

# Small Plant & Machinery

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

## REVIEWS

### Allelys Goldhofer Modules with Girder Frame

This is a 1:50 scale model, produced by Conrad, of a very large heavy haulage vehicle in the colours of UK heavy haul specialist, Allelys. It comes in a large presentation box with the many parts held within black foam rubber which gives it a quality feel. A colour instruction sheet is provided to guide the assembly of the model in its many configurations.

The tractor unit is a MAN TGX and it looks very smart indeed. The wheels have very good nuts detailed, and the front two axles have linked steering. Both the cab

and the equipment mounted behind it are replicated very well. The ballast box at the rear can be disconnected from the fifth wheel so the tractor can be joined to an ordinary trailer if desired.



Above: The structure towers over the figure of a worker.



Above: The Allelys girder frame trailer.

Right: The Cat 966A Traxcavator.

The four Goldhofer modules are very nicely made all with working suspension and steering. The girder frame is typically Conrad – robust and fitting together very smoothly. When made up to its full length the model is over 1.1m long so you will need plenty of space, but smaller configurations can be also be made.

The model is very flexible, with the girder frame able to be assembled in three different lengths and four different widths. It can also be displayed without the girder frame with the four Goldhofer units being coupled as required.

This is a relatively pricey model at around £300, but for the money you get a beautifully engineered piece, and when fully assembled it produces something huge that will impress anyone who sees it.

**Overall Rating: Highly Recommended**



Above: Heavy MAN tractor unit with ballast box.

Ian Webb reviews construction models on his website and you can read more at [www.CranesEtc.co.uk](http://www.CranesEtc.co.uk)

## Caterpillar 966A Traxcavator

The Caterpillar 966A Traxcavator was a wheel loader made in America between 1960 and 1963, with over 2,000 being produced. Norscot has produced this 1:50 scale model for Caterpillar as part of an occasional series of historic models.

A good aspect of the presentation of the 966A is that it comes in a perspex display case with nameplate which nicely protects the model from dust. The model itself is quite small but has sharp detailing. It has good quality tyres with a convincing tread pattern and they are mounted on wheel hubs with fine etching of the wheel nuts.

The casting of the body is high quality with some good texturing of surfaces, including the radiator grille at the back. Hinges on panels are detailed within the casting, and the lights at the front and rear look the part. The area around the operator's seat is very good, with control levers, pedals and instruments finely replicated. The hinge work on the loader arm is good

and although the rivets used are on the large size, they are painted so the look of the model is not impaired. Some of the graphics applied to the loader arm structure are very small and perfectly legible.

The model features working steering and the bucket can be elevated and tipped. This is a nice model of a historic machine and is priced very reasonably at around £50.

**Overall Rating: Highly Recommended**



Above: The Cat 966A Traxcavator features nice detailing at the rear.

## Northwest 25-D Shovel

This is a model of a historic machine from the American company Northwest Engineering. The Northwest 25-D Shovel was first sold in 1958 and had a long production life right through to 1974. The model is 1:50 scale and is made by Spec Cast. The box includes some information about the real machine and includes a key which is used to operate the winches. It is a solid little model. The tracks

are metal and are mounted on detailed track frames with the chain drive modelled, although it is non-functioning. The body is cast very well with a realistic grille pattern on one side and very fine rivet details. There is a hole on one side of the body for the key that operates a winch, and this detracts from the appearance of the model a little.

The operator's cab is very well modelled

with a metal grab rail on the outside and the controls and operator's seat are nicely reproduced. The model has two opening doors and inside the engine compartment the floor has a black anti-slip surface, and the engine block can also be seen. The boom and stick are metal and well made, and although the large pulleys at the top are plastic, they look good.

Using the key, both the boom and stick can be operated, although the dipper flap is non-functioning. Spec Cast has produced a rather nice model which can probably be obtained for around £100.

**Overall Rating: Highly Recommended**



Above: The sliding cab door on the Northwest 25-D shovel. Left: The Northwest 25-D shovel.

