

Gottwald AMK 1000 mobile crane

Ian Webb reviews a blockbuster model.



Above: The Gottwald AMK 1000 on the road.

Right: The boom carrier with its massive load.

The Gottwald AMK 1000 was a historic mobile crane built in the mid-1980s for the German company, Riga Mainz. Only one was ever built, and it was for many years the largest telescopic crane in the world. It was rated with a nominal 1,000-tonne capacity, although it never lifted so much as the heavy-lift attachment required was never built.

It was an imposing machine, with the massive boom carried on a separate bespoke transporter. The telescopic boom could be extended to 62m, and a variety of fixed and luffing jibs could be added. Riga Mainz owned the crane for eight years before selling to Breuer who ran it for three more. It then moved to Taiwan where it was owned by Long Hook for five years before being acquired by Chi Sun.

The Gottwald AMK 1000 is revered amongst crane fans and it has finally been modelled by YCC of Taiwan in 1:50 scale. It has been made in five limited editions, each one in the livery of a company that owned the real crane. The review model was in a

later version of the livery used by Riga Mainz.

It is a very special model and arrives in first class packaging including a presentation box and high-quality brochure. It also includes a Perspex block which is laser etched with a 3D representation of the crane and boom carrier, and the unique model serial number and so it is probably the best example of a collector card you can find.

The model is very heavy with delicate details so it is not surprising that a couple of small parts were loose in transit, but these were easily re-fixed and YCC also provide a bag of small spares in case of breakages.

Both vehicles look really impressive because of their numerous axles. The wheels are excellent with the tyres having Michelin moulded into the side walls. All the axles have suspension and, where appropriate, independent steering. The driving cabs look superb, with very fine detailing of the mirrors and wipers, and they have opening doors which increase the posing possibilities. Separate tiny wheel chocks are supplied and these have neat holders on the carrier decks.

The main boom is a massive metal

telescope in four sections, and is very heavy. The corrugated structure of the boom sections is reproduced really well and the graphics are mostly excellent, although the review model had some damage to a couple of inner logos.

YCC provide spare transfers with the model to enable repairs if required. Detail at the boom top is great with metal pulleys and a tiny anemometer which rotates.

The crane body continues the very high standard with some excellent details including the hydraulic pinned connections for the boom and counterweight. The engine area is highly detailed even though much of it cannot normally be seen. Even the engine block is a finely detailed casting. The operator's cab is also excellent with an opening door, and it can be positioned in transport or operating mode.

The main boom lift cylinders are metal and perfectly smooth in operation, and they are secured at any extension by tightening discrete grub screws and this mechanism is first class. Fine hydraulic pipes are modelled along the boom foot which adds to the realism.



Above: The hydraulic lines look authentic.

Right: The crane is set up ready to lift.

At the rear the counterweight is made up of individual plates and these join together with tiny locking pins. The model tolerances are very tight however and a few pins had to be ground down a little to make all the connections fit.

Four hefty outrigger beams fit to the crane and these are extendible and come with pads containing magnets so they stick to the outrigger pistons which is a great feature. Both the counterweight and main boom fit to the crane by means of locking pins contained within hydraulic housings and these work really well and replicate the real machine. When it is all assembled the telescopes can be extended and the crane stands around 1.4m tall.

As an alternative display option it is also possible to remove the front and rear sections of the crane carrier to leave the crane standing on its own pedestal consisting of the outriggers.

Three separate hook sizes are provided and these have working safety latches and are nicely-detailed metal parts. The winch drum on the review model was very stiff at first, but when freed up with some oil it worked well with an electric screwdriver.

YCC have made an excellent job of this model overall. Although the few quality issues on the review model took a little work to fix, there is no doubt that the model looks great. It is an expensive model at €1,299, but made in limited numbers it may be an investment for the future. When on display it is certainly outstanding.



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

Below: The Gottwald AMK 1000 has excellent detailing.



Below: The model fully extended with a load on the hook.

