

# Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

## REVIEWS

### Lifting frame (720 tonnes)

This is an unusual 1:50 scale model of a lifting frame having a nominal capacity of 720 tonnes and is made by YCC Models. It comes in plain box without instructions, but assembly is straightforward enough.

The model includes sections of metal track which are finely crafted with the channels having web stiffeners, and they pin together to form continuous lengths. Each of the four lifting units is highly detailed with tiny rollers underneath, and the hydraulics have

rubber hoses with some having connectors on the ends. The lifting units roll along the tracks smoothly, and the 'pusher' cylinder can extend and retract.

The lifting cylinders are in three stages and extend easily and the head rotates. The locking system is by means of a supplied small Allen key turning very small grub screws and this works really well locking the cylinders into place with confidence.

The main beams are heavy-sections, with

lifting slots and a safe load graphic. Brackets fit over the beams and these are really well-made out of a number of parts, and can be positioned anywhere along the beams. Lifting straps or chains are not included with the model.

This is a very high quality model with really good detailing. When set up it is 35cm long, 14cm wide and can have a height up to about 19cm so it makes quite a decent sized display. It can be obtained for around £110.

Right: *Lifting a heavy mobile crane.*  
Below: *The 1:50 scale lifting frame.*  
Bottom: *There is good detail on the lifting units.*

**Overall rating:**  
*Highly recommended*



# Caterpillar CT660 with low-loader

The Caterpillar CT660 vocational truck line was introduced in 2011 and was Caterpillar's first entry into the commercial truck sector. Norscot has modelled it in 1:50 scale and this version is a day cab tractor coupled with a Trail King low-loader.

There is some detail under the CT660 although the transmission is incomplete and one of the plastic mouldings is hollow underneath. The front axle steers a moderate amount before the tyres foul on the wheel arches, and the wheels are loosely mounted on their bearings.

At the front, the radiator looks realistic with all the shiny chrome work being plastic, and the bonnet tips forward to reveal the engine. However the air horns look too short and the exhaust stacks too thin compared to photos of the real truck. Inside the cab, the seat backs have Cat printed on the back, although the steering wheel appears set too low.

The trailer gooseneck has a good structure with simple details, and some good graphics, and can be detached from the trailer by unlocking a clip so loading the trailer can be posed.

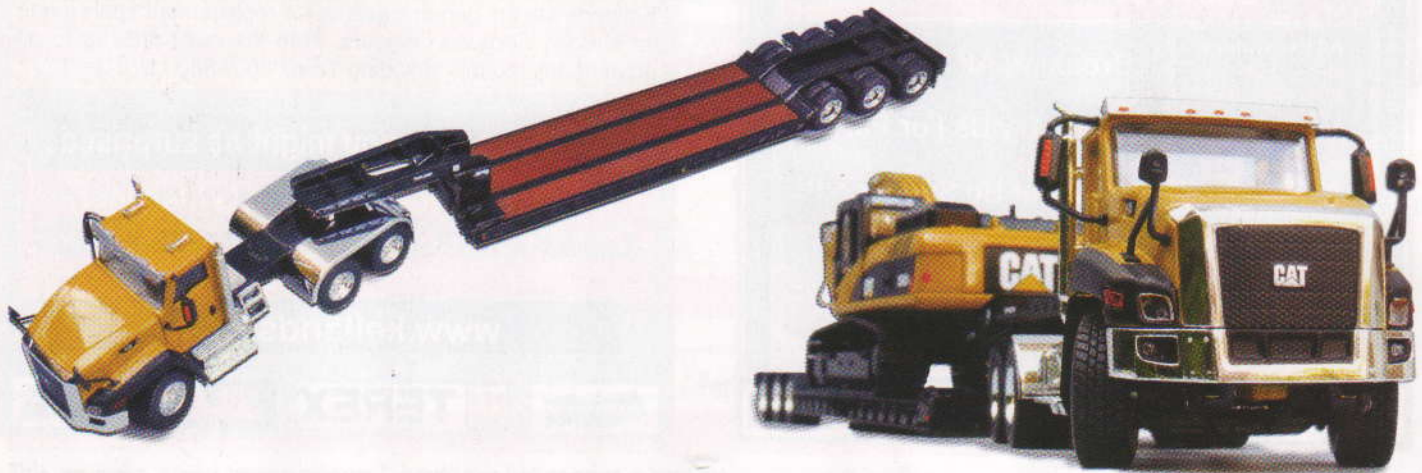
The trailer deck is good with a realistic timber patterned surface. At the rear, hoses are modelled on the underside and the rear light bar has painted lights and small graphics. The loading ramps can be folded up, or down for loading.

This is a simple model with significant plastic on the CT660 and it has not been pitched at the higher end of the truck collectibles market in terms of detail and quality. However, it would fulfil the requirement of any collector wanting to display their Cat construction machines being hauled. It is inexpensive at £57.

**Below:** The Caterpillar CT660 pulls a low-loader.

**Right:** Loaded up with a Caterpillar excavator.

**Overall rating:** *Recommended*



# MAN TGS tipper with crane

This is a model of a MAN TGS four-wheel drive two-axle tipper with a loader crane based on a Palfinger machine. It is made by Conrad in 1:50 scale, and there are no instructions supplied, but assembly is limited to fixing door mirrors, a roof aerial and the hook on the crane.

The chassis is good with the four-wheel drive transmission and suspension modelled well, whereas the steering mechanism is purely functional rather than accurate. However it has an excellent range of

steering movement, and the rear axle floats to provide a degree of suspension.

The MAN cab is typical Conrad quality with the lights having plastic lenses, and there are nice details such as steps and door handles. The cab tilts forward about 45-degrees and underneath is a plastic engine block.

The tipper body is all metal with good discreet tailgate hinges. It is very flexible as it tips and has an opening tailgate, and also both sides of the tipper can fold down and

this is implemented very well.

The Palfinger loading crane has working plastic outrigger beams which are perhaps a little too flexible. The crane rotates fully and the arm can be unfolded and the two telescopic stages extended to reach a maximum height of about 23cm. The hook can be attached at one of two positions.

This is a very likeable Conrad model with excellent functionality. It sells for around £70.

**Overall rating:** *Highly recommended*



**Above:** The MAN TGS tipper has drop sides.

**Right:** The tilting cab reveals the engine.



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