

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

REVIEWS

Volvo F12 and King trailer 'Pickfords'

Overall rating:
Recommended



The Volvo F12 and King trailer.

This 1:50 scale model is one of Corgi's Hauliers of Renown series. It is a Volvo F12 tractor and five-axle King trailer from the 1980s and it includes a load representing a power station rotor shaft. The livery is Pickfords, which is a company with a history stretching back to 1646.

The outer box is high quality with the model held within plastic trays. Included is a collector card which describes the truck and it also has the unique serial number for the model.

The Volvo F12 has a simple chassis containing a mix of metal and plastic parts with thin tyres on all axles and non-functioning steering. The cab detailing is good with the door handles nicely marked and the quality of the graphics is high. Behind the cab there are coiled air lines and metal wheel arches.

The King trailer is a heavy

part which is almost completely metal. The deck has a textured and painted surface to represent timbers, and there is a non-slip surface at the rear. The paintwork along the deck edges is very good with the tie-down loops highlighted in

silver. The trailer can detach from the gooseneck and there are a couple of fold-down ramps to facilitate loading.

The load is a heavy resin part and the texture and colouring of the tarpaulins is interesting. It does not quite sit flat on

the trailer but from most viewpoints this is not an issue.

This Corgi model is up to its normal standards of strength and robustness with very good graphics and paintwork. It is a limited edition of 1,000 models and can be obtained for £70.



The detailed gooseneck on the Volvo F12.

Wirtgen W 35 DC cold milling machine

The Wirtgen's tiny but very detailed console.

This Wirtgen machine is used for removing narrow widths of asphalt such as around drains and other street furniture. NZG introduced this 1:50 scale model at the recent Nuremberg Toy Fair and it is one of the smallest models in this scale.

Although it is a tiny model amazingly it is nearly all metal and that includes the many fine gauge handrails. The roller wheels look good and the two rear rollers are mounted on adjustable legs and one also rotates outwards. The conveyor has a real rubber belt which is a nice detail considering it can only be seen from underneath, and the very small milling drum has individual cutting picks modelled.

The operator's area is excellent with the control console fully highlighted with colour which is remarkable given its size and there is even a plastic cover that can be clipped over when the machine is not in use. The rest of the body is very well finished with nice paint and graphics and small detailing.

Models of machines from the Wirtgen Group are always high quality and the W 35 DC easily lives up to the standard, which is a real achievement given the very small size. It is available for around £45.

Overall rating:
Outstanding



The Wirtgen W 35 DC at work.

Atlas 1604 ZW road-rail excavator

Overall rating: *Highly recommended*

The Atlas 1604 ZW is a 22-tonne dual mode excavator capable of travelling on road using its tyres, or on rails using the rail bogies. This 1:50 scale model is a recent release from Conrad.

The underside of the machine is good with the transmission fully modelled. The double-tyred wheels are detailed with a good tread pattern and the steering turns to a reasonable angle.

At each end the rail wheels are plastic but they look fine and they can be lowered allowing the machine to travel on the included track section. The outrigger pads are also plastic but the mechanism is good as the pads can be lowered to reach down to land between the track sleepers.

The large cab has lights and a mirror, and the interior detail is good with a passenger seat also. The body casting is enhanced by the painting of panel handles

and the application of small graphics such as warning signs. The modelling of the hydraulics is very good with soft plastic hoses and pipes and the movement is very good with the hydraulic rams having enough stiffness to hold any pose.

Two tools are provided, a digging bucket and a grab. The bucket is a metal part and it has reinforced cutting edges and can tilt. The grab is plastic and it rotates and opens and closes smoothly.

Conrad's production values are maintained with this model as it is robust and well made with very good paintwork, and it is nice to see smaller warning graphics which add realism.

It is a very nice model and good value at around £85.



The Atlas loading a tipper.

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