

Wilbert tower crane

German-based Wilbert started out in the 1930s as a construction company but by the late 1990s its focus had shifted to plant hire, and just before the millennium it decided to concentrate exclusively on tower cranes. It had built up a large fleet based on Wolff cranes and in 2003 went one stage further by building its first tower crane to its own design. Now Wilbert produces a range of top slewing and luffing jib cranes.

Wilbert has now commissioned the first scale model of one of its cranes and has chosen the crane which started it all, the WT200. This is a flat top tower crane which was designed specifically to reduce transport costs and it achieves this in part with the unusual stepped design of the jib which allows the smaller sections to be inserted and transported within the larger ones.

In fact the whole top section of a 60 metre jib version can be carried on two trucks.

The model has been produced by Conrad of Germany, and is in 1:87 scale which is the standard size for tower crane models. As it represents a crane with a 60 metre jib, the model is still large and is 900mm (3ft) from tip to tip. Sadly no instructions are provided to help build the model but it is not difficult and should take under an hour.

The tower sections are derived from previous Wolff models and fit together using pins which produce connections stiff enough to keep the mast straight. Plastic ladders and platforms give the tower a realistic feel. The operator's cab is a nice piece of modelling as it is fully metal including some nice thin handrails which are difficult to produce in this scale. The window of the cab even includes a windscreen wiper.

Mast base



Straight up



The Wilbert WT200

The counter jib is a heavy piece, which includes counterweight blocks modelled to look like concrete slabs. It also has Wilbert's trademark advertising sign panels which are a design feature of the crane. The main jib is very well made in three separate pieces which simply bolt together. However the real achievement is that Conrad has produced a jib which is dead straight and looks great. It also includes the complicated piece where the cross section of the jib changes and like the other parts it is fully triangulated and is an excellent casting.

Among the features of the model, the hook can be raised and lowered by turning the winch drum, and the trolley can be placed at any position on the jib although this has to be done by hand as the trolley winch is non functional.

Overall this is a very nice model of a rarer tower crane. Apart from the lack of instructions the model has plenty to recommend it. There is enough detail to look convincing, and the model engineering produces a realistic looking crane. It is available directly from the Wilbert web shop at a price of €100.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	7
Detail (max 30)	18
Features (max 20)	13
Quality (max 25)	18
Price (max 15)	9
Overall (max 100)	65%

Advertising sign at the back



The trademark stepped jib

