

Miniature Komatsus

Steven Downes reviews the latest Komatsu model releases from First Gear, Universal Hobbies and newcomers Kyowa Miniature Factory.



1



2



1: The Komatsu D475A-5E0 dozer in 1:50th scale is a real brute, with a fully working undercarriage with pivoting bogies, linked metal tracks and fantastic surface detailing of the track frames. The rear single shank ripper can be adjusted and the main blade has a finely cast guard along the upper edge, with bolt details along the cutting edge. The replicated cab interior has accurately scaled safety grab railings and painted work lights around the top of the cab

2: The latest models from First Gear include the PC350LC-8 tracked excavator, an update to the original PC300LC-8 release. The new graphics and painted teeth complement the original details, like the fully replicated cabin interior and flexible hydraulic lines. The undercarriage has smoothly rotating linked tracks and printed warning labels.

3: Universal Hobbies are well known for their highly detailed Komatsu replicas and the latest to join the range is the PC400LC-8, complete with a tilting cab and full demolition specification, including the roof and front screen protection and a functioning concrete nibbler attachment.

4: The HB215LC hybrid tracked excavator has a detailed graphics package applied to the body sides with the new HB designation printed on the engine sides. The castings are from the original PC210LC-8, which again features a host of fine detailing, from the hydraulic lines and check valves on the boom and stick to the rotating linked tracks fitted to the undercarriage.

5: The HM250 articulated dump truck is, in my opinion, one of the most detailed ADT replicas currently in existence from a mass producer, featuring exceptional levels of detail and realism throughout. The cab interior is visible through a protective mesh screen that covers the rear window. The exhaust hosing and heated dump box have been replicated with full hydraulic hosing to the dump cylinders. The pivoting articulating joint has driveshaft detailing through to the rear axles, and all safety mirrors and handrails are faithfully replicated.



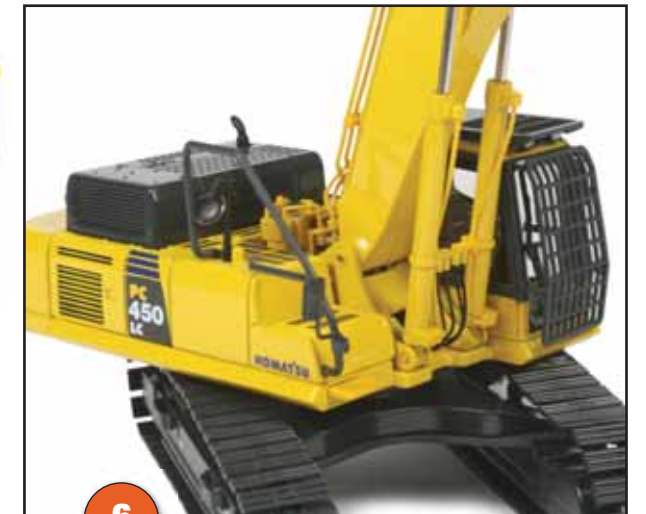
3



4



5



6



6: After three years in development, the 1:50th-scale Komatsu PC450LC-8 is the first model from the Kyowa Miniature Factory, on which detail levels are stunning: the optional roof and front window protection screens; the armoured hydraulic hoses and perforated engine covers, complete with an opening panel revealing the fully decorated engine; and the linked tracks to the replicated cab interior, in which all the hand and foot controls are modelled, and the Komatsu name is printed across the seat back. Made predominantly of metal, with plastic used sparingly, the model is surprisingly heavy and is a great release from the newcomer, authentically decorated in Japanese specifications.