

Lofty Liebherr

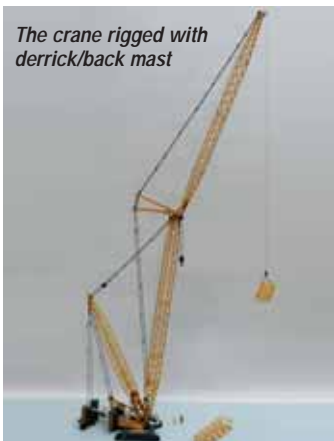
Liebherr procures its models from a number of different suppliers and has recently commissioned many by NZG of Germany. The latest crane model to appear is the 1:50 scale version of the LR1300 crawler crane. The real life crane has a maximum capacity of 300 tonnes and can lift to heights of over 170 metres when rigged with a main boom and luffing jib and is particularly suited to wind turbine work. An optional derrick attachment is also available, and the model also has this available as an optional kit.

The model is packaged really well, with individual pieces wrapped in soft tissue. Building the model is straightforward as the parts fit together well, and the supplied instructions are good.

As usual with NZG models, plastic usage is kept to a minimum and the quality is high. The tracks are metal and are mounted on detailed track frames with individual rollers. They are also detachable from the crane allowing the model to be posed on suitable transport or undergoing erection, so this adds to the flexibility of display.

The operator's cab is finely detailed with mirrors, wipers, lights, grab rails and aerials, and the interior detail is also good. The crane's superstructure has three opening doors which provide access to the winches so there are no unsightly holes in the bodywork.

The crane rigged with derrick/back mast



The ballast weights are beautifully cast and painted and include lifting points so it is possible to pose them being lifted into place. The self erecting cylinders and chains are also modelled and this area looks very authentic. Turning to the boom and jib sections, these are very nicely made with internal bracing on the larger sections and meta

pendants. The parts are joined with tiny brass nuts and bolts which provide an effective connection and special tools are provided with the model to tighten these up.

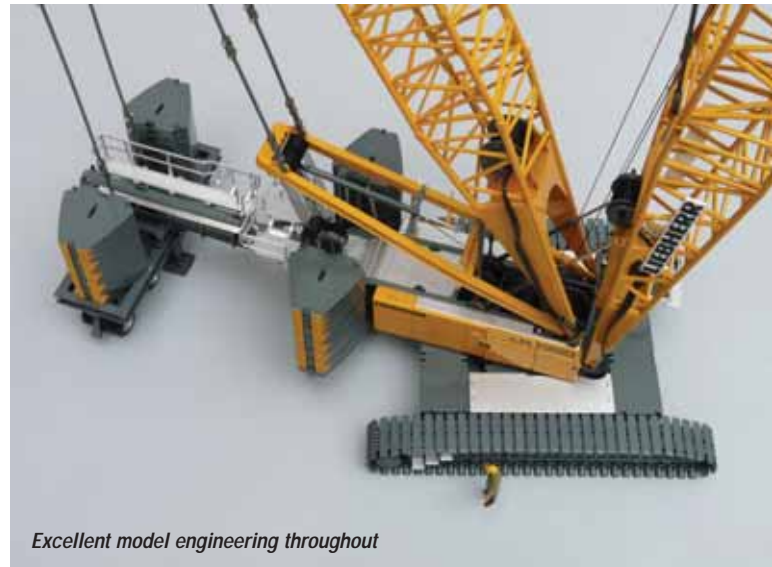
One strange modelling decision the company has made is to permanently connect the boom nose and luffing jib butt section so that the model has to be displayed with its luffing jib and this means the model is inevitably large. Skilled collectors will be able to drill out the connections to allow the crane to be displayed with the main boom only, but it is pity this was not provided for in the design of the model.

The derrick/back mast set provides additional boom and jib sections as well as a back mast and ballast carrier and the quality of these items matches that of the base model. Two hooks are supplied and this provides different rigging opportunities.

Overall this is a very well engineered model which stands 2.3 metres high when fully erected with the derrick kit, so it looks very impressive in an office environment, or at home. The crane and derrick kit are both available from the Liebherr webshop at €358 and €244 respectively.



Opening doors provide access to the winches



Excellent model engineering throughout



The body as a transport load

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	26
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	23
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	84%