

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Hitachi ZAXIS 470 LCH-5 excavator

This Hitachi Excavator has an operating weight of around 50 tonnes and the model of it is by TMC Scale Models in 1:50 scale. It comes in a branded box which includes some technical information about the real machine.

The metal tracks have detailed double grouser shoes and they are mounted on good track frames with small graphics. However they are quite stiff and do not roll easily.



The inside of the cab is very detailed.

and very good armoured hoses are also used. The pipes extend to the end of the stick to provide a power connection for hydraulic tools.

The body rotates smoothly and the boom, stick and bucket have a good range of

movement and can be posed in any position. The permanently riveted bucket is a good metal casting with side wear plates.

TMC has produced a highly-detailed model with good functionality, and it is very good value at around £90 from the Hitachi Merchandise Web Shop.

Overall rating:
Outstanding

The cab is excellent and has an opening door. On the outside, the sidewalk is finely modelled with perforations. Inside, the detailing is excellent with a sculpted floor, a full set of controls and a computer console which has tiny graphics.

The body casting has panel doors with silver painted locks. On the right-hand side the grilles are really good as engine components are visible between the slats. Two opening engine covers also allow some engine detail to be seen.

The hydraulics are excellent. The pipe array on the boom is complex and looks realistic



The Hitachi ZX 470 LCH-5.

Clark-Michigan 475B wheel loader

The Clark Equipment Company of Illinois was founded in 1916, and it manufactured the 475B wheel loader during the 1970s. This model of it has been produced by BYMO in 1:50 scale.

The detail underneath is relatively simple and the rubber tyres are soft with a tread pattern and are mounted on plastic wheels. The rear axle has a good range of oscillatory movement and steering across the pivot point is very good.

The engine compartment has the Clark name and the panel doors indicated within the casting although the handrails are soft plastic. The radiator grille at the back is plastic and not the best, but the Michigan name is nicely cast in relief above it.

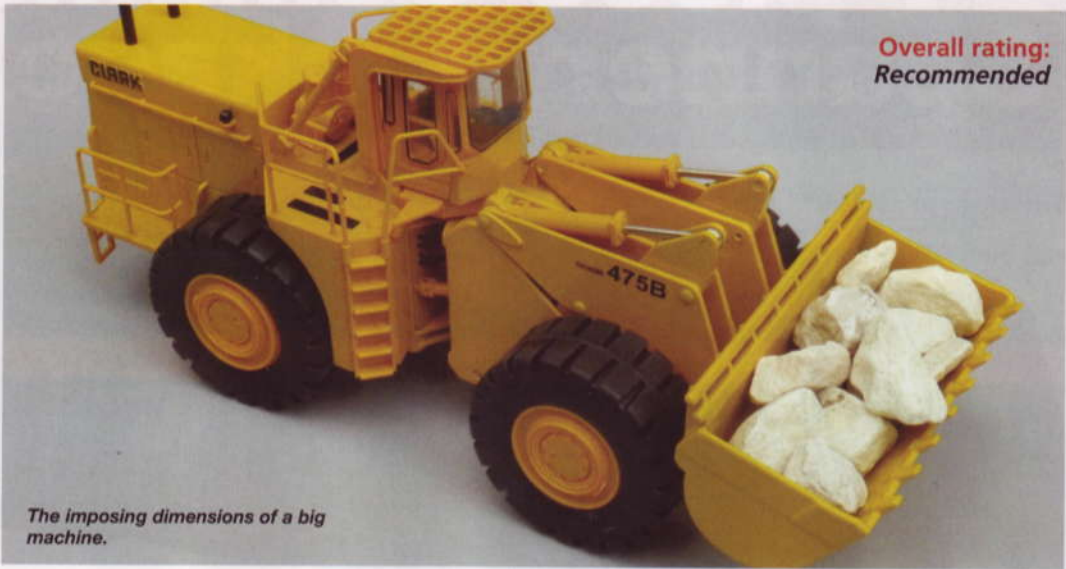
Most of the operator's cab is plastic but this does allow some finer detailing of the cab structure. Under the cab there are thin hydraulic hoses and a drive shaft crossing the pivot point.

At the front the double plate boom design is modelled well.

The bucket lifts to a very good height and has a realistic tipping angle, with the hydraulics stiff enough to hold any pose.

This is a reasonable quality model but given the number of plastic parts it is on the expensive side at around £180. However it is a good looking representation of a historic machine.

The Clark Michigan 475B.



Overall rating:
Recommended

The imposing dimensions of a big machine.

Caterpillar D8T track-type tractor

The Caterpillar D8T is a larger class of tractor with an operating weight of around 40 tonnes. This model by Norscot is 1:50 scale and comes fully assembled in a Caterpillar branded box.

The undercarriage has some detailing within the casting and the metal tracks are delicate and detailed. The tracks roll but they tend to bounce off the high drive sprocket because the small teeth do not strongly interlock with the tracks. The front idlers have a degree of up-and-down movement, and are spring-loaded to keep the tension on the tracks.

The cab structure is metal and the steps leading to it have an anti-slip texture. There are a number of hand rails and grab rails and they are made of soft flexible plastic. Inside the cab the details are fine.

Behind the cab, the single-shank ripper assembly is metal and the tooth is sharp. It has a reasonable amount of movement and can be parked high or positioned with the

ripper down, although the depth of penetration is shallow.

At the front the metal dozing blade has wear plates detailed at the bottom. It can be raised and lowered but the mechanism is stiff. The tilting function is modelled but only a small amount of movement is possible because the bottom rivets are in the wrong plane to allow tilt movement.

Overall this model is robust and looks good, and is fair value for money at around £70.

Overall rating:
Recommended



The single shank ripper on the D8T.



The Caterpillar D8T

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