

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Liebherr LRB 255 'Soletanche Bachy'

The Liebherr LRB 255 is a piling machine and in this 1:50 scale version it is equipped with a sheet pile vibrator. It is produced by NZG in the colours of the foundation specialist, Soletanche Bachy.

The track frames have good detail and are retractable to represent a transport configuration. The tracks are metal and are made up of fine and delicate links which roll but are somewhat stiff.

Detailing on the body is generally excellent with the cab having a realistic appearance and at the rear the Liebherr name is embossed in the counterweight.

The leader is metal and dead straight and various hoses complete the complex look of the model. The vibrator tool is a very heavy solid piece and has two plastic pile clamps which can grip the supplied replica piles. A plastic base is also included and it has grooves for

The Liebherr LRB 255 at work.

inserting the model sheet piles to make an effective display.

The body has opening doors to access the winches for which special keys are provided. At the top of the leader is another working auxiliary winch which has a small hook and chain attached. All the sliding parts on the leader work well.

This is a very detailed model with excellent engineering

and a particular feature is that the model can be displayed in working or transport configuration. The overall impression is highly favourable and the bright red colour scheme of Soletanche Bachy results in a very striking model. It has been made in a limited edition of 300 models and can be obtained from the VINCI web shop for around £140.



The Liebherr LRB 255 folded up and being transported.

Overall rating:
Outstanding



Volvo L250G wheel loader

The Volvo L250G is a wheel loader with an operating weight of around 35 tonnes. This 1:50 scale model from Motorart is configured with a rock bucket. It comes in a Volvo branded box but there is no information about the model or real machine.

Under the body the transmission is modelled well with realistic differentials and the tyre tread pattern is good too. The wheels roll easily and the rear axle has a significant amount of oscillation. Unfortunately the front axle oscillates too rather than being fixed so the whole machine rocks unrealistically. Steering across the pivot point on the review model was just about adequate, but not as much as the real loader.

The engine cover is represented effectively with sharp graphics and a decent plastic exhaust and under the tilting cover there is a plastic engine. It is made up of a number of coloured components and looks good.

Outside the cab there are good metal handrails and the steps and platforms have a textured surface. The cab has wipers front and rear, plastic mirrors and a number of thin metal grab rails.

At the front, the loader mechanism has discrete

connections which are painted and unobtrusive and hydraulic hoses run to the bucket tipping cylinder. However the mechanism only rises to a low height and the tilting mechanism is shallow.

The rock bucket is a good metal casting with nice teeth and grille. This model looks good but it is unfortunate that the model engineering is not

so good and it is a little on the expensive side at £87 from the Volvo web shop.



Overall rating:
Unclassified



Volvo L250G wheel loader.

Link-Belt 250 X3 excavator

This new 1:50 scale model from Conrad is of the 25 tonne Link-Belt 250 X3 excavator. It is unusual in that it comes in a completely plain box with just a small label rather than reflecting the brand of the American company, Link-Belt.

The tracks are metal and free rolling and they sit on track frames which are reasonably detailed although there are no moving parts other than the sprockets. The body is metal and the casting has a reasonable level of detail within it, and the access handrail is also metal. The cab has a reasonably detailed interior with a plastic grab rail outside.

The boom and stick are metal castings and the hydraulics have been enhanced with plenty of hoses running the length of the boom and stick, and the cylinder jackets have pipework detail. The bucket is cast well with good teeth.

It rotates and the boom and stick have a good range of movement as does the bucket.

The hydraulic cylinders are stiff so the model can be posed in any position.

This is solid model from Conrad with a high metal content and the paint and graphics are very good. It is a little expensive though at around £90.

Overall rating:
Recommended

The Link-Belt 250 X3 excavator.



The Link-Belt loading a tipper.

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