

Small Plant & Machinery

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

A number of new models have been announced by NZG including a quartet of new Liebherr models. These include the LR 1300 crawler crane, the LB 28 piling rig, the RL 64 pipe layer and a R944C tunnelling excavator. Two New Holland models have also been announced, a B115B loader-backhoe and a W170B wheeled loader. Norscot will also be bringing out four long-awaited versions of Caterpillar paving machines. These models are expected to reach the market through the year.

REVIEWS

Sennebogen 835M Materials Handler

This 1:50 scale model is made by NZG and is a new version of a model previously made by Conrad. It is securely packed in a polystyrene carton and there are a few simple parts to attach, which only takes a few minutes.

NZG has done a very good job with the wheels which have excellent tyres mounted on detailed metal hubs. The stabiliser beams and pads are metal and include accurate details such as the lubrication holes in the beams. The operator's cab is first class with very fine details such as thin hand railing and the windscreen wipers are extremely thin, perhaps the thinnest yet seen on a model of this scale. Interior

details are very nice also. The cab elevates and works well, and can be posed at any point. It has a detachable platform which means that the model can be posed in transport mode.

The boom is a good representation of the real machine and includes hydraulic hosing which runs from the body to the stick. A nice metal 'orange peel' grab attaches to the stick and this part is all metal. Unfortunately a scaling problem means that the boom and stick cannot be folded fully horizontally so it does not quite sit low enough on a low loader.

A striking aspect of the model is the green Sennebogen colour scheme and

this is beautifully painted and goes well together with the high quality graphics. Little plastic is used so the model has nice feeling.

Overall this is a very nice model of an unusual machine and it can be posed in a number of ways to provide interesting displays. The model can be obtained for around £85 from the Sennebogen webshop.

Overall Rating:
Highly Recommended



Above: The model has a nicely detailed cab.



Nootboom OSDS semi low-loaders

WSI of Holland has introduced two new models of Nootboom semi low-loaders complete with tractor units. One version is a three-axle trailer with a Scania 4x2 Topline tractor unit, and the second is a four-axle trailer with an Iveco 6x4 tractor unit.

Both tractor units are very high quality. The detail on the chassis is of a high standard, with the suspension and transmission elements reproduced well. Detail on the wheel hubs is excellent, and the tyre tread patterns look convincing with different

tyres on the front and rear axles. They have steerable front axles but as with most WSI models the range of movement is limited which means they cannot be posed realistically turning sharply.

The modelling of the cabs is very pleasing with authentic looking lights which have individual lenses and orange beacon lights. Some of the graphics applied are tiny, yet legible with a magnifying glass. In particular there is a very small V8 sign close to the main headlights on the Scania which is superb. Other details are well thought out, with nice door handles, number plates and very good door mirrors. Both cabs tilt smoothly to a nice angle revealing a detailed plastic engine underneath.

The trailers continue the high quality, high detail approach. The axles have the suspension fully represented and there is hosing running to each wheel. At the front, a couple of landing legs and extendible width markers are nicely modelled. The surface of each trailer is top quality with an excellent representation of a timber surface which has screw holes modelled and the metal surfacing is textured well. Details along the edges of the trailer are really nice with an accurately coloured yellow stripe and tiny tie down points modelled. The goosenecks have connectors for lines from the tractor. A separate pack of metal deck stakes is provided and these plug into holes in the deck edge.

The trailers have very good functionality. They have self-steering axles and working suspension and are extendible to carry longer loads. The deck width can be extended too.

These are two very good models indeed, both for the accuracy of the detailing and the features of the trailers. They can be displayed in a number of different ways and look great when loaded with suitable plant models. Both versions cost around £100 each and are available from the Nootboom webshop, www.nootboomgroup.com/shop/en, and model dealers.

Overall Rating: Outstanding

Below: The impressive Iveco 6x4 tractor unit.



Above: The four-axle trailer, extended and carrying a Komatsu demolition excavator.



Left: The Sennebogen 835M handles some scrap steel.



Above: The three-axle Nootboom OSDS trailer. Below: The smaller trailer loaded with Haulotte access equipment.



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