

BAUMA HIGHLIGHTS Part 1

With plant manufacturers looking for any opportunity to save costs, it was somewhat surprising to find a number of new scale model releases at Bauma. Over the next two issues Steven Downes reviews the latest model releases from the show.



1: The Volvo EW160C wheeled excavator model is a much more highly detailed update to NZG's original EW160B, with a finely engineered, parallel-lift, high-rise cab and sorting grapple attachment giving it a vastly different appearance. The front dozer blade and functional outriggers give the model a sturdy base, with functional steering and accurately moulded rubber tyres. Flexible hydraulic piping has been added to the hydraulics and all safety railings are true to scale.

2: After years of development, it is no surprise that Liebherr has commissioned a 1:50th-scale replica of its new TA230 articulated dump truck. The model has been produced by Conrad and features some very fine detailing throughout, including the pivoting rear suspension and tensioned front axle, articulating frame, replicated cab interior, safety railings and a tipping dump body with operational tailgate.



3: Doosan has commissioned a limited edition version of its Moxey MT31 articulated dump truck from NZG, which features a new orange paint scheme with updated and revised decals. The chassis features working suspension and steering with a replicated cab interior, safety rails, rear view mirrors, tipping dump body and chain-operated tailgate.



4: Volvo commissioned four new 1:50th-scale models from NZG for Bauma, each highly detailed and fully functional. The EC20C mini-excavator in 1:50th scale is a tiny model and yet the engineering and attention to detail are first rate. The boom, stick and bucket have realistic movement, with a fully replicated cab interior, moving blade, 360deg rotation of the super-structure and rubber tracks with fine detailing, including radio aerial, warning beacon and rear view mirrors. Not bad for a model measuring less than 2in.



5: The Volvo EC460C tracked excavator has well-proportioned metal track pads that are tensioned to fit snugly around the track frames. The opening engine cover revealing the moulded and painted engine block is a nice touch, with crisp grille panel detailing cast into the body and highlighted cooling grilles. Added realism includes the non-functioning rear counterweight lifting mechanism, fully-modelled cab interior and realistic range of movement of the boom, stick and digging bucket, complete with tooth and wear plate detailing.



6: There are some interesting and varied models found at trade shows and the Shantui SD42-3 bulldozer in 1:43rd scale is a nice find. Clearly based on Komatsu technology, the model features crisply cast linked plastic tracks with functioning rear ripper and front dozer blade. The front and side mesh engine covers reveal the silhouette of the engine block within while the cab doors open to get a better glimpse of the interior.



7: The Volvo L50F wheel loader is a welcome addition to the range, featuring an accurately modelled cab with replicated interior and external details, including rear view mirrors, grab rails, photo-etched windscreen wiper, radio aerial and warning beacon all added. The loader arms lift to a good height, with functional parallel loader linkage and general-purpose bucket. A nice addition is the opening rear engine compartment revealing the 115hp Volvo engine block and cooling system within.

