

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.



REVIEWS

Bautrans MAN TGX and Nootboom trailer



Above: Excellent detailing on the gooseneck.

Heavy Transport Models is a new German-based private label which commissions models from existing manufacturers.

One of its first models is this heavy duty Nootboom low-loader pulled by a MAN TGX tractor, made by WSI. It has been produced in the colours of Bautrans, an Austrian company.

The MAN 8x4 tractor is very detailed underneath and the cab has colour coded mirrors and a light bar. At the front is a towing hitch which is complete with a pin. Behind the cab, there is a set of coiled air lines to plug into the trailer and a spare wheel with a front wheel tyre is attached. At the back the lights have plastic lenses and there is an authentic-looking number plate.

The trailer has a highly detailed surface on the flat bed with plastic timber decking which has the screw pattern visible. Tiny plastic outriggers are provided along the flat bed edges to support separately supplied timber edge extensions, and width marker plates can also be attached.

The gooseneck has a detailed control

console with two steering boxes, and the control panel for the two-axle interdolly. The interdolly is very high quality part with hydraulic lines for attachment to the trailer, excellent tiny graphics to the edges and underneath, the model engineering of the Pendel axles is excellent.

The great feature of this model is the flexibility of display. To facilitate carrying different loads the trailer's length can be extended, and the interdolly can be either included or omitted. A wider deck can be provided using the fold-out outriggers. The model looks really good when

Right: The Nootboom trailer extended for a long load.

carrying a suitable piece of plant.

This is a high quality model with good functionality and has been produced in a limited run of 200 models in Bautrans colours so it should be quite collectible. It is good value at around £150.

Overall Rating:
Highly Recommended



BYELINE:

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

The completion to win a model Manitowoc 4100W tower crane, which was mentioned in last month's *Classic Plant & Machinery*, will now feature in a later issue. We apologise for any confusion or disappointment.

Liebherr RL 64 pipelayer



Above: The excellent tracks and a working winch at the rear.

NZG make high quality models and the Liebherr RL 64 pipelayer is no exception. It is a tracked machine which is robustly built to deal with difficult terrain, and weighs in at nearly 60 tonnes.

The metal tracks are excellent and correctly represent the real machine in having narrow tracks on the counterweight side. They are mounted on very good track frames which include working rollers.

The body of the machine is modified from a dozer. It has very good detail with fine metal grab rails all around and some very small but legible graphics, and very nice grille patterns. The cab continues the high standard with the slightly tinted glass having realistic window seals around the edges.

At the rear there is a working winch which is a nice feature. The pipelaying equipment is modelled well. On one side the adjustable counterweight mechanism has nicely shaped separate counterweight slabs and the main winch with plenty of hydraulic cables detailed. The lifting boom is cast well and has a

pulley block and hook which are both metal.

This is a very nice model and good value at around £80 from the Liebherr web shop.

Overall Rating:
Highly Recommended



Above: The Liebherr RL 64 pipelayer.

Caterpillar AP600D asphalt paver

In addition to its earthmoving equipment, Caterpillar also makes road building machinery and Norscot has recently released this model of a wheeled asphalt paver. The real machine has a paving width of 5m and weighs around 14 tonnes.

The wheels are realistic with good tyres, even on the small wheels, and the hubs are nicely detailed. The roller axles are linked

together and can be steered to produce an interesting turning pose.

At the rear, the hopper has folding sides although the material belt is only represented by the casting rather than being a separate moving part. The rest of the body is a simple casting with a pair of lights facing the hopper.

The operator's area has a couple of seats



Above: The Caterpillar AP600D paver.

and a control console. The canopy and handrails are all plastic elements and the quality in this area is not the highest.

The screed is extendible and can also be raised and lowered, and it is possible to set it with a degree of tilt. Detailing is reasonable, with again, a fair amount of plastic used.

This is one of four asphalt paver models which have been introduced with the others having tracks or are without the canopy on top. Norscot has produced a decent paver model which would look good with other road building models, and is priced around £50.

Overall Rating: *Recommended*



Below: Laying the black stuff.