

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Weserhütte W 180 piling rig

For this review we go back in time and look at a model of a classic machine. The Weserhütte W 180 is modelled by NZG in 1:50 scale and includes a piling attachment. It comes in an 'aged' box style and includes very good instructions.

The undercarriage has fine metal tracks, and the track frames have rollers top and bottom. The body is well detailed with grilles, lights and exhaust pipes and walkways with realistic mesh floors clip to the sides of the body. Doors slide open at each side and a hinged door opens at the rear. There are also two opening flaps where the winch ropes emerge.

The Weserhütte W180 piling rig.

A great aspect of the model is that the inside of the body has machinery with the engine and gears modelled. All the main crane functions can be operated, including the winches, by using keys, and it is interesting to watch the gears turning inside the body.

The jib sections are metal and pin together and the

model has metal pulleys throughout. The piling equipment is robustly made with the leader consisting of heavy metal sections, and the piling hammer is a solid metal part. It is possible to arrange the pose of the piling equipment a number of ways with the leader vertical or raked.

The casting of the model is very high quality with excellent paint and there is very little plastic used. Although this model first appeared in 2005 it is timeless and will appeal to anyone with an interest in historic machines. It can be obtained for around £220.

Overall rating: Outstanding

Mercedes Benz Liebherr HTM 1204 truck mixer

This model by Conrad is a Liebherr HTM 1204 mixer mounted on a Mercedes Benz Actros 10x4 chassis. It is 1:50 scale and is in the colours of Felix Stöckli of Switzerland. It comes in a Conrad branded box and assembly of the model is simple and limited to fitting door mirrors and roof aerials.

The chassis detailing is good with the rear axles and suspension modelled in plastic. The front axles have linked steering and a very good range of movement is possible although the tyres are fouled at the extremes.

All the wheels are very smart and wider tyres are fitted on the steering axles. A feature of this chassis is that the fifth axle also steers and can be raised out of service if the truck is empty. These features are implemented on the model very well.

The cab detailing is very good and includes a realistic number plate. The cab tilts forward revealing the engine block. Behind the cab the chrome exhaust looks authentic, and the wheel arches are metal and have a realistic

diamond plate pattern. The mixer is modelled well with a water tank and engine at the front and the large metal drum rotates smoothly. At the rear the access ladder and platform is metal and the discharge chute can be rotated in and out.

Conrad has produced a typically robust model and it looks striking in the red and white colour scheme. It costs around £90.



The Liebherr HTM 1204 mixer.



Overall rating: *Highly recommended*

Mercedes Benz Actros 6x6 + Scheuerle InterCombi trailer



The Actros and InterCombi trailer carries a big load.

This model is in the colours of Zaugg, a Swiss company, and is made by WSI in 1:50 scale. It comes in a very high quality presentation box with a colour instruction sheet.

The Mercedes tractor has a very good chassis with the 6x6 transmission modelled really well, including the gearbox.

The steering has a good range of movement and the cab tilts forward to about 45 degrees. Underneath is a detailed engine bearing the Mercedes Benz name.

The cab detailing is very good and the equipment tower behind is impressive and includes a grab rail, wheel chocks and fuel tanks. The trailer is made up of the gooseneck, two Scheuerle modules and the vessel bed. The Scheuerle modules consist of one four-line and one two-line unit and underneath there are intricate hydraulic lines modelled. They have excellent independent suspension and the steering, which works well, is also configurable.



The tilting cab and detailed engine.

Overall rating: *Outstanding*

The vessel bed beams are nicely engineered parts and can be configured in a narrow or extendable wide configuration. They are also telescopic, so a large model around 65cm long can result.

This model is high quality with plastic used appropriately and the paintwork and graphics of the Zaugg livery looks smart. It is a flexible model and costs around £180.

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