

Custom attachments

Steven Downes shows what is possible with the use of after-market kits on standard Liebherr scale models to create something a little bit different.



1. The Liebherr R916 is a small machine and perfect for several different conversions, from simply adding an extension stick or replacing the original stick with a shear, to more exhaustive changes like the addition of a new boom. For the novice, the stick extension is a simple addition with everything supplied in the kit to allow the base model to remain untouched, ideal for a starter project. Detail is good and the kit includes a wide grading bucket and quick coupler that allows the original bucket to be used.

2. For the more adventurous, removing the stick and replacing it with a shear, in this case, a LaBounty MSD2500, takes a little more work, requiring several tools including a drill to remove the pins that fix the stick to the boom. The shear has a rotating head with opening jaws showing the cutter blade detailing cast into the white metal block.

3. Replacing the entire boom with a long-reach boom gives the model a very different appearance. The resin parts have plenty of cast detail including the piping on the boom and stick. Flexible hosing and new pins are supplied with the kit and to complete the conversion, the quick coupler, hydraulics and the boom castings from the original model are re-used. The original bucket can be fitted or alternatively, grading and trapezoidal buckets are also available to fit the R916.



4. A long-reach boom kit has also been produced for the Liebherr R954C from Conrad and comes with all the bits needed to convert the original, including the resin boom and stick with white metal boom castings and bucket linkage. For added realism, flexible hoses have been added along the back of the boom with scratch-built holders and small metal ferrules to replicate the check valves.

5. Another LaBounty shear, which makes a good alternative, is the MSD3000, fitted here to the stick of the Liebherr R944C scrap handler model from Universal Hobbies. The stick is plastic on the model so is easy to cut and rework, mounting the shear directly to the end with scratch-built support pieces. The attachment is painted in authentic Liebherr grey (RAL 7043) while the yellow paint is only available direct from Liebherr and is a good match to the various paint shades of the base models.



6. A straight demolition boom kit has been produced that will fit either the R944C or R954C. This is my favourite of all the kits released so far and requires more work to get everything to fit. The shape of the boom has been authentically captured and by carefully dismantling the original model, a number of the components can be re-used, including the soft plastic piping, which is re-attached to the new boom. Scratch-built piping has been added to the stick and the boom castings are from the original to ensure they don't foul the hydraulically elevating cab. For a true demolition appearance, I have attached a grapple, which is modelled on a Northerntrack design that was made a number of years ago.

