

# Sennebogen 5500 Starlifter

The model of the Sennebogen 5500 crawler crane was the first mass-produced large crane model and it first appeared as a prototype at the Bauma exhibition as long ago as 2001. This revised version is in Sennebogen's 'Go for Green' livery and is updated with a number of improvements to the original. It is modelled by Conrad in 1:50 scale.

An instruction sheet is provided, complete with pictures, and it is in both German and English. Unfortunately the review model had a couple of defects, but these were quickly resolved by the maker. Rigging the model takes some time and it is best to allow a few hours and to have particular patience whilst reeving the luffing gear which is the only tricky part of the assembly process.

A great aspect of this model is that it comes in separate parts, mirroring the real crane so it also makes great transport loads on suitable vehicles. Each crawler track comes as a separate unit and although the tracks are plastic they roll well.

The cab is plastic with grab rails and good interior detail and can be tilted in the same ways as the real crane. At the rear the counterweight attachment mechanism is fully modelled, complete with lift cylinders and chains. Most of the

sheaves on the model are metal, which is an improvement compared to the earlier version of this model and they roll freely. Four working winches are included. Two for hooks/blocks and one each for the main boom and luffing jib.

All sections of the boom and jib are well made and look great. They connect together using plastic pins which are very effective. The pendant bars used to support the boom and jib are modelled in tough plastic and these are another good improvement. The metal hook is only a single sheave affair, but looks smart with red and white stripes.

The crane can be rigged a number of ways. It can be set up with just a main boom of various lengths, including a very short one if you want. It can also be fitted with the luffing jib giving an overall, fully rigged model height of about 1.2



Tilting cab



It makes great transport loads



The 5500 can jack itself off a transporter



Long straight boom



Rigged with a luffing jib

metres. Another range of options arises because the reducer section at the top of the main boom can be connected directly to the jib sections in order to create a longer main boom with a reduced section towards the top.

In terms of stability the model is fine with the boom and jib up, but less so when they are extended to a long radius. The Sennebogen 'Go for Green' paint scheme looks really good and the few graphics are sharp. Although it is around 10 years since it first appeared, this is still a great looking crane model and the improvements made to this version have been very worthwhile. It can be obtained from the Sennebogen Webshop ([www.sennebogenshop.com](http://www.sennebogenshop.com)) for €129 and is very good value. To read the full review of this model visit [www.cranesetc.co.uk](http://www.cranesetc.co.uk)

Cranes Etc Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	21
Features (max 20)	15
Quality (max 25)	18
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	74%