

Small plant & machinery

Ian Webb looks at what is new in the scale model world, and reviews models of interest to collectors.

The summer generally marks a period of slower news about new model introductions, but one exception to this is Norscot which is making several new Caterpillar models available later this year. These include two-wheel loaders, the 966A and 993K, and an 854K wheel dozer. Also coming is a D7E dozer, a 613F scraper and a 140M grader. All these models will

be in 1:50 scale and will hopefully build upon Norscot's recent improvements in detail and quality.

TWH Collectibles have announced that it will introduce the first in a series of heavy haulage vehicles based on Australian Drake Trailers at the end of the year and these should provide some interesting variety in that area of model collecting.

Reviews

CASE CX240B MH



Above: The Case CX240B ready for work.



Right: With other models the Case forms a nice mini display.

The Case CX240B is a tracked excavator in the 25t class and in this model version it is configured with an elevating cab and a material handling grab. It is 1:50 scale and is made by the German model company, Conrad.

Out of the box, the first impression is that this is a heavy and solid model with very little use of plastic. The tracks are metal and roll very nicely on the track frames. The body of the machine has a variety of detail within the casting including grilles and handles for the body panels.

The cab is particularly well detailed with a mirror and a debris screen on the front window. Internally, the seat and controls are modelled convincingly.

A main feature of the model is the cab elevating mechanism and this works very well and enables interesting poses to be set.

The boom has hydraulic lines within the casting which enhances the feeling of detail. At the end of the boom, the grab is all metal and can be opened and closed and set to hold a modest load.

Overall, this is a typical high-quality Conrad model. It is very well engineered, with a nice paint finish and enough detail to represent the real machine well. However Conrad models are not the cheapest and all this comes at a price of around £110.

Overall Rating: *Highly recommended*

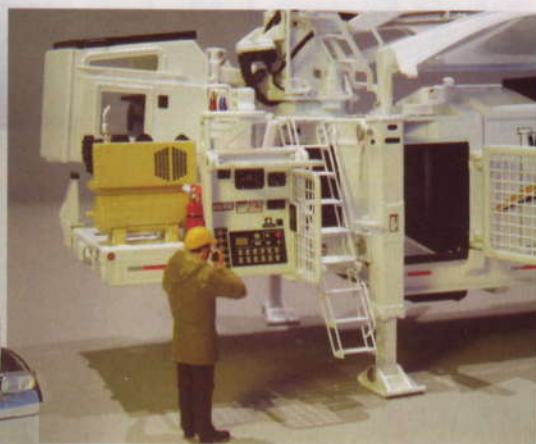


Above: Very good cab detail, including access steps, on the elevating mechanism.

VERMEER TG7000 TUB GRINDER



Above: The tub grinder in transport mode towed by the Peterbilt 379 tractor.



Above: Excellent details at the external control panel.

Right: The tub opens up to provide access to the cutter drum.



Above: A detailed view inside the tub.

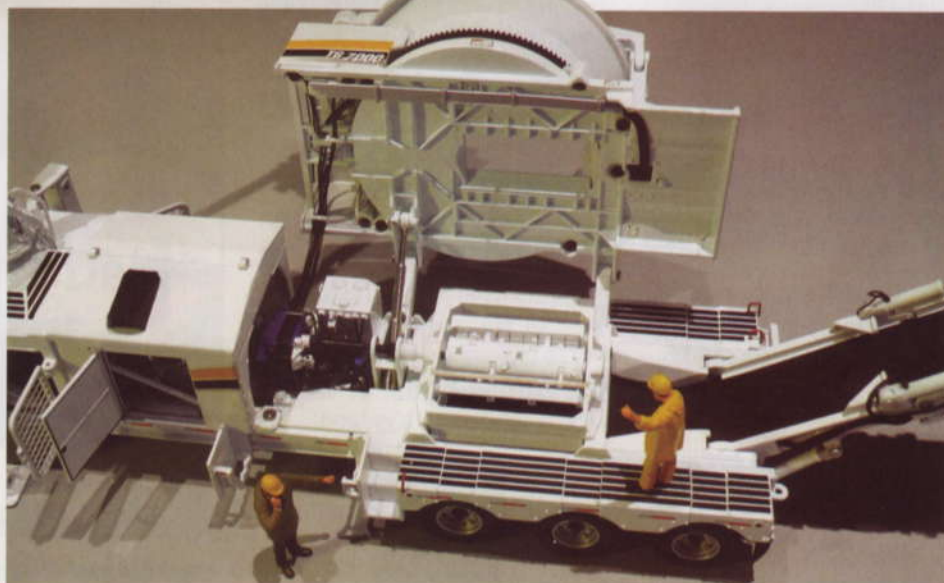
Vermeer is an American company and makes a variety of heavy equipment aimed at the excavation and agricultural sectors. In conjunction with TWH Collectibles it has

recently launched a range of 1:50 scale models, the latest release being the TG7000 Tub Grinder.

This is a powerful machine for large land clearing projects and organic/wood waste processing applications. It features a cutting drum which can mulch trees, trunks and all, into fine material. Included with the model is a replica brochure which describes the real machine and this is a nice touch which other model makers should follow.

The model is exceptionally detailed and this starts underneath the model with hydraulic hosing running to all of the axles, which also have accurate suspension details. At the front, the control panel is

Below: The tub grinder set-up with a few cones marking a safety zone.



beautifully rendered and is protected by opening mesh screens which protect the operator from any flying debris. The tub grinder is a violent piece of equipment, and also supplied are some tiny cones which can be used to demarcate a safety zone around the machine.

The tub mechanism is excellent. It rotates and can also be tilted open to provide access to the cutting drum and here again the detail level is exceptional with all the drive equipment and hosing authentically reproduced. The other main parts of the tub grinder are first class also. The conveyor mechanism has a very nice rubber belt which works, and can be folded for transport.

The grab boom also can be folded up if necessary, but when deployed the boom is fully adjustable and the grab can be opened and closed. The detail of the hydraulic lines on the boom structure is some of the best yet seen in a mass-produced model.

To pull the tub grinder, a Peterbilt 379 tractor unit is supplied and this does not fall short in comparison to the tub grinder. Again the detail level is very high, with some impressive small graphics.

There are plenty of features to provide interest also, with the cab having opening doors and the hood at the front tilting to reveal a fully detailed engine. The axles have working suspension, with one axle able to be lifted out of service if required.

Overall the tub grinder is a stunning model, combining great detailing with plenty of working features. Plastic, where used, enhances the detail and does not detract from the look of the model. The quality of the model is such that it is very good value at around £240.

Overall Rating: Outstanding

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