

Kato SR-250R

Japanese-based crane and excavator manufacturer Kato was founded in 1895, making it one of the oldest crane companies still under independent ownership. Models of Japanese cranes are quite rare, although there have been a number of 'toys' that roughly depict particular models. YCC of Taiwan has been licensed to make a 1:50 scale version of the 25 tonne Kato SR-250R rough terrain mobile crane.

YCC is a small model maker but it has a clear focus on quality which extends to the packaging, creating a good first impression, the model is well protected in black foam rubber. A small brochure is included in the packaging, showing the main features of the model and as it is a highly detailed replica, with some very precise and fine modelling it has to be handled with care.

The underside of the model is fully detailed with transmission components and fuel tank realistically moulded. The tyres are really good and have the 'Bridgestone' name clearly moulded into the tyre wall. Both axles steer independently although the range of movement is fairly limited, they also have working suspension.

The chassis is excellent with small details such as the accurately marked extension points on the metal outrigger beams, while the outrigger spreader plates have tiny handles. At the rear the engine cover opens to show a detailed engine.

The operator's cab is a master piece, extremely fine metal grab rails and wipers adorn the outside, while inside the control console has all of its switches and dials authentically reproduced. The operator's cab door also opens and correctly reproduces the pull out and slide motion of the real door. The rest of the superstructure is cast well, with good quality grilles and very small graphics.

The boom detailing is superb. Hydraulic lines are beautifully rendered and the cable spool is metal. Guides for the ropes at the top of the first boom section contain pulleys which are amazing for their tiny size. Some of the grab handles and other details are exceptionally thin. The detail level continues at the boom nose where in addition to metal sheaves, there is an anemometer for measuring wind speed, and a mirror.



The Kato travels on site

The fly jib is another piece of excellent diecast work with first class hydraulic lines cast in, which lead to the luffing cylinder. The jib is telescopic and can also be luffed using the cylinder although it is not stiff enough to hold much of a load.

Two hooks are supplied. The main block has three metal sheaves, and the hook rotates within the block, while the hook has a working safety latch. The single line block is nicely detailed and has a moving hook.

This is a hard to find model and it is relatively pricey for a two axle crane at around €200, but it is good value for the very high quality that it offers.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk



Excellent boom details



Lifting on the fly jib



Opening cab door and engine cover

Cranes Etc Model Rating

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|--------------------|----|
| Packaging (max 10) | 8 |
| Detail (max 30) | 27 |
| Features (max 20) | 18 |
| Quality (max 25) | 22 |
| Price (max 15) | 12 |
| Overall (max 100) | 87 |



Tiny details at the rear