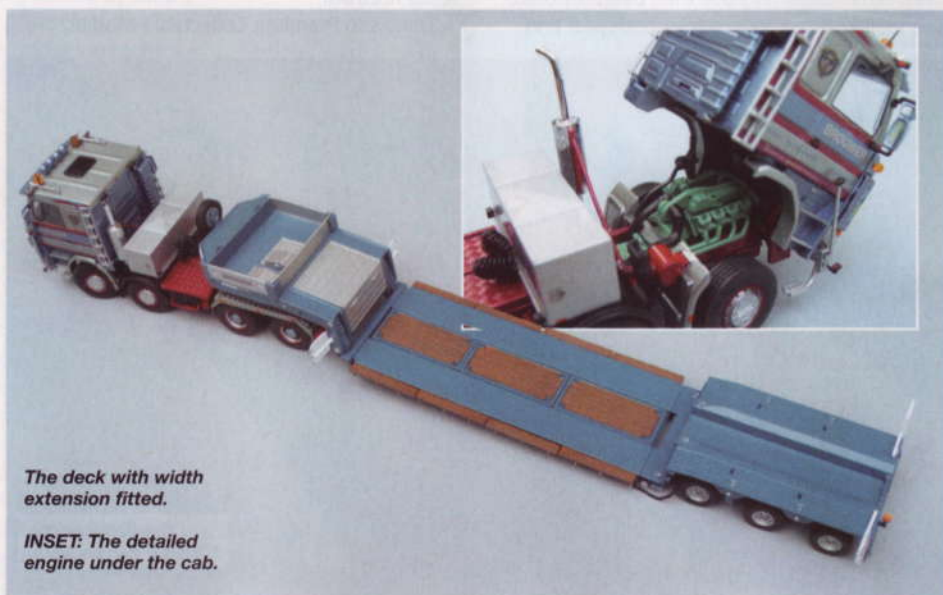
The deck sections of the trailer are very thin with metal supports for the plastic width extension timbers. The main deck section is extendible providing a variety of configurations and the smaller deck section can be fitted or left out.

At maximum length the vehicle is an impressive 60cm long. Two pairs of plastic ramps are supplied to enable loading of the deck or bogie top, and plastic width markers can be fitted.

The rear bogie is metal with steering rear axles which can be set to show proportional steering. Tiny silvered non-functioning tie-down loops are modelled, and at the rear the lights are painted in a simple manner.

This is a high-quality model which is relatively pricey at around £180 but this reflects the high quality.

A very detailed Scania tractor.



The deck with width extension fitted.

INSET: The detailed engine under the cab.

Dynapac SD2500 WS Paver

The Dynapac SD2500 WS is a wheeled paver with a hydraulically extendible screed and it can lay up to 700 tonnes per hour. NZG has modelled it in 1:50 scale and it comes in a Dynapac branded box.

Underneath there is a large material auger visible, and the rubber tyres have a convincing tread pattern and nicely detailed hubs. The wheels roll smoothly although there is no steering.

The folding hopper sides are metal as is the material conveyor, and there is a pivoting bar with rollers to engage the wheels of a discharging tipper truck.

The operator's area is of a good standard with a diamond plated floor and a couple of seats. The control console is particularly finely detailed and it slides on a bar and can be positioned on either side. To further improve the operator's view forward the whole of the operator's platform slides from side to side.

The operator's console.



The screed has diamond plate surfacing and there are excellent control consoles on each end. The whole screed can be raised and lowered and each side of the screed can be opened up for width with clever multi-stage cylinders.

Overall rating: *Highly recommended*

For displaying in a transport mode, the canopy roof folds down to lower the headroom and a linkage achieves the same with the exhaust pipe. NZG has produced some good paver models in the past and this maintains the high standard. It is good value at around £80.

The Dynapac paver has rubber tyres with an authentic-looking tread pattern



Caterpillar 583 pipelayer

Overall rating: *Recommended*

This is a very unusual model by Conrad produced exclusively for the Vinci webshop. It is a 1:50 scale pipelayer and is made from a casting used by Conrad around 1997 when it was then released as a Caterpillar 583. The Vinci company Spiecapag is a specialist in pipeline construction, and this model is in its markings and has been made in a limited run of 250 models.

The metal tracks are of heavy construction and very smooth rolling. They are mounted on track frames which look good, although the drive sprocket and idler wheel are simple plastic items.

The body is a heavy metal casting with the radiator grille at the front represented by graphics, and the engine is metal. It is interesting that there are no indications on the model that this is a Caterpillar machine and all the applied graphics are of Spiecapag.

The heavy counterweight on the pipelayer.



The sideboom is a simple metal structure and its angle can be adjusted using a working winch. The hook can also be raised and lowered. To provide balance the counterweight can move out on a couple of hydraulic cylinders.

This is an interesting model because of its history and it is solidly made and largely metal. It is expensive at around £200 which no doubt reflects the very limited edition nature of the model and it can be obtained from the Vinci webshop: www.webshop-vinci.com.

The Caterpillar pipelayer.



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