

# Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

## REVIEWS

### Liebherr MK88 mobile construction crane

One of the most complicated cranes available is the mobile construction crane which is a tower crane mounted on a truck, and the complexity arises from the mechanical connections which allow it to fold small for road transport. This creates a particular challenge for a model maker in 1:50 scale. Conrad has taken up the challenge with the Liebherr MK88 which has just been released in the latest version reviewed here.

The model comes in high quality packaging and has a comprehensive set of instructions which is very helpful. It is not a difficult model to erect in a working

configuration as long as care is taken not to force any parts.

The carrier has independent steering on each of the four axles so all the modes of the real crane can be replicated including crab steering. Also, the wheels on this version of the model have improved hubs. Strong metal outrigger beams provide support and separate plates for the outrigger pads can be stored in holders on the carrier.

The overall detail level is good, but it is in the model engineering that the model excels. The lattice mast is telescopic and works smoothly, and the jib is in three hinged sections which are nice and straight when the crane is fully erected. Conrad has done a very good job to get the mechanics of the model

**Above:** The Liebherr MK88 folded up for the road.

right and when opened up it is big, around 80cm high and 100cm wide.

The main crane functions can be operated with the hook raising and lowering using a winding key, and the stages of erection of the crane can be reproduced also using two other winches. The trolley can be positioned anywhere along the jib and the crane cab can be raised up the mast using another winch.

The model also has an innovative feature which is flashing beacon lights on the carrier cab. The cell batteries are stored in a holder in the engine compartment and a circuit board in the roof of the cab controls the lights. This feature works well and it remains to be seen whether future models begin to incorporate electronics.

The Liebherr MK88 is a serious piece of model engineering and this is reflected in the price of around £220.

**Overall Rating:** *Highly Recommended*



**Above:** Fully erected, this is a big model.  
**Left:** The MK88 is mechanically complex.

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

# Hitachi Zaxis 1000K with crusher

It is back to 1:50 scale for this model of a Hitachi demolition excavator which is complete with an Okada shear, and is made by NZG.

The crawler tracks are metal and fully detailed with bolt heads, and they are mounted on very good track frames. A feature of the model is that the track frames are removable by undoing a couple of screws and the model then stands on outriggers. This means it can be accurately posed as a transport load which is a very nice touch.

Details around the body are very pleasing with metal handrails and grab rails, and the panels have door handles modelled

within the casting. The cab looks realistic and has a debris guard over the windows and roof. At the rear of the body there is a removable counterweight which comes in four separate pieces, which again facilitates the model as a transport load.

The boom has very good hydraulic pipes and lines, and it can also be detached from the boom foot, which is a nice feature. The rivets used to join the moving sections of boom are small and unobtrusive which adds to the high quality feel.

The demolition tool is a TS-W2200V Okada shear and it is all metal. It rotates on its mounting and the jaws can be

opened and closed and are stiff enough to grip if required.

This is a great looking model. There are two versions available with the other being a high reach machine with a scale 40m boom and both cost around £150 each.

**Overall Rating:**  
*Highly recommended*



Above: The Hitachi ZX1000k with shear.

# Ruston Bucyrus 19RB face shovel

The Ruston Bucyrus 19-RB is a machine dating from around 1937 and has been modelled by Corgi in 1:76 scale so it can be used as a coherent display in Hornby railway layouts.

The tracks and undercarriage are metal, and although they are not functioning the detail is pretty good with the sprockets and drive chains reproduced. The main body is fairly simple with the cab door

and the exhaust in the roof detailed, and the cab has glazed windows. The boom and dipper are plastic which allows a little more detail on this part of the model.

In terms of features the 19-RB cab rotates and although the winches are not functional the clever reeving of the boom and dipper allows them to be posed in a number of ways with the overall length of string used being constant.

This is a small and nice looking model which is relatively inexpensive at around £20.

**Overall Rating:** *Recommended*



Above: Detailed tracks in small scale.  
Left: The Ruston Bucyrus 19-RB face shovel.