

Military miniatures



Steven Downes reviews 1:50th-scale military construction and transport models from Norscot, TWH Collectibles and Sword Precision Scale models.

1: Equally at home transporting main battle tanks, the Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) is an ideal combination to transport large plant and machinery. The model is exquisitely detailed throughout, featuring a fully replicated engine compartment with opening hood. The cab doors open to reveal the accurately captured interior's working steering and suspension, not to mention the three winches and functional fifth wheel. The trailer has folding loading ramps, a pivoting gooseneck and steering axle lines with fantastic deck detailing.



2: The Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) is another rugged truck that has been accurately captured in 1:50th scale. The model features a cargo area with hinged side panels, a rear mounted self-load crane, opening engine cover and cabin doors revealing the inner workings. Also, a complete steering and drive-train have been added to the underside of the chassis. The desert tan colour scheme is a very close match to the latest plant models from Norscot which, while not as detailed, certainly don't look out of place.

3: The Caterpillar 815F soil compactor is a heavyweight model, thanks mainly to the solid metal compaction wheels, which have great tip detailing plus a functional blade and articulating steering with locking safety bar. The single colour paint scheme shows up more of the casting details than the standard yellow version.



4: The D6K dozer is another model with plenty of good detailing, including the linked metal tracks, opening cab doors, functional rear ripper bar and a PAT blade that offers a good degree of realistic movement.



5: The Cat 120M motor grader offers some great posing possibilities with a slide-and-tilt blade and height adjustable rotating mouldboard. The articulating chassis features pivoting suspension bogies at the rear with a steering front axle, rear multi-shank ripper and accurate replication of the cabin.



6: The 924H tool carrier is supplied with three attachments comprising a loading shovel, pallet forks and a lifting arm. These additions allow the model to be authentically posed loading the HEMTT. The arm and linkage have a good range of movement with an articulating chassis and free rolling wheels.



7: The Cat 730 articulated hauler is showing its age now, and with the recent introduction of the B series, the military version depicted here is an opportunity to produce a final batch. The articulating chassis functions well, with a tipping dump body, good replication of the rear suspension system and modelled cab interior.



8: The Cat CB-534D tandem drum compactor has some crisp casting detail that is highlighted by the light tan colour. The drums rotate freely with the operator's console rotating to either side, topped with the driver's seat and control column, although these don't look right painted to match the rest of the model and would have been much better left black.