

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Vogele Super 1900-2 tracked paver

The Vogele Super 1900-2 tracked paver can lay up to 900 tonnes of material per hour and this 1:50 scale model by NZG has recently been released in the colours of Jean Lefebvre which is part of the Vinci Group. The packaging includes a reprint of a brochure about the real machine which is a nice touch.

The rubber tracks roll reasonably well as long as the model moves in a straight line and there is a non-functioning spreader auger on the underside. At the front, the hopper sides are metal and can close in to force material onto the belt.

The body is smart looking with deep grilles and nice graphics. The operator's station has a textured floor, a finely-detailed console and the two seats are good. Both seats can

be rotated out to provide a better view forwards, and the roof canopy above can be extended to provide shelter. The operator's console can move on a rail from side to side.

The screed has textured surfaces and high quality handrails. Each end of the screed has a computer console and these are very finely detailed indeed. The screed can be raised and lowered, and can be extended on both sides for width.

As a further posing possibility, the canopy roof can be lowered to lower the headroom for travelling on a transport vehicle.

This is a very high quality model by NZG which is almost all metal. It looks really good and has great functionality. It is a limited edition model available from the Vinci webshop (www.webshop-vinci.com) for around £80 and it is very good value.

Overall rating: Outstanding

Main: The Vogele is a good transport load.



Above: Laying the black stuff, the Vogele Super.
Left: The Vogele Super 1900-2.

Faymonville Telemax trailer

Faymonville is a Belgian manufacturer of trailers for the specialist haulage industry and Conrad has been licensed to produce this 1:50 scale model of a four-axle Telemax trailer with a MAN TGX XLX 6x4 tractor. Telemax extendible trailers can be stretched to lengths up to 53m.



Above: The Faymonville Telemax hauls a long beam.

The MAN tractor has a detailed chassis, and a very hard lock can be obtained on the steering. The wheels are smart, with different width tyres front and rear and there is some suspension movement on the rear axles.

The cab decoration is plain with colour coded door mirrors and detail provided by beacon lights, mirrors, aerials and wipers. Behind the cab, the wheel arches are plastic and the rear lights have plastic lenses. The cab can tilt forward to reveal the engine.

The trailer structure is metal and is modelled convincingly while the axle components, landing legs and feet are plastic. The trailer axles have linked steering and it works well with a degree of proportionality. The main

telescopic beams are metal and the telescoping extendible deck mechanism is smooth, works well and is in three stages with each section having a locking pin. When stretched out to the maximum, the whole model is a very impressive 100cm long.

The deck surface has patterning with Faymonville graphics on the edges. Plastic width markers fit to the front and rear, and metal deck posts can also be fitted.

As usual, the Conrad quality is high and the model is strong and robust with a high metal content. It is pretty good value at around £110.

Overall rating: Highly recommended



Above: The rear steering on the trailer.

Liebherr R954C excavator

The Liebherr R954C crawler excavator is a machine with an operating weight in the 49-62 tonne range and this 1:50 model by Conrad and has been commissioned by Heavy Transport Models (HTM) in the striking colours of Christen, a Swiss construction company.

The metal tracks are individually linked and they are mounted on track frames which are single-piece castings without any moving rollers. The tracks roll well and are mounted on spring-loaded idlers so are removable.

The cab has some detailing and the body casting is good with grilles and mostly metal grab rails all around, and the Liebherr name is nicely cast in relief on the back.

There are plastic hydraulic lines at the boom foot, and to the bucket cylinder.

Other casting details on the boom and stick add to the realism but the colour match of the plastic hydraulic cylinder jackets to the metal parts is just

slightly off. The bucket is cast well with good teeth.

In terms of functionality the model rotates and the boom and stick have a very good range of movement as does the bucket. The hydraulic cylinders are stiff so the model can be posed in any position.

The decoration of the model is impressive with very good graphics applied. It is a limited edition model which HTM sell for around £90.

Overall rating: Recommended

Below: The Liebherr loading a Volvo dumpertruck.



Above: The Liebherr R954C looks great in Christen livery.

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