

# KEEP ON TRUCKING

This month Steven Downes takes a look at the latest truck scale models from Conrad.



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1: Three-sided tipping bodies are a common sight in Continental Europe, where a number of manufacturers offer this rather unusual configuration. With the ability to discharge a load on either side of the chassis, the trucks offer added productivity and Conrad have produced several replicas based on the designs from Meiller and Dautel.

The Meiller version is based on a MAN three-axle chassis that features working steering of the front axle, a tipping cab that reveals the modelled engine block and a chassis that has suspension and drive train detailing. The engineering on the model to allow the body to be posed in each of the three tipping configurations is impressive and works very well, featuring fold-down side doors and pivoting rear tailgate.



2: The Dautel four-axle tipper is based on the new Mercedes Actros MP3 chassis and cab, and features a reasonably replicated chassis with tilting cab, engine block detailing and crisp body panel detailing. The tipping body utilises a clever mechanism to allow all three tipping modes to be demonstrated, and a pivoting tailgate and side panels all add to the detail. The new cab casting has holes in the roof allowing the self-fit radio aerials to be fitted – a nice addition on the latest Conrad truck models.



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3: Another recent release is the four-axle Mercedes Benz tipper with a more conventional Carmehl half-pipe tipping body, accurately modelled with a curved bottom and pivoting tailgate for better material discharge. The main, multi-stage hydraulic tip piston has been accurately replicated and allows the body to be positioned as required. The MP3 cab casting has crisp grille detailing and a replicated interior, steering front axles and a chromed exhaust stack with photo-etched cooling jacket.



4: The MAN TGS 4x4 truck is another good addition to the growing range of truck models, packed with great detailing and functionality, including the fully functional tipping body with fold-down side panels and pivoting tailgate to the accurately modelled MAN cab and chassis. The full drive-train detailing includes drive shafts from the gearbox through the distribution box to the front and rear axles. The fully functional Palfinger crane is another great feature on the model, tucked neatly behind the cab.



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5: A Mercedes Benz Actros MP3 version of the 4x4 truck has also been released, with the same level of detail and realism throughout, including chromed silencer box with embossed Mercedes logo, replicated cab interior, a modelled engine block, drive train and suspension, and a folding crane with extending outriggers.



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6: Conrad has released a three-axle concrete mixer based on the new Mercedes Actros chassis. The Schwing Stetter branded mixing body has a smoothly rotating drum with a swing and pivot discharge chute, accurately scaled access ladder and safety railings, water tank and hydraulic motor detailing.