



TRUCKING IN MINIATURE

We review a range of truck models of interest to collectors and admirers alike

By Ian Webb

PHOTOGRAPHY IAN WEBB

Mercedes-Benz Actros Snow Plough & Spreader (£100)

This model is made by Conrad of Germany and is a 4x2 Mercedes-Benz Actros, fitted with snow equipment. It comes in a Conrad branded box and there are a number of parts to fit, but

no instructions. Chassis detailing is good, with suspension and transmission modelled. The steering is very good also, allowing a hard lock to be obtained. The Actros cab is detailed well and tilts to reveal an engine block underneath.

Behind the cab there is a chromed fuel tank, plastic wheel arches, and the rear

lights are painted. The truck features a loader crane, which has working plastic stabilisers and metal boom sections which can be unfolded and rotated. Two plastic telescopic sections can be extended to provide greater reach.

The tipper body is metal with ribbed sides and warning graphics. It tilts to a good angle and also has sides which can be dropped.

At the front, the detachable snowplough has a metal blade with anti-wear plates on the bottom edge, and a plastic top chute. It can be raised for transport or lowered for ploughing, and can also be angled to either side.

The spreader equipment can be detached from the truck and stands on its own legs. The detail is good and under the removable lid, the hopper has a plastic screw to push material to the spreader.

At the rear, the access ladder folds down and the spreader disc can be positioned in-service, or raised up.

This is a typically well-made Conrad model, and is packed with working features allowing it to be posed in many different ways. It offers good value at around £100.



Spreader at the rear, lowered for action



Using the loader crane

Mercedes-Benz Actros with snow equipment mounted



OUR RATING



Scania R & Tipping Bulk Powder Trailer (£150)

This 1:50 scale model by WSI is one of a series of trucks operated by the Austrian company, Silo Melmer. The detailed artwork celebrates the Tirolean valley of Pitztal and is produced by the artist Knud Tiroch.

The Scania R420 chassis is excellent, with the transmission and suspension modelled in metal. There is also a full array of tanks and an exhaust system. The steering mechanism doesn't move far before fouling, but it's possible to achieve a hard lock. External cab detail

includes air horns, mirrors and wipers. Cab artwork is very high quality, and it tilts forward to reveal a detailed engine with different coloured components.

The trailer is top quality – the axles have a detailed working suspension with good tyres and wheels, and the chassis has a good structure.

The tank decoration is another very fine piece of modelling artwork. It is very detailed and applied well, given the complexity of some parts of the tank shape.

The pipework, hoses, valves and hatches all look convincing. The landing

legs at the front can be lowered to support the trailer, and stabilisers at the rear can be lowered to provide stability during tipping. The tank can be tipped to a reasonable angle, and the cylinders will hold any pose.

With regard to high quality artwork, this model has an impressive act to follow in terms of the real truck – and it succeeds. However, it is also very well engineered, with good functionality. It is reasonable value at around £150.

OUR RATING



Art on wheels with 'Silo Melmer' highly decorated Scania

Seddon Atkinson Strato & Trailer (£85)

This is another model from the Corgi Hauliers of Renown series. It is a Seddon Atkinson Strato 325 tractor and 40 ft trailer, in the colours of Brian Harris.

The model comes in Corgi's usual high quality packaging, and includes a Collector Card which has the truck's unique serial

Seddon Atkinson Strato in Brian Harris colours with chain load



number, within the production run of 1000 models. The only assembly you are required to do is to attach the mirrors and aerials to the cab, and to add the supplied load.

The Strato is solidly made, with a good transmission and some engine detail underneath, but the steering

is fixed. The best aspect is the intricate graphics and paintwork on the cab, and it looks really good. There are coloured air lines behind the cab, and number plates front and rear.

The trailer has a simple chassis with decent wheels, and the support legs can be posed in an up or down position. The deck has sharply defined planking, and there are good graphics along the trailer edges too.

As a flatbed, the trailer can be posed empty, but the supplied load is an interesting mix of parts including a heavy-looking metal chain which looks very good, with a rust-like finish.

This is a well-made model with very sharp graphics and paintwork and it can be obtained for around £85 or less.

OUR RATING

