

Lifting beams

Scale models of cranes normally come with all the parts necessary to display the model, but they hardly ever include parts which enable realistic lifting poses. So no chains, slings, straps or lifting beams. To put that right the American model maker Weiss Brothers has released a kit that provides various spreader beams and lifting equipment to use with model cranes. And it is in 1:50 scale.

The kit comes in a high quality box, with the spreader beams resting in good quality foam packaging, all other parts are individually bagged. There is no information included with the kit, perhaps a parts list and sample configurations would have been useful.

A number of spreader beams are included and they are metal with a very good finish, and the capacity is marked with miniature decals. There are two 100 ton beams and one 75 ton beam, both of a box style construction. There are also four tubular 50 ton beams and two tubular 25 ton beams.

The kit also includes 16 nylon rope slings in four different lengths, and 24 web slings also in four different lengths. They are all nicely made parts.

Moving back to metal, there are 18 wire rope assemblies in three lengths and they have nicely crimped loops. There are also 12 chain sets with hooks in three different lengths, and they have a realistic small link size.

Completing the kit are die-cast shackles with 24 rated at 55 tons, and 18 rated at 120 tons. These

are high quality parts with working screw locking bolts. However as they are die-cast they will not bend so care has to be taken when using them.

The key feature of the kit is its flexibility, with many different lifting arrangements able to be reproduced. It has been made in a variety of colours including yellow for Liebherr, red for Manitowoc and white for Terex. Branded kits have also been made for Mammoet, Sarens and other companies.

This is a high quality kit which is finished well with very good paintwork on the spreader beams. The range of parts provided make it good value, costing around £130 from model dealers, or the Mammoet and Sarens webshops.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk



Kit1 - High quality packaging.



Kit2 - Parts used as a transport load



Kit5 - Tubular beam and wire ropes



Kit4 - High quality shackles



Kit3 - Lifting a fabrication