

Big Wolffs

The German company Wolff was taken into private ownership in 2005 and since then has expanded and improved its range of tower cranes. Now four new scale models of Wolff tower cranes have been released in 1:87 scale manufactured by Ros of Italy. The range includes the company's smallest flat top crane, the 4517 city crane and the large 379t/m 7532 saddle jib unit, but the models we are reviewing here are its mid range 6031 Clear flat-top and its mid range luffer, the 28 tonne 355B.



The 355B luffer

These models come in very large boxes because they have been designed to be assembled with the minimum amount of work. Both the mast and the entire crane above the slew ring are fully assembled and just need to be joined together. Also all the reeving is complete, so there is no fiddly work to do which is an advantage in this scale. A CD is included with each model and this has simple assembly instructions although surprisingly information and specification sheets about the real machine have not been included which we think is a missed opportunity.

The tower on each crane is good, with internal plastic ladders and

platforms, it sits on a cruciform base which is then screwed on to a base plate to increase stability. Heavy blocks cast and painted to look like concrete provide additional ballast to the base. The climbing frame is a large piece although the access platforms seem a little too narrow, and strangely the entry point for new mast sections has lattice work across it. Also there is no hydraulic jacking cylinder modelled. A set of floodlights is included which can be attached to the mast and these make a nice detail.

The 6031 is a flat top or topless crane fitted with the scaled equivalent of a 65 metre jib which is nice and straight. Ros have included a working trolley function and this is operated by turning the winch motor to move the trolley. Mesh walkways are included and these add to the look of the model.

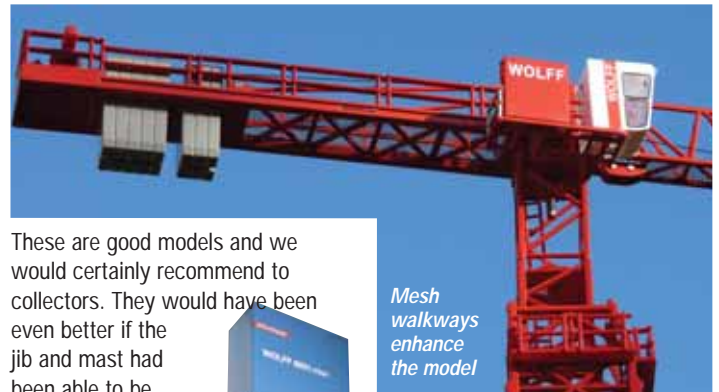
The 355B is a luffing jib crane which the company introduced at Bauma in 2007. The machine deck is very well modelled with cabinets

and mesh flooring, and the jib is reasonably straight. Ros have chosen to make a couple of the jib restraining cables out of plastic rather than thread and these look too large in this scale, although an experienced collector could replace these.

Both the cabs on these models are of the same design and include windscreen wipers and a driver's seat. The hook blocks are metal and include tiny brass sheaves. Also included is a Wolffkran nameplate to hang from the hook.



The 6031 topless crane has a good straight jib



Mesh walkways enhance the model



The detail on the machine deck is good

These are good models and we would certainly recommend to collectors. They would have been even better if the jib and mast had been able to be split into sections like the real thing so that different configurations could have been built. The 6031 costs 115, and the 355B 125 and they can be purchased from Wolff directly.

To read the full review of these models visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

The cranes come in a very large box



Detail on the climbing frame could be better

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	21
Features (max 20)	14
Quality (max 25)	18
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	73%