

# Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

Right: The underground truck being loaded by a Sandvik LH321.

## REVIEWS

### Sandvik TH550 underground truck

Conrad's latest model for Sandvik is this heavy-looking underground truck in 1:50 scale. The real machine weighs around 36 tonnes and has a payload of 50 tonnes. It is designed for use in rock and ore tunnel excavations where headroom may be limited.

It is a heavy model with a high metal content and underneath the main transmission elements are modelled. The tyres are particularly nice and chunky with a strong tread pattern and the wheel hubs are detailed. The truck can be steered by using the articulated joint in the centre and a good angle can be obtained.

The front end is modelled well with plenty of detail contained within the metal casting including cab door hinges and textured surfaces. There is a metal grille on the top of the model which is particularly finely rendered. On the sides there are two plastic grilles and these can be opened to give access to cooling equipment within the engine. Other good details are a fire extinguisher which is stowed at the front and a safety grille on the rear cab window.

The dump body of the truck is a solid metal casting and as a nice detail includes lifting eyes along the top edge for removal of the body. The tipping angle is very good and the hydraulic cylinders are stiff enough to hold any pose set. A neat feature is a safety bar under the body which can be folded down to act as a prop and provide safe working when the vehicle chassis is being maintained.

This is an interesting model and looks good when paired with Conrad's LH621 underground loader. It can be obtained for around £75.

**Overall rating:** *Highly recommended*



Above: The tipping angle is very good.

Below: The Sandvik TH550.





# Hamm GRW 280 roller

The Wirtgen Group of Germany has sponsored an interesting line of high quality models and the latest from NZG is the 1:50 scale version of the GRW 280 rubber-wheeled roller. This model reviewed here is the open version of the machine with a Roll-Over Protection Structure (ROPS).

It is well packed and a small leaflet describes how to fit the couple of parts needed to complete the model. Underneath, the detail is simple with the ballast blocks denoted by colour difference.

The wheels have smooth tyres mounted on metal hubs and each pair has a scraper for removing excess material from the

tyres. At the front the wheels steer as a linked pair with reasonable movement. Each pair also has the suspension modelled with a spring although there is no actual 'springiness' in the mechanism. Detail around the body is very good with excellent mirrors and lights, and the graphics and paintwork is fine too.

The operator's console is great with a nice seat and controls and the computer screen is replicated with tiny coloured graphics. It rotates right and left and also slides across the cabin floor. The real machine has sight lines for the operator down to the tyres at the front and rear and it is an excellent detail that these have been replicated accurately on the model.

At the rear the engine cover opens widely to reveal the detailed Deutz engine complete with pipework and different coloured components. The Wirtgen range of models aims to achieve a high standard and this model of the GRW 280 hits the spot and should be available for around £50. It is also available in a version with an enclosed cab.

**Overall rating:**  
*Highly recommended*



**Left:** A detailed Deutz engine is under the hood.

**Right:** The Hamm GRW 280 roller.



# Schild Bantam truck-mounted shovel

SpecCast of the USA has introduced a couple of historic 1:50 scale models of Schild Bantam equipment mounted on White trucks. The Bantam machines are from a bygone age and were produced in the period between 1949 and 1959, when over 15,000 were made. They had a reputation for being affordable and easily maintained.

The model comes in a box which gives a little of the history of the machine and includes a key for operating the functions. The chassis detail is quite reasonable with the suspension and transmission modelled and the treaded tyres are mounted on smart-looking hubs. The front axle steers although the range of movement is rather limited.

The truck cab is quaint-looking and sports

pleasant lights and chrome work, and a feature is that the cab door opens. There is only 'glass' in the windscreen however. Another nice feature is that the engine has an opening hood with both sides lifting up and folding to reveal a detailed engine.

The Bantam shovel has a fairly simple body with a cab that has nicely detailed control levers. The boom and dipper are metal and look reasonably good. To operate the winches, the body has holes which have plugs to reduce the visual impact in the body. Using the supplied key the boom can be raised and lowered, as can the shovel although the range of movement is fairly limited.

Overall this is a reasonable model from SpecCast which will probably be available for around £70.



**Left:** The Schild Bantam shovel mounted on a White truck



**Left:** Opening engine cover

**Overall rating:** *Recommended*

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