

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Komatsu PC3000 shovel, Celtic Energy



Access stairs on Komatsu PC3000 lowered.

The body is a very heavy metal casting with large distinctive grilles and the Celtic Energy graphics around the body are very sharp. Many metal handrails surround the model but they look a little fat for the scale. The cab has slightly tinted windows with mirrors and wipers, and inside the controls and driving seat are modelled including a rear seat. The access stairs can be folded down.

The heavy boom has hydraulic pipes cast in the top surface and rubber hydraulic lines connect to the body. The arm is fairly simple with some more rubber hoses on

top and movement of the boom and arm is very good with the cylinders stiff enough to hold most poses.

The shovel is all metal and the lifting eyes are modelled. Although the hydraulics for the bottom opening shovel are not modelled it opens and closes, and relies on friction at the hinge point to hold a pose.

In summary, this is a very heavy solid-feeling model with little plastic. It looks good in Celtic Energy colours although the detail level is a little dated by modern standards. It costs around £150

Overall rating:
Recommended

The Komatsu PC3000 front shovel is a mining machine with an operating weight of around 230 tonnes. This 1:50 scale model by NZG is in the colours of Celtic Energy, a coal producer in South Wales.

The metal track pads have got a detailed pattern cast in and they are mounted on track frames which have working rollers and the tracks roll surprisingly well on a rough surface.

The Komatsu PC3000.



Caterpillar 992C wheel loader

Overall rating:
Highly recommended

The Caterpillar 992C was introduced in 1977 and it had an operating weight of around 90 tonnes. This model by Classic Construction Models (CCM) is in 1:48 scale and is packaged really well and a really nice inclusion is a reprint of the original Caterpillar 992C brochure which also has a unique serial number for the model.

Underneath the body, the axles have large differentials and the engine and radiator can be seen. A nice touch on the large rubber tyres is the Goodyear brand moulded within the sidewalls. The rear axle oscillates and steering is achieved across the pivot point by the hydraulic cylinders.

Realistic metal handrails surround the cab platform which has a finely textured non-slip floor. The cab details include wipers, lights and mirrors, and there is a pair of fire extinguishers at the rear. The engine compartment has fine quality mesh grilles all around, and the graphics are sharp.

The steering pivot point looks good as it has many hydraulic

hoses crossing to the front axle assembly. The loader mechanism is modelled well enough although it takes effort to get the bucket high enough to simulate truck loading.

The large bucket has a see-through grille at the top edge for operator visibility and it is finely modelled. It can achieve a good tipping angle.

CCM has faithfully reproduced the Caterpillar 992C, and it will please collectors of historic machines such as this. It was made in a run of 1,000 models and costs around £220.



The Caterpillar 992C.



The Caterpillar 992C is a big machine.

Liebherr R 954 BV demolition excavator

The Liebherr R 954 BV in excavator configuration.



This 1:50 scale model by Conrad was first introduced in Liebherr colours in 2001, and this newly-released, improved, version is in the colours of Rino, a German demolition company.

The undercarriage has good metal tracks mounted on simple frames and they roll well on a rough surface. The body is largely metal with a plastic top cover to the engine and the Rino graphics are striking.

The cab is fairly simple with a metal grab rail and plastic debris guard, and basic internal details. The boom foot has stiff plastic hydraulic hoses fitted.

The separate excavator boom and arm has a simple fitted bucket but there are no hydraulic hoses and it comes with a separate stand. It can be pinned to the machine and has a good range of digging movement.

The main demolition boom is in three sections and has hydraulic pipe details

Overall rating:
Highly recommended

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