

# Keep on TRUCKING

Steven Downes looks at the latest truck models to hit the market.

The latest generation of MAN TGS trucks are the focus from NZG with a number of releases all modelled on the latest cosmetic changes and enhancements from this well-known truck manufacturer. The four-axle chassis has a replicated underside with drive shaft and simulated suspension arms all visible. The front pair of axles feature working steering, which achieves a fairly good range of movement, coupled with crisply moulded rubber tyres.

The cab has a replicated interior complete with contoured dashboard and seating, while rear-view mirrors, radio aerials, safety beacons and chromed air horns are fitted to the cab frame and roof. Access steps leading to the cab have a highlighted anti-slip texture, plus a crisply moulded air intake and exhaust stack located behind the cab. The same base chassis is utilised on the full range, with differences found in the dump body and rear wheel covers.



*The half-pipe tipping body is popular throughout Europe and a number of differently liveried versions have been released, including Felbermayr, Otto, Drinkuth, Fleck Schleipen and a plain blue and silver version. The body accurately captures the curved shape while an inset pivoting tailgate and multi-stage hydraulic cylinder provide the tipping momentum.*



*The Meiller tipping body has been accurately modelled although it does not permit the side tipping features to be demonstrated. Cast detailing includes the side door mechanisms and side panelling while the pivoting tailgate and high tipping angle have been captured from the original. The model is available in blue and also in the grey Merz Transporte company branding.*



*The second version of the model features a simulated tarpaulin-covered dump body with high sides and pivoting tailgate. The plastic cover is loose fitting and can be removed. Two versions have been produced, one finished in blue and the other in orange.*



## New Mack truck models

The Mack Granite is a popular truck throughout the US and two new models based on the rigid three-axle chassis have finally been released by Sword Precision scale models.

Known for their attention to detail, nothing has been omitted.

On both models, the cab doors open to reveal the intricate detailing within, right down to the dials on the console. The engine cover opens to reveal the

fully replicated engine at the heart of the chassis with the transmission and drive-train all replicated on the underside of the model.

The flatbed version can be configured as a tipper with removable side and rear panels and several accessories, including tie-down straps, road cones and shovels supplied in the box.

The Etnyre tar spreader is an interesting choice for the second release, complete with fully operable

rear spreader bars adorned with tiny hoses while the tank has an opening top hatch and modelled filler caps on the rear, along with an access ladder leading to the top of the tank.

Side-fitted storage cabinets and tiny printed gauges on the tank show the attention to detail that is expected from a Sword release. Both models are available in four different colours – red, white, black and yellow.

