

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Liebherr LTF 1060-4.1 mobile crane

The Liebherr LTF 1060-4.1 is a 60-tonne capacity truck crane. This 1:50 scale model version by WSI is mounted on a four-axle Scania carrier in the colours of Sarens. There are some parts to assemble although there are no instructions to help a novice collector.

The truck chassis has excellent transmission and suspension and the front axles steer with a limited amount of movement. The Scania cab has fine detailing with lights, door handles, number plate and graphics, and it tilts to reveal the engine.

The fully functioning outriggers are of a high standard with detailed metal beams and realistic pistons, and the pads are pinned with

a clever offset mechanism to minimise the transport width. Excellent tiny graphics add to the realism.

The tilting crane cab has metal grab rails, and inside there is a computer console and controls, and Liebherr is printed on the seat back. The crane body has many hydraulic lines and excellent graphics, and the detachable counterweight is made up of three parts.

The five-stage telescopic boom is metal and has a very realistic profile which smoothly telescopes. To get extra reach, a folding extension jib can be pinned to the end of the boom and it can also be set at an offset angle.



The Liebherr set up for lifting.

The pulleys in the fly jib and the boom are metal and a very nicely detailed three-sheave hook block is provided, which can be raised and lowered using a supplied key.

This is a very high-quality, high-detail crane model, and it looks impressive in Sarens colours. It has also been produced in other colours and is very good value at around £110



There are excellent graphics around the crane.

Overall rating: Outstanding

Link Belt 800 X2 excavator

Link Belt is an American manufacturer and the 800 X2 excavator weighs in at around 80 tonnes. This 1:50 scale model by Conrad is correspondingly large and heavy with very little plastic content.

The track frames and metal tracks are reasonably detailed and the tracks roll surprisingly smoothly. The frames can be extended for use when the machine is working, and retracted to reduce the transport width.

The body casting has a variety of detail such as hatch handles and grilles, and metal handrails and ladders surround the body. The cab has internal detailing and a plastic debris guard covers the windscreen.

The boom is a large metal casting with hydraulic pipes detailed, and hydraulic hoses run into the body from the boom foot. Small rubber lights are attached on either side of the boom.

The main boom cylinders have plastic jackets with an excellent colour match to the metal parts. There are more hoses running from the boom to the stick and the large metal bucket is nicely made with good teeth.

The hydraulic cylinders modelled are stiff so there is no hint of cylinder bleed

and the boom, stick and bucket can hold any pose set. Conrad has produced an extremely robust model which is somewhat imposing because of its size. It costs around £110 which reflects the high metal content.

The Link Belt 800 X2 with tracks extended.



Overall rating: recommended



The Link Belt is a model of a large and heavy excavator.

MAN TGS 8x4 half-pipe tipper

This model is in the colours of Eurovia, a subsidiary of the Vinci Group, and is a half-pipe tipper body mounted on a MAN TGS 8x4 chassis. It is made by NZG in 1:50 scale and comes fully assembled.

The chassis is detailed in metal with only the steering linkages being purely functional as a modelling compromise, but they steer well to a reasonable angle.

The cab is of a high standard with aerials, beacon lights and horns on the roof. The access steps are textured, there is a number

plate and the lights have plastic lenses. The door handles are realistic inserts and there is a fleet number on the cab.

Behind the cab the exhaust and fuel tank is rendered well. The wheel arches are metal throughout with an anti-slip surface at the rear. At the back, the light bar has nice

plastic lenses, a number plate and there is a usable towing hitch.

The tipper body tips to a slightly shallow 40-degree, is all metal with excellent decoration and the opening tailgate has a good structure with simple graphics.

This is a well-made tipper truck which looks good displayed with other models. It costs around £55.

The MAN TGS tipping a load.



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