

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Liebherr R 9100 mining excavator

The Liebherr R 9100 is a mining excavator which has an operating weight of around 110 tonnes and this model from Conrad is 1:50 scale. There is no assembly to do other than adding a mirror and ladder.

The metal track pads are detailed and the track frames are a good representation of the real machine. The tracks are tensioned and they roll well on a rough surface. The operator's cab has tinted windows and outside there is a nice mesh

walkway with realistic metal handrails. It has a plastic access ladder which slides up and down.

The body casting is good with some very nice grilles on each side and the graphics are sharp. A couple of video cameras are modelled in plastic. The inside of the body looks good with a mesh platform and plastic

The 9100 an impressive machine.



hydraulic equipment. Hoses run to the boom foot, and there are hoses and pipes on the main boom rams.

The gooseneck boom has plastic pipe arrays and

hoses, and the short stick includes lifting eye shapes, but without holes. In terms of functionality, the boom, stick and bucket have a good range of movement with cylinders that are stiff enough to hold any pose. The bucket is a large and detailed single casting with good teeth.

It is good to see a new model of a Liebherr mining machine and, as expected from Conrad, this is a very solid model with a high metal content and is good value at around £100.

Overall rating:
Highly recommended

The Liebherr 9100 loading a truck.



Caterpillar Mega MWT30 water tanker

The Caterpillar Mega MWT30 water tanker is based on the chassis of a Caterpillar 785D mining truck and is a conversion produced by the Mega Corporation with a tank capacity of 30,000 gallons. It is used for dust suppression during mining activities. This model by Norscot is in 1:50 scale.

The large tyres are good with a bulge in the sidewalls and a strong tread pattern, and the steering has a reasonable range of movement. The chassis has a heavy construction and the rear axle has a working suspension mechanism.

The front of the model is impressive with lots of fine metal handrails although the ladders and stairs are plastic, as is other equipment on the cab deck. The driving cab is metal with some interior detail, and it also has metal grab rails and a windscreen wiper.

The water tank is a large metal casting with a 'Mega'

The big Caterpillar Mega MWT30 water tanker.



logo on each side. The ladder and rails along the edges are soft plastic, as is the red water cannon at the front. At the rear the spraying bar and valves are metal and nicely formed. The water tank can be tipped to a steep angle and the dual stage rams are stiff enough to hold any pose.

This is a robust model which has a number of plastic elements, but the colour match is good so the plastic is not obvious. It is large and goes well with other mining equipment models but is not cheap at around £200.

Overall rating:
Recommended

Liebherr R 936 crawler excavator

The Liebherr R 936 is a 30-tonne crawler excavator designed for civil engineering applications and this model from NZG is in 1:50 scale. No assembly is required and NZG thoughtfully provides some spare track links and pins.

The track pads are metal with some good detailing and they are mounted on track frames which have some fine casting details and also working rollers. The tracks are fairly stiff but when loosened up they do roll on a rough surface.

The cab has very thin metal grab rails and windscreen wipers and the windows have detailed frames and seals. It looks great inside with

the joysticks and levers being highlighted in black. The curved body is cast well with excellent graphics and highlighted panel handles. Up on top, the engine cover is top notch with detail in the casting and tiny hinges highlighted with silver paint. The grab rails are metal and other details are carefully painted. At the boom foot there are many soft rubber hydraulic hoses which give an authentic look.

The hydraulics on the boom are modelled really well with silver pipes indicated on the boom and cylinders, and more soft hoses. The movement of the boom and stick is very good with a pleasant stiffness in the cylinders. The bucket is a good casting with nice teeth and the working quick hitch facility is modelled effectively. This is a high quality model with a very good finish. The metal content is high and the paint and graphics are really nice. It is very good value at around £50.

Overall rating:
Highly recommended

The Liebherr R 936 on the way to the site.



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