

# TRUCKING IN MINIATURE

The latest model truck releases reviewed and rated

By Ian Webb

PHOTOGRAPHY IAN WEBB

## Thurhagen Scania R & Nootboom Telestep Trailer (£200)

WSI Collectibles produces many truck models, and this one is a 1:50 scale 8x4 Scania R620 and the trailer is the Nootboom four-axle Telestep. The real trailer is extendible to 48 m and is commonly used for wind turbine work. It is a limited edition in the colours of the Swedish haulier Thurhagen Akeri.

It comes in a large presentation box and the size is dictated by the inclusion of a resin model of a 45 m Vestas wind turbine blade as a load.

There are no instructions, but assembly is reasonably straightforward.

The Scania chassis is very detailed, although the range of movement of the steering is limited as a consequence of the high detail. The paintwork of the tractor is stunning with excellent graphics, and other details include nice lights and a numberplate. The cab tilts and underneath is a detailed engine. The area behind the anti-slip catwalk leading to the fifth wheel is finely painted, with only the ridges being silver. The lights have plastic lenses at the rear.

The trailer also sets a high standard. Underneath, the axles have a fully detailed working suspension. They also steer proportionally and the mechanism is engineered beautifully. The trailer deck has a realistic replica timber surface with inlaid omega profile beams. The telescopic main member is not diecast metal, as this material cannot achieve realistic thin sections, so aluminium has been used. The resulting beam sections are both strong and realistic and it telescopes smoothly, with the overall length of the tractor and trailer reaching an impressive 90 cm (3 ft). A separate pack of metal deck posts are provided which plug into holes in the deck edge, and sets of replica wooden pallets provide support for the blade.

OUR RATING

☆☆☆☆☆



Windmill blade loaded

Striking Thurhagen livery

**Bowring MAN TGX & Livestock Transporter (£85)**

This 6x2 MAN TGX model is one of the Corgi Hauliers of Renown series. It is paired with a four-level Houghton Parkhouse livestock trailer and is in the colours of Bowring Transport Ltd. The tractor modelled is *Sherwood Whisperer* from the Bowring fleet.

It comes in a high-quality box and includes a Collector Card that gives a background to the livery, and it has the unique serial number for the model within the production run of 1000 models. The only assembly required is to attach the mirrors and aerial.

The tractor is heavy and has very little plastic, and underneath the transmission is detailed in metal – but the front end is basic, without working steering. The same thin tyres are used throughout, but the wheels look good.

Corgi models are usually decorated well and this one is no exception, with very good paint and graphics, and decent details. Behind the cab, the wheel arches are metal and the mudflaps are rendered in very thin, flexible plastic.

The livestock trailer has plastic sides,

but the colour match is excellent, and again the graphics are good. The chassis detail is simple, but the small wheels look true to the real trailer and the landing legs have plastic cam feet which support it away from the tractor. At the rear, the access ramp detail is nicely formed within the casting. This is a well-made model, and although there are few working features, it succeeds as a display item.

**OUR RATING**

☆☆☆☆☆



MAN TGX and livestock trailer



Actros is impressive in distinctive Wolter Koops colours

**Wolter Koops M-B Actros FH25 GigaSpace & Semitrailer (£85)**

NZG has released this version of the new Actros in 1:50 scale with a three-axle refrigerated Kögel semi-trailer. It is in the colours of Wolter Koops, the Dutch transportation

group. There is no assembly, as the model is complete out of the box.

The Actros is mainly metal and is detailed underneath with the steering being functionally modelled,

and it works very well. The fuel tanks are impressive and the wheels are detailed.

The GigaSpace cab looks particularly good in the colours of Wolter Koops, and it has a realistic numberplate. The grille at the front is finely reproduced, the lights are high quality, and inside the cab the two-tone finish is also pleasing.

The Kögel trailer is simply modelled. It is metal and very heavy. The wheels are good and there are a couple of spare tyres. It has a Carrier refrigeration unit at the front with realistic-looking grilles. The Wolter Koops livery is simple, but striking.

Overall this is a high-quality metal model with very little plastic, and it is extremely solid. It can be obtained for around £85, and only 300 have been made in this livery.

**OUR RATING**

☆☆☆☆☆