

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

Some new models are expected soon from WSI Collectibles and these include the four-axle Liebherr LTF 1060 crane which is a telescopic crane mounted on a truck chassis rather than a bespoke carrier. Scheuerle Intercombi modules will also be introduced which will provide something special for heavy haulage collectors. Next year will see WSI bring out the giant Sarens SGC 120 Ring Crane and this may well be the biggest mass produced model in 1:50 scale ever produced.

REVIEWS

Soilmec SR-100 drilling machine

The SR-100 is the largest drilling rig made by Soilmec and it can bore piles up to 92m deep and 3.5m diameter. Soilmec has directly commissioned this 1:50 scale model rather than using one of the established model makers. It comes ready assembled in a large box, but there are no instructions for working the various functions.

It is large model and is stable as some of the larger parts of the drill are plastic rather than metal. The tracks are metal however and look fine and work well. They can also be adjusted to represent either a transport or working situation.

Most of the body is metal and it is reasonably detailed. There are a couple of

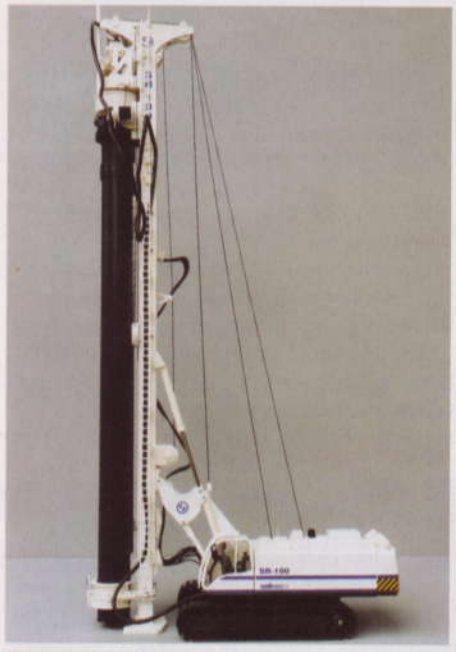
holes for inserting the keys that operate the winches but these are not obtrusive.

The use of plastic for the rotary drives and auger does allow these elements to be detailed and they look impressive with a mass of hydraulic hoses also reproduced. The model is configured as a cased augered pile machine and so it includes some complex spoil removal equipment and this is modelled well.

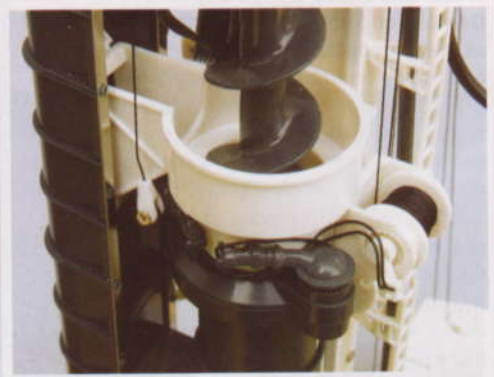
Foundation machines make interesting models and this is a good example. It has not been designed to be fully stripped down for displaying realistically on a low-loader which is a pity, but the mast can be set down for travelling on site.

The SR-100 is available from the Soilmec web shop for around £180 which is perhaps a little expensive but it reflects the uncommon nature of the model.

Overall Rating: Recommended



Left: The SR-100 is quite a large model.



Above: The complex arrangements in the drilling equipment.

Left: The detail is impressive up close.

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

Case CX240B long-reach excavator



Left: The Case CX240B has a long reach.



Above: The model's solid body and detailed cab.

Conrad has produced this 1:50 scale model of a CASE excavator with a long-reach boom. The real machine has a total operating weight of around 28 tonnes and the boom is 10.3m long.

It is quite a heavy model and this reflects the general Conrad approach of using metal rather than plastic. The tracks are

metal and they roll smoothly on the track frames. The metal body casting also has a pleasant level of detail within it. The cab has a detailed interior and a plastic protection grille on the windscreen.

The boom and stick are metal castings and make for an impressive model. There is enough detail such as hydraulic piping to be interesting, and the small bucket is nicely formed.

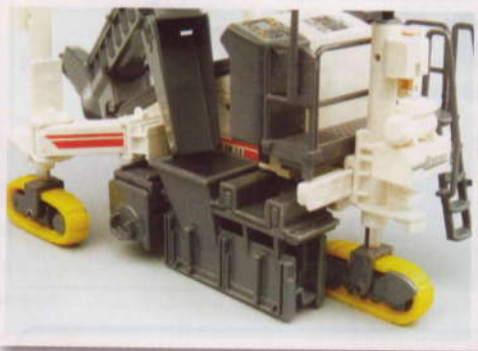
The model is stable at maximum reach

over the front of the tracks but less so over the side. The cylinders are stiff enough to hold the boom and stick at any angle. A good feature is that it can fold up and lay down horizontal so it makes a very good transport load on a suitable heavy haulage vehicle.

This is a typically robust Conrad model and is priced around £85.

Overall Rating: Recommended

Wirtgen SP15 slipform paver



Above: The very fine detailing of the slipform equipment.

An area where models have been relatively rare in the past is paving, and the Wirtgen Group has been rectifying this with a series of models made by NZG and Conrad. The latest model to arrive is the SP 15 slipform paver which has been modelled in 1:50 scale by Conrad. The SP 15 is used to form concrete kerbs and barriers, and machines like this can often be seen on road sites.

The SP 15 is a small and highly detailed model. The three legs each have a yellow rubber track drive and these reflect the look of the real

machine. The legs have pistons to raise the machine, and all three have an adjustable position.

This version of the model features an auger conveyor which turns and the whole assembly can feed the right or left side of the machine. Underneath there is also a trimmer with a working milling wheel.

The operator's control station is excellent with tiny detailed panels and one of them is detachable so it can be operated on either side just like the real machine.

This is an excellent little model which can be posed

working or packed up for transport on a low-loader. A second version is available with a belt conveyor instead of the auger. The cost of the SP 15 was not known at the time of going to press.



Overall Rating: Outstanding