

Flash Liebherr

At this year's bauma exhibition Liebherr introduced its second model of a mobile self-erecting tower crane. Manufactured by Conrad, it is the four axle MK 88 which full size can lift a maximum of eight tonnes, and take two tonnes out to a 45 metre radius.

The model comes in high quality packaging, including black foam rubber which protects the model and gives a presentation feel to it. There are very good instructions to guide setting the crane up and a couple of smaller sheets describe the innovation on the model, but more on this later.

The carrier is impressive with a good level of detail, the steering on all four axles works well and all modes, including crab steering can be posed. Pleasingly, the outrigger beams are metal and the crane's weight is easily supported by them when it is erected. Separate

spreader plates/outrigger mats are also provided and store neatly on the carrier when not in use.

The superstructure is well detailed too and it is good to see that Conrad have switched back to using metal sheaves throughout the model. The winches in the, located within the superstructure, are operated with a supplied key which uses holes in the side of the superstructure panel work, but these are not too obtrusive.

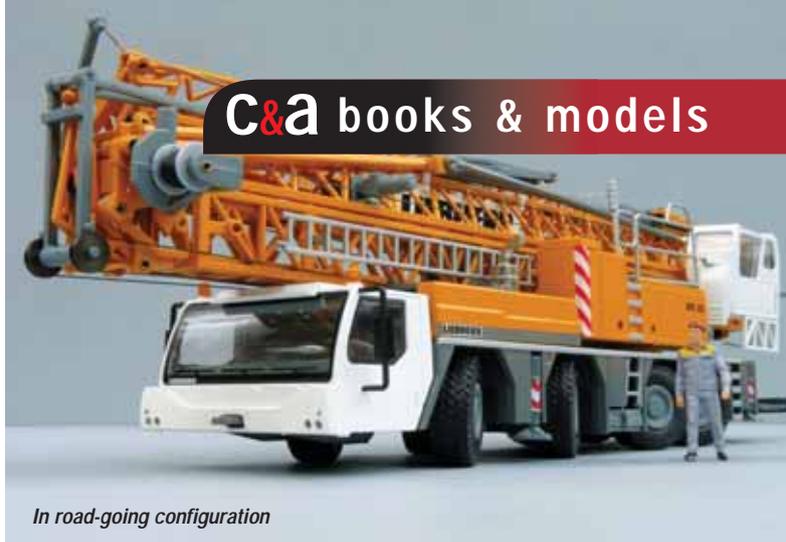
The mast is a telescopic lattice tower and is made of good quality metal castings. The jib is hinged and articulated and Conrad have



Electronics hidden within the model



Outrigger spreader plates are included



In road-going configuration

done a very good job to get the complex model engineering right, to the point that when erected the jib is nice and straight. It is interesting to display the crane during the various stages of erection, and when set up at full height it is big, with the jib around a metre long. The model is quite stable in spite of its size although any significant load on the end of the jib will cause tipping. The operator's cab can be winched up and down the mast in the same way as the real machine.

The main functions of the crane work with the hoist controlled from the keys in the superstructure, and the model slews smoothly. The trolley has to be moved by hand though, as it is not reeved up to the trolley winch.

Conrad has chosen this model to introduce a significant

innovation with the use of electronics. The amber beacon lights on the carrier cab roof can be set to flash realistically using electronics and batteries which are hidden inside the model. It actually works rather well and certainly adds something on a special display occasion. It will be interesting to see if the use of electronics is developed further in future models.

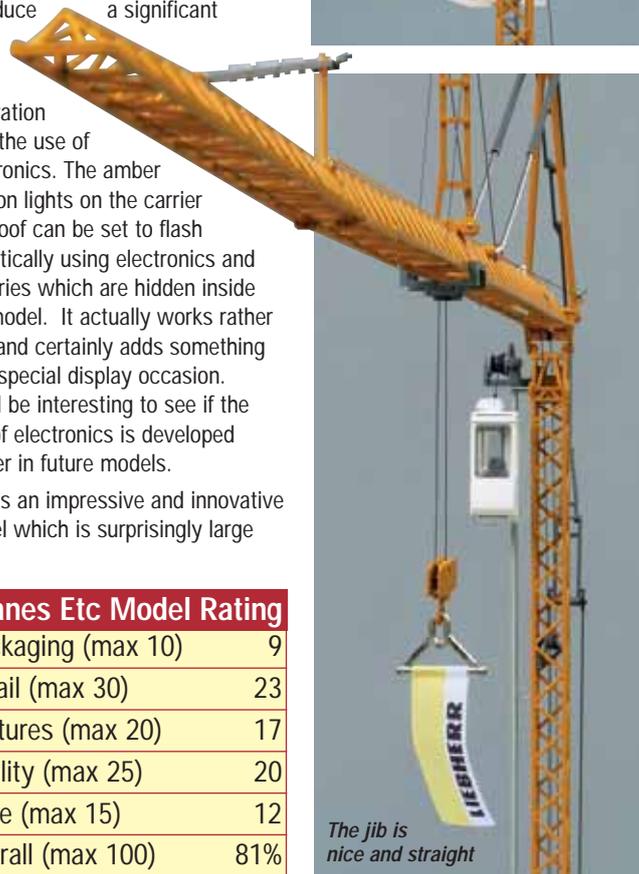
This is an impressive and innovative model which is surprisingly large

when fully erected. It is available from the Liebherr web shop for €255.

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



Inclined jib mode can be posed



The jib is nice and straight

Cranes Etc Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	23
Features (max 20)	17
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	81%