

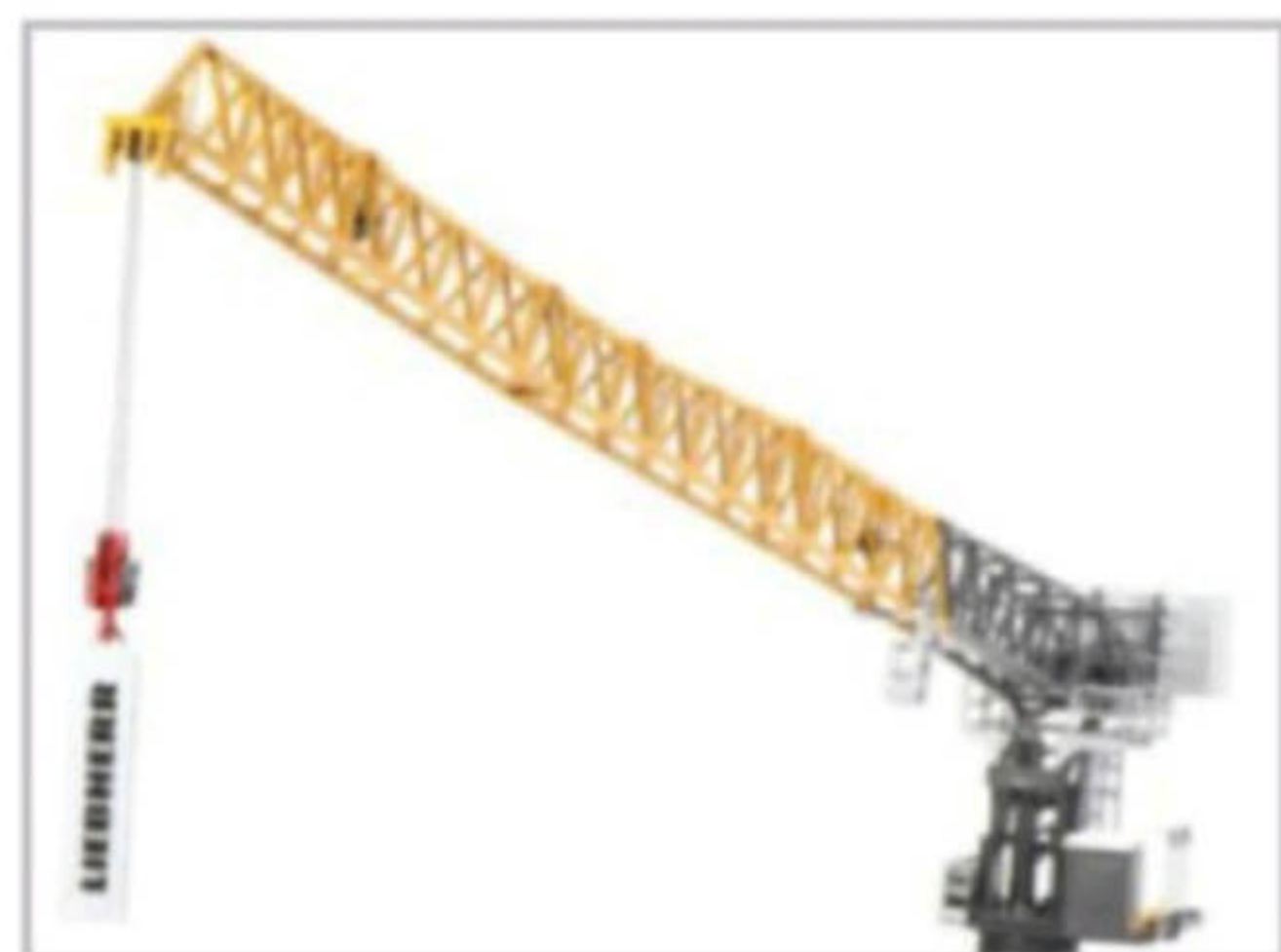
THE BEST TRUCK, PLANT & CONSTRUCTION MODEL MAGAZINE!

SHOWTIME
HILLHEAD
2024

TRUCK, PLANT & MACHINERY MODEL WORLD

Issue 16

www.tpmmagazine.co.uk



LIEBHERR 195 HC-LH
Tower Crane

LATEST
FOR NEWS &
REVIEWS



MAMMOET LIEBHERR LG1750 SX3

COMPACT

1:50



KOBELCO SK58SR-7
Tracked Excavator

TRUCKING

1:50



MERCEDES-BENZ AROCS
Dump Truck

ATTACHMENTS

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1:50



SENNEBOGEN 830E
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The last couple of months have been a busy time, what with preparing another issue of your favourite magazine, maintaining the garden (where the weather permits), many DIY projects around the house and working on a new magazine project for the agricultural model collectors out there, Farm Model World magazine.

Back in June, the Hillhead show took place and an enjoyable time was had. It gave me the opportunity to speak with various equipment manufacturers, and while not many of them are giving anything away in terms of new model news and what we can expect for the upcoming Bauma, it was nice to catch up, and get my hands on some interesting models for review, some of which appear in this issue, while the rest will feature in the last issue of 2024..

In this issue, I start a review of what has to be the highlight model of the year, the mighty Liebherr LG1750 SX3 from Conrad. There are a number of truck reviews this issue, both 1:50th and 1:32nd scale and a mix of construction equipment models, several tower crane features, a gallery of highlights from the Hillhead show and a build of a Lego brick type remote control rope shovel from ReoBrix. It has been a while since models from GEM and MSM have graced the pages of TPM, so we have details of the latest releases and round out with a competition where one lucky reader can win a model of the Link-Belt 220 X4S tracked excavator.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and as always, let me know if you have any feedback or suggestions on future content.

Steven



Introducing the latest magazine to join the SJD Media Ltd portfolio, a 120 page full colour review magazine for the agricultural model collector and enthusiast. All those familiar with the design layout of TPM will be familiar with this new yearly publication featuring in-depth reviews and quality pictures of an array of agricultural themed models, from tractors and harvesters to trailers and implements. The magazine is available from the TPM webshop and further details are on the official Farm Model World magazine website (www.fmwmagazine.co.uk)



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Latest Model News

Diecast Masters

As we eagerly await the first new models of 2024 to come through to model dealers, Diecast Masters have released new pictures of some of the new models currently in production which include the Cat 796AC haul truck. Also announced is a 1:87th scale model of the Cat 785 off-road haul truck which is a nice surprise for HO collectors. A special Year of the Dragon Cat 320 GX model will be released soon, covered in a very impressive dragon totem design.



1:50th scale – Cat 796AC Haul Truck
(item no – 85775)



1:50th scale – Cat D8 Track-type Tractor
(item no – 85757)



1:50th scale – Cat 320 GX tracked excavator "Dragon Design" (item no – 85674)



1:50th scale – Cat D8 Track-type Tractor "Waste Handler Version" (item no – 85758)

Conrad

There are several new truck models from Conrad that are exclusive to the MAN webshop which include the Goldhofer Stepstar and a MAN '100 Years' 4x2 tractor.



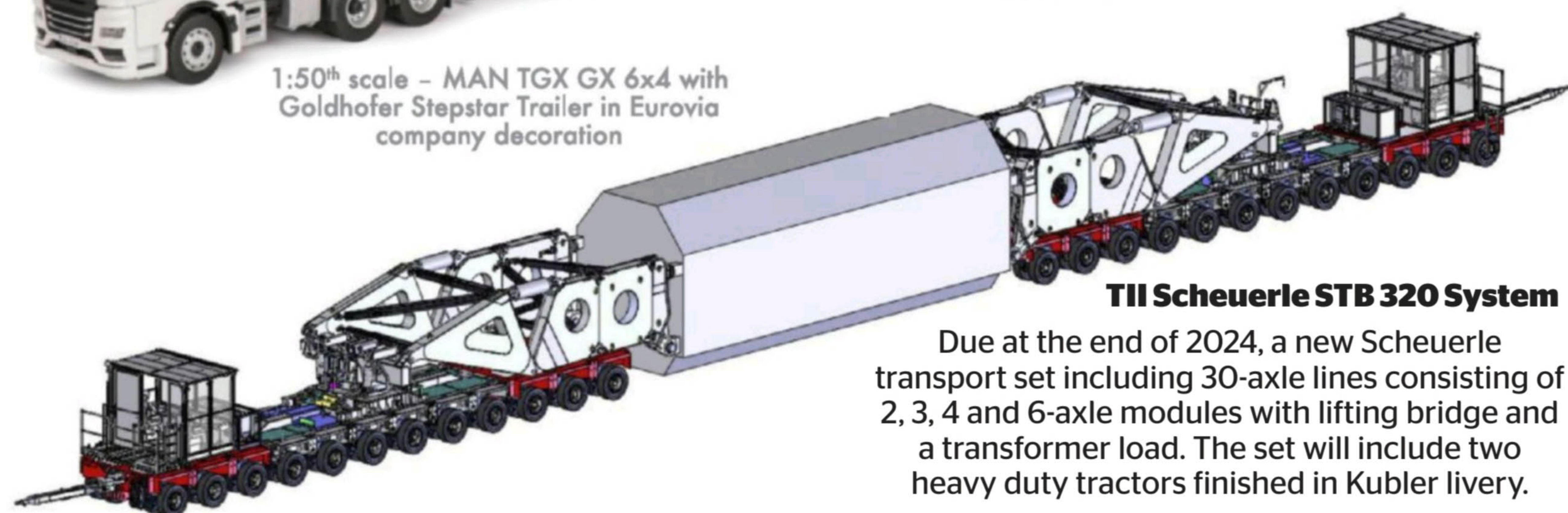
1:50th scale – MAN TGX GX 6x4 with Goldhofer Stepstar Trailer in Eurovia company decoration



1:50th scale – MAN TXX GX 8x4 Tractor in Max Bogl decoration



1:50th scale – MAN TGX '100 Years' 4x2 Tractor



TII Scheuerle STB 320 System

Due at the end of 2024, a new Scheuerle transport set including 30-axle lines consisting of 2, 3, 4 and 6-axle modules with lifting bridge and a transformer load. The set will include two heavy duty tractors finished in Kubler livery.

IMC



The 1:50th scale Develon DL420-7 wheel loader has been released in an all-black decoration

<https://eu.develonshop.com/>

NAGEL

A set containing the 1:50th scale Liebherr L504 (NZG) and the L546 (Conrad) wheel loaders has been released



<https://shop.nagel-gruppe.de/>



Yanmar

Four new tracked excavator models have been released and are now available from the Yanmar webshop



1:32nd scale – Yanmar SV100 tracked excavator with 2-piece boom



1:50th scale – Yanmar SV17VT mini tracked excavator



1:50th scale – Yanmar SV19VT mini tracked excavator



1:50th scale – Yanmar SV60 tracked excavator

<https://shop.yanmar-compact-equipment-europe.com/>

Universal Hobbies

Universal Hobbies has released a very impressive and exclusive model of the Kubota U10-5 tracked excavator in 1:24th scale and announced a 1:25th scale Komatsu SK820 skid-steer loader which comes with a bucket & pallet forks.



1:24th scale – Kubota U10-5 Micro Tracked Excavator. The model has also been produced in a limited edition silver version. <https://shop.kubota-eu.com/>

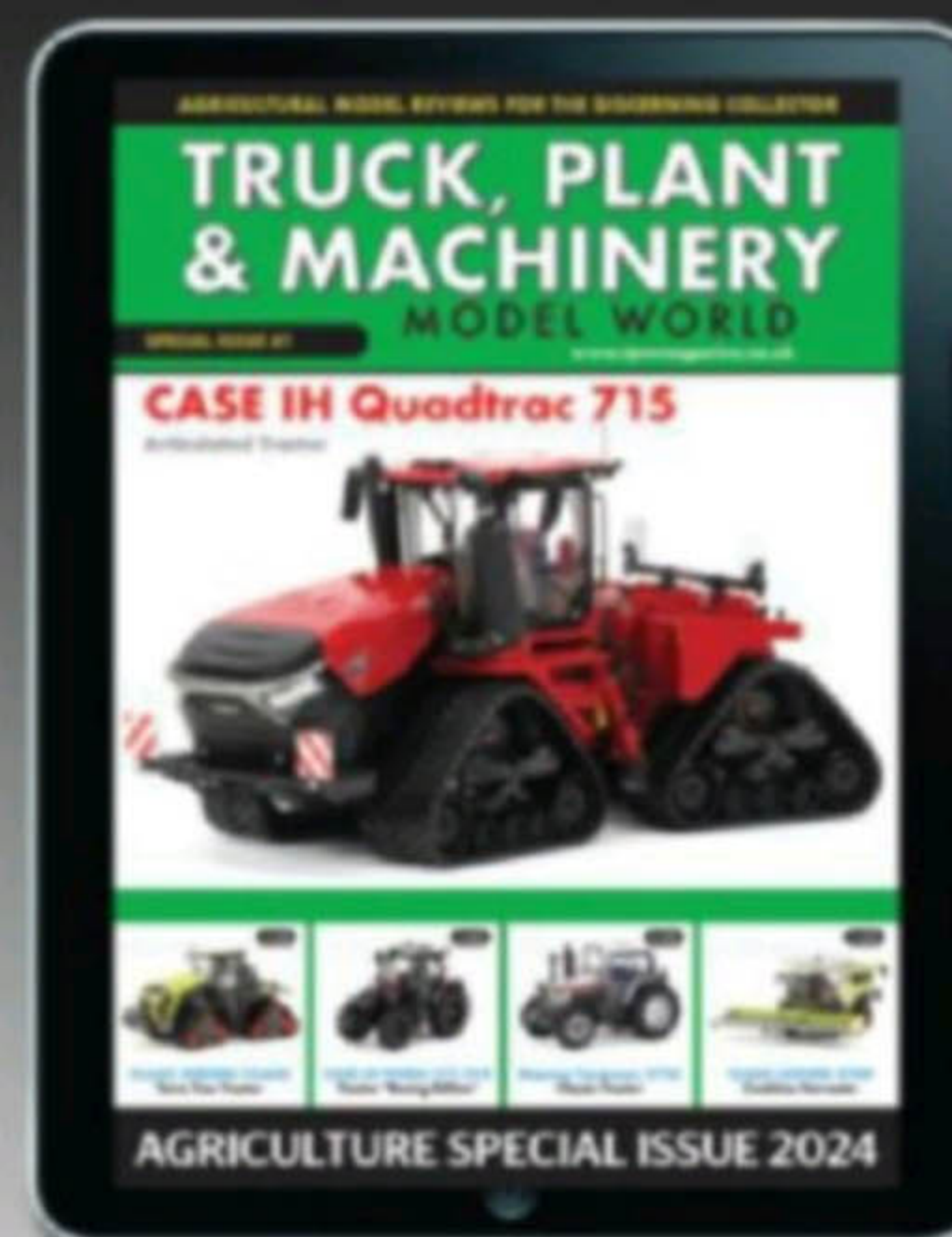


1:25th scale – Komatsu SK820 Skid-Steer Loader with bucket & pallet forks (ref. UH8177)

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MAMMOET LIEBHERR LG1750 SX3

Mobile Lattice Crane



Below:

A pair of supports are included to show the upper carriage in transport mode



Mammoet has always been at the forefront when it comes to commissioning large and impressive model projects, just take a look at the PTC, CC8800 Boom Booster, the Coke drum move set and the SPMT converter exchange set. They have now followed up with a much-anticipated release of the Liebherr LG1750 mobile lattice boom crane with SX3 boom configuration.

The model has been produced by Conrad and comes in two large boxes holding a multitude of parts to allow a vast number of different lifting configurations to be realised. Over the next 6 pages, I will take a close look at some of the main parts included in the box.

Below:

There are two ballast trays which mount to the sides of the body. There is also an extension block which bolts to the rear, allowing the ballast trays to be set further back



Below:

Four large crane mats are included to provide a solid base for the outriggers



Below:

There are a number of heavy ballast plates included to keep the model balanced



Right:
Safety railings and perforated walkways both above and below really enhance the looks of the base boom



Above:
The two winches fitted to the boom foot require roping up, with a number of bobbins of different lengths included in the box

Above:
The heavy lift head for the main boom, again fitted with a walkway and metal pulleys. With the ends painted in black, it is difficult to get some of the plastic pins to fit without needing considerable force, so I found that drilling out the holes to remove the excess paint makes the assembly much easier



Above:
The main boom sections have fitted photo-etch perforated platforms with integrated ladders and black painted ends. The lattice sections for the luffing jib fit within the main boom sections for an interesting transport look

While the original model of the LG1750 has been around for a number of years, Conrad has done a great job in updating the tooling to realise a more up-to-date version of the crane, while also adding additional detailing to the model, like the photo-etch perforated walkways fitted to all of the boom section. This really enhances the overall look of the model when assembled, and the boom sections make great loads on their own on the back of a low loader.

The assembly instructions are laid out over 48 pages and include two configuration options in detail while pictorial diagrams highlight the other lifting configurations that can be realised from the parts supplied in the box.



Left:
The main lifting head bolts into place on the heavy lift boom and has 22 metal pulleys. Also shown is the head for the luffing jib which has 16 metal pulleys fitted

The derrick mast consists of four parts, the footing, a short and a long lattice section and the tip section which incorporates the pendant lines and the pulleys. The sections have walkways clipped into place on the upper and lower surfaces and the fitted single winch drum requires roping up.

Depending on the configuration being constructed, one or both of the lattice sections can be utilised, and it is easier to fully assemble the derrick mast and reeve up the pulleys before attaching it to the superstructure. As with the original, all the pendant lines are made of plastic with plastic pins used to connect the boom and mast sections together.

While some may question the use of plastic, for me, the plastic pins are easier to install, especially if the surplus paint is removed from the holes beforehand. The winches don't have any braking system and rely on friction to keep them from moving. So far, this has worked fine and I have not encountered any issues. The winding keys have a hexagonal head which allows a powered screwdriver or drill to be used to wind the winch drums which require 30 metres of rope in some cases.

Below:

A pair of cylinders with extending rams are fitted to the derrick mast, complete with internal springs to restrict the derrick from moving too far back. This is also a benefit to prevent the ropes jumping off the A-frame.



Above:

The tip of the derrick incorporates a holder to align the pulleys to make it easier to reeve. While the pulleys are freely rotating, there is a little wobble with them, so care is needed to prevent the rope from jumping





Left:
The suspended ballast tray is mounted to the rear of the superstructure using a telescopically extending frame which has three noticeable stop locations. The arms on the end fold inwards to reduce the width when used in a transport scenario



Above:
The short suspended ballast tray is shown here resting on top of the wide tray, allowing two different ballasting options

The suspended ballast tray has been re-engineered from the original model, and can now be configured with only the central section, or joined to the full width base plate depending on how the collector wants to display the model and what ballasting is required. This is a nice addition to the model, with the central frame bolting into place on top of the main base plate. There are a pair of ladders leading to platforms on each pillar, complete with a ring of safety railings while the frame that connects the tray to the superstructure needs a set of safety railings adding. The frame can telescopically extend, with 3 pre-determined stops noticeable as you extend it.



Right:
There are three different hook blocks included in the box along with a small headache ball, each specific to one of the crane configurations



Below:

The model can be configured with a luffing jib allowing a choice of working length, terminating with a 16 pulley tip



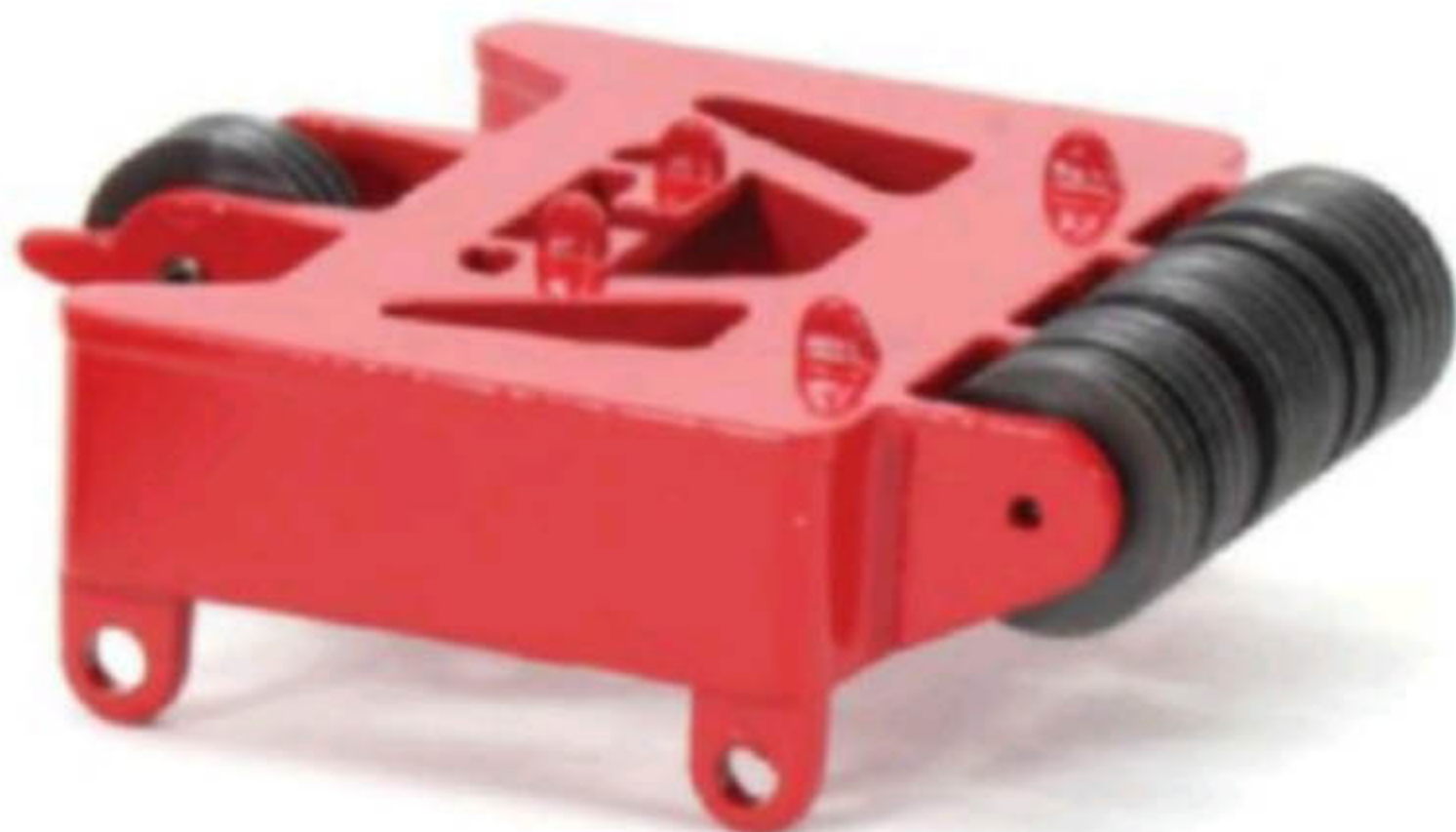
Below:

The lower arm of the luffing jib back support has the A-frame already fitted



Below:

For me, the metal pulleys make it easier to reeve the crane over the original plastic pulleys, and the rope grips the groove of the pulley, preventing the rope from jumping



Below:

Taking it slow and steady, reeving up the A-frame is not particularly difficult, shown here ready to connect up the main boom foot section.





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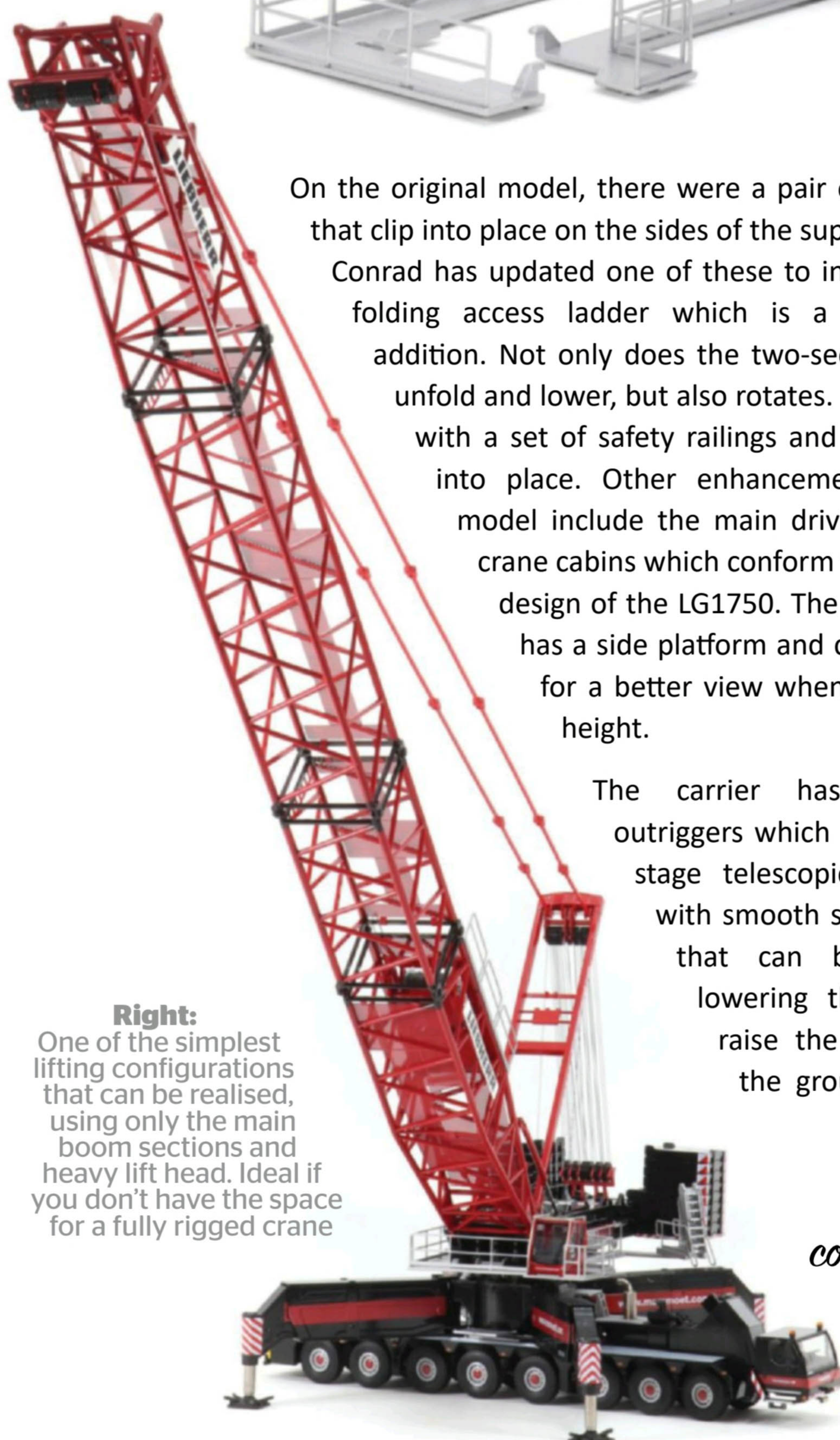
Below:
The superstructure sitting on its supports, ready to be mounted to the carrier



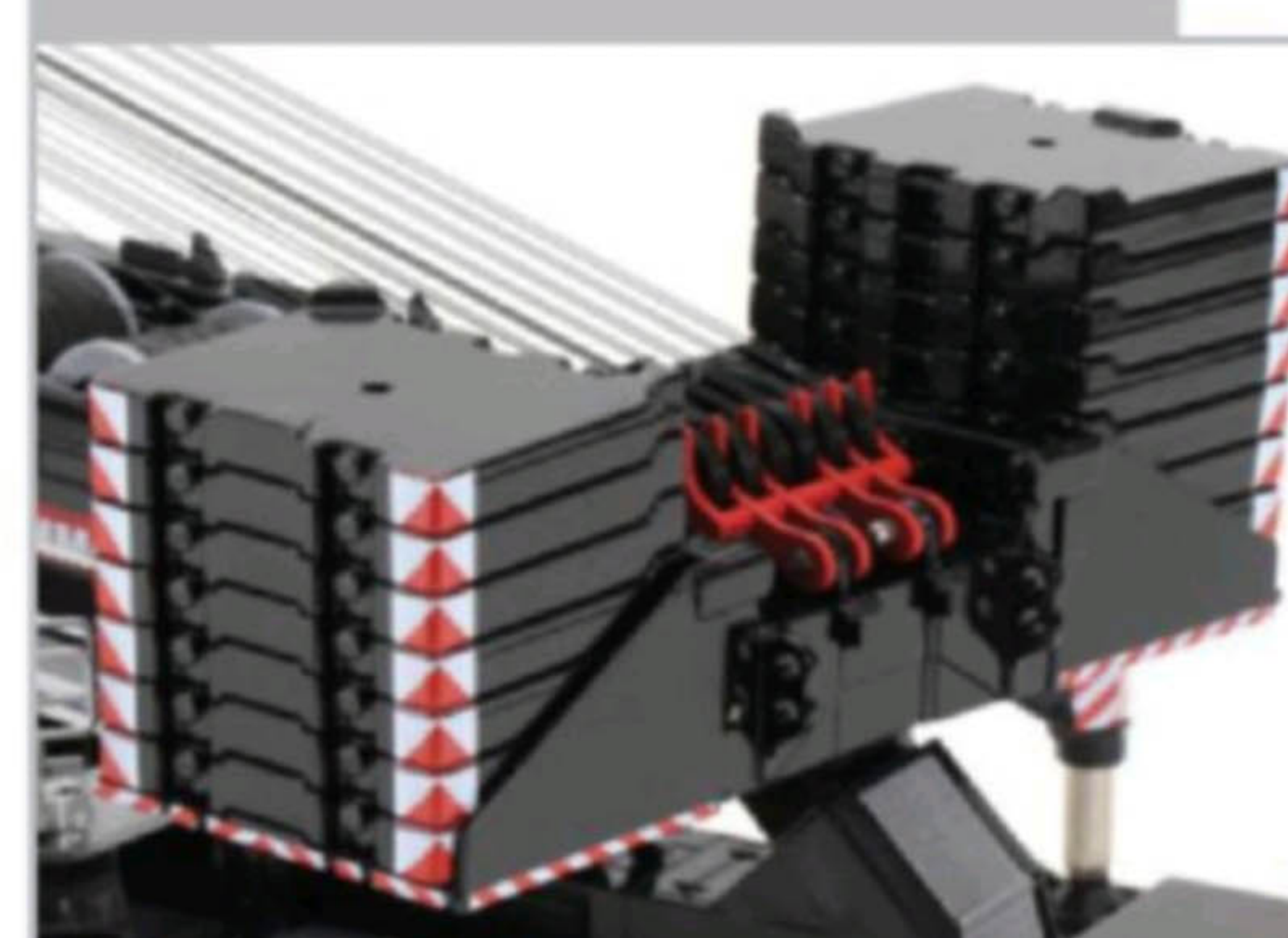
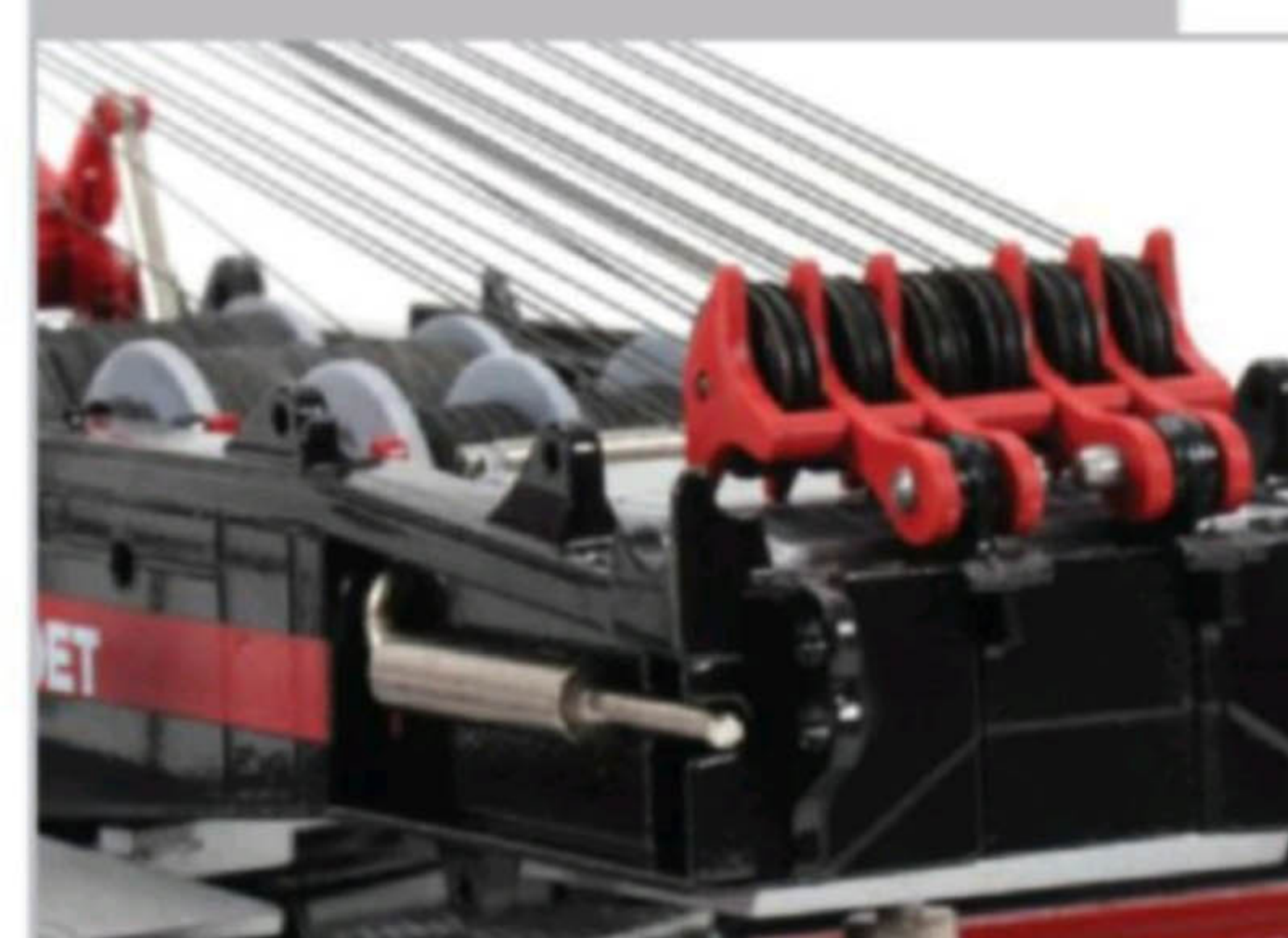
On the original model, there were a pair of walkways that clip into place on the sides of the superstructure. Conrad has updated one of these to incorporate a folding access ladder which is a really nice addition. Not only does the two-section ladder unfold and lower, but also rotates. It is finished with a set of safety railings and clips neatly into place. Other enhancements to the model include the main driving and the crane cabins which conform to the latest design of the LG1750. The crane cabin has a side platform and can be tilted for a better view when working at height.

The carrier has X-pattern outriggers which have single-stage telescopic extension with smooth surface jacks that can be rotated, lowering the pads to raise the wheels off the ground.

Right:
One of the simplest lifting configurations that can be realised, using only the main boom sections and heavy lift head. Ideal if you don't have the space for a fully rigged crane



To be continued...



SENNEBOGEN 830E

Demolition Excavator



Above:

Demolition models are one of my favourite types of excavator, and once again, Conrad has not disappointed with the release of the 830E demolition rig.

The range of Sennebogen demolition equipment includes the 830E which is available with the option of a fixed 2-piece K17 ULM boom to work at heights of up to 17 metres or a detachable three-piece AB23 boom setup which allows working at a height of up to 23 metres. In the latter configuration, the machine tips the scales at 52 ton. Conrad has been commissioned to produce a 1:50th scale replica of the 830E which they have done with flying colours, packing plenty of operational features.

As we look closely at the model, the first thing to notice is the undercarriage which features telescopically extending track frames to increase the footprint of the model for added stability. This mechanism works well, and is solid in construction with hardly any droop when fully extended. There are a set of four plastic bars which need clipping into place once the frames are extended.

Another very interesting and welcome feature of the model is the detachable rear ballast block, which pins into place on the ends of the self-assembly mechanism which, while devoid of any hydraulic, is stiff enough to hold the ballast off the ground, clicking into position when fully raised. The ballast also makes an interesting transport load on its own.

The Maxcab cabin is attached to a hydraulically adjustable riser which not only offers height, but also angular adjustment. A separate side platform with integral safety railings is included, as are a set of safety railings which use a friction fit into the holes along the sides and rear of the upper body. Added details include the front and roof protection screens and modelled cabin interior.

The carrier can be displayed with the boom separate, an ideal transport situation however it looks much better in all its glory, thanks to the





Buy it here

Right:

There is a support included in the box, allowing the demolition arm to be posed when not attached to the carrier which is a nice addition, with the boom slotting into place



three-piece boom which authentically captures the range of movement of the original, using hydraulic cylinders with just the right amount of friction to allow the boom to remain in a chosen position. There is a combination of silver finished fixed lines and flexible hoses which add to the realism, complete with the auxiliary lines to operate the included crusher attachment.

The attachment is a new tooling, offering both rotational movement of the body and an opening cutting jaw. Interestingly, the quick coupler mounted to the end of the arm is compatible with the three MBI attachments that have also been produced by Conrad, allowing an alternative look to the included crusher.

It should also be possible to fit buckets and attachments from other Conrad models that have a matching quick coupler connection, like the Liebherr A920/R922.

Left:

The set includes a new tooled crusher attachment as the only work tool in the box. The body rotates while the jaws open with clever engineering from Conrad



Mercedes-Benz Arocs

Doll Semi Low Loader

Below:

This tractor/trailer combination in Sennebogen decoration is the second transport model release from Conrad



Above:

The Sennebogen 830E demolition rig, also from Conrad, is shown here being transported on the Doll semi low loader trailer. The matching grey colour of the trailer to the undercarriage of the excavator is spot on

This combination of a Doll 5-axle semi low loader trailer and Mercedes-Benz Arocs tractor have been finished with Sennebogen graphics, an exclusive release that is available from the Sennebogen webshop.

The gooseneck of the trailer features two spare wheels at the tip with plastic moulded wheel chocks and a coarse textured bed surface with silver side walls giving a large storage area for accessories and rigging equipment. Four plastic stabilisers can be deployed by extending them gently to give the trailer stability during loading.

The underside of the trailer features five steerable axles which are all linked together to give a progressively tighter turning radius on each axle from front to back. Each axle also oscillates, simulating the suspension. The trailer bed can be completely detached from the gooseneck, held in place by the removable plastic pin.

The sides of the trailer feature five, slide out extension arms allowing the trailer to carry wider loads than the deck width and an extending section allowing for longer loads to be transported and this mechanism extends smoothly.

The edges of the trailer deck have a number of rectangular holes which allow the small metal bars provided in the box to be inserted. The upper deck surfaces of the trailer have an inset strip on each side with a raised single diamond pattern texture which is very nicely defined while the side walls of the trailer have tie-down rings cast into the surface.



Right:

The gooseneck can be detached from the trailer deck, an interesting feature which is replicated on the model



Buy it here

Below:
The main deck is telescopically extendable, allowing for longer length loads to be carried



The folding ramps on the rear of the trailer are connected to a slotted bar, allowing them to slide along the rear of the trailer to accommodate both narrow and wide loads. Each two-part ramp unfolds and has ridge detailing on the upper surface with structural detail on the underside.

A 3-axle Mercedes Benz Arocs 6x4 is included, finished with Sennebogen graphics on the sides and front of the cabin. The underside features replicated driveshafts to the rear wheels along with oscillating axles simulating the suspension while the front axle has working steering, achieving a good range of movement. This is an ideal transport combination for the varied range of Sennebogen equipment, shown here loaded with the new Sennebogen 830E demolition rig, and the recent 824G release.



Left:
A pair of stabilisers at the rear can be extended for stability when the two-part folding ramps are lowered for equipment loading

Right:
The Sennebogen 824G material handler from Conrad looks great carried on the Doll trailer, a perfect transport combination



Liebherr 195 HC-LH

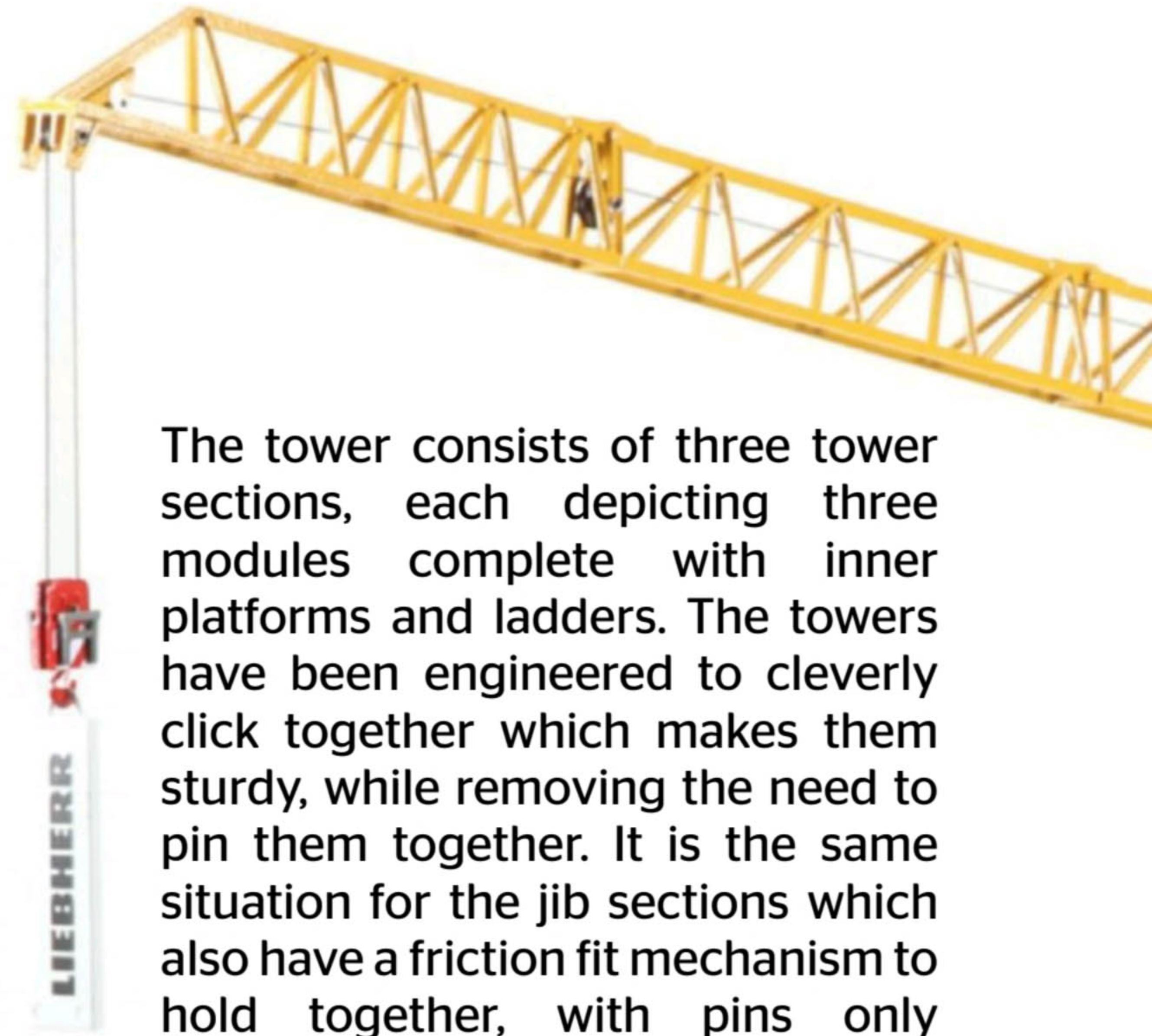
Luffing Tower Crane

Liebherr has commissioned Conrad to produce two different versions of their new hydraulic luffing tower crane, with the 195 HC-LH and the NC-LH 12-55 now available.

Presented here is the 195 HC-LH which we will take a closer look at and in the next issue, I will look over the NC-LH 12-55, highlighting the casting differences and changes between the two models.

The model has been developed in 1:87th scale, matching the other tower crane models previously released. The base is constructed from a cross-member with the start of the tower, complete with four support bars and footings that accept the four metal pads simulating concrete footings. These push fit onto the protruding logs, before rotating them to prevent them falling off.

Next up are two ballast plates which sit on the cross members. These have holes in them, allowing the four main ballast blocks to be positioned. Each block represents five plates, each with an engraved Liebherr logo.



The tower consists of three tower sections, each depicting three modules complete with inner platforms and ladders. The towers have been engineered to cleverly click together which makes them sturdy, while removing the need to pin them together. It is the same situation for the jib sections which also have a friction fit mechanism to hold together, with pins only needed to fix the back mast to the upright.

There are a set of platforms included which clip into place on the upper sides of the main upright, while a plastic bar clips into place on the back mast which is not mentioned in the assembly instructions.



Above:

The main frame support with its cross-member design and supports is a sturdy base, with lower lugs ready to accept the footing plates

Right:
The full complement of ballast for the base



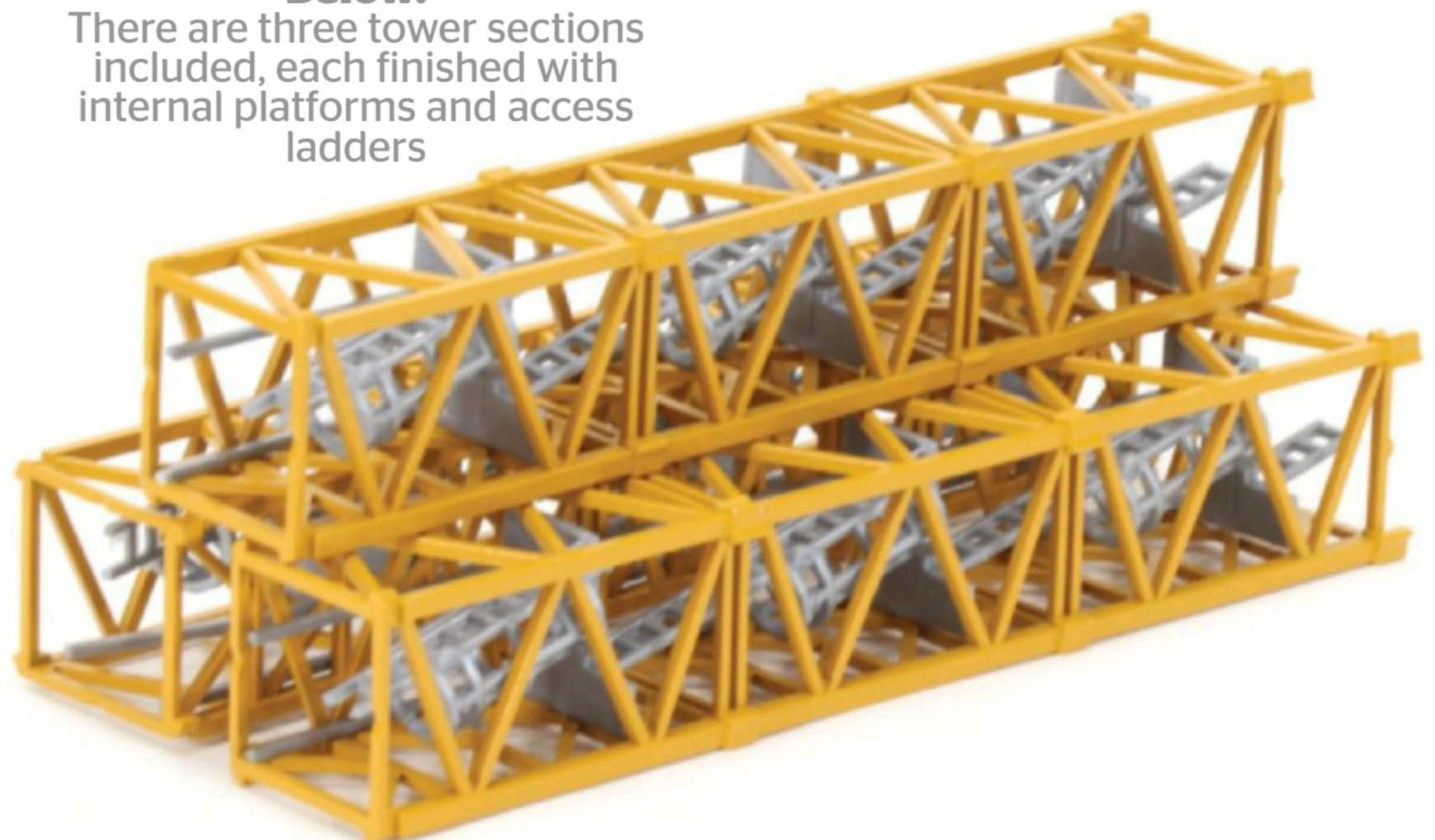
Below:

There are three tower sections included, each finished with internal platforms and access ladders



Left:

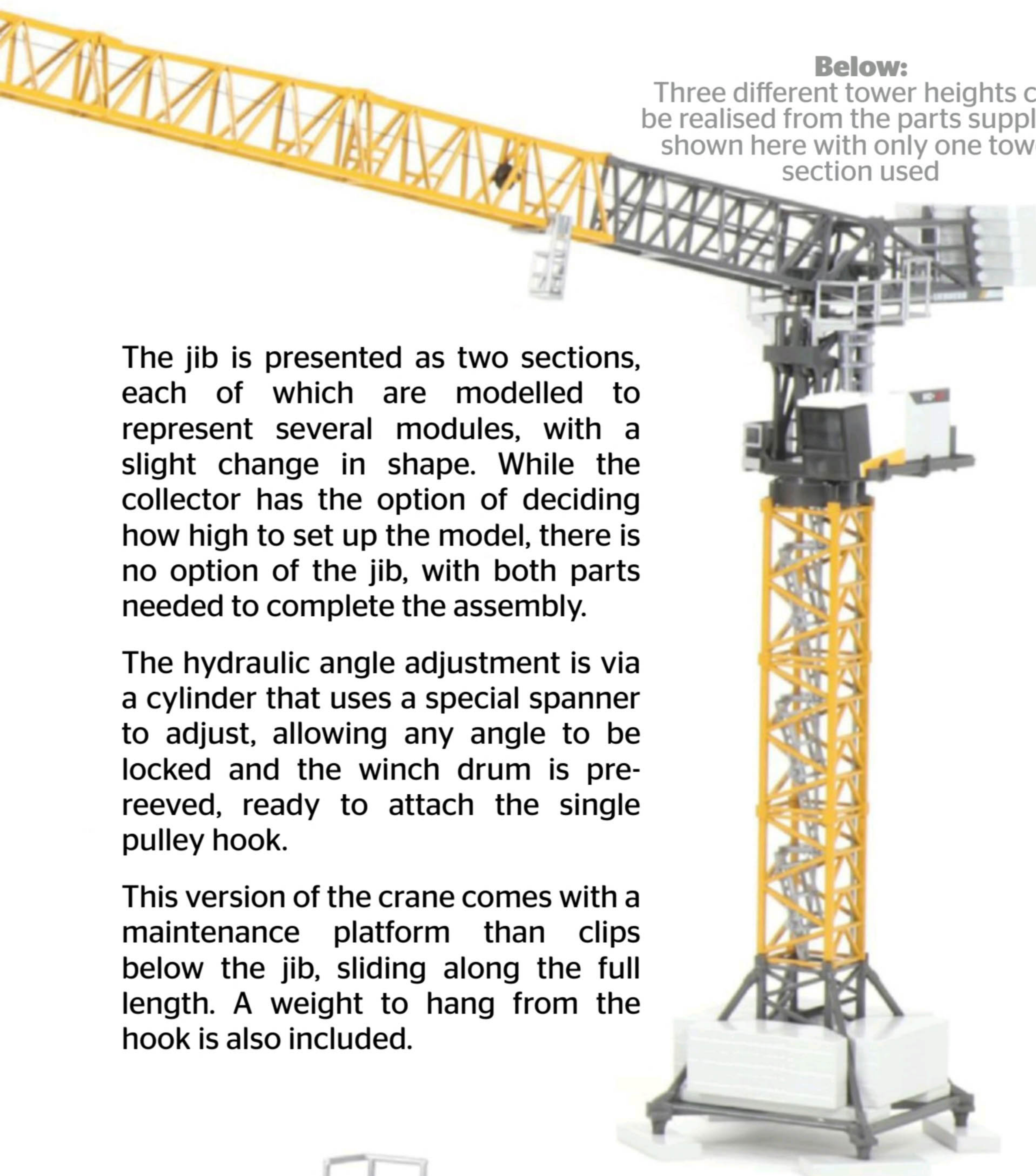
A nice touch are the supports for the hook block which can be reversed once the hook is attached to the jib





Buy it here

There is plenty of detail, and some nice engineering touches on the model which include the ability to remove the walkway in the back mast and insert the jib section for a transport configuration, while stands for the hook block are a neat addition.



Below:

Three different tower heights can be realised from the parts supplied, shown here with only one tower section used

The jib is presented as two sections, each of which are modelled to represent several modules, with a slight change in shape. While the collector has the option of deciding how high to set up the model, there is no option of the jib, with both parts needed to complete the assembly.

The hydraulic angle adjustment is via a cylinder that uses a special spanner to adjust, allowing any angle to be locked and the winch drum is pre-reeved, ready to attach the single pulley hook.

This version of the crane comes with a maintenance platform than clips below the jib, sliding along the full length. A weight to hang from the hook is also included.



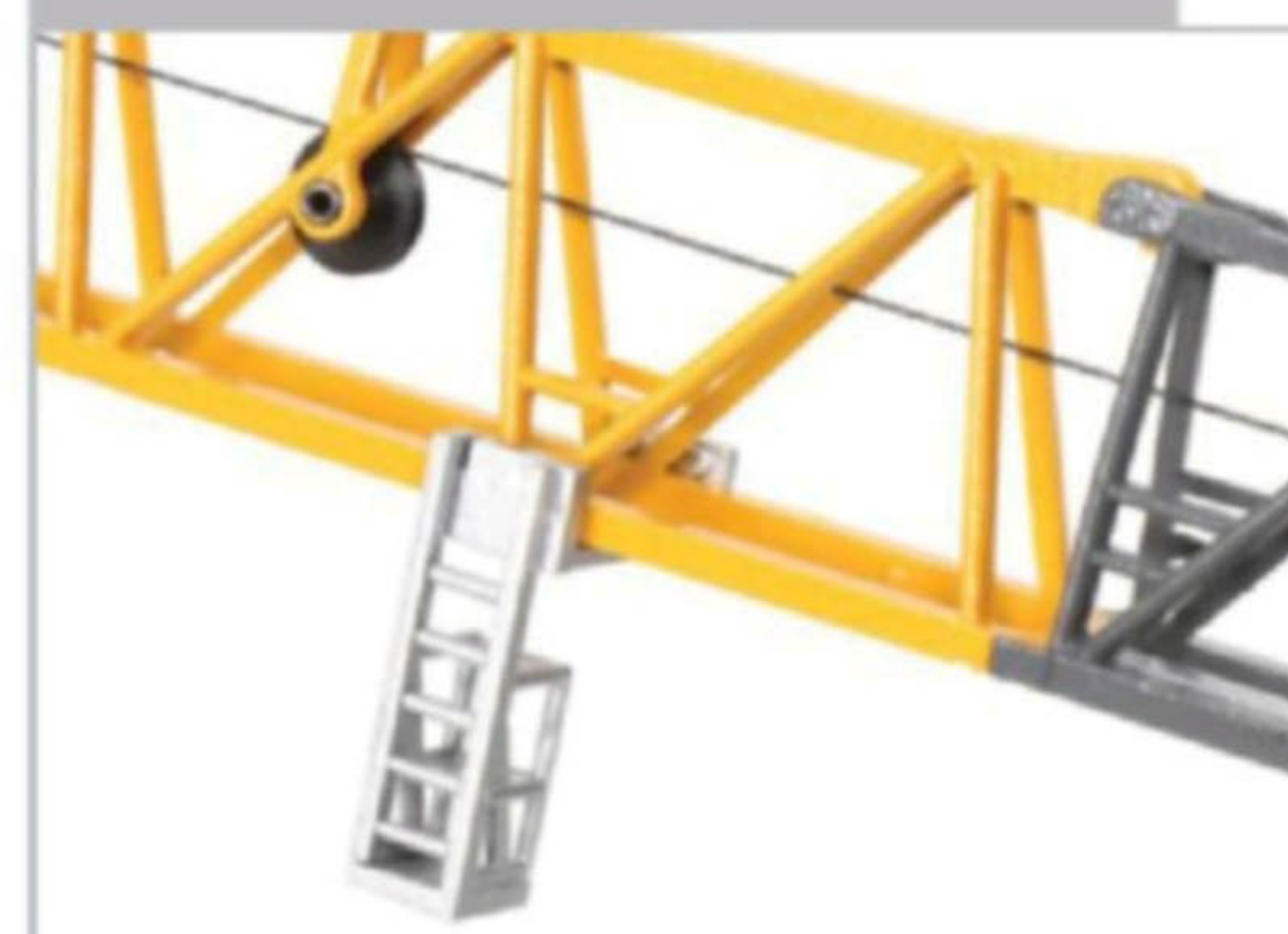
Above:

There are platforms that need fitting to each side of the main tower along with a platform that slides along the jib



Below:

The two jib sections incorporate internal pulleys and cleverly connect together without the need for pins



CATERPILLAR Evolution Series

Excavators



Below:

The iconic shape of the cabin on the 225 tracked excavator is the first thing that catches the eye, with the interior operator controls nicely modelled, as are the windows with printing used for the rubber seals, shown here with the period accurate operator figure installed

Right:

The model is depicted with a toothed digging bucket that has a fair range of movement, with the various pins and rivets painted over. Hydraulic hose detailing in a matching yellow colour is an interesting touch

Diecast Masters has produced a range of models in their “Evolution Series” range, and we finally have the release that I have been waiting for the most, as a fan of excavators. The excavator set contains a new tooled classic 225 placed alongside the modern 323 next generation, highlighting the development of the excavator series over time. The set comes with a ring-bound book depicting pictures of Caterpillar tracked excavators over the decades, from the early equipment through to the latest machines with interesting details here and there.

Below:

The packaging is impressive, with the models mounted to a plastic base with inset medallion. The included information book provides plenty of pictures and information about the Caterpillar excavator development

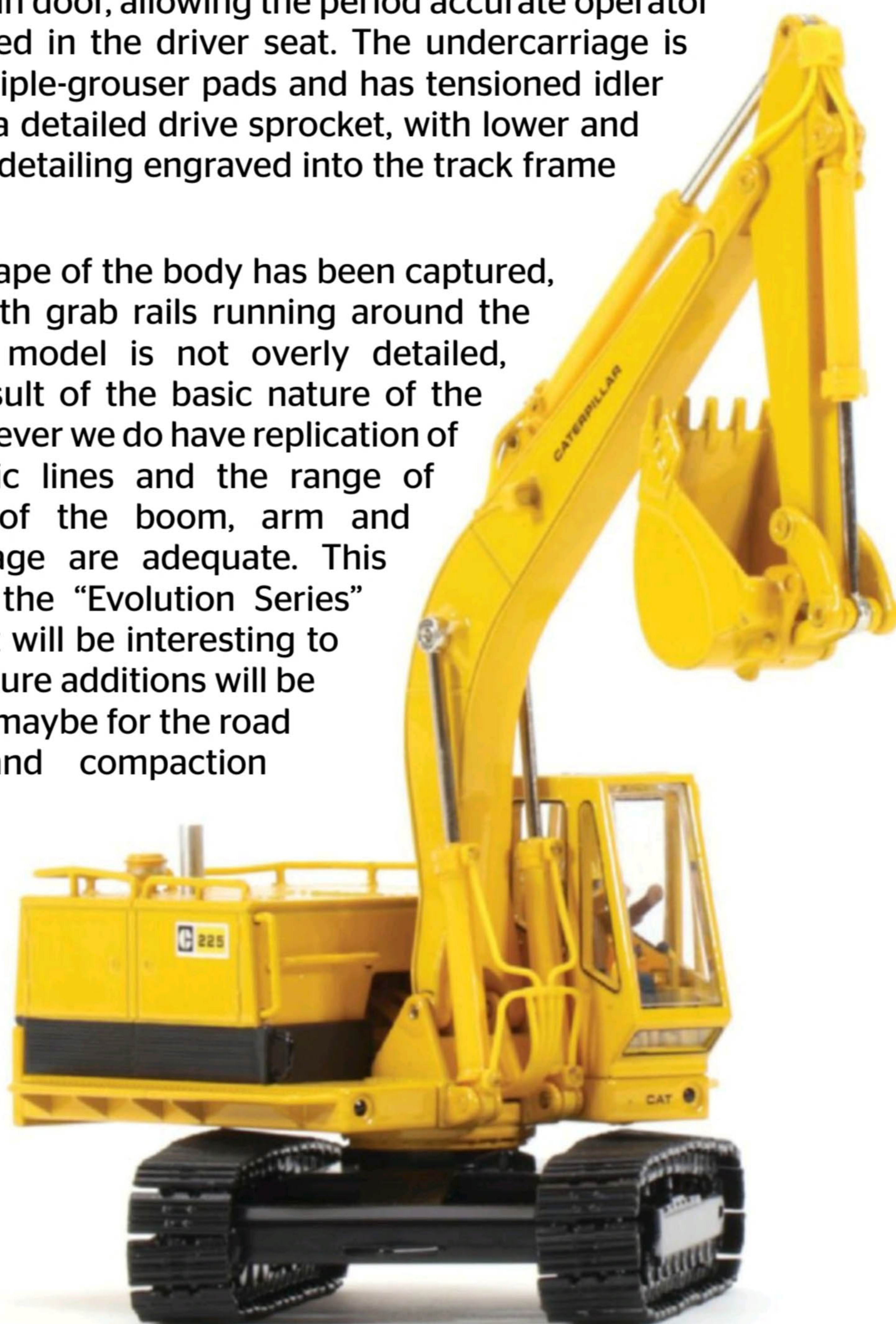




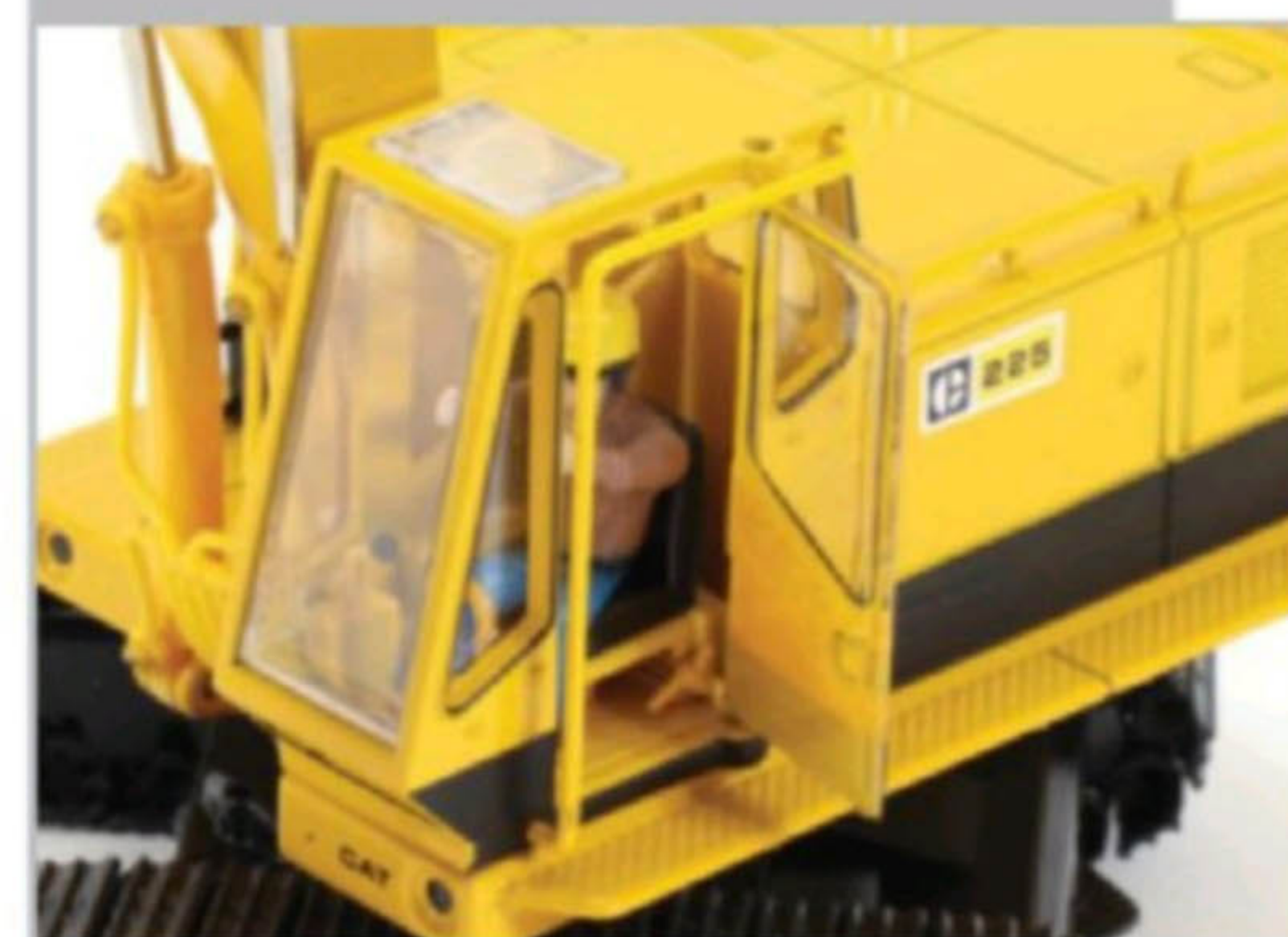
Buy it here

The Cat 323 has been previously reviewed, so attention here is focused on the new 225 casting which incorporates an opening cabin door, allowing the period accurate operator to be installed in the driver seat. The undercarriage is fitted with triple-grouser pads and has tensioned idler wheels and a detailed drive sprocket, with lower and upper roller detailing engraved into the track frame casting.

The boxy shape of the body has been captured, complete with grab rails running around the edges. The model is not overly detailed, maybe a result of the basic nature of the original however we do have replication of the hydraulic lines and the range of movement of the boom, arm and bucket linkage are adequate. This rounds out the “Evolution Series” nicely, and it will be interesting to see if any future additions will be considered, maybe for the road surfacing and compaction division.

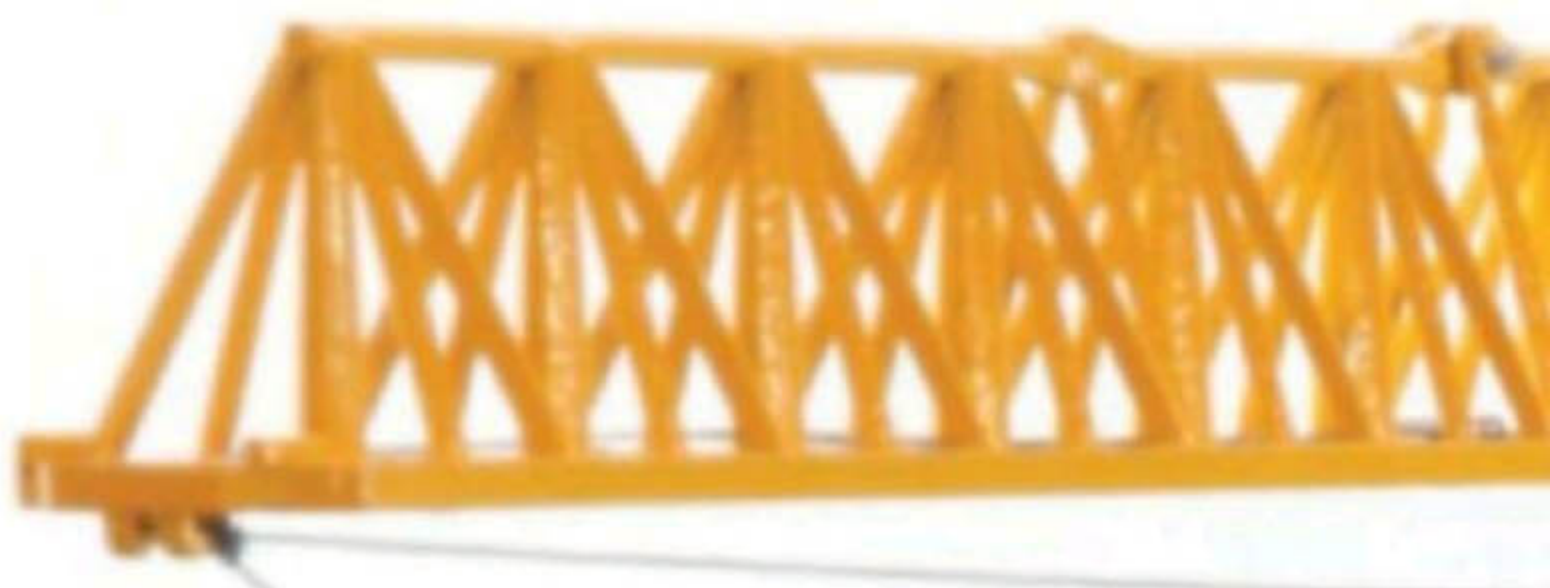


Below:
The 225 is a classic design which has been captured nicely by Diecast Masters



POTAIN MDT 809

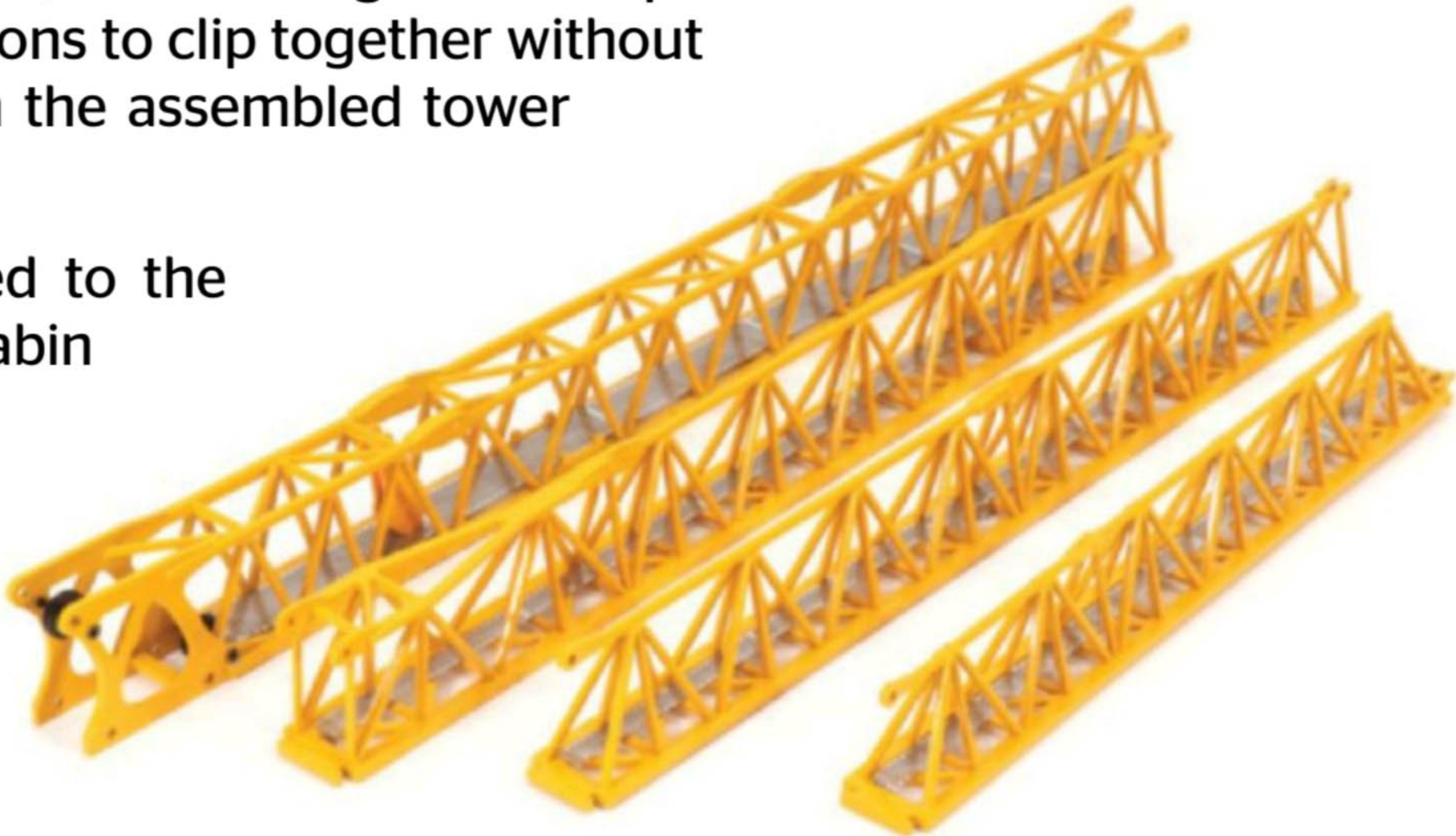
Tower Crane



I have to admit that the range of 1:87th scale tower cranes produced by Conrad are impressive in their size, while capturing plenty of the finer details of the original. We have already taken a look at the Liebherr 195 HC-LH luffing tower crane and I now take a closer look at another recent addition to the range, the Potain MDT 809 top slewing tower crane.

There are quite a few parts in the box needed to construct the model, starting with the base which has two interlocking beams, a platform and access ladder. These are held in place with the ballast plates which rest on the cross-members, interlocking as each plate is installed. Conrad has engineered the tower sections to clip together without needing any pins and this does work well, with the assembled tower sturdy.

Plastic platforms and ladders have been added to the interior of the tower sections for access to the cabin which is positioned in a slung position on the side of the jib with a rear platform and access ladder leading to the top of the tower.

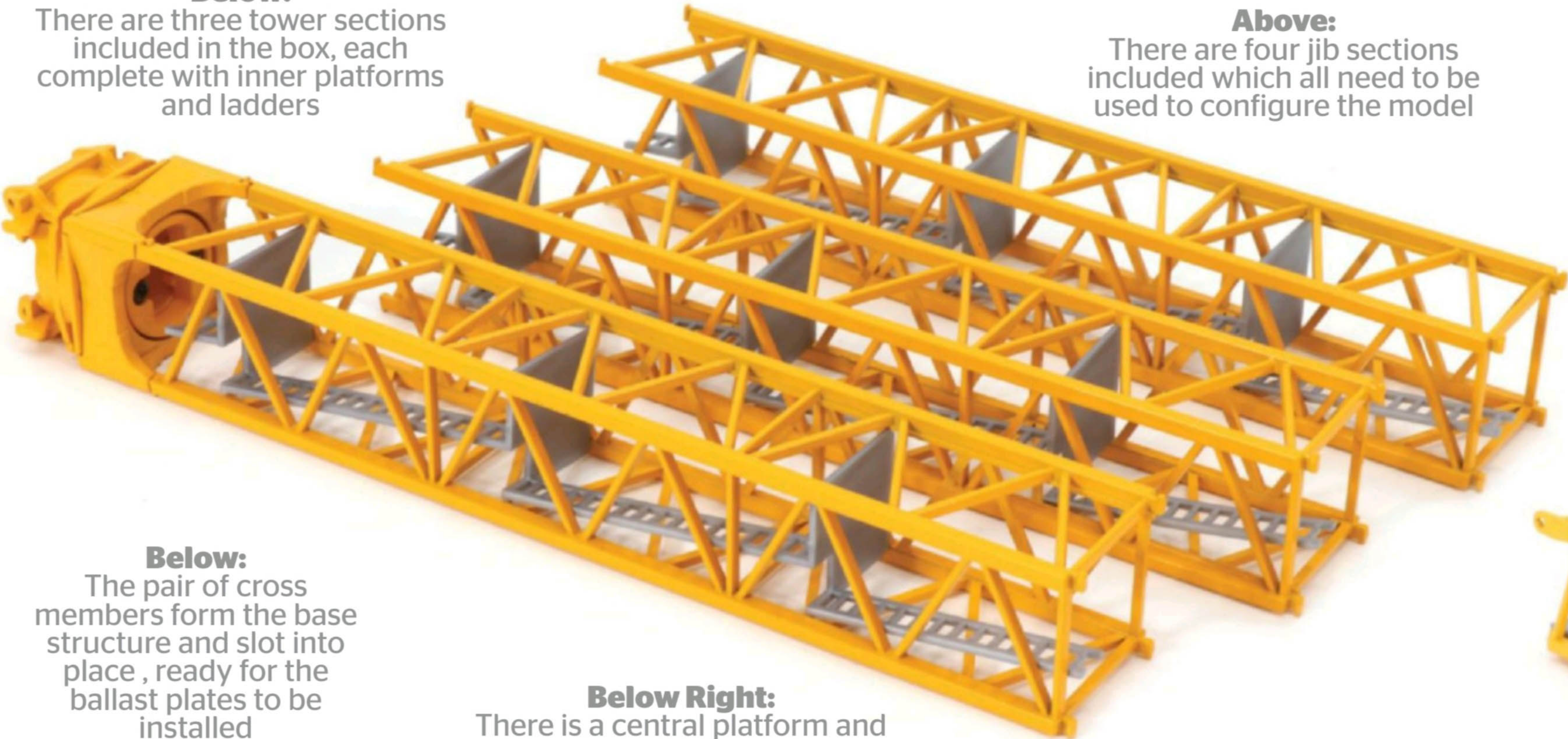


Below:

There are three tower sections included in the box, each complete with inner platforms and ladders

Above:

There are four jib sections included which all need to be used to configure the model

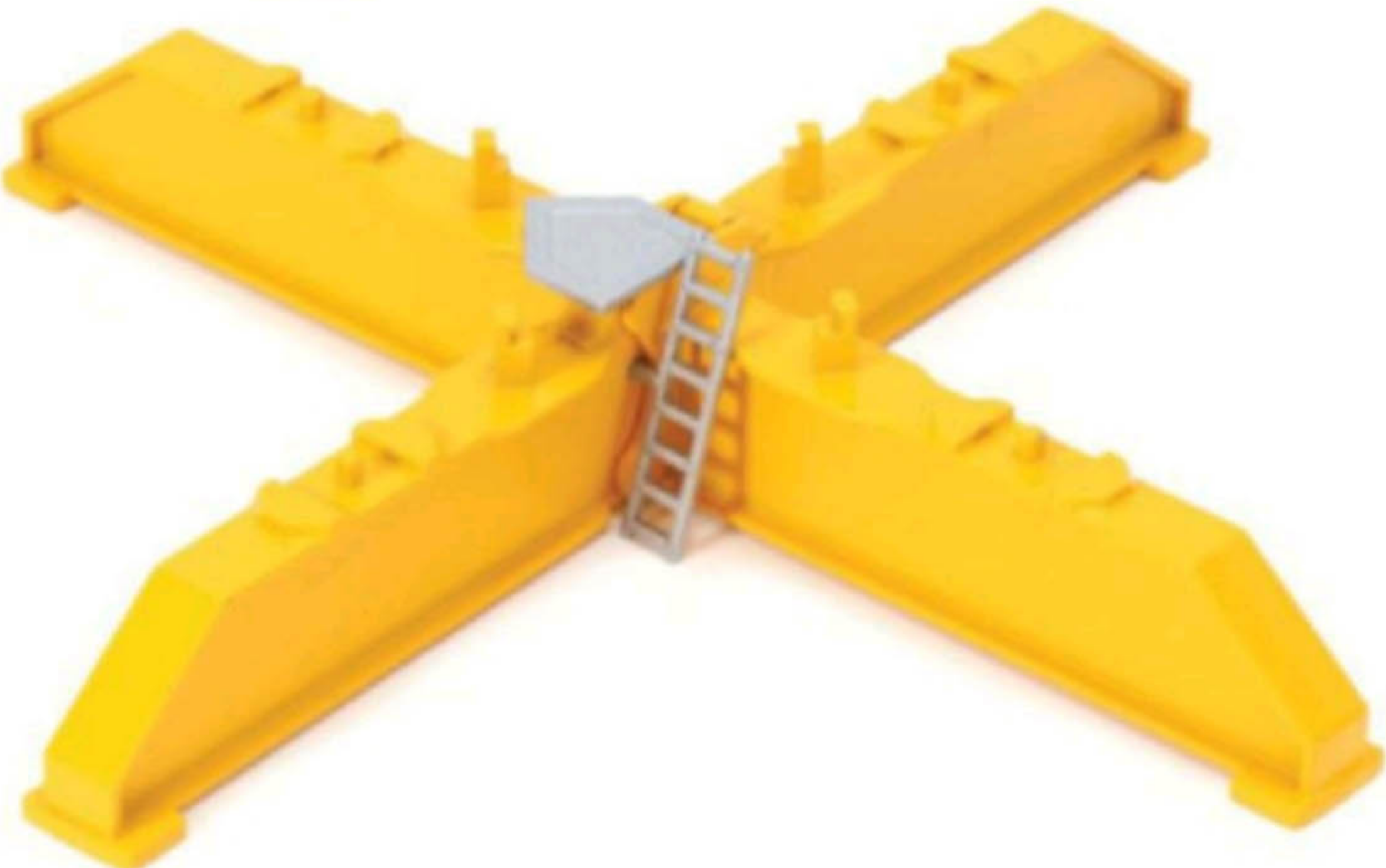
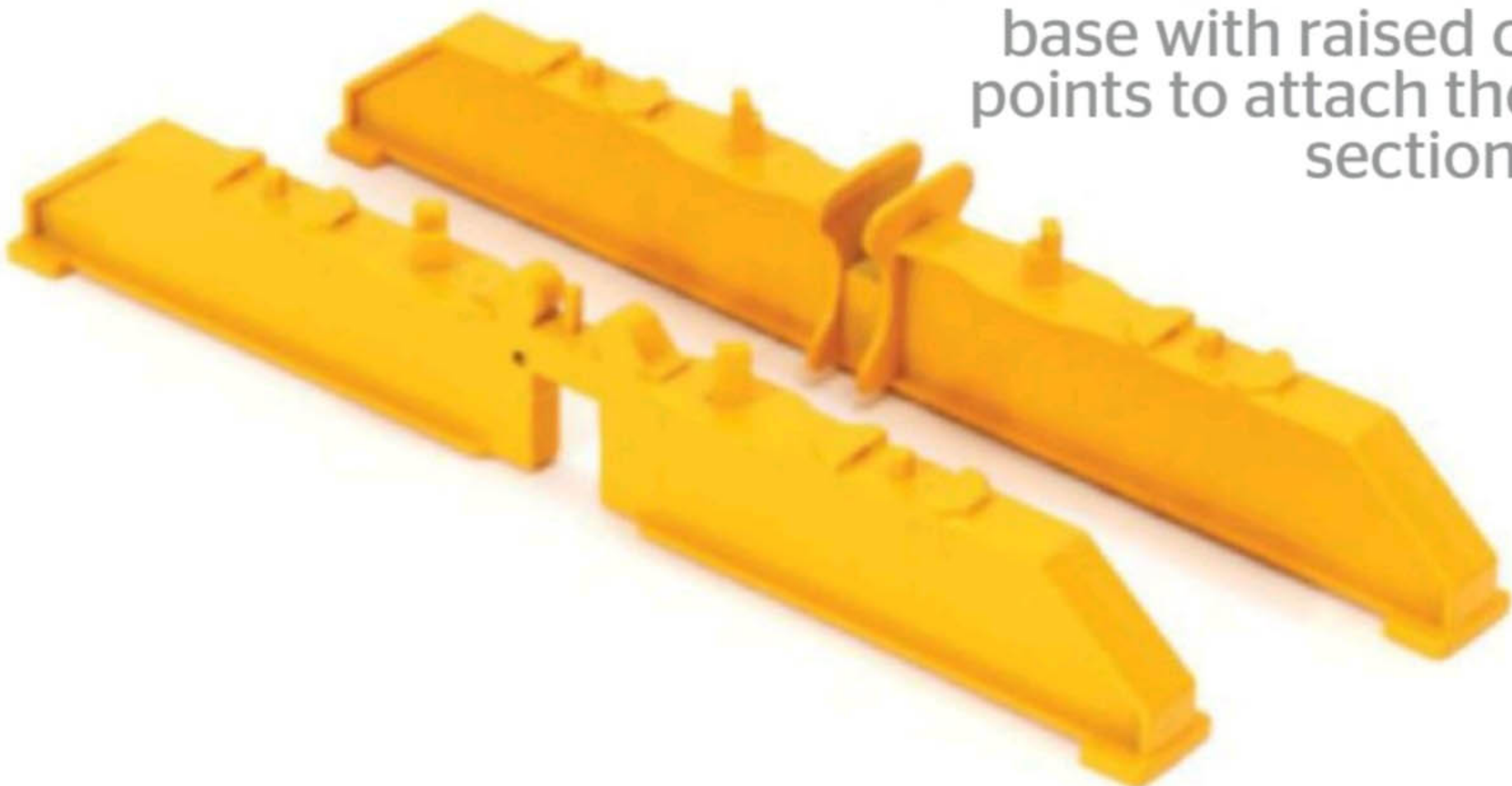


Below:

The pair of cross members form the base structure and slot into place, ready for the ballast plates to be installed

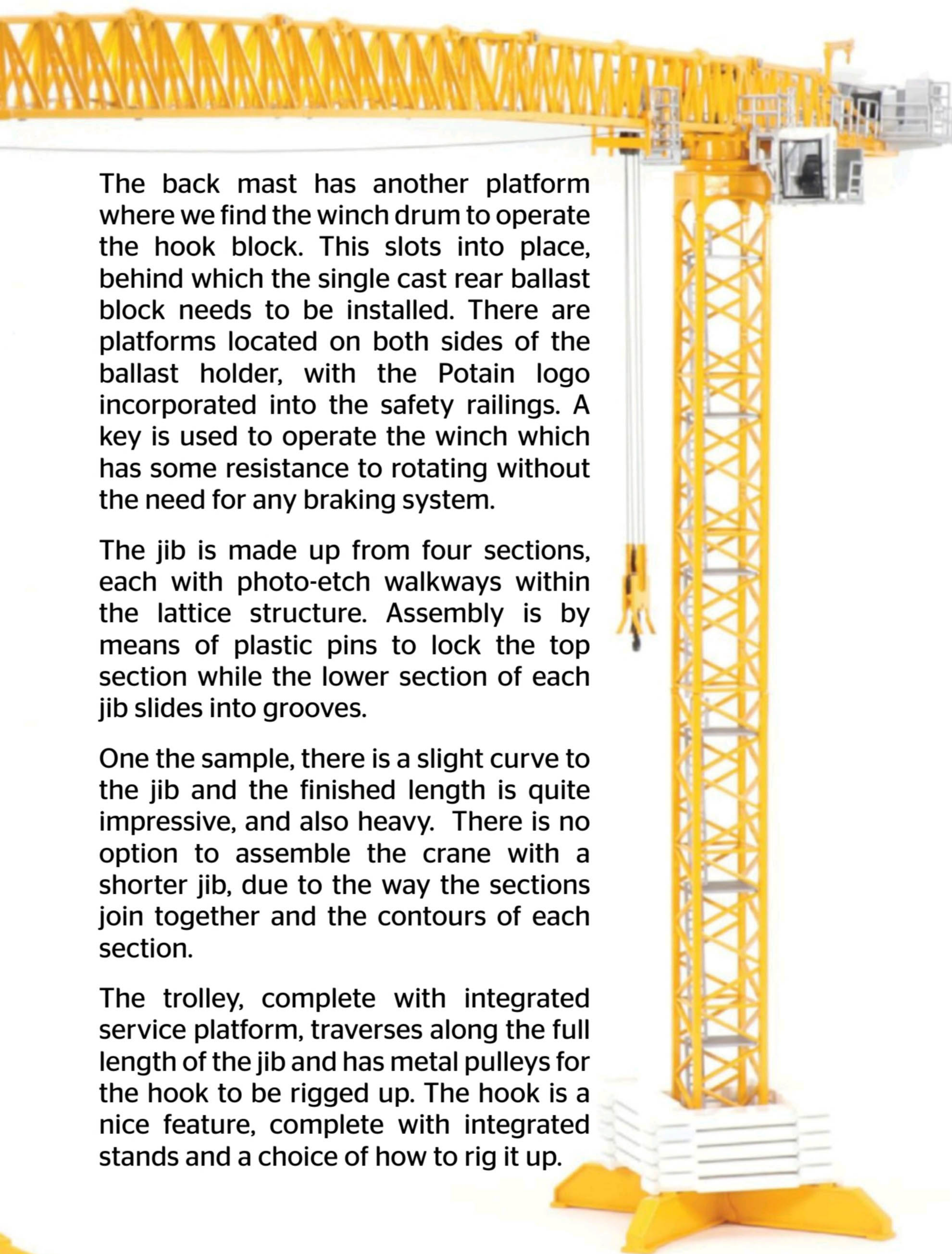
Below Right:

There is a central platform and small access ladder that fit to the base with raised connection points to attach the first tower section





Buy it here

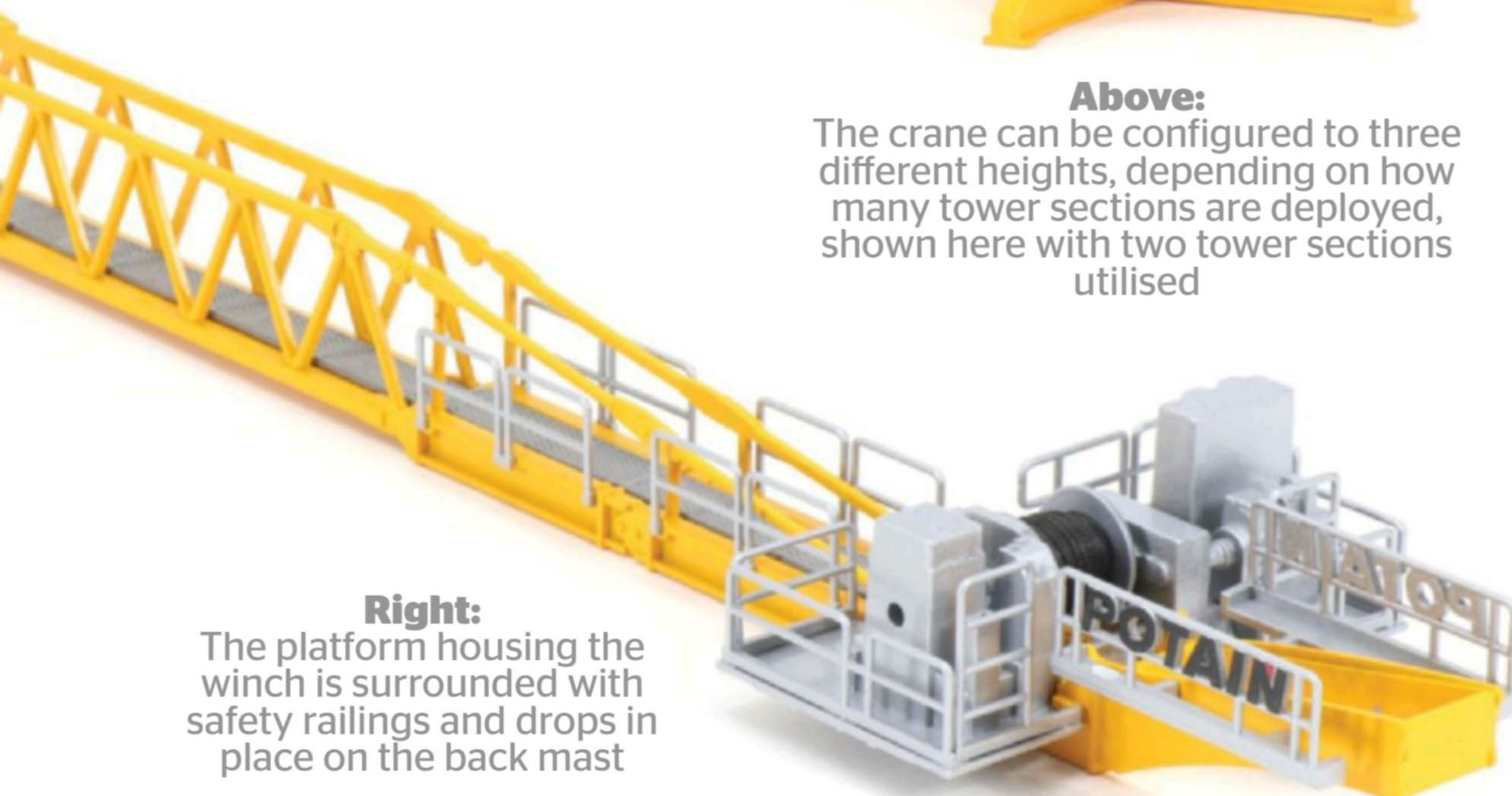


The back mast has another platform where we find the winch drum to operate the hook block. This slots into place, behind which the single cast rear ballast block needs to be installed. There are platforms located on both sides of the ballast holder, with the Potain logo incorporated into the safety railings. A key is used to operate the winch which has some resistance to rotating without the need for any braking system.

The jib is made up from four sections, each with photo-etch walkways within the lattice structure. Assembly is by means of plastic pins to lock the top section while the lower section of each jib slides into grooves.

One the sample, there is a slight curve to the jib and the finished length is quite impressive, and also heavy. There is no option to assemble the crane with a shorter jib, due to the way the sections join together and the contours of each section.

The trolley, complete with integrated service platform, traverses along the full length of the jib and has metal pulleys for the hook to be rigged up. The hook is a nice feature, complete with integrated stands and a choice of how to rig it up.

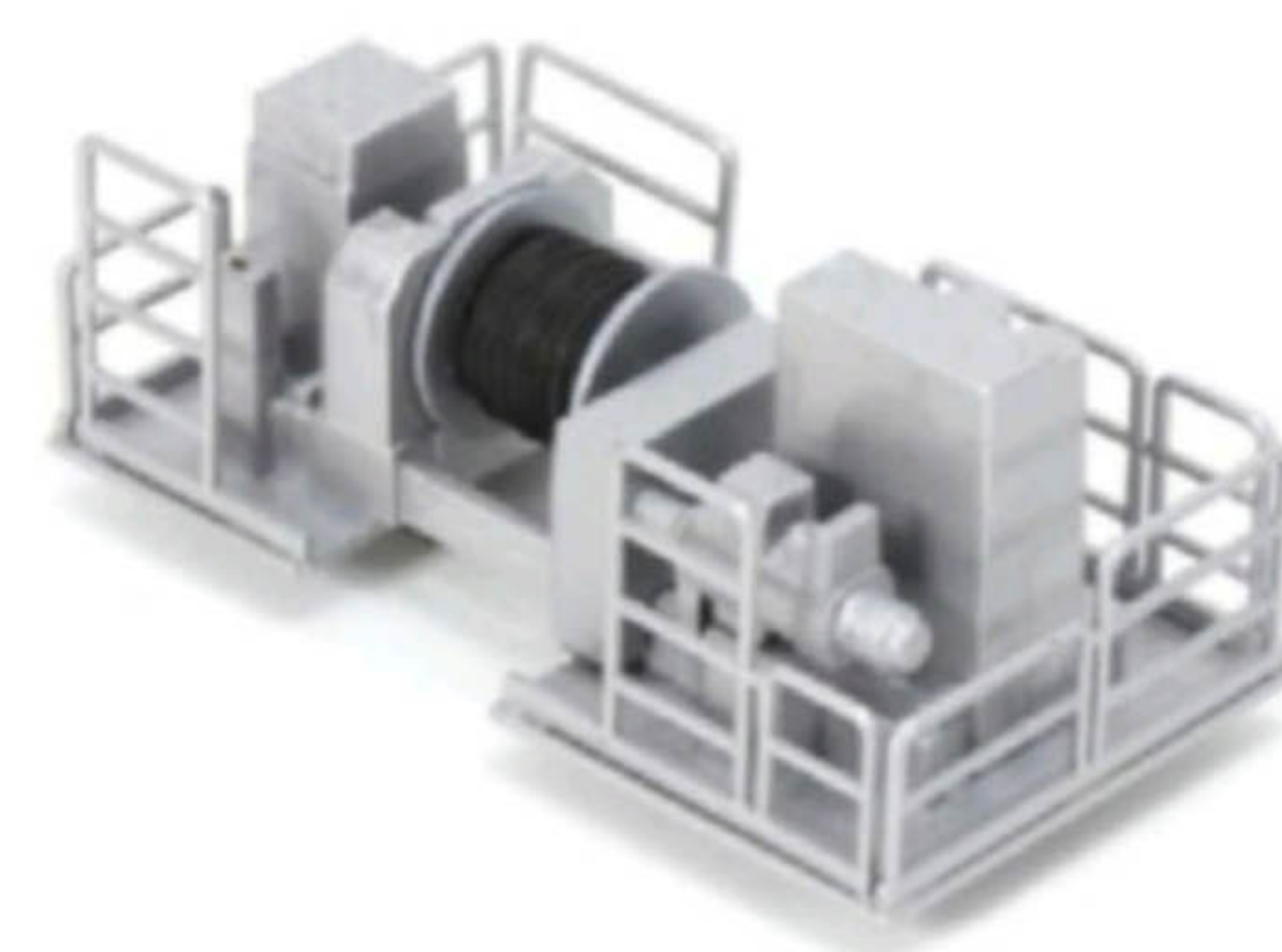


Right:

The platform housing the winch is surrounded with safety railings and drops in place on the back mast

Above:

The crane can be configured to three different heights, depending on how many tower sections are deployed, shown here with two tower sections utilised



LINK-BELT 220 X4S

Tracked Excavator



Above:
The latest generation of tracked excavator from Link-Belt is represented here with the 220 X4S from Replicars, expertly crafted in 1:50th scale

Presented here is the 1:50th scale Link-Belt 220 X4S tracked excavator which has been produced by Replicars, an update to their previous 220 X4 model which captures the latest aesthetics of the full-sized machine.

The undercarriage has wide track pads with triple grouser detailing, mounted to the track

frames which have good definition of the lower rollers with tensioned idlers to keep the tracks taut.

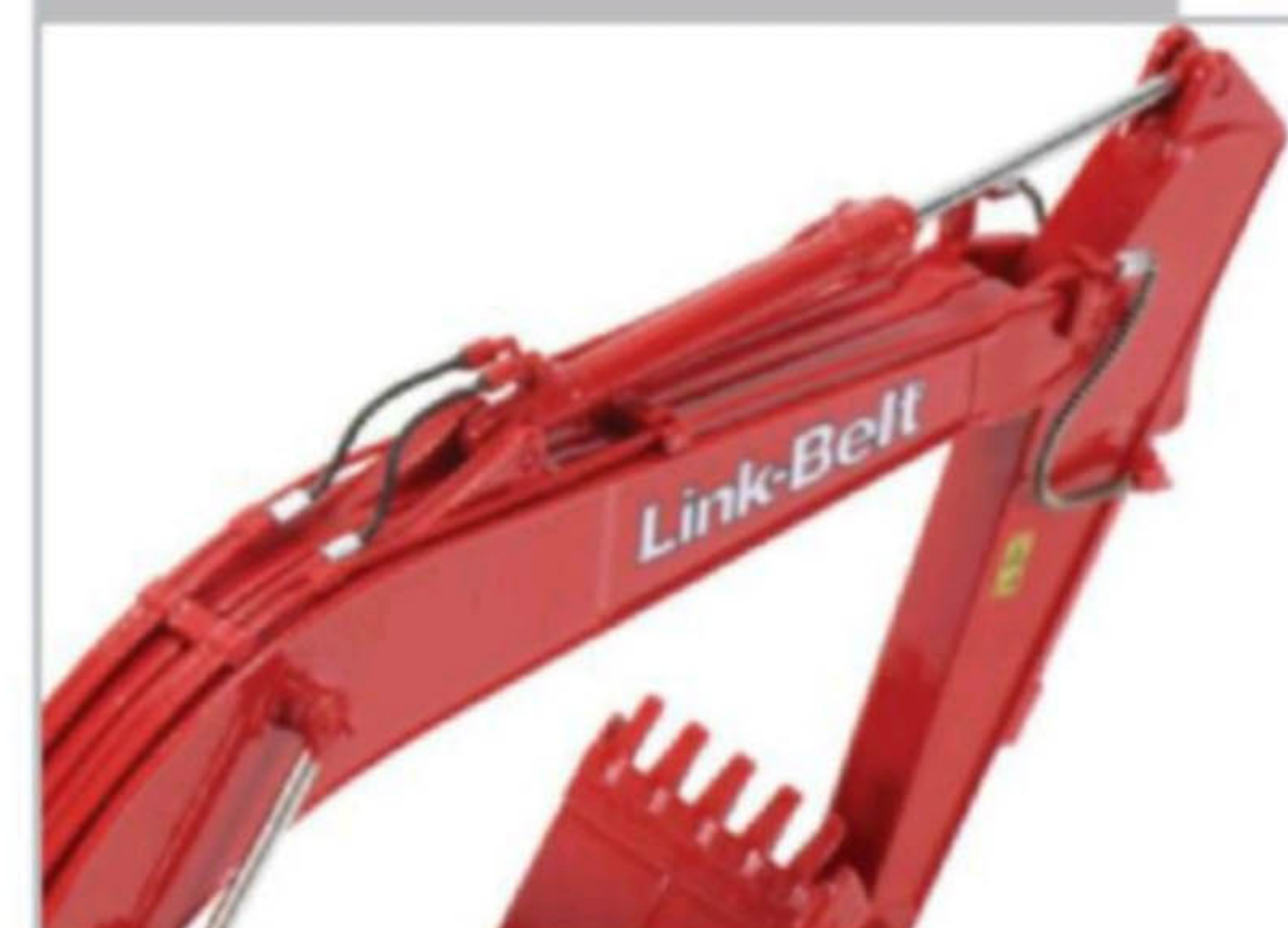
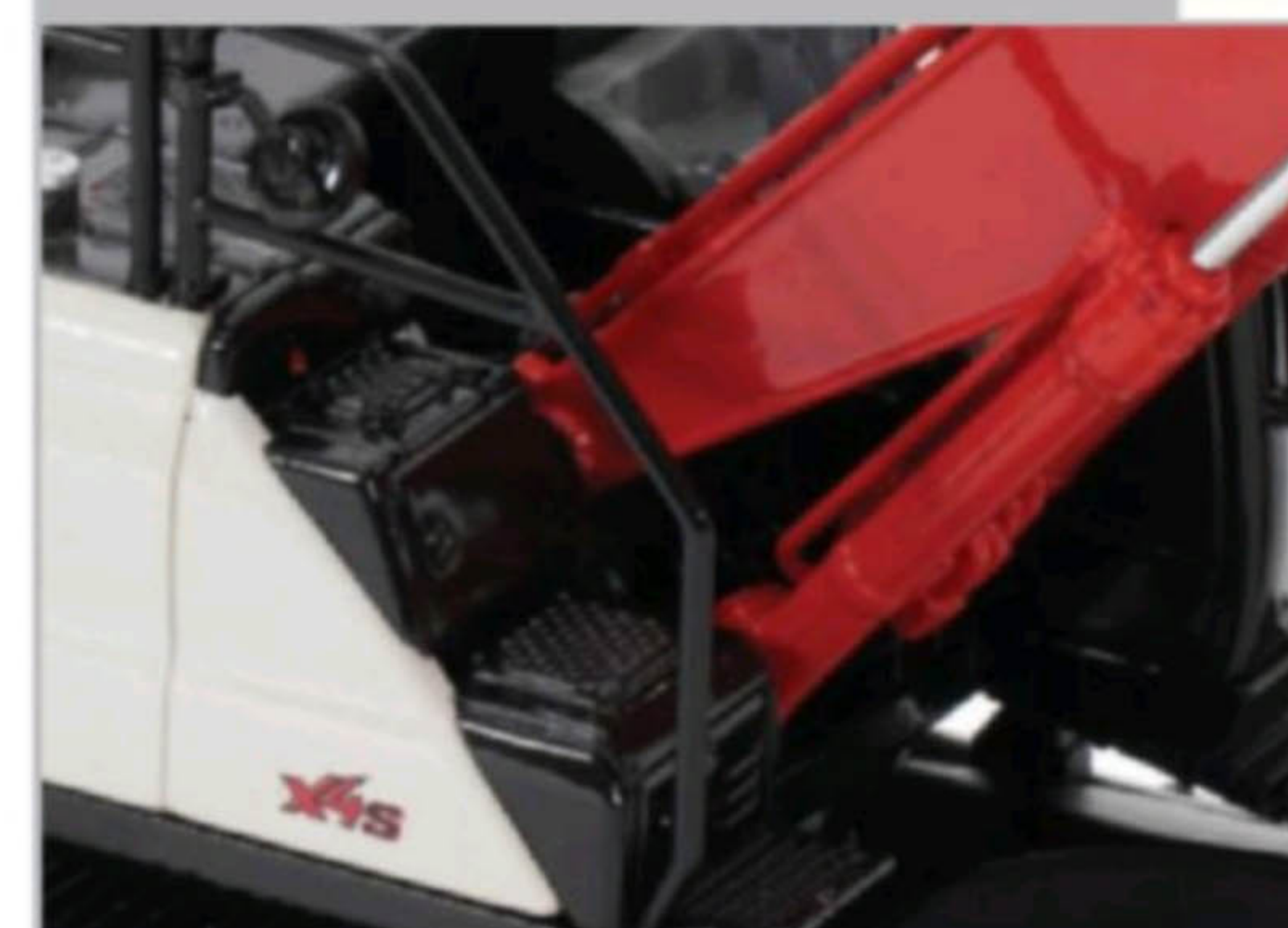
The model is void of an opening cabin door, but does have a very nicely implemented interior which is visible by looking through the clear glazing.



Above:
The Range of movement of the boom, stick and bucket linkage is authentic to the original. A nice touch is the ability to remove the toothed bucket easily



Buy it here



Below:

The paint finish has to be mentioned, with an even coating allowing all the surface details of the castings to be seen



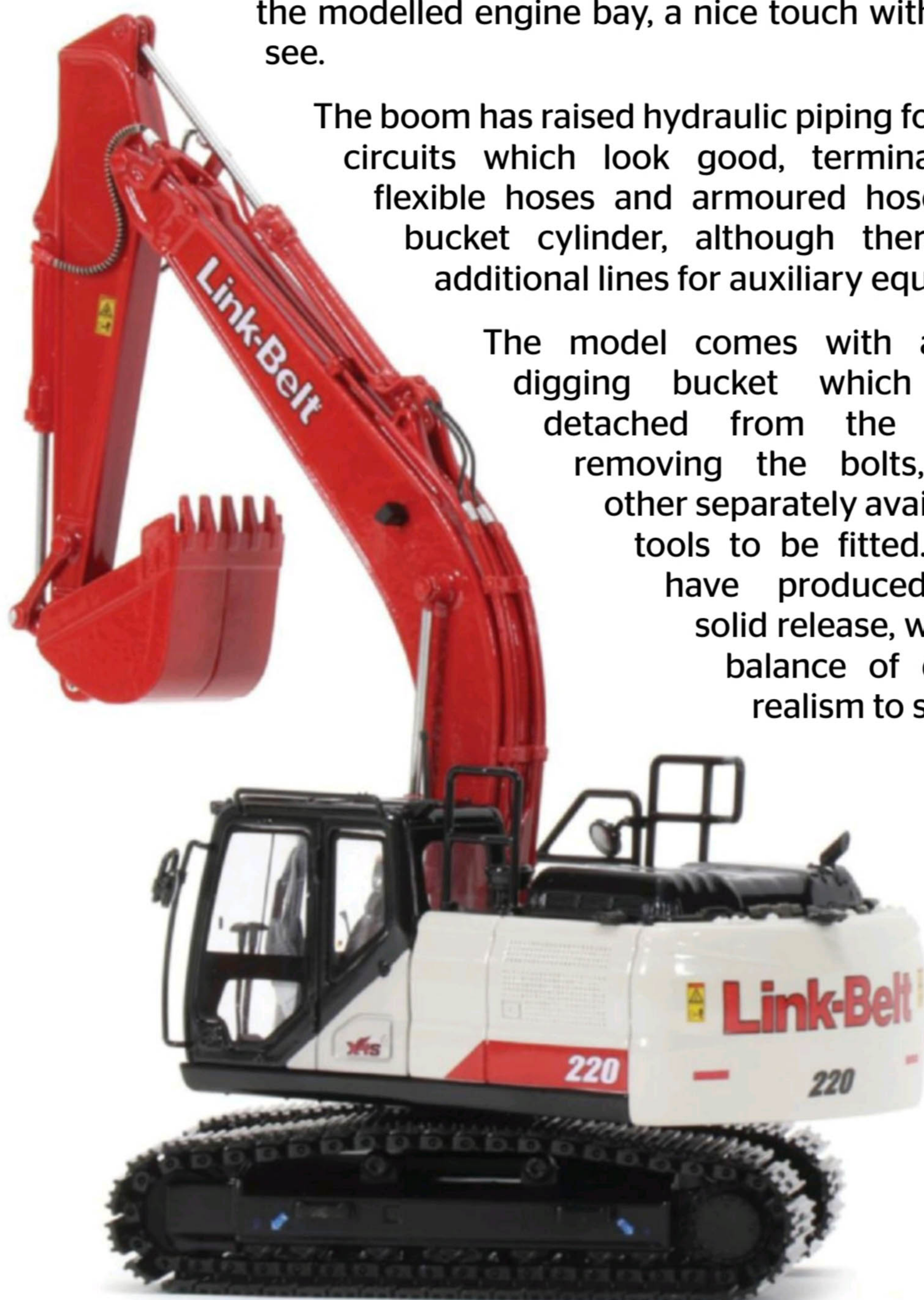
Above:

The Link-Belt 220 X4S model is up for grabs in our competition. Check out page 69 For full details on how to enter

The contours of the body include surface engraving of the grills and various panels along with the handle detailing. Up top, there is an opening cover revealing the modelled engine bay, a nice touch with plenty to see.

The boom has raised hydraulic piping for the main circuits which look good, terminating with flexible hoses and armoured hoses for the bucket cylinder, although there are no additional lines for auxiliary equipment.

The model comes with a toothed digging bucket which can be detached from the stick by removing the bolts, allowing other separately available work tools to be fitted. Replicars have produced another solid release, with a good balance of detail and realism to stand out.



LINK-BELT 355 X4S Tracked Excavator



The new Link-Belt 355 X4S tracked excavator is another fine release from Replicars, modelled in 1:50th scale and packing plenty of detail and realism throughout

Not content with the Link-Belt 145 X4 reduced radius tracked excavator release, Replicars have now followed up with the larger 355 X4S, a very impressive new release that really captures the looks and contours of the excavator, particularly the rear body design with its tall and wide rear end.

The castings have good definition of the grill indents and panel lines with nice upper body detailing, particularly the engine bay which is fully populated and visible by lifting the upper engine cover. The full-sized cabin has a strong, light-coloured interior



Above:

The replicated hydraulic lines look good, a mixture of raised piping and flexible hoses terminating at the cylinders

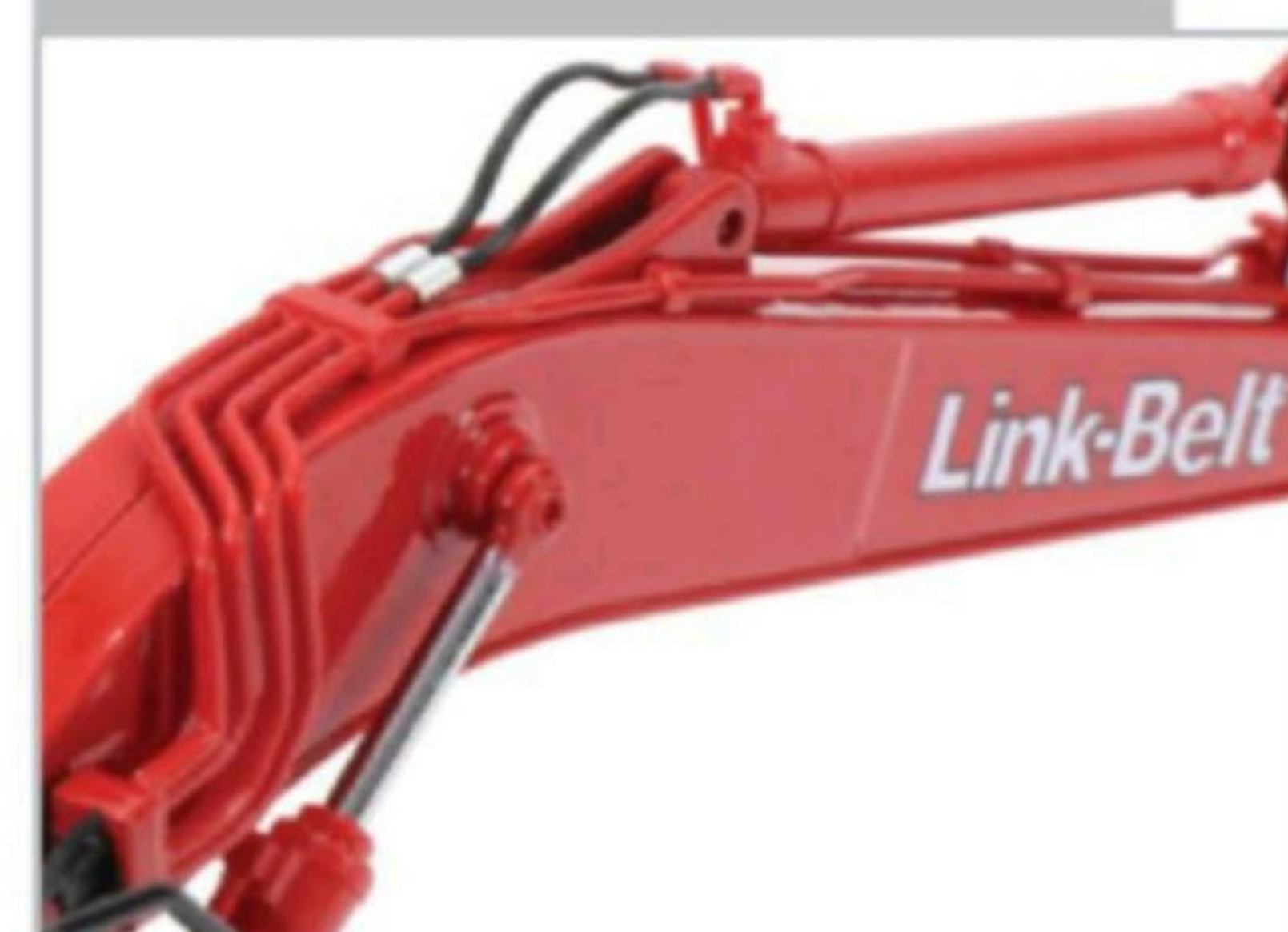


Buy it here



Right:

The contours of the large rear body design with its reduced radius dimensions has been captured convincingly, complete with surface detailing



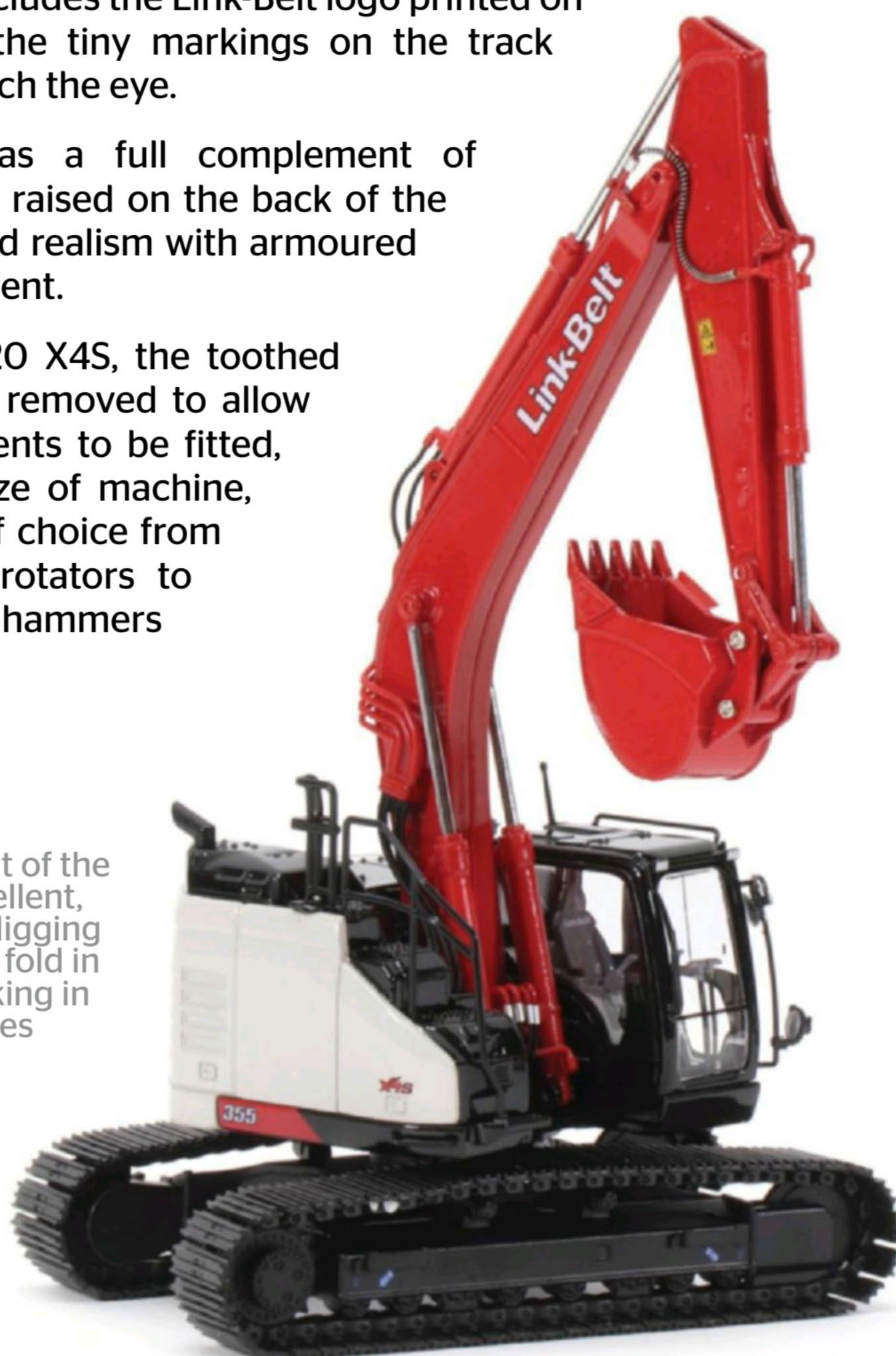
showcasing all the essential details, from the driver seat and integrated armrests to the tracking levers, joysticks and side display panel. Attention to the small details includes the Link-Belt logo printed on the seat and the tiny markings on the track frames that catch the eye.

The model has a full complement of hydraulic lines, raised on the back of the boom for added realism with armoured hoses also present.

As with the 220 X4S, the toothed bucket can be removed to allow other attachments to be fitted, and for this size of machine, there is a lot of choice from GEM, from tiltrotators to sorting grabs, hammers and shears..

Right:

The movement of the boom is excellent, allowing the digging equipment to fold in to allow working in tight places



RUBBLE MASTER RM 120GO!

Tracked Crusher



Above:
The compact transport size of the crusher is clear to see

The Rubble Master RM 120GO! Is a tracked impact crusher with a throughput up to 350 ton per hour, having an inlet opening of 1160x820mm and a 1200mm wide discharge belt. It tips the scales at 35 ton and is powered by a John Deere 6-cylinder diesel engine delivering over 380hp.



Below:
The conveyor of the screener deck configured to return the oversized material back to the hopper

Below:
The screen assembly is fully detachable, complete with folding belt



Below:
There is an observation platform with integrated access ladder



Below:
The surface detailing of the cover over the crusher inlet is very good





Buy it here

NZG was commissioned to produce a 1:50th scale model of the Rubble Master RM 120GO!, and they have done a nice job in realising the flagship compact crusher. As we look around the model, the first thing to notice is that the model can be shown in a transport configuration, with folding conveyor belts and a detachable screening unit which makes an interesting load on its own.



The model can be set up in its basic form, unfolding the main discharge conveyor ready to begin crushing. There is a magnetic separator unit mounted above the conveyor, allowing it to be used to handle demolition waste. The undercarriage consists of individually linked tracks which. While small, do look good. There is a ladder providing access to an observation platform surrounded by safety railings.

While the basic crusher is impressive, it takes on a totally new look when the included screener deck is attached, consisting of a mesh upper screen plate, second fixed conveyor, small cross-mounted conveyor and the folding return conveyor, allowing oversized material to either be stockpiled, or returned to the hopper.

While the model was produced back in 2019, it was exclusively available from Rubble Master, so collectors who are looking to add the model to their collection need to get in touch with Rubble Master via the contact form on their website (www.rubblemaster.com) or email verena.vollgruber@rubblemaster.com

Below:

The included screener assembly clips into place below the main discharge conveyor, totally transforming the looks of the model



Below:

There is magnetic separator unit fitted above the discharge belt



Below:

The oversized material can be returned to the hopper



Below:

The rubber belt has raised cleat detailing



GROVE GMK 4100L-2

All-Terrain Crane



Presented here is an updated release of the 4-axle GMK4100L-2 a 60-metre telescopic crane with 100-ton lifting capacity from Conrad that has been crafted in 1:50th scale. The updated front cabin needs the mirrors to be fitted and has a replicated interior which is fairly simple but effective. Nice details include the door handles and lower light housing with circular insets for the lights. There are three separate screen wipers on the front window frame and a pair of amber beacons mounted behind the cabin, where the updated engine bay can be found. There is plenty of realism, particularly the side vent panel that has an intricately printed pattern while the upper surfaces of the chassis have a diamond-textured finish with access ladders inset in two locations on each side.

The four outriggers are two-part extending with jacks that have the screw thread hidden as the jacks are lowered. The pads that click onto the ends of the jacks allow for the pads to slide off-centre for when the crane is travelling and this works well. Each of the axles can be steered with a good degree of movement and all wheels are freely rotating. The

crane cabin has not changed, having a two-colour interior highlighting the seat, controls and central console with printing used around the glazing. A silver textured platform is located below the cabin and can be extended which is a nice touch. Work lights, screen wiper and grab rails are fitted to the exterior of the cabin and there is a silver finished folding safety railing located behind the cabin with steps integrated into the body panel.

Below:

The two-stage outriggers extend smoothly, and the jacks can be lowered for a sturdy base. The telescopic boom extends with each section locking at full extension. There is a side mounted hydraulic reel and hangers on the opposite side to hold the luffing jib which stored neatly when not in use. The model comes with a three-pulley hook and thumb operated winch drum





Buy it here

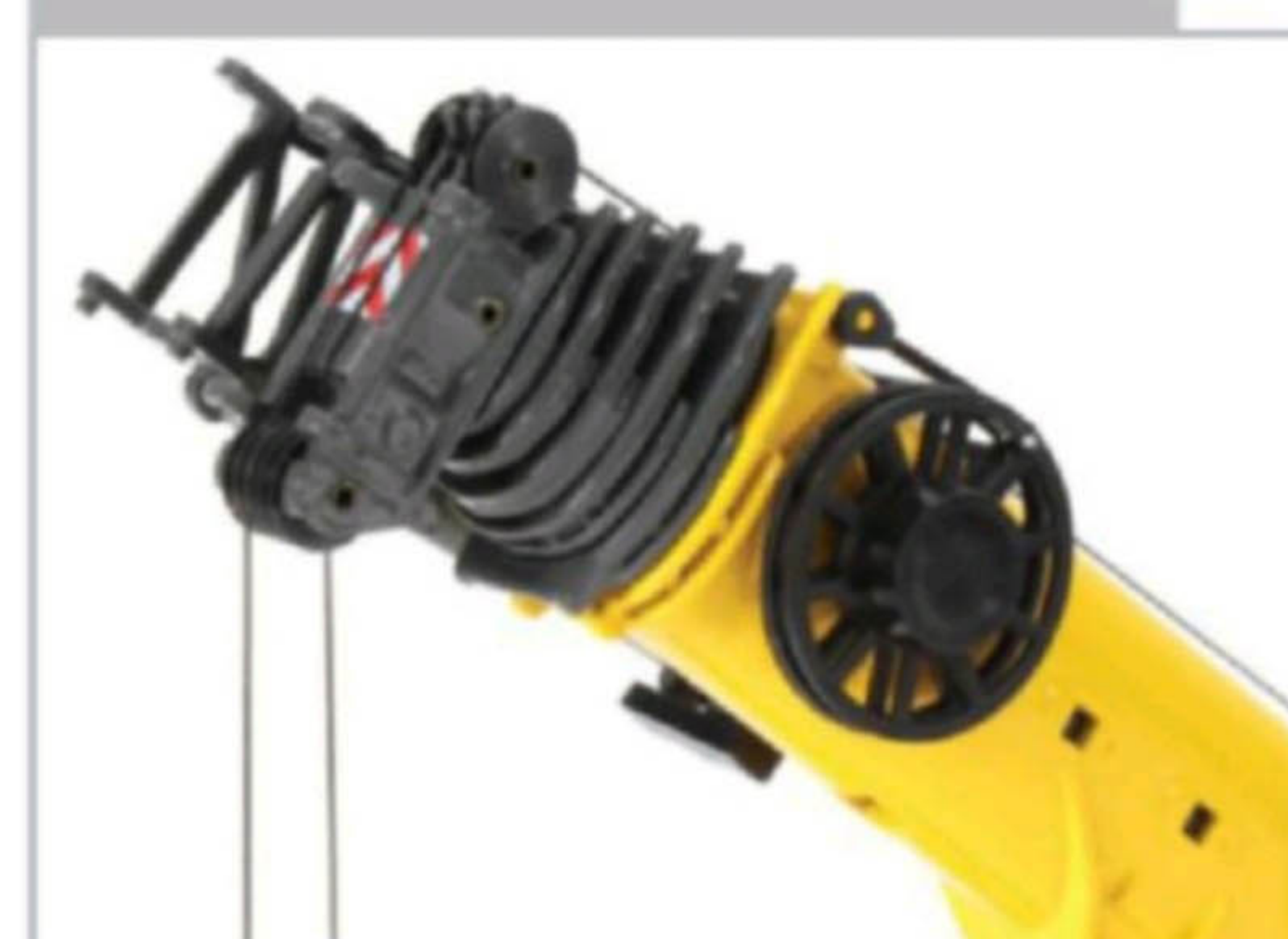
The 6-section telescopic boom uses a single hydraulic cylinder to adjust the angle and this has a screw tight end which locks the piston at the required height. Each section locks into place at full extension and there is a fly jib accessory that stores along the side of the boom and can be pinned to the tip of the boom. The lattice section has a solid telescopically extending section to increase the jib length and there is a hydraulic system to adjust the jib angle.

The model has a single winch which is pre-wound with rope and operated by using your thumb with a 3-pulley hook included. All the pulleys are made from metal and are individually rolling.

The counterweight segments included with the model can be authentically connected with one central piece and two outer cheek pieces slotting into place. You have a choice on what counterweight you load and the mechanism for connecting it to the upper structure is simple and very effective. Each of the counterweight plates have integrated lifting points which can allow some interesting rigging poses, while also allowing them to be posed on the deck of the crane for self-rigging.

Above Right:
The GMK4100L-2 has an updated front driver cabin and engine bay, with new shaped side panels which have been neatly engineered by Conrad to capture the new design convincingly

Left:
The telescopic boom can be set at any chosen angle, with the hydraulic cylinder having a clever locking mechanism built in to the top, where rotating it with the supplied spanner tool locks it solid.



Below:
The ballast plates are all individual, allowing different configurations to be demonstrated



MAN TGX GM Hookloader Truck & Trailer



This truck and trailer set from Conrad consists of a MAN TGX GM 6x2 rigid truck that has a steering front axle and a rear tag axle which is both steering and also has the ability to be raised. The truck chassis has been fitted with a hook loader system, allowing the included high-sided container to be posed in either a loading or tipping scenario. The arm has a telescopic section with stiff hydraulics allowing any chosen position to be held.

The truck cabin is nicely detailed, finished with a left-hand drive interior with all the main components replicated.

The front grill has a chromed MAN logo with inset clear plastic light lenses. Self-fit side mirrors and aerials need fitting by the collector and these are a good friction fit, staying in place nicely. Exterior cabin details include air horns, a sun visor, and a pair of amber beacons.

The trailer included with the truck is a new tool, the chassis having a rotating front axle and fixed rear axle. The drawbar can be clipped into the pintle hitch of the truck and has pivoting movement.

The design of the trailer chassis incorporates a sliding cross-member with recesses to accommodate the rollers of the container. By reversing to the trailer, the container can be lifted off and the system works very well, a nice feature of the trailer which also includes side panels, air bottles, and a spare wheel.



Above:

The hook loader can be demonstrated loading a container from the trailer



Buy it here



Below:
The hook loader mechanism allows both loading and tipping operations to be demonstrated, while the container has opening rear doors



Below:
The trailer is a nice addition with the truck, newly tooled and ideal to transport the included container

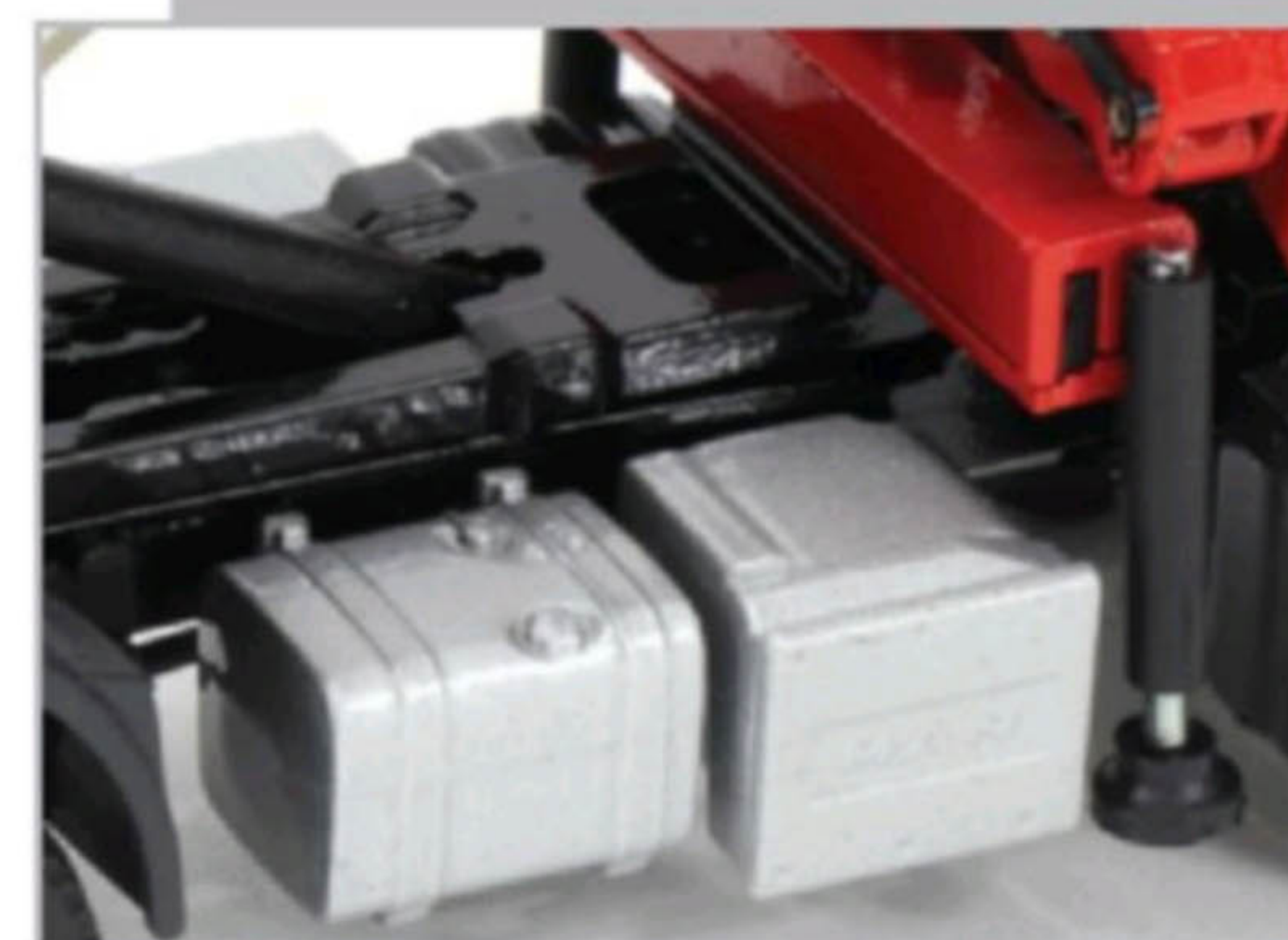
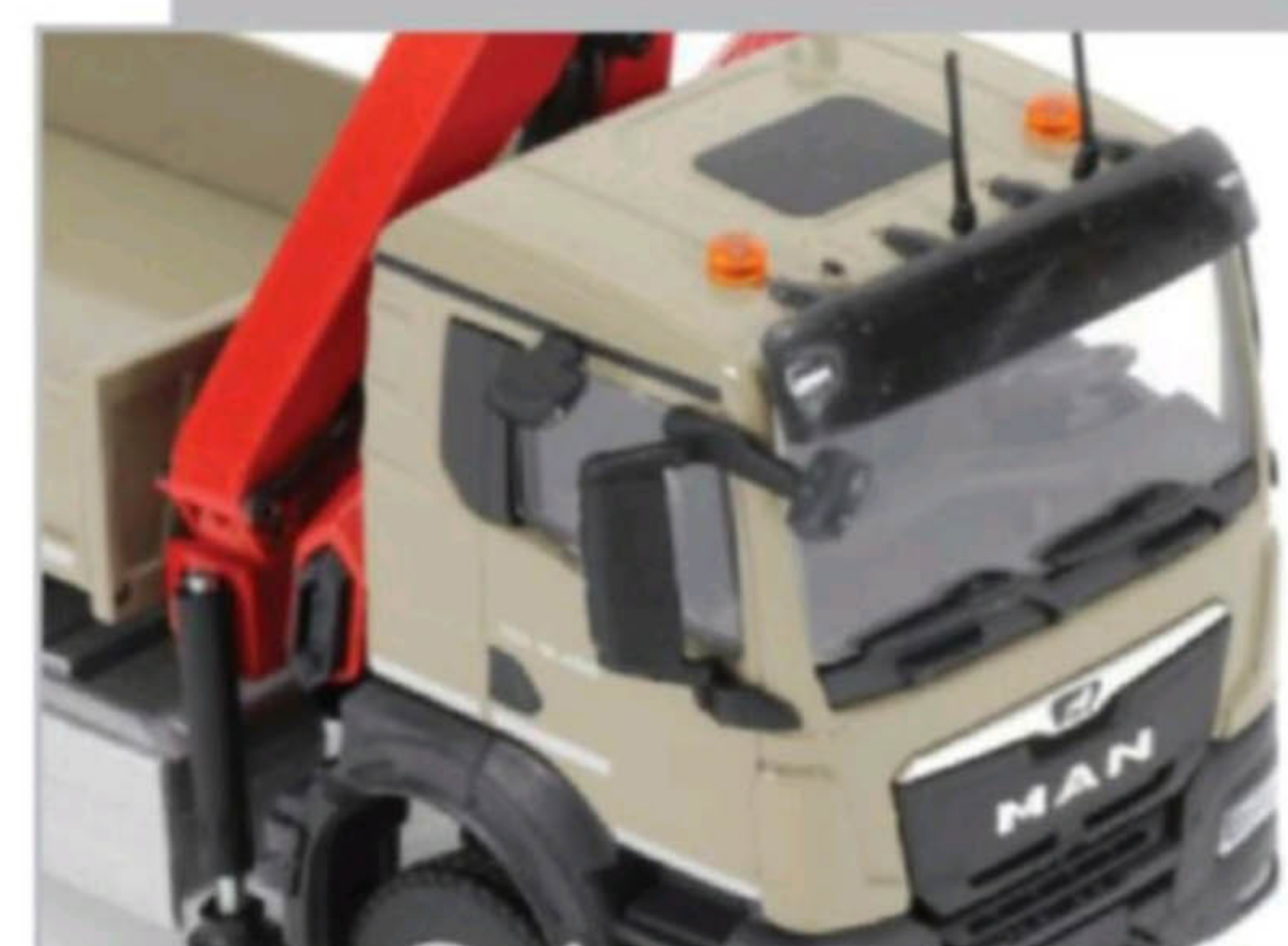


Below:
The high sided containers included in the box incorporate hinged rear doors that can be opened, and have good surface structural detailing





MAN TGS NN Tipper Truck



With its raised stance, there is no mistaking this MAN TGS NN with its 4x4 chassis configuration, complete with a front steering axle that achieves a very tight turning radius. The cabin has a modelled left-hand drive interior and external details including the door handles, access steps and inset clear plastic light lenses, not forgetting the amber beacons and sun visor.

The rear body has fold down side panels, a pivoting rear tailgate and an underside hydraulic cylinder allowing it to tip to a fair tip angle. The chassis is fitted with a Palfinger knuckle-boom crane and a pair of telescopically extending outriggers to maintain a steady stance during loading duties. The crane is fully functional, containing a three-stage telescopic boom fitted with a small hook.



Above:

The rear body can be tipped to a reasonable angle and has a pivoting tailgate

Right:

The Palfinger crane has a telescopically extending boom with hook to allow lifting duties to be demonstrated, while the body has fold down side panels





MAN F7/F8 Meiller 3-Sided Tipper Truck



Conrad has produced some interesting historic truck models over the years, and their latest offering is a MAN F7/F8 6x4 tipper truck which has been fitted with a Meiller brand three-way tipping body. The contours of the cabin have been accurately modelled with windows all-round for an unobstructed view of the simple but effective interior.

The front axle has working steering while the rear axles have a little oscillating motion to simulate suspension. The rear tipping body achieves a very impressive tip angle with a pivoting rear tailgate and side panels that are hinged along the upper edge, allowing the side tipping system to be demonstrated, all powered from a single multi-stage hydraulic cylinder.



Above:

The rear body can be set to tip to either side of the chassis, as shown here with top-hinged side panels that open



Right:

The rear body can be tipped to a very realistic angle thanks to the multi-stage hydraulic cylinder



AROCS Meiller Rock Body Tipper Truck



Announced during the Conrad open house event at the beginning of the year, this 8x4 rigid chassis Mercedes-Benz Arocs truck with Meiller brand rock body is an interesting release. The detailing of the chassis includes the exhaust silencer box with piping to the engine bay along with the air bottles for the braking system. Both front axles steer to an impressive angle, and all the tyres have an authentic tread pattern.

The cabin is modelled for the European market with a left-hand drive interior consisting of the dashboard, seating and a steering wheel. Self-fit side mirrors and an aerial need fitting to the cabin frame by the collector. The rock body with its angular appearance has nice surface detailing of the structural body elements, achieving a realistic tip angle thanks to the multi-stage hydraulic cylinder which is nice and stiff, holding any chosen position with the rear panel hinged along the upper edge. The front of the body incorporates a storage space for the spare wheel and an observation ladder in the stowed position.



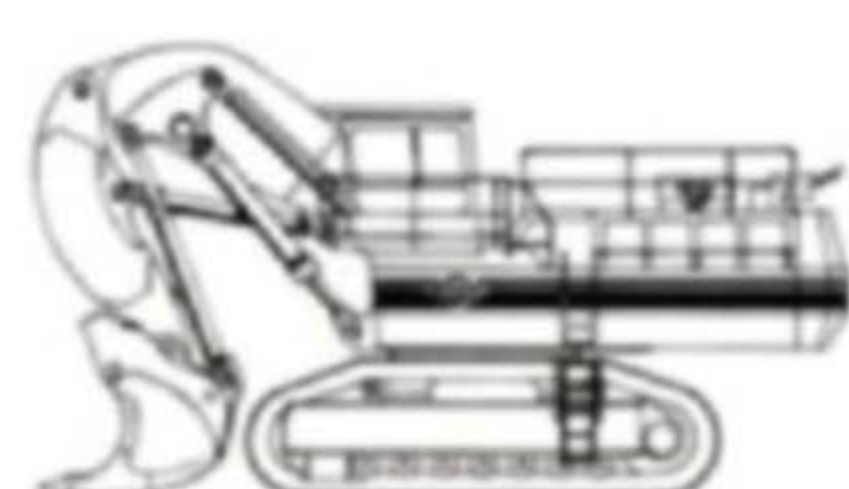
Left:
The chassis has nice detailing, including oscillating rear axles and steering front axles

Right:
The Meiller brand tipper body is an interesting design that captures plenty of detail, from the structural elements and multi-stage dump cylinder to the rear pivoting tailgate, spare wheel holder and observation ladder





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Conrad 1:50 Mercedes-Benz Arocs with Meiller Body Tipper



Conrad 1:50 Liebherr LTM1110-5.1 Mobile Crane 'Ferbermayr'



Conrad 1:50 Grove GMK5150XL Mobile Crane 'Prangl'



Conrad 1:50 Mercedes-Benz LAC Round Bonnet Truck 'Gilch'



Universal Hobbies 1:50 Komatsu PW148-11 Wheeled Excavator



Universal Hobbies 1:50 Komatsu PW180-11 Wheeled Excavator



Replicars 1:50 Hitachi ZX135USLC-7 Tracked Excavator



1:50 Luigong B170DL Swamp Dozer



USK Scalemodels 1:50 CCM EK160 Kelly Drilling Rig



Weiss Brothers 1:50 Komatsu WE1850 Wheel Loader



First Gear 1:50 Komatsu D155CX-8 Pipelayer



1:50 EPIROC M20SG Drill Boomer

Address : Kurzstr. 2, 85406 Zolling, Germany

Telephone : 0049 81676887 Email : info@spiel-modellkistl.de Website : www.spiel-modellkistl.de/en

BOBCAT T40.180SLP

Telescopic Handler



Bobcat continue to produce interesting models from their range of construction equipment, be it skid steer loaders, excavators or telescopic handlers, there is a wide choice of equipment just waiting to be replicated, typically in 1:25th scale for the mini equipment and 1:32nd scale for the telehandler models. Over the next 6 pages, I will take a look at some of the models that are available to purchase from the Bobcat online shop, starting with the T40.180 SPL telescopic handler.



Left:
The configuration of aerial platform is a welcome change to the typical bucket or pallet fork option usually modelled





Buy it here



Below:

The three-section telescopic boom slides smoothly, with the weight of the platform just light enough to avoid the model tipping forward once the outriggers have been lowered

The model has been produced by Universal Hobbies and incorporates a working platform which is an interesting change to the usual bucket or pallet forks. As we look closer, the platform has been modelled in the extended configuration and has plenty of detail, from the centrally located panel with safety warnings to the printed anti-slip floor panels.

The four-section boom is constructed from three telescopically extending sections which extend smoothly with enough friction to prevent them sliding back when the boom is angled upwards. At full extension, there is a bit of weight at the front, and without the stabilisers lowered, the model is a little tipsy. The stabilisers have a stiff friction feel and can be lowered enough to hold the



model off the front wheels. Speaking of the wheels, both axles have working steering, allowing tight cornering and crab-steer modes to be demonstrated with the tyres having an authentic tread design, topped with surface detailing of the fixing bolts and central wheel hubs.

Looking around the body, we have the engine compartment on the side, finished with slotted grills and crisp printing of the latest graphic design for the machine designation and Bobcat logos. At the rear, we have the counter balance blocks mounted on the sides of the chassis frame with inset rear facing light clusters that use coloured plastic lenses for the reversing, brake and indicator lights. There are also more safety warning markings which add to the realism.

The cabin really encapsulates the realism and detail of the original, from the opening cabin door which has extending grab rails on the inside, complete with door handle and the mid-grey decorated interior panelling to the operator controls which include the steering wheel, central console, side joystick controls and foot pedals. Exterior cabin details include the screen wipers, radio aerial, work lights, a debris protection frame beneath the roof window and an amber beacon.





BOBCAT TL43.80HF

Telescopic Handler



The second model up for review is the TL43.80 HF AGRI telescopic loader, again produced by Universal Hobbies in 1:32nd scale with the same high level of detail and realism to match the T40.180. The TL43.80 has a different chassis design without any from outriggers. Instead, we have nice detailing of the front axle, including the silver highlighted fixing bolts with both front and rear axles having a good range of steering movement. There is a small toolbox, complete with yellow warning sticker at the front which is a nice touch.

Moving round to the cabin, the door can be opened to reveal the very nicely finished interior, with everything replicated, from the operator's seat and side joystick controls to the front console with levers and steering wheel, not forgetting the foot pedals and moulded drink cup holder. The model has a single stage telescopic boom which has an authentic range of height movement, fitted with a silage/manure handling grapple bucket with operational upper grab. The bucket is attached with tiny screws, so it is possible to remove it for other aftermarket attachments. The side engine module has accurately captured the contours of the original, with indents for the grill design, protruding handle and exhaust silencer tip all present and as we look to the rear, the agricultural nature of the model is revealed with the drawbar towing hitch and rear hydraulic hook-up points.





BOBCAT T550 Track Loader



Left:

The cockpit for the driver has a contoured seat and operator controls, complete with embossed Bobcat logo



The next model we will take a look at is the T550 track loader, one of several models depicting the well-known Bobcat tracked loader design. The track frames incorporate an elevated drive sprocket design which includes four lower rollers, the idler wheels and sprocket wheel, complete with its toothed circumference. The cabin is constructed with open mesh panels and roof mounted work lights with the interior details including the contoured driver's seat which includes an embossed Bobcat logo and side joystick controls. The loader arms have a good range of movement with the bucket able to tip. There are auxiliary hydraulic line hook-ups on the left side with a raised step for easy access into the cabin.



The bucket can be detached easily, and although there are no other work tools included in the box, attachments have been released in the past which could fit the model.



Below:

The arms achieve an authentic range of movement with the hydraulics stiff enough to hold position



BOBCAT S450

Skid Steer Loader

Right:

The model features a fully glazed cabin with replicated interior



The smallest of the Bobcat model up for review is the S450 skid steer loader which depicts the latest Stage V styling, with the prominent red rear engine panel having inset light clusters fitted with clear and red tinted plastic lenses. The wheels rotate and have rubber tyres that have

an authentic looking tread design, topped by raised dimples representing the fixing bolt heads.



The bucket can be detached from the model, and the arms and bucket tip movement have a very good range of movement, with hydraulics stiff enough to hold any pose.

The cabin frame incorporates a perforated mesh design with additional clear glazing added to protect the operator from the elements. The large front window includes a screen wiper with grab rails on each side of the cabin frame and work lights incorporated into the roof line.

Right:

The latest Bobcat styling on the sides has been replicated convincingly





BOBCAT S76

Skid Steer Loader

Right:

The vertical lift arm S76 skid steer loader is a large machine capable of loading regular trucks with ease, thanks to the replicated arm geometry which captures the full range of height movement



One of the larger skid steer loaders from Bobcat is the R-series S76, a vertical lift loader fitted with a 4-cylinder Bobcat 2.4L 97/68 EC Stage V diesel engine delivering 74hp and tips the scales at 5 ton. Chinese model manufacturer Wan-Ho has produced a 1:25th scale model of the S76. The cabin has a simple but effective interior with the cabin having perforated side screens and roof line front facing lights. Grab rails are found on both sides of the cabin frame with an access step on the cross-member of the loader arms.

The body design with the venting slots on the rear grill is crisply cast with inset clear light lenses which look good. The model is fitted with a straight edged general-purpose bucket with the loader arm movement and bucket tip authentically capturing the original machine, with added detail including the hydraulic service hook-ups for powered attachments.

The printed graphics on the side detail the machine's designation perfectly and the updated graphic design for the R-series machines has been implemented convincingly with an even paint finish allowing the surface casting details to be seen.



Kobelco SK58SRX-7 Tracked Excavator

Right:

The digging equipment, complete with flexible hydraulic lines has a good range of movement, fitted with a toothed digging bucket

Kobelco offer a range of excavators, from the smallest micro machines to the larger construction and quarrying equipment and everything in between. The SK58SRX-7 mini tracked excavator is a versatile machine, ideal for many different duties, powered by a Yanmar 4TNV88C Stage V diesel engine delivering 39hp and weighing between 5000kg and 5440kg depending on configuration and options.

The active model program from Kobelco has already offered a range of scale models, and the SK58SRX-7 is the latest to join the fleet, produced by Motorart in 1:50th scale, this is a small model and yet there is a lot of interesting detail and features incorporated into the model.

The biggest surprise is the inclusion of both an enclosed cabin and optional canopy, with them being interchangeable, allowing the collector to choose which version he wants. Starting with the canopy, this offers the best view of the operator station which is fully modelled, including the contoured seat, armrests with integrated joystick controls, tracking levers and foot pedals and the side display console and instrumentation panel.

The canopy slots into place and can be replaced by the fully enclosed cabin which has glazed windows, complete with printed window seals and fitted safety mirrors.

Right:

The option of fully enclosed cabin or open canopy in the same box is a very welcome feature of the model, with plenty of fine detailing for the fully modelled operator station which leaves nothing to the imagination





Buy it here



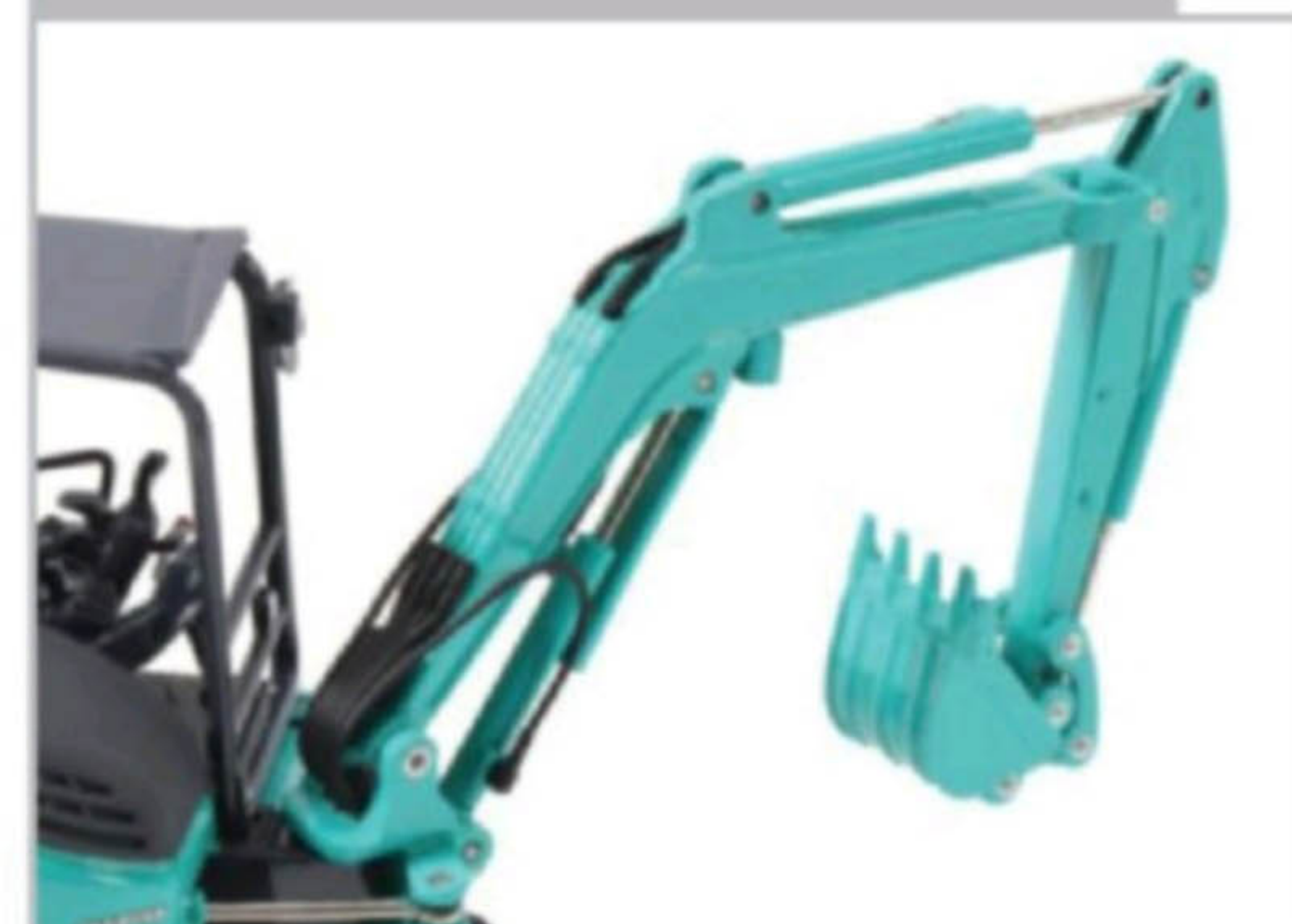
The undercarriage is fitted with a dozer blade that can be adjusted in height while the rubber band style tracks have solid moulded tread detailing with a rotating drive sprocket and idler wheel. The body casting captures the aesthetics of the original nicely, from the indents for the grills to the rear dimples and door panel handle, complete with silver printed lock.

The digging equipment has an authentic range of movement with flexible hydraulic lines increasing the realism. The model is fitted with a toothed bucket and has an offset boom, allowing it to work in confined spaces. Motorart has done a cracking job in realising the model, and it is interesting that Kobelco have gone back to Motorart for this release considering Conrad has produced many of the latest model releases.



Left:

The body casting has good surface engraving of the grills and door panels with accurate placement of the various markings



GEM Models

GEM Models have been busy producing a wide range of highly accurate 1:50th scale excavator attachments which offer an alternative to the toothed bucket that is usually fitted to a model when it has been commissioned by the original equipment manufacturer. Some of the latest releases from EGLI, ALLU and ARDEN are shown here.



The Egli XMB 5.4 demolition attachment has been developed in four different configurations, each having a different jaw design. The four options are a Tripod Jaw, Multicut jaw, Steel jaw and the Bionic jaw. Each model is available in two different mounting options, either a 10.5mm or 14mm quick coupler to allow it to fit a wide range of excavator base models. The XMB 5.4 can be mounted to excavators in the 45-85 ton weight range. The model is also available as a set, containing the base crusher, quick coupler and the four different jaws, allowing the collector to determine which jaw to fit.

The Transformer DN3-17 screener crusher bucket is suitable for an excavator in the 20-28 ton weight class. The model is highly accurate, accommodating any excavator model with a stick width of less than 10mm. The rear screening drums have an authentic look and it is shown here with a cowl fitted, mounted to a Hitachi ZX250-6 tracked excavator.





Buy it here



There are two new Arden attachments now available, the R80 heavy-duty rock bucket which is available in two versions, either 12.5mm or 14.5mm Arden design quick hitch. The bucket accurately captures the tooth contours and wear plate details, and can be detached from the coupler, allowing the base model to be posed with, or without the bucket. The CD080 concrete crusher is a monster dismantler, ideal for excavators in the 80-100 ton range. The main body has a pair of functioning hydraulic rams which allow the jaws to be opened and closed with 360-degree rotation of the body. The surface casting detail is very impressive, with the raised access panels and lifting eyes all replicated. It uses the same quick coupler as the R80 bucket, allowing a quick change between bucket and crusher on the same base model.

For mining operations, there is the Allu Transformer M3-25 screener crusher bucket which is a monster model for excavators in the 70-120 ton weight range. The paint finish is to a very high standard with the finely crafted teeth nicely highlighted. The rear screening module is convincing and adds realism to the model which is shown here fitted to a Cat 395 tracked excavator.



Liebherr LTM1650-8.1

Mobile Crane

Right:

With the TY Guying system bolted in place, the crane takes on a new look, shown here in the transport configuration



In issue 14, I examined the Liebherr LTM1650-8.1 mobile crane from WSI Models, and I now conclude the in-depth review by looking at the crane configured with the TY guying system which comes in the box, screwing into place on the sides of the main boom, with the metal pendant lines using nuts and bolts to secure them in place.

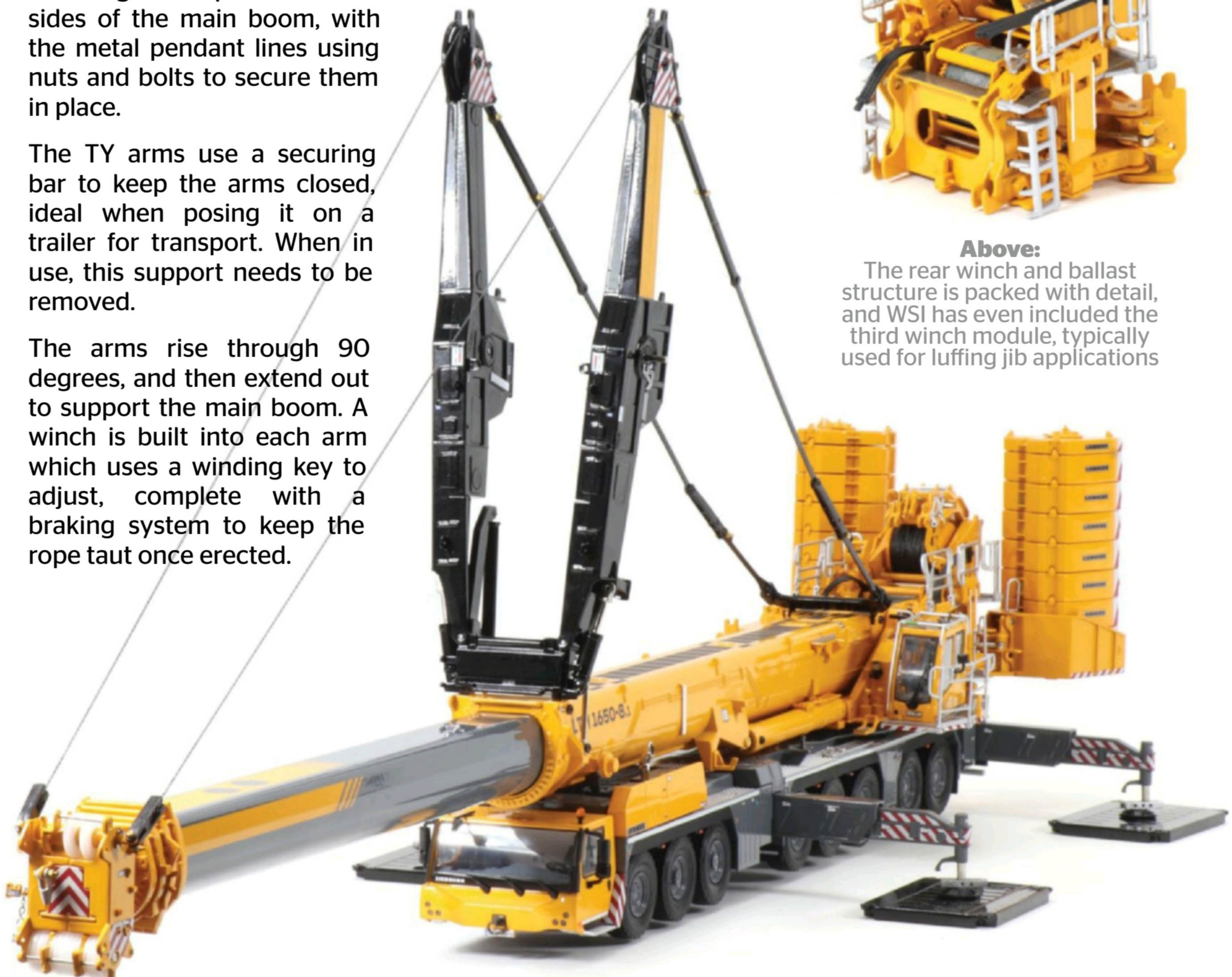
The TY arms use a securing bar to keep the arms closed, ideal when posing it on a trailer for transport. When in use, this support needs to be removed.

The arms rise through 90 degrees, and then extend out to support the main boom. A winch is built into each arm which uses a winding key to adjust, complete with a braking system to keep the rope taut once erected.



Above:

The rear winch and ballast structure is packed with detail, and WSI has even included the third winch module, typically used for luffing jib applications

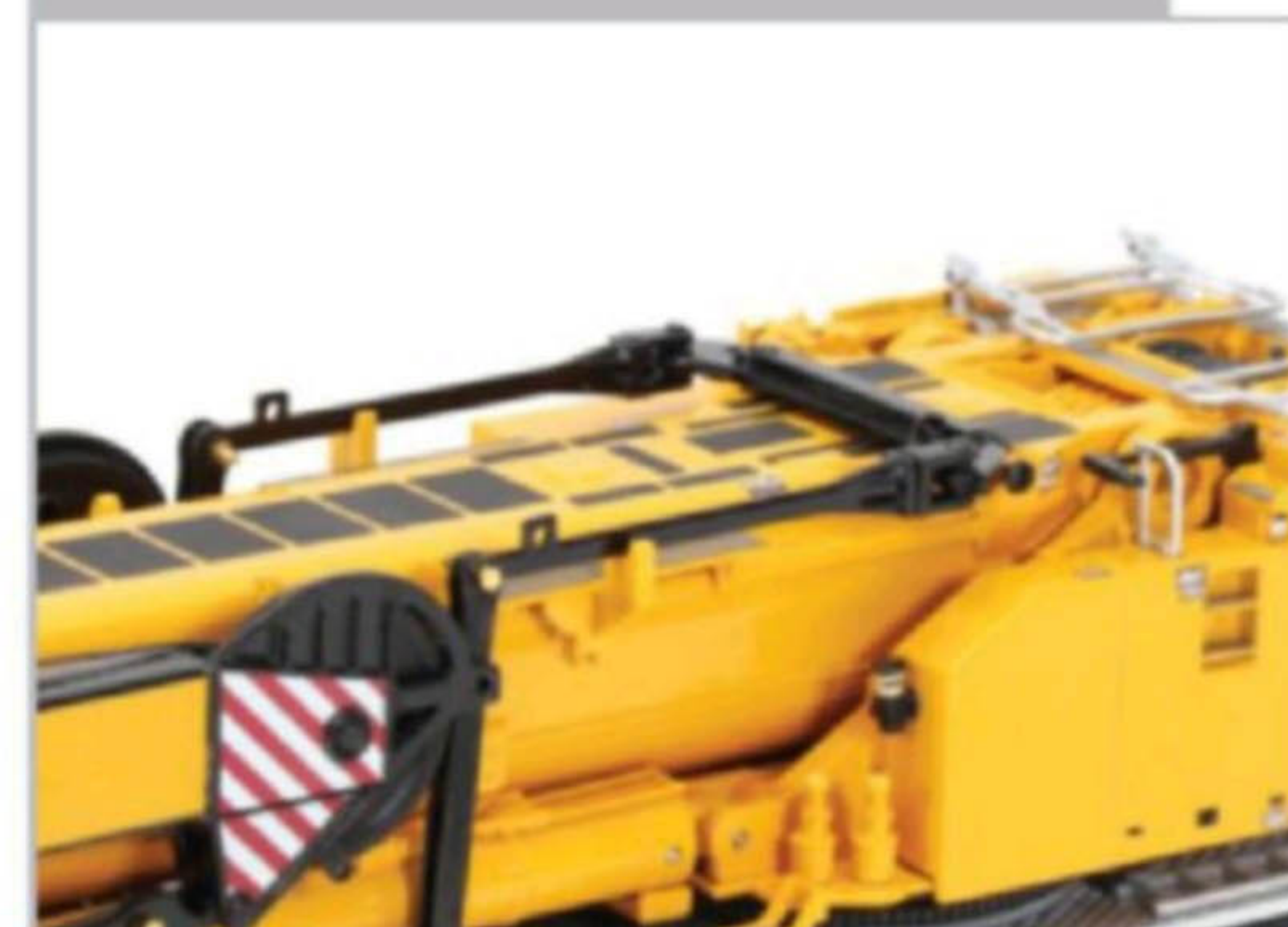




Buy it here

Setting up the crane with the TY Guying system really enhances the looks of the crane, and with a third winch module included in the box, pinning into place above the main winch, the crane is ready for any lifting duty.

The choice of hook is also welcome, as shown here with the smaller block which still looks effective. It will be interesting to see if WSI Models develop a luffing jib to fit the model, increasing its posing possibilities greatly, and with Bauma quickly approaching, I would not be surprised to see a luffing jib released.



WSI Models has a good track record when it comes to the various crane models they have produced over the years, and I have to admit that the LTM1650-8.1 in my opinion is the best yet, packed with detail and functionality.

Not only do you get everything needed to configure the crane, but also some extra parts which include the ballast plate lifting bracket, lifting chains, spreader bar and the shackles



REOBRIX Rope Shovel - Part 1

During the international toyfair at the beginning of the year, I came across a company that offer a range of Lego type building sets of construction and agricultural equipment. At the time, the sets were of generic subjects, but I was told that they were working on some licenced products for release later in 2024.

While we wait to see what is cooking, I first take a look at an interesting remote control rope shovel, using six motors to control the various elements of the model, from independent movement of each track and the slewing movement of the superstructure to the ability to raise and lower the main boom and extend the arm, with the final

motor used to release the rear door of the shovel. A game type controller is used to operate the model, with the joysticks controlling the tracks, slewing and shovel height while a pair of buttons control the extending arm and door release.

Power is from a rechargeable battery module which doubles as the electronics for the remote control through Bluetooth. Anyone who has built a Lego set before will be familiar with the instructions which are easy to follow, and the overall build is not overly difficult to achieve.

Below:

The model is controlled from a game type pad featuring two joysticks that control four functions. There are a pair of buttons to control the final two channels and some dip switches to reverse the operation of the controls

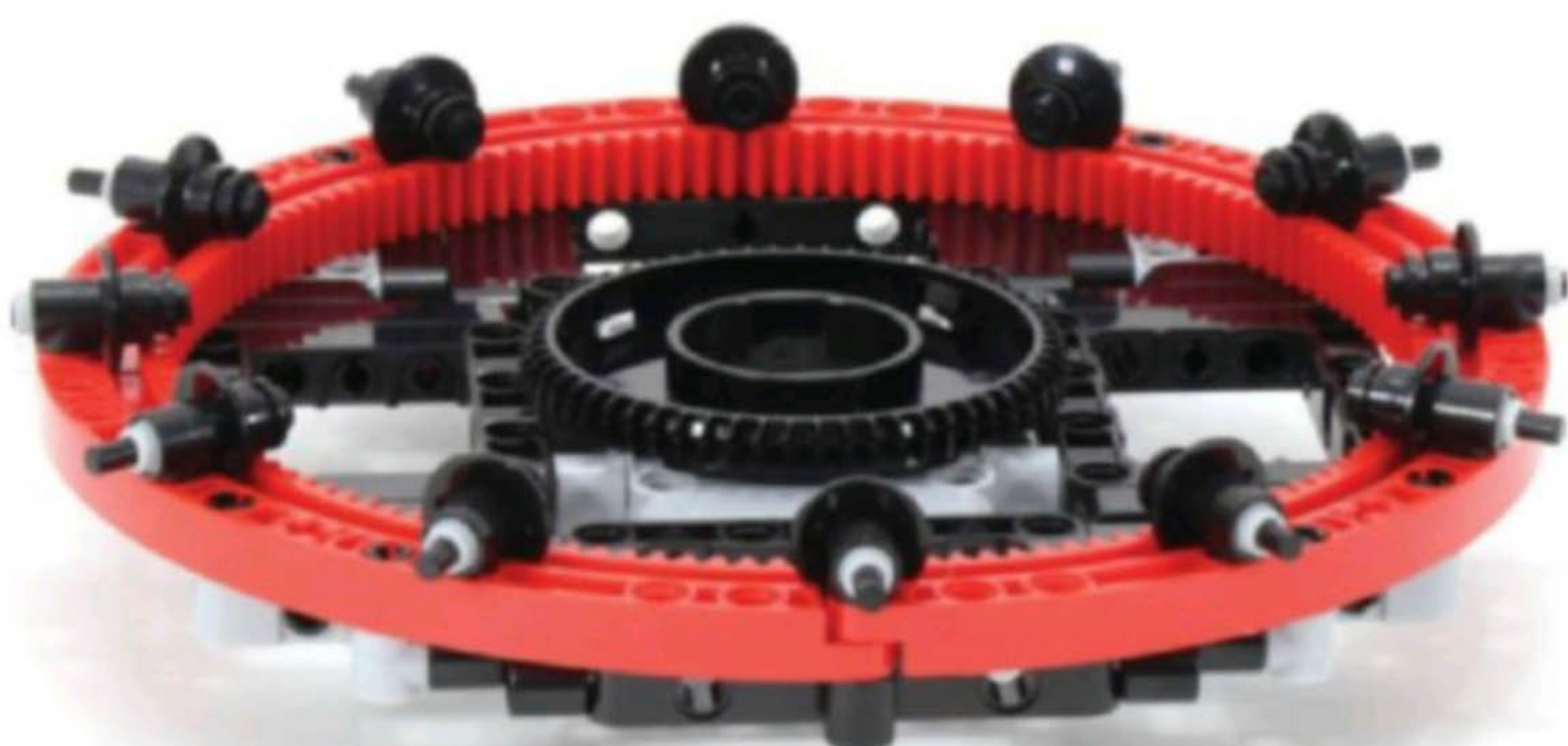
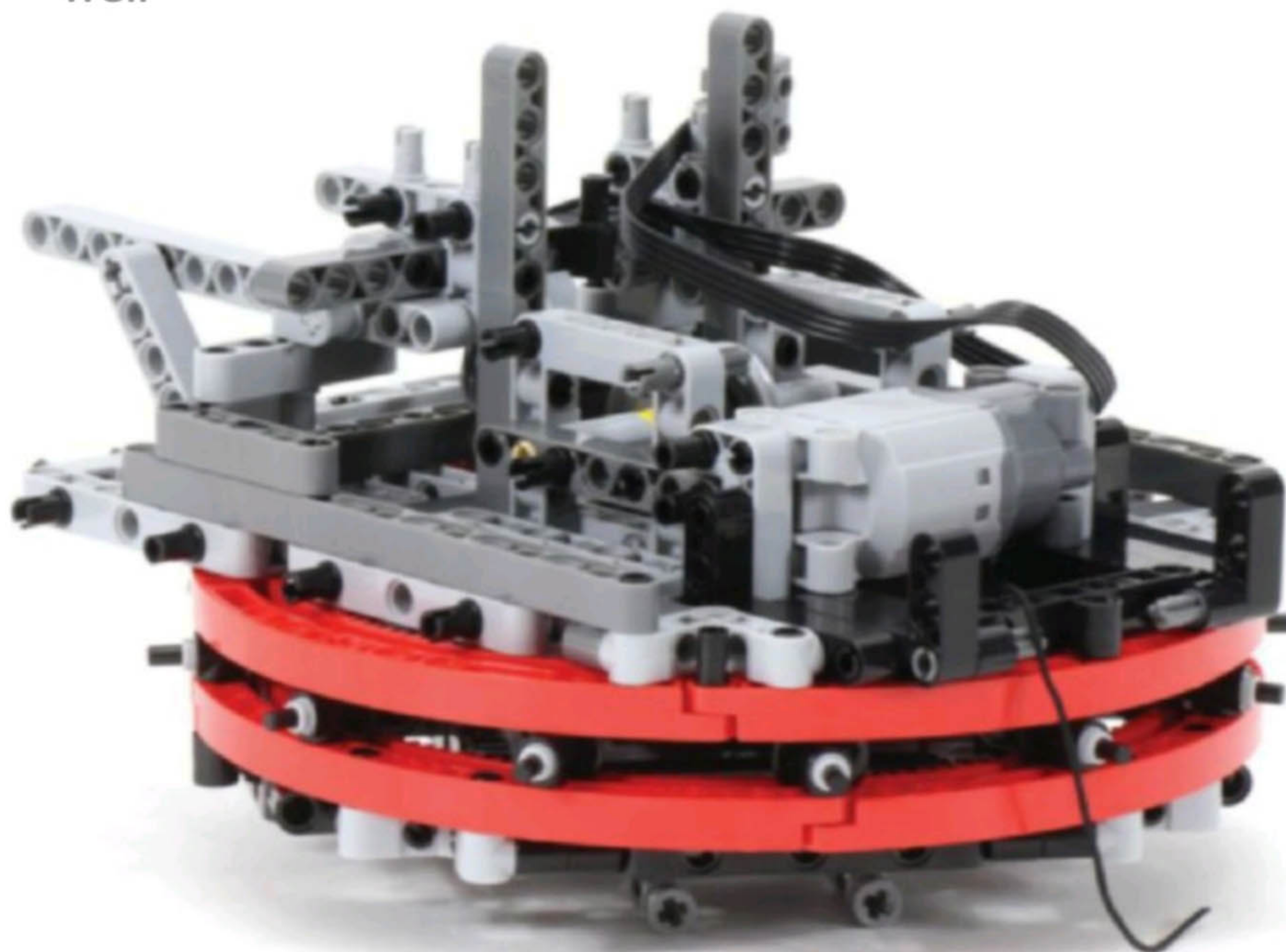
Right:

The battery block has an on/off switch and a C-type charging connector, with the couplings for up to six motors. Connection to the controller is by Bluetooth and this works well



Below:

The slew ring is constructed from twelve rollers equally spaced to give a smooth rotation

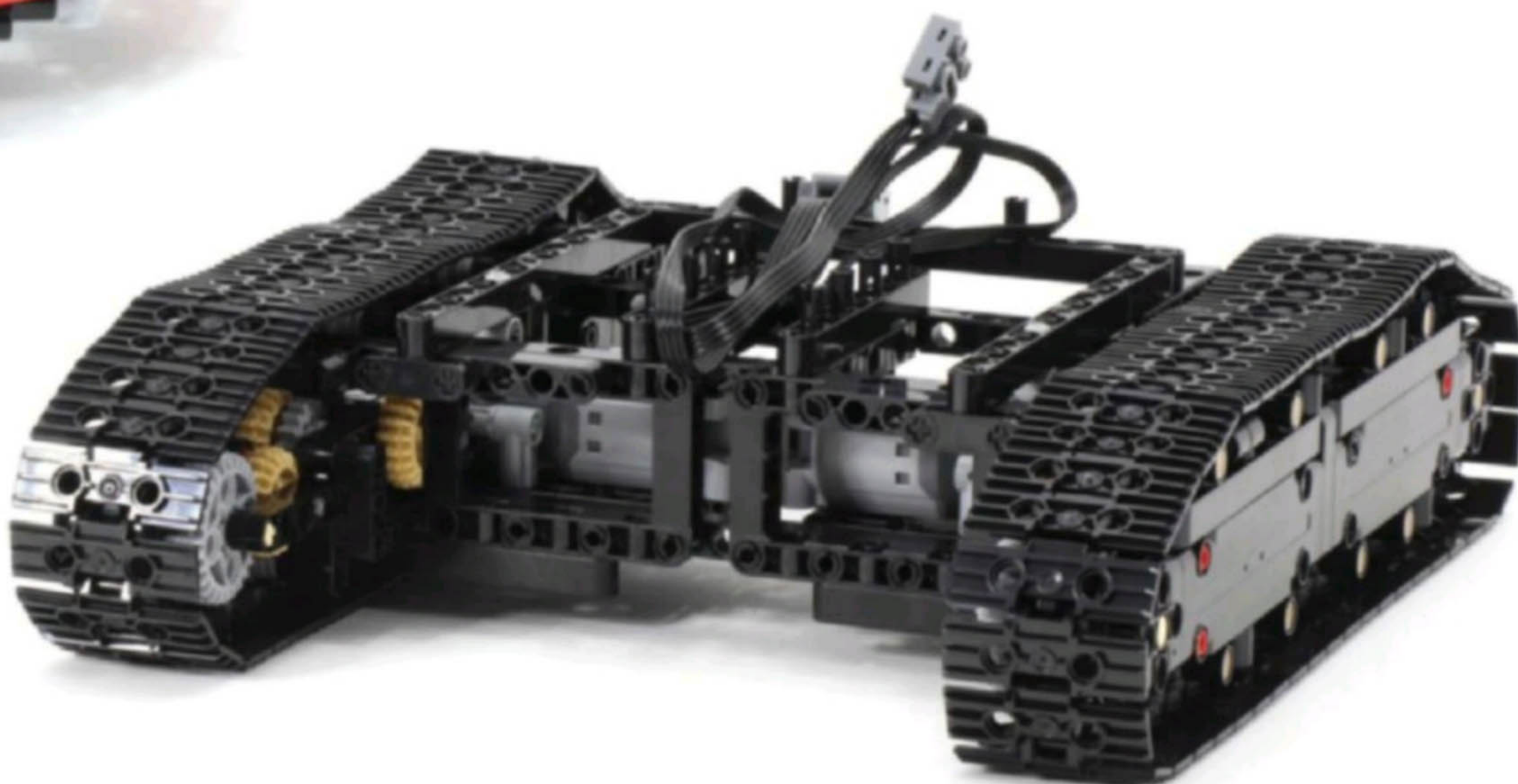


Above:

At the heart of the superstructure is a winch that controls the operation of the shovel door and the main winch that controls the arm

Right:

The undercarriage is packed with gearing for the tow track frames, complete with two motors to allow independent operation of each track. The movement is fine, although the tracks do look a little loose and are clunky when moving

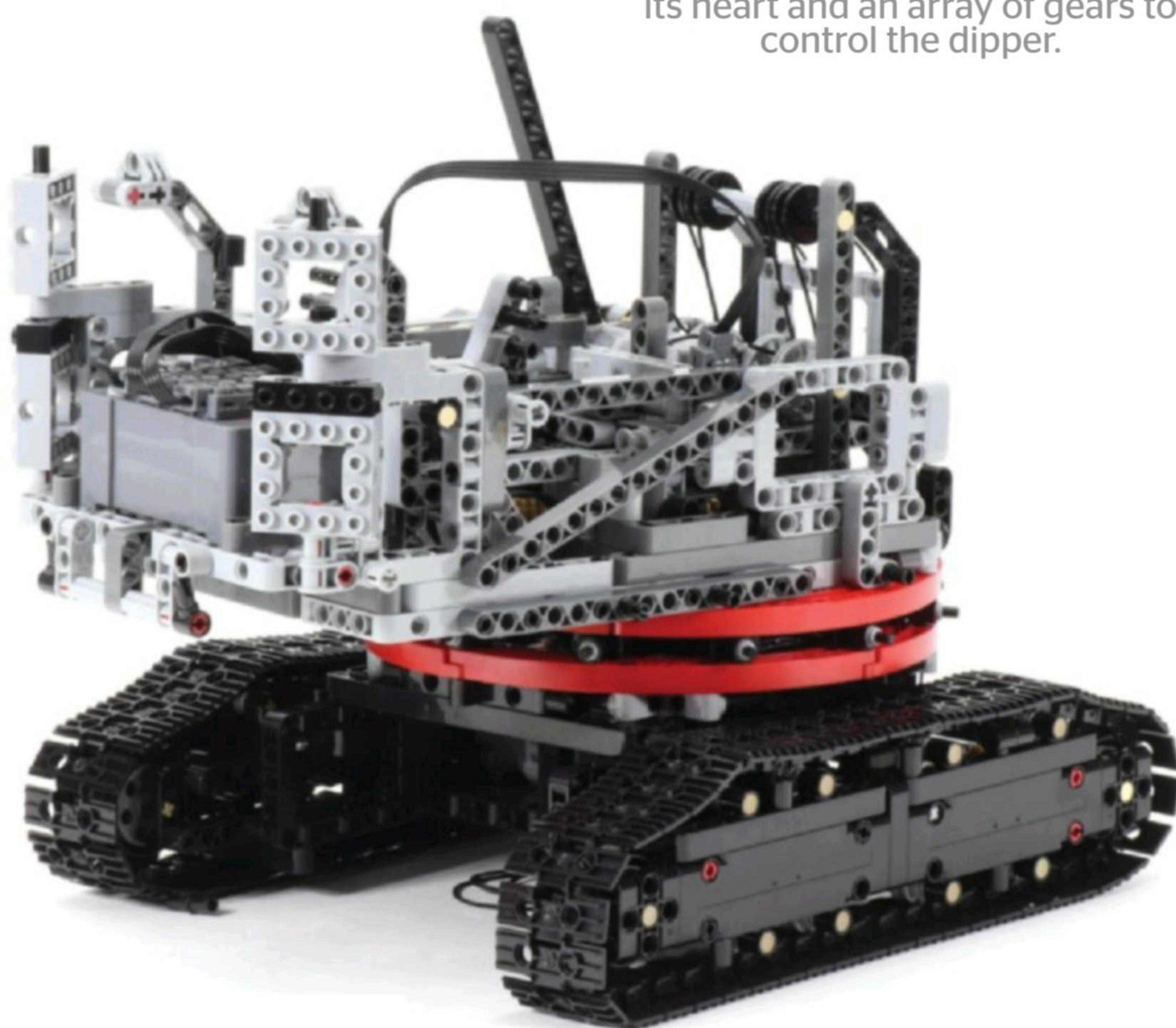




Above:
The Main arm of the rope shovel is cleverly constructed, with a motor at its heart and an array of gears to control the dipper.

Right:
With the slew ring mounted to the undercarriage and the central winch and motor installed, it is time to start putting together the framework to bulk out the superstructure, ready to begin skinning it.

It is at this stage that the remaining motors are installed, followed by the battery pack which sits in place at the rear. The battery box doubles as the Bluetooth controller and has six separate outputs to drive the six motors, two for the tracks, one for the rotation of the superstructure, one to lift the arm, one to extend the arm, and finally, a motor is used to release the shovel's rear door



Left:
The internal framework allows the body to take shape quickly, with a clever design incorporating red and black panel parts. There is a platform on the side, and a raised rear end with the large panel at the back hinged, lowering to access the battery pack to operate the on/off switch or plug in the charging cable.

The end result is pleasing, and also starts to show just how large the model is. The next step is to attach the main boom which incorporates the pulleys to operate the lifting mechanism for the arm

*To be
continued...*

Hitachi ZX330LC-7 Telescopic Arm Excavator

Below:

Replicars have no doubt delighted many collectors with the release of the Hitachi ZX330LC-7 tracked excavator fitted with a telescopic arm for deep foundation excavations, modelling it perfectly

For years, I have been trying to convince Hitachi that a scale replica of their telescopic arm excavator would be a much-welcomed addition to the model fleet, each time hoping that my requests are heard. I had all but given up, and then out of the blue, Replicars release a very impressive release of the Hitachi ZX330LC-7 tracked excavator fitted with a 25-metre telescopic arm and toothed clamshell digging grab.

Hitachi's range of telescopic arm excavators are developed in-house, allowing underground excavation and soil removal down to a depth of 30 metres, featuring a high-speed extension and retraction system to quickly load trucks with a bucket capacity of 1.15 - 1.40 m3.

The carrier has a sliding cabin for greater visibility while maintaining all the

features and benefits of the standard excavator.

I have to admit that the model impresses, and excels my expectations, with the three-section telescopic boom smoothly extending, capturing the full range of movement well, and at the same time, having hydraulics that are just about stiff enough to hold a chosen pose.

The increased weight does make the model a little tipsy if the superstructure is rotated so the arm is not in line with the tracks, and it is clear that additional weight has been incorporated into the model.

An observation here is that the internal space within the engine bay has been used with the upper engine panel appearing to be glued in place, despite having a hinge visible.

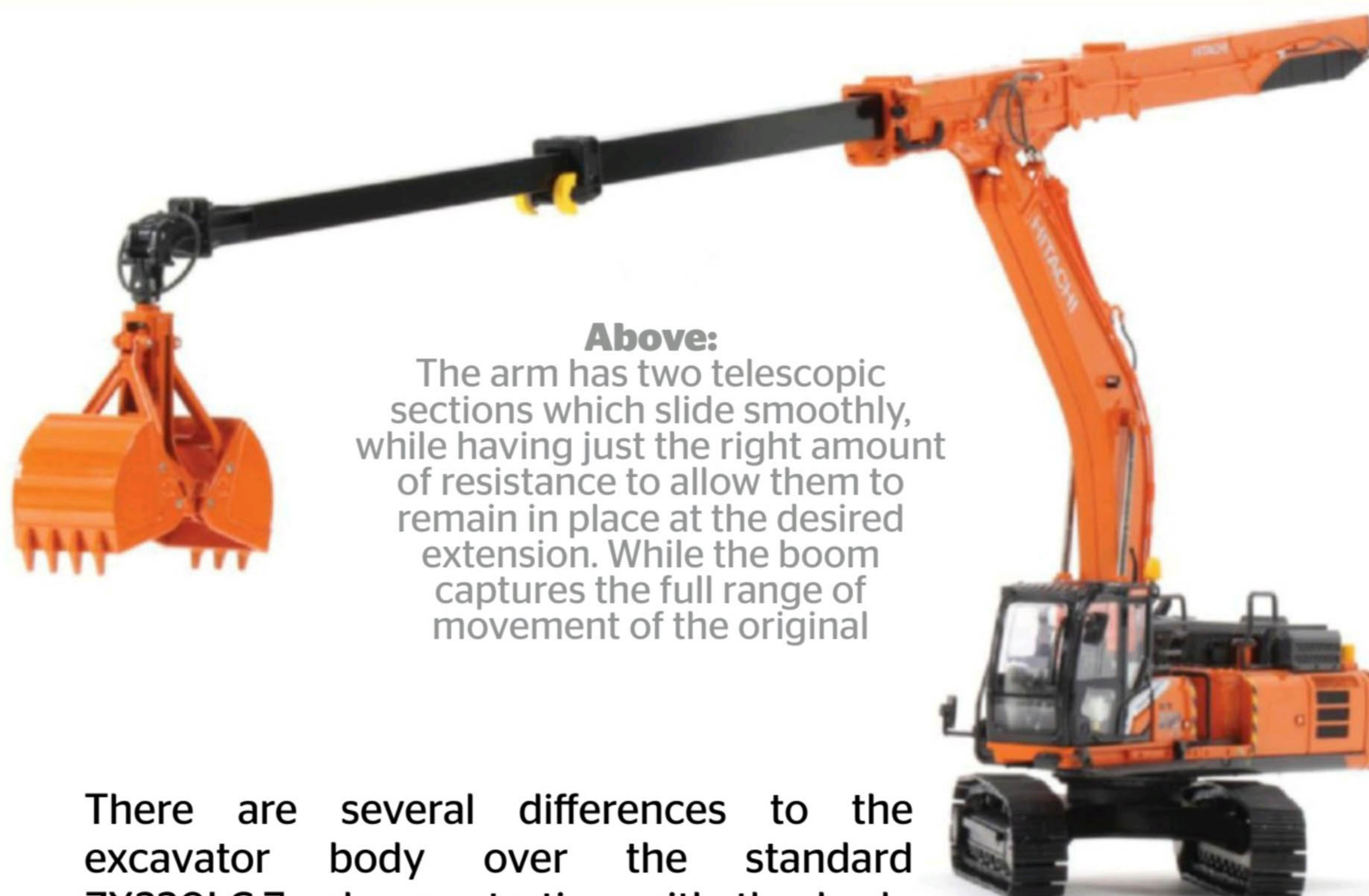


Below:

The cabin can slide forward, allowing an unobstructed view when digging at depth, thanks to the glass window in the cabin floor

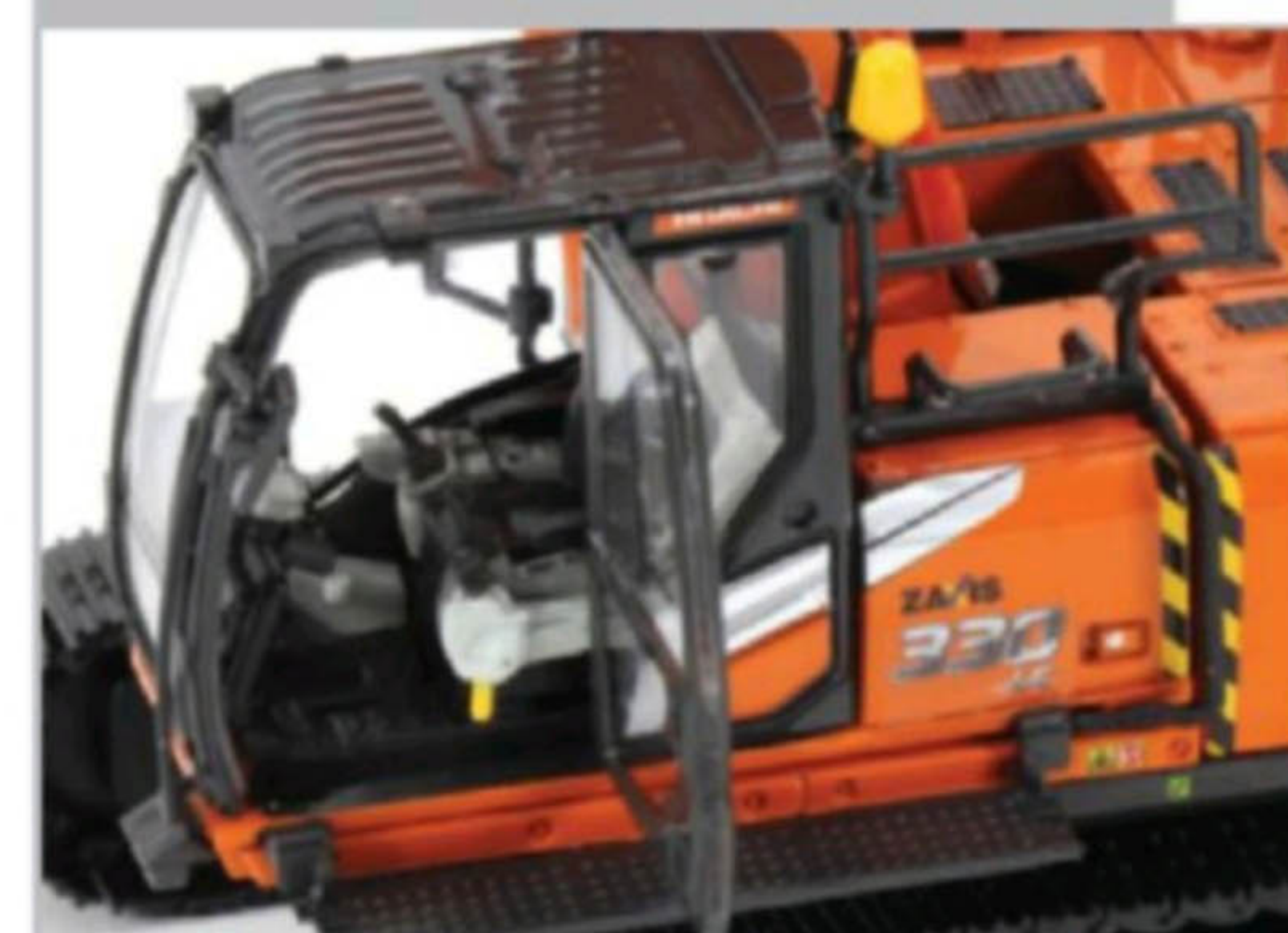


Buy it here



Above:

The arm has two telescopic sections which slide smoothly, while having just the right amount of resistance to allow them to remain in place at the desired extension. While the boom captures the full range of movement of the original

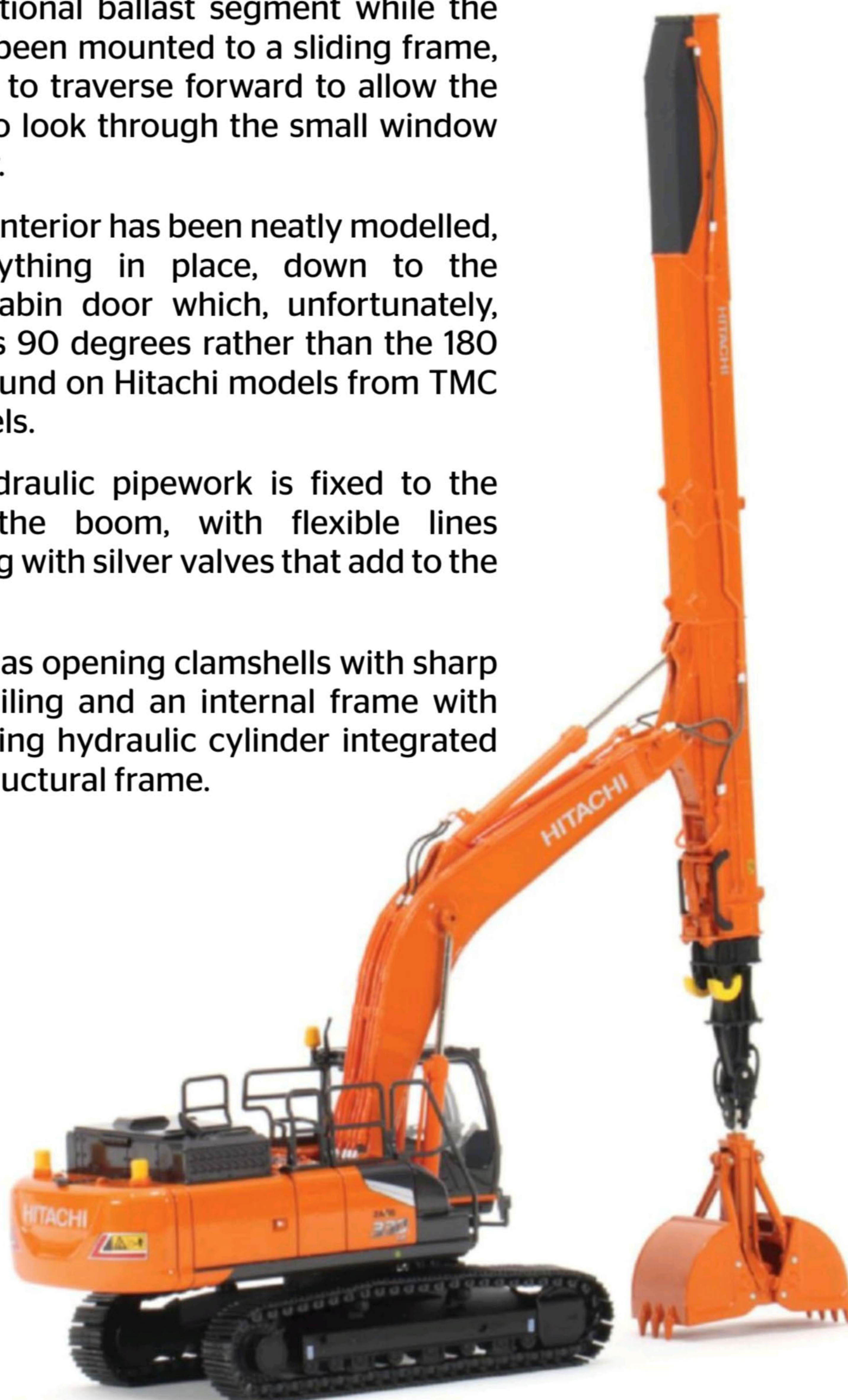


There are several differences to the excavator body over the standard ZX330LC-7 release, starting with the body shape which is lengthened with the addition of an additional ballast segment while the cabin has been mounted to a sliding frame, allowing it to traverse forward to allow the operator to look through the small window in the floor.

The cabin interior has been neatly modelled, with everything in place, down to the opening cabin door which, unfortunately, only opens 90 degrees rather than the 180 degrees found on Hitachi models from TMC Scalemodels.

Raised hydraulic pipework is fixed to the back of the boom, with flexible lines terminating with silver valves that add to the realism.

The grab has opening clamshells with sharp tooth detailing and an internal frame with the operating hydraulic cylinder integrated into the structural frame.



CATERPILLAR 657E

Motor Scraper



Above:

The twin-engine Cat 657E has imposing dimensions and a lot of features and details that catch the eye

In 1962, the 657 was the largest of the range of scrapers offered by Caterpillar, meeting the needs for a high-volume earthmover with its twin-engine, 2-axle configuration.

In 1968, the original 657 was upgraded to the B-series which had improved traction, achieving a total power output of 950hp with the ability to dig deeper, fill the bowl faster and climb steeper inclines, all without the need for a push tractor.

In 1969, Caterpillar added the "Push-Pull" version offering the ability to tandem a pair of 657Bs to put 1900hp to the cutting edge of each single machine to increase production rates. The 650E line of wheel tractor scrapers was introduced in 1984 and featured the Cat 3412E diesel engine up front and a Cat 3408E engine at the rear for a combined output of 950hp.

Right:

A 657E in front and a 657B at the rear in a typical push-pull configuration





Buy it here

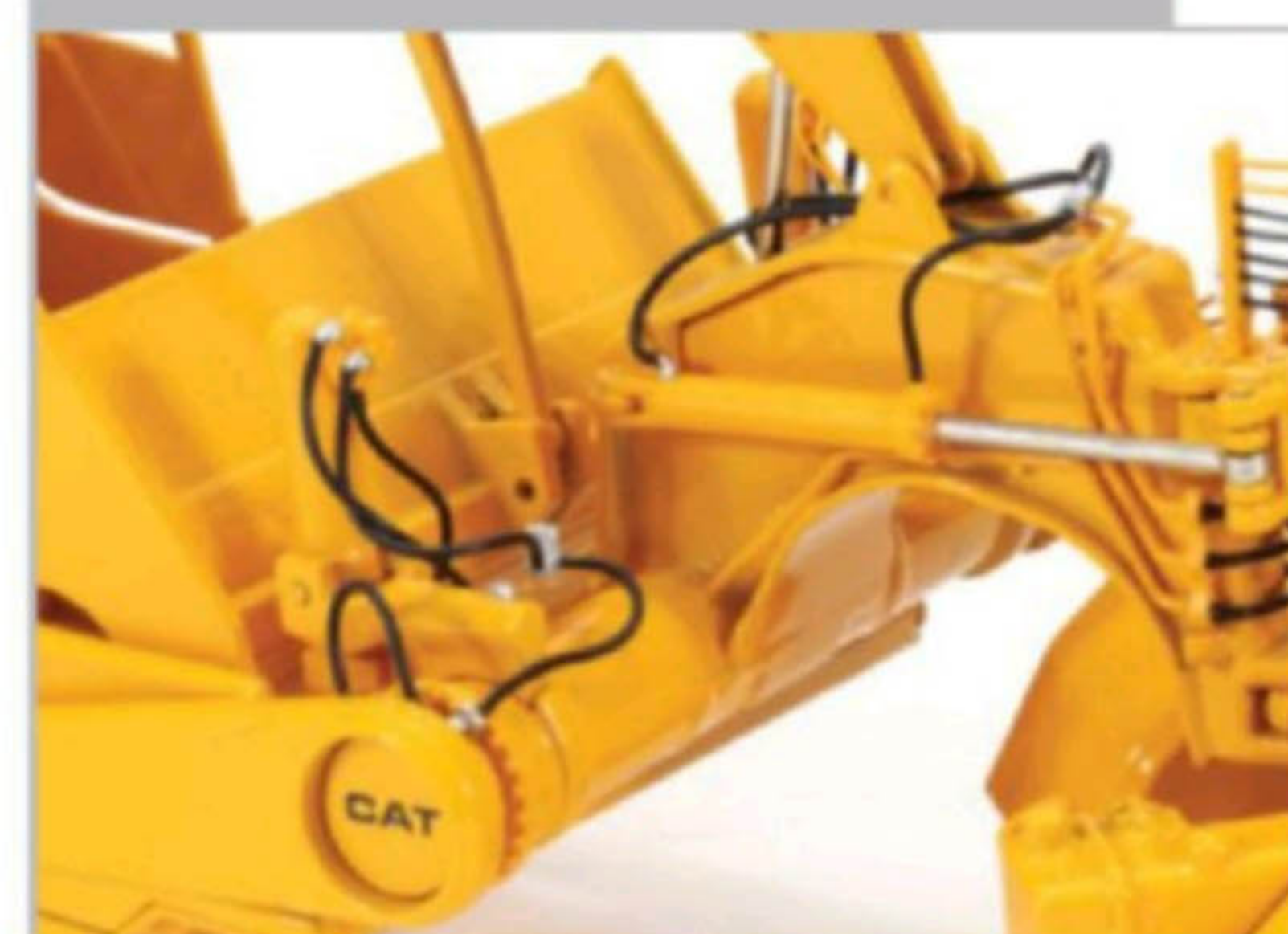
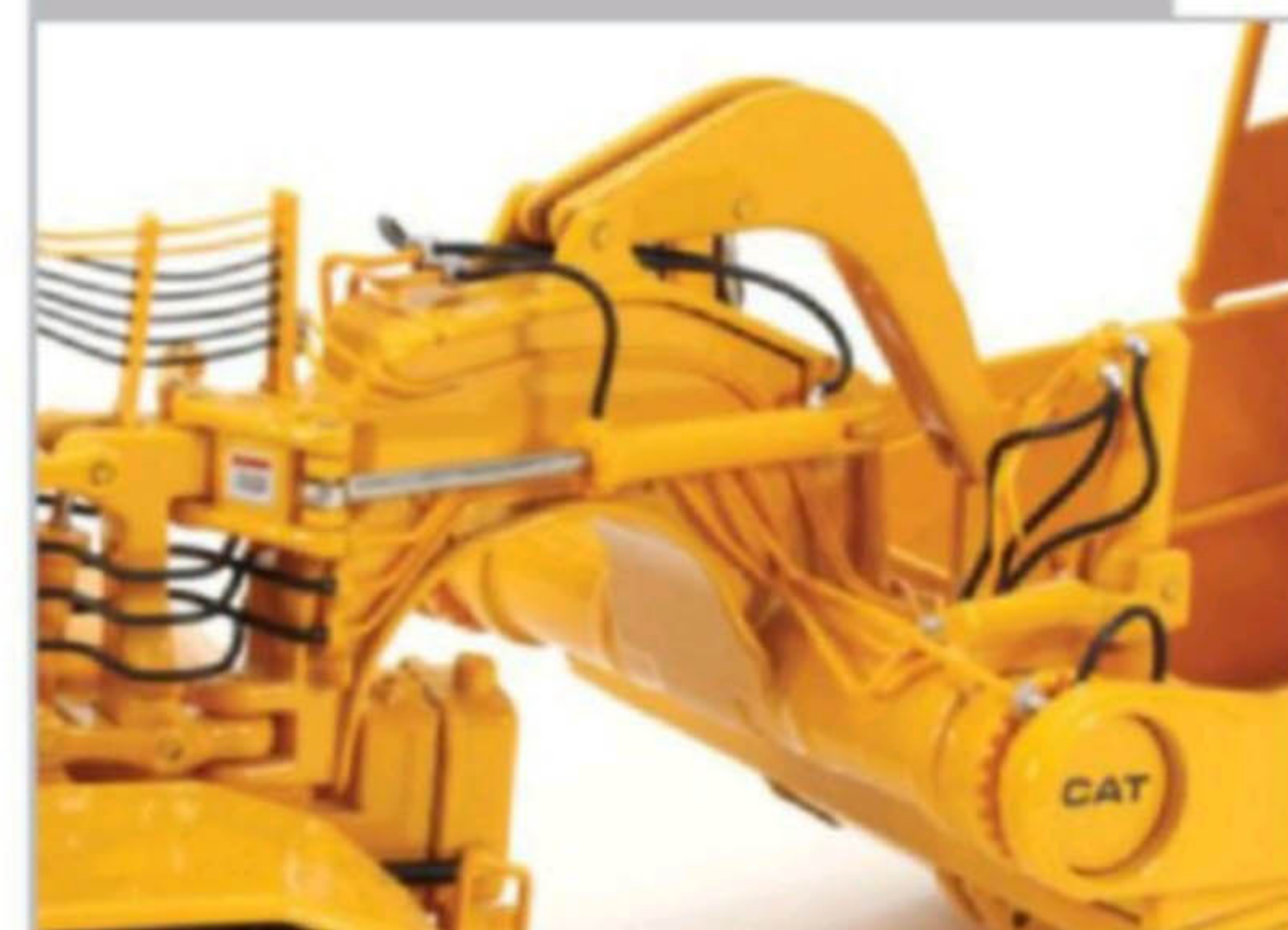


Classic Construction Models has followed up on their earlier 657B with the 657E, another cracking release which really packs plenty of detail and realism.

The twin-engine format of the 657E is expertly crafted and uses many of the same castings for the gooseneck, bowl and front engine compartment as the 651E (reviewed in the previous issue) with the addition of a hydraulically actuated bail and cushioned plate which has been mounted to the front, allowing two models to be linked together. The bowl has been fitted with a mesh panelled overspill guard with the ejector plate extending to discharge a load.



The rear compartment contains a replica of the 400hp Cat 3408E diesel engine with a tow hook integrated into the rear frame for push-pull operations. The paint finish is to a very high standard with authentic period markings and logos. Each model comes with a signed and serial-numbered specification booklet with a strictly limited 600-piece production run.





IVECO S-Way Tractor

Right:

The recent release of the IVECO S-way 4x2 tractor in 1:32nd scale from MarGe Models is a welcome addition to the fast growing trucking fleet



MarGe Models are well known for their agricultural models, and their range of transport truck and trailer releases in 1:32nd scale really hit the mark. I now take a look at three recent additions to the range, starting with the IVECO S-way 4x2 tractor. The model has been produced in several colour versions along with the limited edition 'S-Way' release presented here. The chassis has good detailing of the driveshaft and underside engine details with fuel tanks on both sides hidden with side panels that have integrated access steps. There is a pivoting fifth-wheel coupling plate and coiled service lines, while the cabin can be released and tilted forward to get a good view of the engine block beneath. The cabin interior is finished in a grey colour, with all the essentials modelled. The doors can be opened to a reasonable angle for a better look. The cabin exterior includes rear-view mirrors with a silver finish and front safety mirror with a sun visor with an interesting printed slogan. The front grill authentically captures the contours of the original, complete with IVECO logo and glazed driving lights. This is an impressive addition to the trucking fleet from MarGe.



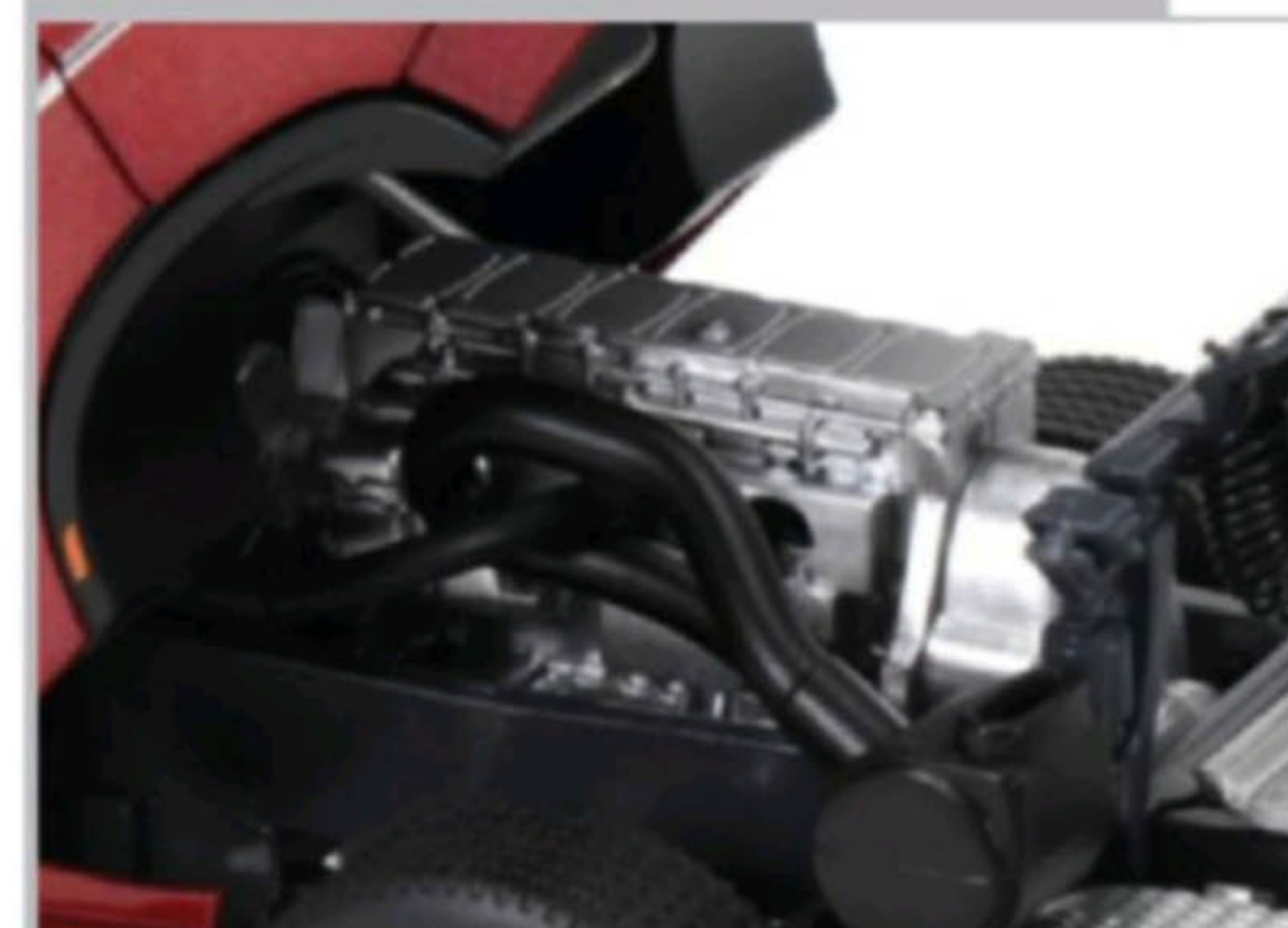
Above:

There is plenty of good detailing of the rear end of the chassis, from the mudguards with printed IVECO logos and yellow wheel chocks to the rear light clusters and silver tank.



Above:

The truck is shown hooked up to the container trailer, also from MarGe Models





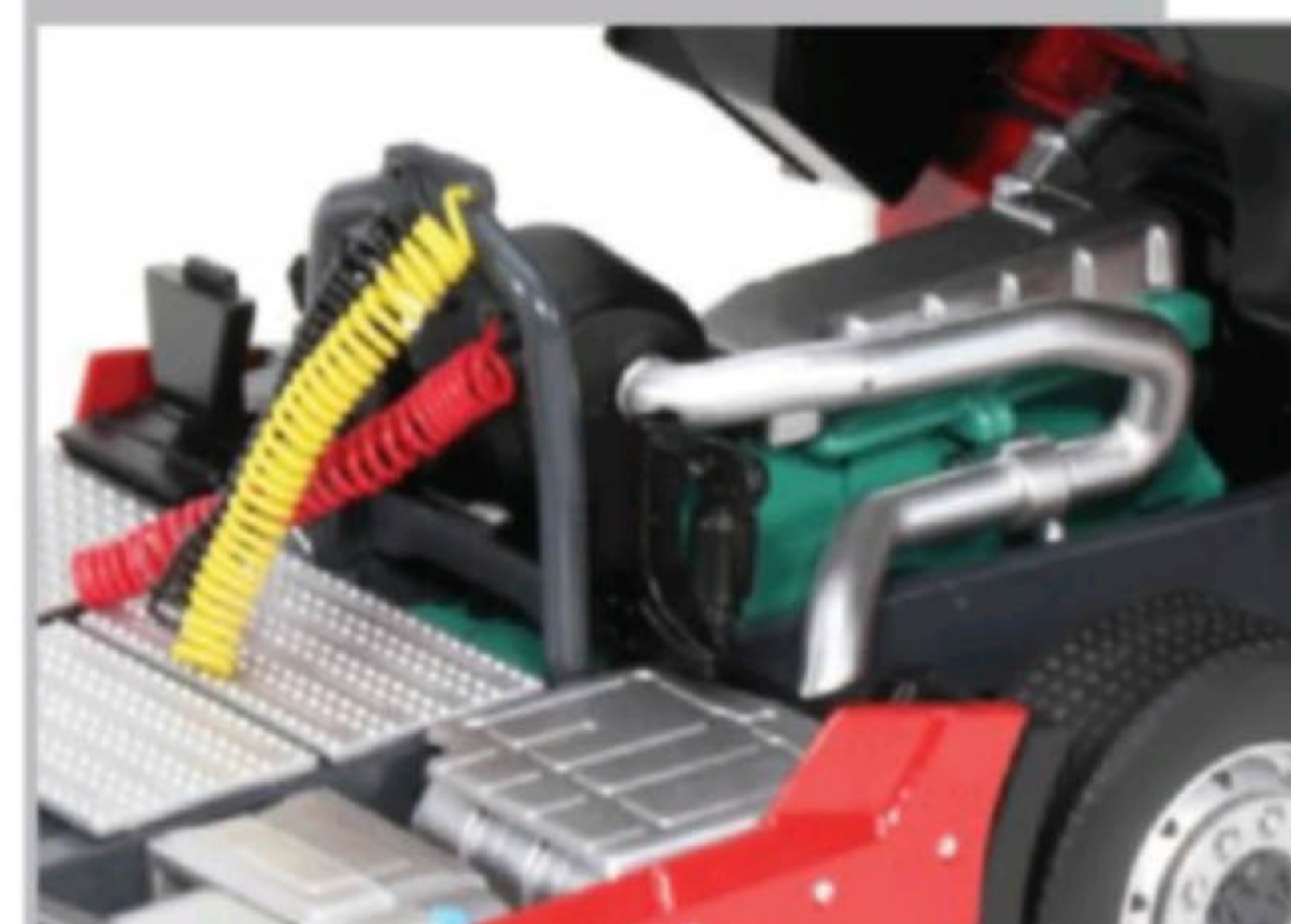
RENAULT T

Tractor



The second addition to the 1:32nd scale trucking fleet we will look at is the Renault T, another 4x2 configuration tractor which again impresses with the level of detail, not to mention the heavy weight which demonstrates that a lot of metal has gone into the construction.

As we look around the model, nice details jump out, like the ability to open the cabin doors to get an unobstructed view of the interior with everything in its place. The front axle has working steering, achieving a fair angle of steering with all the wheels freely rotating, finished with authentically treaded tyres. There is a pivoting fifth-wheel plate allowing any of the available trailers from MarGe to be coupled up, and we have the coiled service lines for added realism. Naturally, the cabin can be tilted to reveal the engine bay, where the green coloured engine block and silver exhaust piping is revealed. Exterior details include chromed air horns, roof mounted light bar and radio aerials with rear-view and safety mirrors. This is another cracking release from MarGe which adds to the offerings when it comes to the trucking fleet.



Left:

MarGe Models have released another worthy addition to the 1:32nd scale trucking fleet with the Renault T tractor, available in a choice of colours



VOLVO FH5

Tractor

Below:

The fully updated Volvo FH5 tractor from MarGe Models once again shows the high levels of detail and realism found in every new release



The final 1:32nd scale truck to look at from MarGe is the updated Volvo FH5, building on the success of the original release which really hit the mark. This release is no different, shown here in a 6x2 chassis configuration showing the latest styling which has been authentically replicated, using a photo-etch front grill.

The front and middle axles have operational steering and the cabin can be tilted forward to uncover the engine bay, where we see the Volvo engine block and exhaust system. Opening the cabin doors reveals the cream-coloured interior trim with all the essentials modelled, and the fifth-wheel plate allows trailers to be hooked up.



Above:

The rear detailing includes Volvo printed mud guards and air bottles with a pivoting fifth-wheel plate



Above:

An interesting combination, the Volvo FH5 coupled to a 3-axle container trailer.

HILLHEAD 2024 - Show Report

The Hillhead quarrying and construction show once again opened its doors over three days on the 25th to the 27th June, where over 600 exhibitors came together to showcase the latest technical developments and equipment in the quarrying sector. The working show allows visitors to see first hand the various machines and equipment in a working environment, capturing the unique sounds of the diesel engines hard at work.

I have been attending the show for a number of years, and it never fails to impress. The weather was good, and the variety of equipment on display from a host of OEM makers made the trip thoroughly enjoyable. Here are highlights of some of the exhibits on display.



HILLHEAD 2024 - Show Report





Mountain Scale Manufacturing

It has been a while since we looked at the range of accessory items from MSM, and in that time, Andi has been very busy introducing a vast range of items which we will take a closer look at over the next two issues.

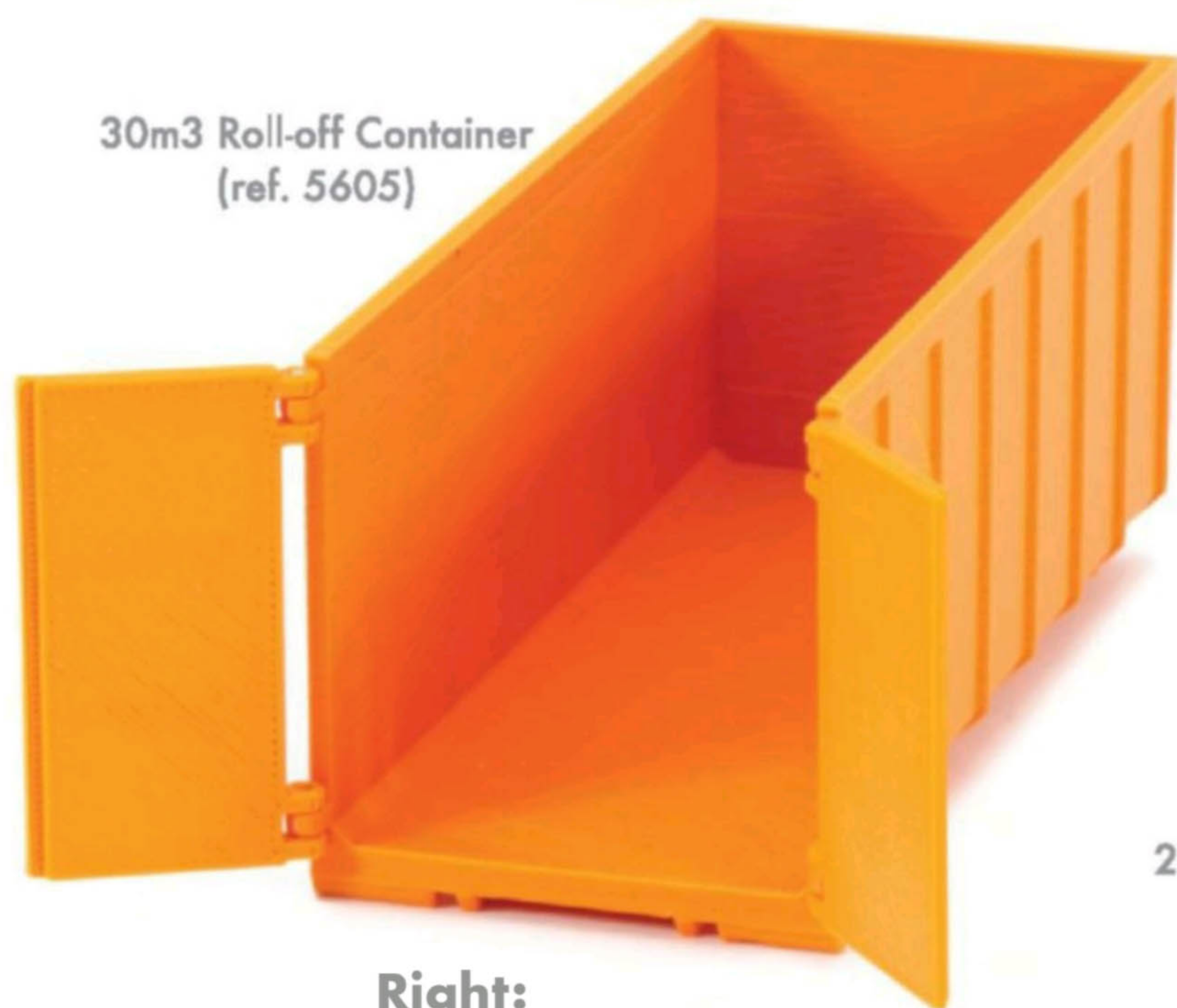
We start with a range of container skips which are used with the hook loader system, allowing them to be posed on the deck of trucks from Conrad, WSI Models and Tekno. The standard truck releases from the model manufacturers typically come with high sided containers, and in the case of Conrad, they have tooled both high and low sided containers with opening rear doors. The new range from MSM add variety, with both standard and some rather interesting and unusual container skips which look great when posed on a truck chassis.



Above:

The range of containers includes standard design skips in a variety of volume capacities, from the smallest 10 cubic metre to the high sided 40 cubic metre, each example demonstrating opening rear tailgate or side-hinged doors for added realism

30m3 Roll-off Container
(ref. 5605)



Right:

The design on the underside of the containers allows them to fit hook loader models from Conrad, WSI Models and Tekno, allowing both loading and tipping scenarios to be demonstrated, not to mention how interesting they look as an alternative to the stock containers supplied with the original model.



20m3 Roll-off Container
(ref. 5603)

Above:

The containers are available in a choice of yellow or orange, each 3D printed to a high standard





Roll-off Cobra container
(ref. 5618)

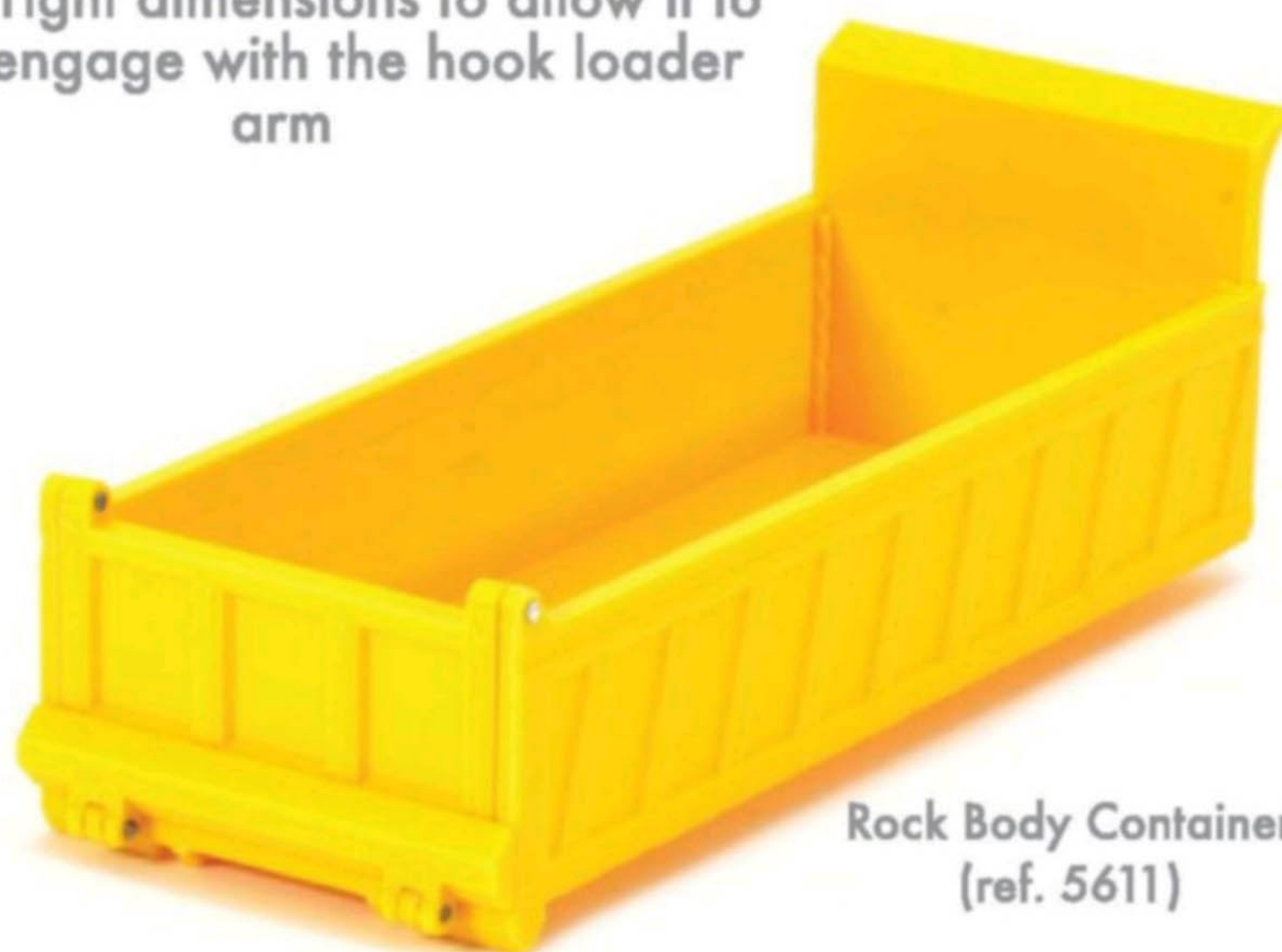


Above:

The lifting bracket is very sturdy and just the right dimensions to allow it to easily engage with the hook loader arm

Above:

Small metal pins are used for the articulating parts, and thanks to the relatively stiff fit, there is enough friction for the tailgate to remain in the chosen position. This container is another example of multi-use, not only for general purpose carrying, but also allowing equipment to be loaded with the tailgate acting as a loading ramp



Rock Body Container
(ref. 5611)



40m3 Roll-off Container
(ref. 5607)

Above:

The larger containers include silver finish ladders mounted to the end which is a nice touch



15m3 Roll-off Container
(ref. 5602)

Right:

The sides of the containers have a ribbed construction and angled lower edges with a strengthened upper edge



10m3 Roll-off Container
(ref. 5601)



Above:

The smallest container skip can double as an interesting transport solution for small construction equipment, thanks to the design of the tailgate which lowers downwards

Mountain Scale Manufacturing



30m3 Roll-off Container with lid
(ref. 5603)



Below:
As well as the standard containers, MSM has also produced some rather smart and interesting specialist containers to the same high standards, like this 30m3 container with a hinged upper cover to prevent the contents from spilling during road transport. The friction fit of the metal pins allows the lid to remain in the open position



Right:
This roll-off tipper body is constructed from separate side panels which clip in place to simulate an aluminium style body. It has a lower hinged locking bar and pivoting tailgate, again available in either yellow, or orange as shown here



Aluminium Tipper Body
(ref. 5612)

Below:
Containers have been designed to transport a number of different materials, and this tanker body looks interesting, mounted to a yellow or orange frame, the silver tank and side storage platforms contrast well



Roll-off Water Tank Container
(ref. 5619)



Above:
There are three lifting eyes along the upper centre line of the tank with a filling cap on the end and an outlet pipe at the rear



Buy it here



Left:
The specialist container bodies really do enhance the looks of the original truck, shown here, a pair of Conrad MAN TGS 6x2 rigids



Roll-off ThermoSilo Container
(ref. 5617)

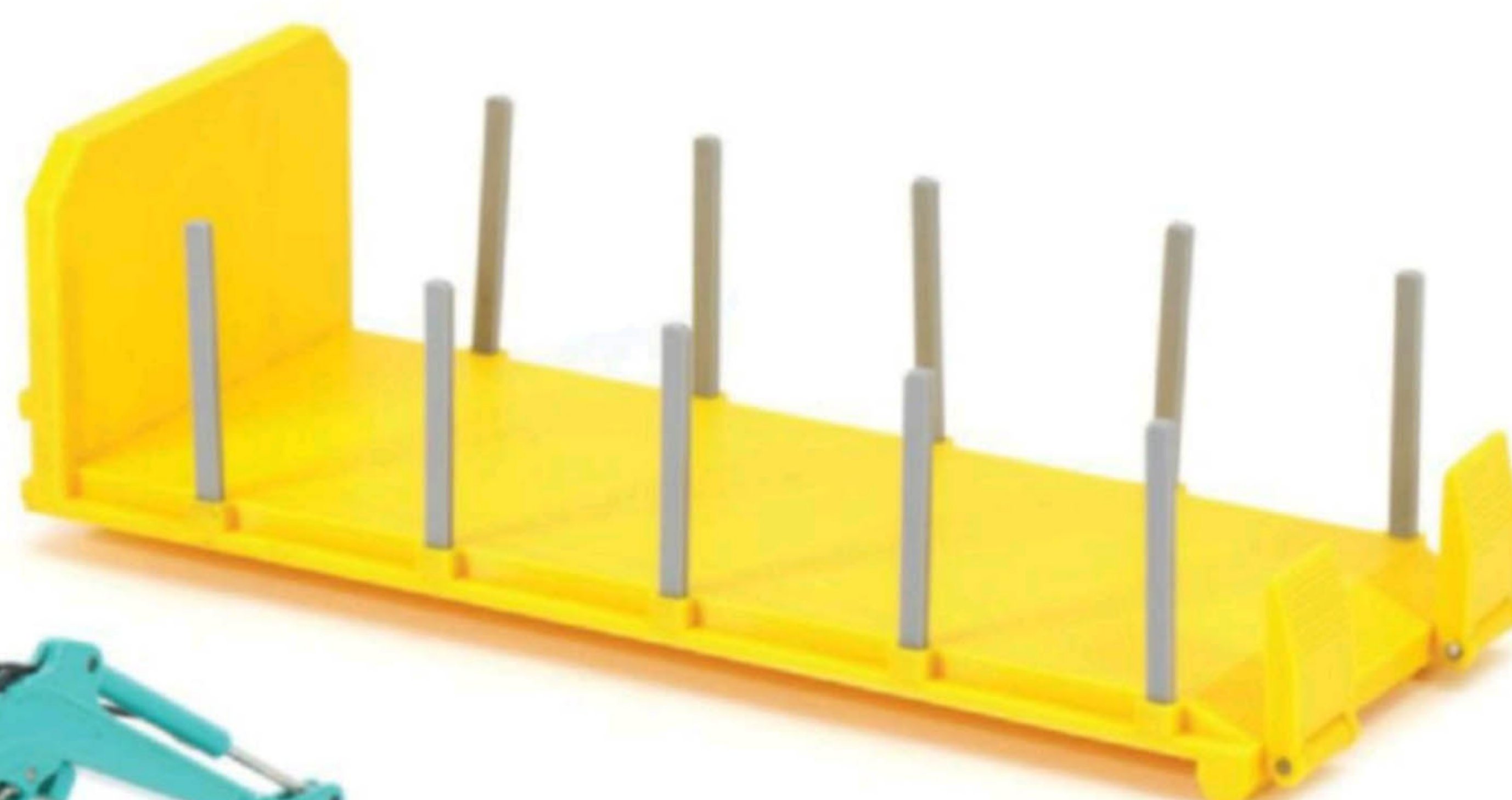


Above:

Another specialist body is the ThermoSilo, an enclosed container with a pair of opening upper doors to allow loading. There is an access ladder and detailing of the rear coal doors. An ideal vessel for transporting tar products which need to remain heated

Below:

The last roll-off accessory we will look at in this issue is a flatbed, complete with a set of stakes which, when not inserted into the holes along the sides of the bed, can be stored in the holders at the front. The body is shown here transporting a Kobelco SK58SR-7 tracked excavator



Above:

There are a pair of flip down loading ramps at the rear to aid in loading construction equipment



Roll-off Pallet body
(ref. 5614)



STILL RX20-20

Forklift Truck

It has been a while since we looked at the logistics sector and the models of equipment for goods handling, so here are three of the latest 1:25th scale Still handlers that have been produced by German model manufacturer Conrad.

First up is an RX20-20 battery powered four-wheel forklift truck which features a steering rear axle which achieves an amazing range of movement. The tyres all have a moulded tread design with freely rotating hubs. The operator's station has a prominent driver's seat which accurately captures the contours for a comfortable working environment.

The central column is topped with a steering wheel and there is a side display screen which enhances the visual looks of the model.



The chassis has a large, opening door to reveal the battery pack module which can be removed from the model, with the upper detailing of the individual battery elements neatly presented.

The forks have a fixed pitch, mounted to the frame which is connected to the mast by a cable, so as the mast extends, the forks elevate.

The mast is a single-stage extending design with working hydraulic cylinders and the ability to tilt the mast. The model comes with a plastic pallet.

Left:

The Still RX20-20 is a heavy model, packing plenty of metal in its construction, while at the same time, having good detailing throughout



Buy it here

STILL RXE-15 Forklift Truck

The second Still forklift truck we will look at is the 3-wheel RXE-15, having similar styling to the RX20 with a single rear wheel that offers full steering movement.

The battery compartment can be viewed by tilting the driver's seat forward, where you get a glimpse of the individual battery elements.

The operator area includes the steering wheel and side display screen, protected from a canopy that has integrated protective bars in the roof.

The single stage telescopic mast is fully operational with the ability to rise and also tilt, with fixed pitch forks mounted to the sliding frame. A moulded plastic pallet is included in the box



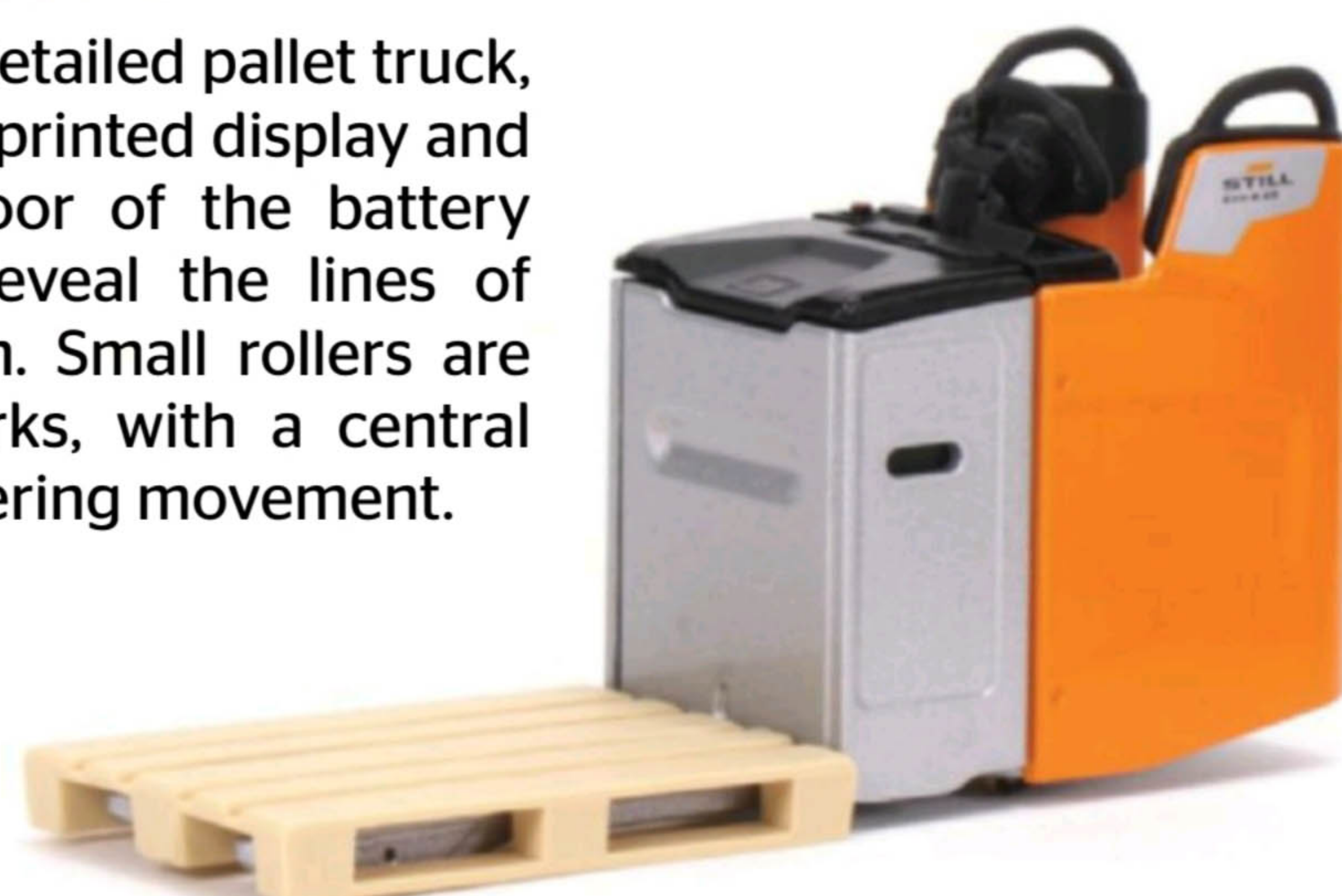
Below:
The Still RXE-15 3-wheel forklift truck in 1:25th scale from Conrad is an impressive model, packing enough detail and features to stand out.



STILL EXH-S Pallet Truck

Left:
Printing is used to very good effect for the display screen replication

The Still EXH-S is a small, and yet very impressively detailed pallet truck, featuring a stand-on operator station complete with printed display and hand controls with the upper door of the battery compartment opening to reveal the lines of battery elements within. Small rollers are incorporated in the forks, with a central drive wheel offering steering movement.



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HHR138I-1 - Damigella Collection



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Next issue

In The Next Issue...

- A number of models are up for review which include mining equipment from Hitachi, Caterpillar and Komatsu, and a selection of Kubota construction equipment models.
- We catch up with the latest model releases from various model manufacturers.
- Two Gomaco concrete paving models are put under the microscope.
- Crane models are again investigated, including Liebherr and Potain tower cranes and I conclude the review of the Demag CC2800 lattice boom crawler crane first introduced in issue 14, and continue the review of the stunning Mammoet Liebherr LG1750 SX3.
- I take a look at two Skytrack models produced by Diecast Masters in 1:25th scale.
- The accessory items from MSM are once again examined.

....and much much more!



Competition



One lucky reader can win a model of the 1:50th scale Link-Belt 220 X4S tracked excavator donated by Ryan Sanders. To be in with a chance of winning, answer the following question :

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