

Classic Cats

Steven Downes reviews the latest Caterpillar scale model releases from Norscot.



1: The 1:50th-scale 587T pipe-layer has been modelled on the more unusual fully enclosed cab version with an extending counterweight arm and a moveable boom. While two winches are modelled, they are non-functional and boom adjustment is made by manipulating the four-pulley hook block. Accurately scaled safety and grab rails throughout and a replicated cab interior add to the model's appeal, while metal pulleys allow the rope to run with low friction.



2: The 24M grader is a monster of a machine, updating the previously released 24H. New castings show side catwalks, accurately scaled railings, articulated steering via a steering and pivoting front axle. Additional features include a functioning rear ripper bar and an adjustable mouldboard with a tilting blade and left/right and rotational movement, and a replicated cab interior with opening cab doors.



3: The 374D tracked excavator has been modelled on the mass-excavation configuration, featuring a short dipper stick and heavy-duty bucket, plus excellent detailing of teeth and wear parts. The cab interior is visible and the model includes front and roof debris screens, linked tracks and flexible hydraulic piping on the boom and stick, plus an auxiliary circuit – a nice addition.



4: The 793F mining truck features a new style dump body with floor wear plating and ribbed sides. The upper deck has a modelled fire suppression system with an opening cover revealing the replicated engine block while the front axle has functional steering and working suspension arms on the rear axle. With metal safety railings and upgraded cab, the latest variant is a welcome release.



5: Completing the new releases is a 1:32nd-scale version of the 1980s vintage 416 backhoe loader. The model is of simple design, featuring an open driver's station complete with ROPS canopy and a centre-mount backhoe boom, which has a very good range of movement. The stabilisers can be deployed and the front loader arms and bucket offer realistic posing possibilities.