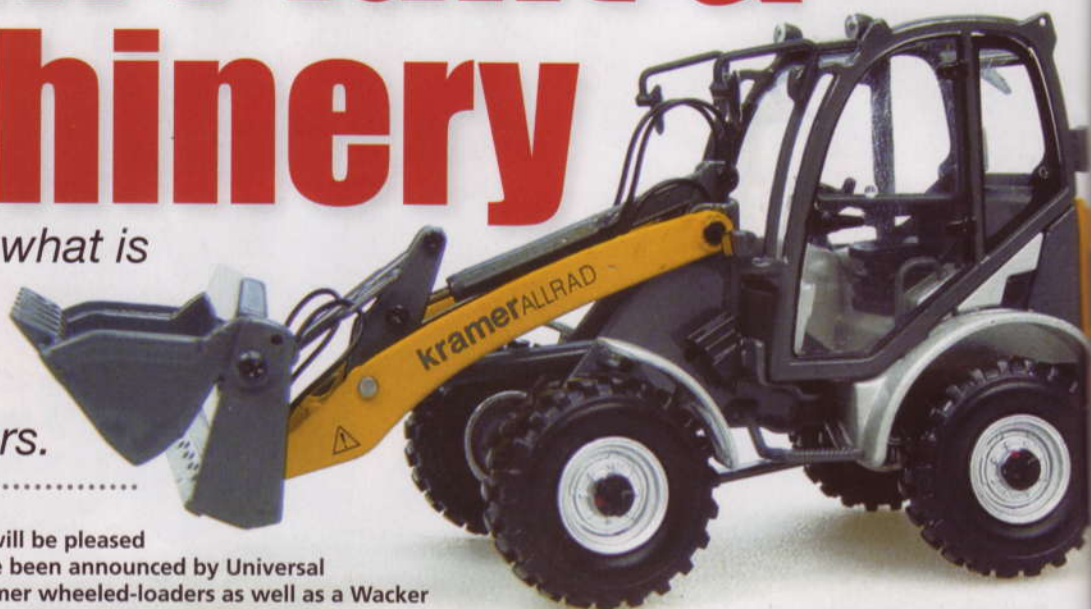


Small Plant & Machinery

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



Collectors of smaller models will be pleased that some new releases have been announced by Universal Hobbies including three Kramer wheeled-loaders as well as a Wacker dumper and skid steer loader which are both older models appearing in new colours.

There is also a new version of the Sennebogen 835M materials handler becoming available which updates the previous version made by Conrad, and a model of a Soilmec SR-100 foundation machine is also expected soon.

REVIEWS

Peterbilt Model 355 Mechanic Truck



Above: Opening chests are full of equipment.
Below: The Peterbilt 355.

This is new release by TWH Collectibles is a model of an American truck used by mechanics to service plant and machinery. The version reviewed here is in the colours of Manitowoc, which makes Grove and Potain cranes amongst others. It is also available in a number of other colours.

Underneath, the model has a high level of detail with replicated transmission and cabling and this standard continues around the rest of the truck. The cab has windscreen wipers and mirrors as well as a pair of tiny aerials on the roof. At the rear there is a vice which is rendered well.

The model has a number of features.

The cab doors open and the whole bonnet tilts forward to review the engine and is even realistically restrained in the open position by a couple of ties. There are also a couple of opening cabinets filled with various pieces of equipment. A small hoist can also be positioned as if lifting something, although it is non-functioning.

The standard of the applied graphics is extremely high with the smallest writing being perfectly legible with a magnifying glass.

The Peterbilt poses particularly well with a model crane from the Manitowoc Company to provide an interesting display. It costs around £120.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended



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

Poclair TP30 Excavator

Below: The Poclair TP30 Excavator.



Above: The opening bonnet of the Poclair TP30 Excavator.

Poclair of France was the first company to develop a hydraulic excavator. This is an interesting model of an historic machine and forms part of the Poclair Heritage Collection.

Unusually, the excavator is mounted on a GMC truck chassis and so looks a little strange. However the model is made by Conrad and is to its normal high quality with plastic sparingly used and a very

nice paint finish. The detail level is pretty good too. The truck tyres and hubs look authentic, and the spartan nature of the original machine is captured well.

The functionality of the model is pleasing. The steering on the front axle works well with a good, hard, lock able to be obtained. It also features an opening bonnet and cab door. At the rear of the truck is an outrigger beam and the pads

fold down to provide stability during digging. The clamshell can be opened and closed and the boom can be posed in any position. Fortunately the boom cylinders are stiff enough to hold any pose set.

The Poclair is a good model which will appeal to collectors of models of old machines at a price of around £80.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended

Liebherr HS 855 HD Crawler Crane



Above: The Liebherr HS855 HD rigged as a dragline.

This model is made by NZG and is its first crawler crane for Liebherr. It is a very highly-engineered piece with lots of parts in the box and the brass nuts and bolts used to join boom sections are some of the smallest found. It has to be assembled and rigged and instructions are supplied to help the collector. A couple of hours are needed to build it up and reeve the ropes.

The model is very well made with

excellent metal tracks mounted on frames which can be removed from the undercarriage if desired. Detailing on the body is also very good with the operator's cab having mirrors and an aerial while at the back the counterweight slabs are good castings.

All the crane functions are fully usable. The winches are operated using supplied tools and are accessed by opening doors



Above: Detailed cab.

on the body which means the look of the model is not compromised by holes in the bodywork.

A feature of the model is that it can be rigged in two separate modes either as a crane or as a dragline. The dragline bucket supplied is a very nice, detailed, piece on its own. The crane can also be stripped down and posed as a transport load on a suitable heavy low-loader.

This is a top-quality crane model and is available for around £140.

Overall Rating: Outstanding