



TRUCKING IN MINIATURE

The latest truck models of interest to collectors

By Ian Webb

PHOTOGRAPHY IAN WEBB

Kenworth K200 with Drake Swingwing Trailer, £350

Drake Trailers is an Australian company founded in the early 1960s and manufactures trailers for heavy haulage. The Swingwing trailer is available in load capacities of 65 to 120 tonnes and, depending on the version, width can be expanded to 4.6 m.

This 1:50 scale model by TWH Collectibles is a Kenworth K200 prime mover with Swingwing trailer and dolly, all in Drake corporate colours.

It also comes with reprinted brochures of the real vehicle, which is a nice touch.

The Kenworth K200 prime mover is a 6x4 long-distance tractor with a sleeper cab, and this model version has excellent detailing with chrome work all round. It steers and has a tilting cab with opening doors, and the fifth wheel is adjustable longitudinally. Even the seats have a simulated 'air ride' action.

The dolly continues the high detail with some small graphics which really add to the authentic look.

An auxiliary fuel tank attaches to the gooseneck, and four spare wheels also clip on. Each has a chain and separate locking bolt.

Both sets of running wheels can be slid out to widen the dolly, and the axles float and twist. The Swingwing trailer is almost all metal with good structure and deck, and very detailed too.

All axles have sprung suspension and the Swingwing mechanism works well. It opens in a number of widths which can be pinned into position. At the rear, the ramps are very detailed and held vertical by thin chains.

At £350 it is relatively expensive for a truck model, but reasonable value for the high quality provided on this interesting piece.

OUR RATING



Model is expensive, but high quality



Engine is highly detailed



Model looks great with a load on board

MAN TGX XXL Euro 6 with Curtainside Trailer, £100

This 1:50 scale model is made by Conrad of Germany and is an MAN TGX XXL Euro 6 4x2 tractor, paired with a three-axle curtainside trailer. In this featured bodywork, it is a promotional model made for the MAN merchandise store.

The MAN chassis is detailed with a plastic drive shaft, and the rear axle has the suspension modelled too. The steering is modelled for functionality only, but it can be posed with a very hard lock. The cab detailing includes aerials and colour-coded door mirrors, which have to be fitted.

The standard of the metallic paintwork is very good and small graphics include the 'Euro 6' badge. The cab tilts a little to allow the engine to be seen, and behind the cab there are fuel tanks and plastic wheel arches.

The trailer is heavy, as the body is metal. The chassis is moderately detailed and features moving suspension and legs which can be lowered. The body panels are plain with the curtainside tie-downs represented by graphics, so there is no texturing such as seen with plastic curtainsides. However, the MAN

graphics on the side are high quality. An unusual feature of the trailer is that the rear doors can be opened, and this allows a welcome variation of display poses.

This is a typically robust model from Conrad, with a high metal content. Priced at £100, it is good value, providing detailing and features which give it an attractive look.

OUR RATING



Clean lines on this MAN TGX model



DAF XF with Moving Floor Trailer, £85

This recent release from Corgi is in the colours of the UK haulier Downton. It is 1:50 scale and pairs a DAF XF tractor with a 'Moving Floor' trailer. As usual, the model includes a Collector Card which gives the unique number for the model in the run of 850 made.

The DAF XF 6x2 is relatively heavy, is simply detailed underneath, and the only assembly required is to attach the mirrors and aerial to the cab. The detailing at the front is good and the quality of the graphics and paintwork is very striking. Behind the cab, there are metal wheel arches and a set of black air lines. Rear light clusters are painted.

Downton livery is smart and striking

The trailer is surprisingly light, as only the chassis is metal and the sides and top appear to be plastic. The underside has a typical Corgi dimpled texture, but there is no modelling of the moving floor equipment.

At the front, the trailer has plastic access ladders and platforms. On one side, tie-downs from the tarpaulins are painted, and the other side has outlines of doors, with the top covering having a subtle texturing to represent tarpaulin. The decoration is very crisp, with sharp Downton graphics.

This model is recognisable as a moving floor trailer, even if there is no additional detail underneath, and the tarpaulin is not removable to enable a view inside.

With an £85 price tag, it is an attractive model in Downton colours and certainly looks good on display.

OUR RATING

