

MINIATURE DEMO RIGS

Steven Downes reviews the latest scale models of demolition specification Hitachi excavators.



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1: The 1:50th-scale Hitachi Zaxis ZX1000K-3 from NZG has been produced in two different configurations. Both share the same body and undercarriage castings, with different front-end equipment consisting of either a triple boom with an Okada crusher or a 40m high-reach boom with Ohsumi shears.

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2: True to the original machine, the model features removable track frames complete with linked and tensioned metal track pads, with a self-lifting mechanism added to the undercarriage frame to allow the model to be posed in a transport configuration. Adding to this is the ability to quickly remove the boom assembly.



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3: The body casting has an opening service door giving access to the engine compartment and cooling systems, which have been modelled, complete with printed anti-slip surfaces and accurately scaled metal grab rails. The rear counterweight houses four removable ballast sections that give the model good stability, enhanced by added weight inside the rear body to balance the heavy, all-metal boom.



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4: The cab has very good, crisp detailing of the roof and front debris protection screens, which are fitted to the frame and house integrated work lights, while the printed window seals and fully replicated interior all add to the realism.



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5: The Okada crusher attachment is the cream of the crop, a good representation of the full-sized equipment with structural detailing, opening jaws and 360-degree rotation, topped with flexible hydraulic lines and a raised nameplate.



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6: The smaller Hitachi Zaxis ZX350 from Shinsei is also produced in 1:50th scale and comes complete with both high-reach and standard digging booms in the box. The undercarriage has free-rolling linked metal tracks with crisp track frame detailing while the cab has been accurately replicated and features front and roof guards and a modelled interior. The booms interchange easily and an additional ballast section is provided for use with the high-reach boom. While not as highly detailed as the NZG models, the ZX350 complements the larger ZX1000 very well.



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7: The NZG and Shinsei models carry the Japanese machine designations; the range will be increased in the near future with the release of three versions of the European designated Hitachi Zaxis 870-3 in 1:50th scale from WSI collectibles.