

Oldtimer Cats

This month, Steven Downes reviews the growing range of precision 1:48th-scale die-cast historic Caterpillar replicas from Classic Construction Models.

1: Classic Construction Models have recently announced several new additions to the range, including the D9H, DD9H and SxS D9H dozer variants, along with a Caterpillar 666 motor scraper. All are expected to be released and available from model dealers by mid-year.



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3: CCM have produced two different versions of the D10 dozer, including a standard dozer configuration consisting of a front hydraulic dozer blade with a single shank, adjustable ripper at the rear along with a fully replicated, enclosed cab with ROPs structure and linked metal tracks. Also released is a pusher version of the D10, which has a chassis-mounted front pusher blade and rear push block with integrated towing hitch, along with an open cab with canopy. Both models feature an open engine bay with replicated diesel engine block and photo-etched grilles, plus flexible hydraulic hoses and fire extinguishers for an authentic look.

4: The Cat 988 wheel loader is the first in the new series from CCM and features a fully detachable cab that reveals the replicated driver's station, including all the hand and foot controls. The rear engine compartment has a replicated engine block with underside detailing including the driveshaft to the front and rear axles. The hinged rear wheel guards are a nice touch and the front loader arms have a realistic range of movement. CCM have also produced a limited edition log-loader version of the 988 with a grapple attachment fitted to the loader arms.

5: The latest release in the series is the Cat 834 wheel dozer, which is based on the 988 chassis. It incorporates the same rear body and engine castings as the 988 plus a totally new front frame and dozer blade. The open cab reveals the driver's controls and steering wheel, along with accurately scaled metal grab rails and functional articulated steering, an adjustable dozer blade and accurate looking rubber tyres.

6: The Cat 769 haul truck was first introduced in 1963 and was chosen as the second model in the series, featuring a replicated drive-train from the engine to the rear axle, along with functional steering and accurately styled rubber tyres. The three-stage hydraulic cylinders raise the dump body to a good height and the photo-etched front grille and inset work lights add to the realism.



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2: The Cat 245 excavator has taken an eternity to be released and, after over two years in development, the results are worth the wait. Both shovel and backhoe versions of the 245 have been produced. The undercarriage has tensioned linked metal tracks with good casting details on the track frames, while both models have opening rear engine compartment doors revealing the replicated power-plant within. The shovel has a fully functional boom, stick and opening bucket, plus both fixed and flexible hydraulic piping throughout, while the backhoe has a very realistic degree of movement of the stick and bucket linkage.