

Small Plant & Machinery

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

This year, any effect of the economic downturn on the scale model industry will be seen at two exhibitions. In February, the annual Toy Fair will be held in Nuremberg and, in April, the triennial BAUMA equipment exhibition will be held. It will be interesting to see how many new releases are announced.

Nooteboom has introduced a couple of new semi-low-loader models which are now available, a three axle and a four axle. These are made by WSI and look highly detailed. Also, expected soon is a lorry-mounted Faun crane from WSI. Two new much-delayed Hitachi excavator models from NZG are hoped to appear by April.



REVIEWS

Liebherr PR 764 Crawler Tractor

NZG now make the majority of Liebherr's new models and this model is a recent release which was first seen as a prototype at last year's Nuremberg Toy Fair. This is Liebherr's largest dozer and the model is a very good representation of it.

The metal tracks are excellent and roll well. A particularly nice feature is the oscillating rollers which are beautifully engineered and replicate the real machine in a convincing way. Not only that, but each track frame is linked and can oscillate to facilitate travel on rough terrain.

The body is finely detailed with numerous grab rails and printed grilles,

and the cab has slightly tinted windows together with windscreen wipers and lights. Internal details are good too, with the controls clearly visible.

At the rear, there is a heavy duty ripper attachment complete with hydraulic cylinders that have authentic looking hosing. The single shank ripper is pinned,

allowing three different settings, or it can be fully removed. The semi-U blade looks good with wear plates on the bottom edge. Both the ripper and the blade have a good range of movement.

This is a very high quality model from NZG and is well worth the asking price of around £80.

Overall Rating: Highly Recommended



Above: NZG has produced excellently engineered tracks.

Right: The Liebherr PR 764 crawler tractor.



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

JCB 3C Mk1



Above: Details on the JCB cab are good.

This is a 1:50 scale model made by Corgi of an historic JCB machine which first appeared in 1963. It comes in a high quality box, complete with a collector's card which has some information about the original and a unique model serial number.

The wheels look very nice, with a good tread pattern on the tyres, and the steering is very good, with a large range of movement. The cab is also convincing, with a finely-made windscreen wiper and there

is good detailing of the controls inside.

At the rear, the backhoe is well made and features a working side shift function. It opens up well to pose digging which looks quite realistic. The front bucket is a nicely cast piece and again there is a good range of movement so it can be lifted high and can be posed tipping. The rivets used to connect moving parts are fairly small and unobtrusive with the only disappointment being that the rear stabilisers are non-functioning.

Corgi has produced a good plant model and it is to be hoped that more will follow. The price of the model is around £50 and it represents reasonable value at this price point.

Overall Rating:
Recommended



Right: The model posed digging using the backhoe.

Left: Corgi's JCB 3C Mk1.

Goldhofer modular trailers



Above: The Goldhofer power pack fixed to the modular trailer.

An interesting area of heavy haulage is modular trailers which are either towed or self-propelled. Conrad has introduced a model of a set of Goldhofer units and a separate model of a Goldhofer power pack which attaches to the modules.

The model comes as two sets of units, a line of six wheels and a line of four wheels, and these can be joined together in a variety of ways to suit the application needed, either end-on or side by side. Each line consists of a pair of bogies with four tyres so the complete model has 80 tyres.

The units are solidly made with a heavy metal surface and to some extent this hides some intricate engineering as the

axles are linked in sets which steer at the same time. A drawbar can also be connected to force the steering when connected to a suitable tractor unit.

An add-on model for the trailers is the

power pack which would be used when the modules need to drive under their own steam. The model power pack is heavy and solid, with some very fine casting details on the top surface and cabinets, grilles and controls on the sides. A couple of working hydraulic cylinders enables attachment to the modules to be varied.

These are robust models and are well engineered. They would look good paired up with some heavy crane or carrying a suitable load. The trailer costs around £90 and the power pack around £35.



Overall Rating: **Recommended**

Above: A Meccano girder provides a suitable heavy load for the Goldhofer.