

Manitowoc MLC650

The Manitowoc MLC650 Crawler Crane made its debut at ConExpo in 2014. It has a maximum capacity of 650 tonnes, and its main feature is a Variable Position Counterweight (VPC). This model of it is in 1:50 scale and has been produced by Towsleys.

A comprehensive manual guides you through 39 steps which cover what is needed to assemble the model, with the exception of reeving diagrams for the hook blocks. Tools are provided to aid the task, and a number of hours are required to complete the full assembly.

The tracks are metal, and excellent. They roll easily and the frames have a detailed casting. The tilting operator's cab has a detailed interior and at the rear various signs have tiny writing. The handrails and platforms around the model are metal and all very good.

The counterweight arrangement includes the VPC-Max superlift option available on the real crane. The sliding beam has a nicely detailed actuator at the front. The counterweight tray carries separate counterweight boxes with lifting lugs and graphics. The system works very well, and it is as much as a major plus on the model as it is on the real crane, as it is possible to position the counterweight to keep the model in reasonable balance whether it has a load on the hook or not.

The lattice boom and jib sections of the crane are nice castings with excellent geometry. They are nearly all metal and they include useable lifting eyes, mesh walkways and ladders. The connections are made with tiny black nuts and bolts.

Three hooks are supplied. The main block is large piece with a very good swivelling double hook although it is not modular. The second hook is a block with three sheaves and the whip line is a single metal piece. Keys are supplied to operate the winches, and they have positive action brakes.

A key feature of the model is that is very flexible in its configuration with all of the important connections bolted, so that it can be displayed with or without the luffing jib or back mast, or even as a series of transport loads. Fully assembled it is huge, reaching around two metres tall.

In summary Towsleys has produced an excellent model, which is both flexible and very impressive. It costs €775 from the Manitowoc webshop.

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



Parts make good transport loads



Lifting a huge generator load



Fully assembled



Very detailed



VPC counterweight system extended

Cranes Etc Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	26
Features (max 20)	19
Quality (max 25)	23
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	88%