

# Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb reviews models of interest to collectors.

## REVIEWS

### Fassi F1300RA loader crane

This 1:50 model by WSI is a Fassi F1300RA loader crane mounted on a Mercedes-Benz Actros 8x4 chassis. The crane is rated with a maximum lift of 25 tonnes. The model comes with an instruction sheet describing the features of the crane.

The Mercedes-Benz has a very detailed chassis but the steering only has small range of movement. The cab tilts revealing a detailed engine bearing the Mercedes-Benz name and at the rear the fifth wheel is adjustable longitudinally allowing a range of trailers to be attached.

The Fassi crane is impressive. The outriggers are three-stage with graphics on each part. The pistons are smooth, and small

*The Fassi combined with other models to make an interesting scene.*

separate pads are supplied. There are many small signs represented by graphics and the synthetic oil tanks are very detailed.

The telescopic boom sections appear to be thin-walled metal with a stiff profile, and they are smooth in operation. The final boom section has a small fixed metal hook.

A fly jib is also included and this can be attached by swapping out the final main boom section. It is finely made just like the main boom with a modelling compromise in that the last three fly jib sections are one piece.



*The Fassi loader crane.*

Overall, the maximum extended height with fly jib is around 55cm and it is certainly impressive. It is very high quality and well-engineered and is good value at around £95.

**Overall rating:**  
**Outstanding**





# Liebherr HS 855 HD crawler crane 'Weldex'

**Overall rating:**  
*Outstanding*

The Liebherr HS 855 HD crawler crane.

Opposite: The Liebherr makes a good transport load.



The Liebherr HS 855 HD is a duty cycle machine and this 1:50 model of it is by NZG and is in the colours of the UK's largest crawler crane hire company, Weldex.

It is a very nice model with a number of parts and two instruction leaflets are provided which describe the main features. Full assembly of the crane takes a few hours.

The metal tracks are very nicely made and they are mounted on extendible frames which can be closed up to allow the crane to be posed as a very convincing transport load. The

detailing around the body and the cab is excellent and the Weldex colour scheme is very attractive with sharp graphics. The cab also tilts.

At the rear the counterweight blocks are very nicely made, and the metal boom sections are joined by tiny brass nuts and bolts which provide an effective connection.

There are three winches on the model. One controls the boom and the other two can be used for either lifting or dragline operation. They have effective brakes and are controlled by using keys through opening doors on each side of the model.

The model can be configured as a crane with two quality hooks provided. Alternatively, it can be assembled as a dragline and the dragline bucket looks great.

This is a very high-quality model which is beautifully made. It is also highly engineered with special care taken to produce a precision model. Only 300 have been made in Weldex colours and it makes a nice change to see a UK company's colours on a model. It is good value at around £200.

# Terex Fuchs MHL 454 loader



The Terex Fuchs MHL 454 Loader (the logs are not included with the model).

The Terex Fuchs MHL 454 is a 'pick and carry' type machine specifically designed for timber handling. It weighs around 32 tonnes. This model is made by NZG and is 1:50 scale.

Looking underneath, the transmission is modelled in plastic, and there are interesting wide tyres. Both axles steer to enable high mobility. At the front there is a metal dozing blade which

can be raised and lowered.

Steps with tiny plastic grab rails lead up to the high cab which appears to be largely plastic but is finely detailed. It also tilts forward to lower the headroom making the model a viable transport load. The body has the main panels highlighted and plastic lights and mirrors provide additional detail.

The boom and stick have very good hydraulics with pipes detailed with silver paint, and very thin hoses run to the stick rams. The loader has a good range of movement with stiff rams that can hold a pose. The large timber grab is modelled in metal and it opens, closes and rotates.

Although this model was released a few years ago it has recently reappeared and is a good version of a specialist machine. It costs around £100

**Overall rating:**  
*Highly recommended*

Ian Webb reviews construction models on his website and you can read more at [www.CranesEtc.co.uk](http://www.CranesEtc.co.uk)