

MONSTER model

This month, Steven Downes takes a look at the latest monster from TWH Collectibles, the 1:50th-scale P&H 4100XPC rope shovel.



1: TWH Collectibles have already given us a 1:50th-scale rope shovel in the form of the Bucyrus 495 and this was very warmly received. Now they have gone one better with the release of the P&H 4100XPC, a mammoth model that has captured all the detail and realism of the full-size machine perfectly.

2: The weight alone says the model is something special, with hardly any plastic found and, where it is used is sparingly. For instance the cab interior, where the cabinets and shaped desk are modelled in detail, with the prominent operator's seat visible through the large front windscreen. A second workstation is found within the cab while the side door and utility room door can be opened. Two silver air conditioning units are located along the side of the cabin with access leading up to platform on the roof.

3: Photo-etched walkways are located around the lower housing with accurately scaled metal safety railings and a pivoting access ladder all replicated with steps allowing access to the upper deck, which has a number of etched grilles along with domed windows allowing light into the car body. Small printed safety and warning labels are found near the doors leading into the main housing for added realism, plus silver highlighted vent housings, water downspout and strategically placed fire extinguishers all added.

4: Operation of the main winch drum is through the use of a winding key that is inserted through the window on the opposite side of the body. Pressure is needed to release the locking mechanism on the drum before the dipper can be raised/lowered. A similar opening in the boom allows the dipper to be extended/retracted and all the gearing is replicated, allowing the dipper to travel smoothly while a small tag line is used to release the door lock on the shovel.

5: The A-frame is securely fixed to the main structure and takes the weight of the boom, while equalisers allow all four ropes to remain taut. Service platforms are fitted to the frame with P&H sign boards prominently displayed. Behind this are the air filtration housing and the shaped canopy. Working floodlights are interesting features of the model, each one having a surface mounted LED emitting a white light. The battery compartment and switch are located on the underside of the body. While this is more of a novelty, the lighting is an interesting addition from TWH

6: The boom has service platforms on both sides with photo-etched walkways and ladders leading up to the main access ladder, which extends along the full length of the boom to the inspection platform at the tip. It is this level of attention to detail that makes TWH the premier producer of large mining models.



7: The undercarriage is sufficiently substantial to carry the weight of the model, and individually linked pads and rotating rollers allow the tracks to roll well, despite the weight being carried. The frames are highly detailed, as is the electric feed bar, which is suspended with small chains. Other details include the drive motor housings and underside mounted light housings for service purposes.