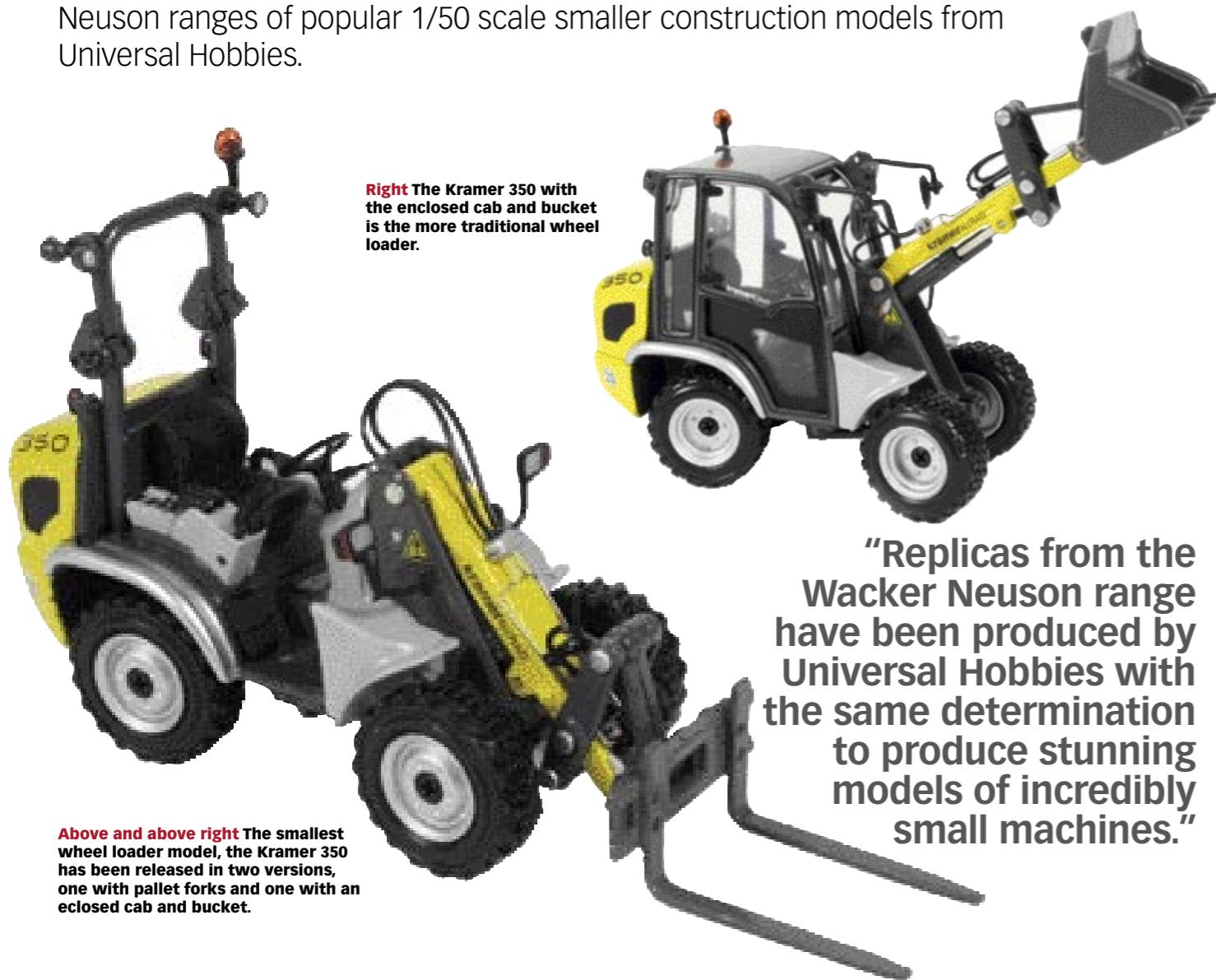


# Compact construction

**Steven Downes** reflects on the finely detailed Kramer Allrad/Wacker Neuson ranges of popular 1/50 scale smaller construction models from Universal Hobbies.



**Right** The Kramer 350 with the enclosed cab and bucket is the more traditional wheel loader.

“Replicas from the Wacker Neuson range have been produced by Universal Hobbies with the same determination to produce stunning models of incredibly small machines.”

**Above and above right** The smallest wheel loader model, the Kramer 350 has been released in two versions, one with pallet forks and one with an enclosed cab and bucket.

Compact construction equipment is used in a vast number of areas including landscaping, road construction, civil engineering, recycling and agriculture. Their small size allows them to work in tightly confined areas, and they are becoming ever more popular in builder's yards and nurseries.

One company that is well known for producing a complete range of these diminutive machines is the Wacker Neuson group. The company is split into two divisions consisting of the Kramer-Werke production facility in Pfullendorf, Germany, where the Kramer Allrad product range of wheel loaders with a bucket capacity from 0.25 cubic metres up to 1.8 cubic metres and telescopic handlers offering a working height of between seven and nine metres,



**Two full-size Kramer 350s ready for work.**

are produced. To compliment the wheeled loaders and telehandlers, the Wacker Neuson production facility in Linz produces a range of wheeled and tracked excavators, skid steer loaders and site dumpers.



Universal Hobbies has produced a number of 1/50 scale diecast replicas from the Kramer Allrad product range and here I will take a look at some of these amazing little models.

**Right and below** The full-size Kramer 850 is a magnificent machine that weighs in at an impressive 4,500kg. Universal Hobbies' 1/50 scale model is equally impressive with its 4-in-1 bucket, replicated cab interior and crisply applied decals.



**Left and below** This detailed Kramer 1150 model is even more impressive considering its full-size cousin.



The smallest wheel loader model is the Kramer 350, which has been released in two versions, one offering an open ROPS canopy with pallet forks while the other has a more traditional enclosed cab and bucket. Both models have a very high degree of detail throughout with an accurate cab interior highlighting all the operator controls.

This is most noticeable on the ROPS version where the cabin is open allowing all the tiny detailing to be visualised. The quality of the castings combined with the clever use of metal and plastic results in an amazingly detailed and realistic model, with both fixed and flexible hydraulic piping, rear view mirrors, windscreen wipers and light clusters all replicated. Even the rubber window seals have been painted onto the cab windows.

The chassis features a linked steering mechanism with grass tyres fitted to the loader while heavy treaded tyres are fitted to the pallet fork version.

The larger 850 wheel loader weighs in at 4,500kg with a Deutz D2011 L4W 4-cylinder diesel engine generating 61hp with hydrostatic four wheel steering and a bucket capacity between 0.85 and 1.4 cubic metres.

Universal Hobbies has demonstrated the same level of detail and finesse as its smaller siblings, having a functioning 4-in-1 bucket, replicated cab interior and all the extra touches including accurately scaled grab rails and crisp printed markings.

The 1150 wheel loader is the largest machine in the range and the model sports an oversized light material bucket with a

rigid chassis that has fully working all wheel steering and accurately modelled rubber tyres. The cab interior is finely detailed throughout including the textured floor panels and central console. Front and rear facing work lights are added to the cab frame with painted lenses as well as an amber beacon and rear view mirrors for that extra bit of realism.

Two replicas from the Wacker Neuson range have also been produced by Universal Hobbies with the same determination to produce stunning and highly detailed models of incredibly small machines.

Starting out as red painted Neuson machines, the range has now been updated to reflect the recent acquisition by Wacker.

The 701SP wheeled skid steer in one of the most realistic looking models so

## CONSTRUCTION MODELS



**Above and left** This Wacker Neuson 701SP has got to be one of the most realistic looking models so far produced. Considering its smaller scale, there is a huge amount of detail.



**Above and right** The Wacker Neuson 6-ton 6001s swivel site dumper has also been expertly replicated by Universal Hobbies, and includes a fully functioning tip and swivel body.

far produced for its size with an amazing amount of detail packed into a model measuring only 65mm x 30mm x 40mm.

The loader arms and bucket function with fixed and flexible auxiliary piping fitted while the driver's area has modelled joystick controls and lift-up safety bar. The rear photo-etched engine grille looks amazing and, everywhere you look, you notice the fine details which really finish off what is, in my opinion, a superb model.

I finish off this review with a look at the

Wacker Neuson 6-ton 6001s swivel skip site dumper. Powered by a Deutz 88hp diesel engine with permanent hydrostatic four wheel drive, the dumper has excellent mobility over the most demanding underfoot conditions. The elevated control console offers an unobstructed view for the driver and the turn and tip dump body offers excellent versatility in tight spaces.

As with the other models from Universal Hobbies, the level of realism is exceptional with a fully functioning tip and swivel dump

body, articulated frame with armoured hydraulic lines and a fully replicated driver's console, complete with steering wheel, hand controls and foot pedals, parking brake handle and ROPS safety bar.

Some truly great models here from one of the most consistent manufacturers of construction vehicles with its usual fine detailing and quality throughout. **DC**

**For more details see Universal Hobbies' website: [www.universalhobbies.net](http://www.universalhobbies.net)**