

CONSTRUCTION RELEASES

Steven Downes looks at the latest plant model news and releases that are soon to be available from model dealers and other good stockists.



Classic Construction Models, a family owned business based in Beaverton, Oregon are well known for producing some of the finest and most detailed scale models available. Their flagship products are limited edition, museum quality, all brass replicas from companies such as Bucyrus Erie, Link Belt, Lampson and Caterpillar which are produced in 1:24, 1:48 and 1:87 scale. In recent years, CCM have introduced a new line of highly detailed, 1:48 scale die-cast replicas of vintage Caterpillar equipment. The first of these was the 988 wheel loader which was reviewed back in the Summer 08 issue of Model Tractor. Since then, the 769 rigid haul truck has been produced and several new models are about to be released.

The Caterpillar D10 Track-Type Tractor is being produced in two different configurations with 1500 pieces in the standard dozing configuration with U-blade and single shank ripper while 1000 pieces are being produced in pusher configuration, used to assist motor scrapers during the fill cycle. Both versions feature exceptional levels of detail and realism throughout including linked metal tracks, fully replicated engine bay and detailed cab along with accurate movement of the blade and ripper.

The Caterpillar 245 tracked excavator is another model being released in both front shovel and backhoe configurations. Both feature a highly detailed undercarriage with linked metal tracks, replicated cab and opening engine door panels that reveal the modelled engine bay and each is being produced in a limited run of only 1250 pieces.

Joining the 245 and D10 is the Caterpillar 834 wheel dozer which is being produced in a limited run of 1000 pieces. The model is expected to be released soon and features movable blade, fully replicated driver's station, open engine bay with detailed engine block and authentic rubber tyres.

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The latest announcement from CCM is the development of the Caterpillar 666 motor scraper which is scheduled for release during the first half of 2010. The prototype images display an amazing level of detail and realism of a very unique looking piece of machinery. This is certainly going to be a popular model and is limited to only 2500 pieces with 1000 based on the McCoy family tractors version that was used as reference during the development of the model.

Caterpillar has recently introduced the world's first electric drive track-type tractor and it is no surprise that CCM have produced an exact 1:24 scale die-cast replica of this groundbreaking and revolutionary machine. The D7E is limited to only 1000 pieces and features exceptional levels of detail including opening service doors and panels, opening engine panel to reveal the fully replicated engine, tilting cab with fully modelled interior revealing the internal drive train on the dozer along with individually linked and tensioned tracks and movable blade. For full details of all the models detailed here, visit the CCM website (www.ccmmodels.com). All images © Classic Construction Models.

Ertl have announced a number of new models recently including three new 1:50 scale Bell replicas. The 850J dozer and 872D grader are based on the Deere versions with authentic Bell markings whilst the B40D articulated hauler features an updated skip design with smooth sides along with opening bonnet and tilting cab.

Hot on the heels of the Bell models are a pair of Case construction machines. The 1:50 scale 580 Super M series 3 backhoe loader features new cab, hood, loader arms and rear dipper tooling to reflect the changes found on the latest full sized machine. Joining the 580 is a 1:16 scale 450CT series 3 tracked skid-steer loader.

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Ertl are currently working on a number of new John Deere models including a 1:16 scale 323D compact loader with bucket and auger attachments. The model features cab glazing with opening front door, removable engine panels and opening hood. Also released soon is the third model in the 1:16 scale Precision Construction series. The 650J tracked dozer features a new cab with authentic engine detailing, a three shank ripper on the rear and dozer blade on the front.

Forestry fans will be happy to hear that three new 1:50 scale John Deere models are in development from Ertl including the 959K tracked feller buncher, the 909K tracked harvester and the 843K wheeled feller buncher which are scheduled for release in 2010.

NZG have recently released several new 1:50 scale models including the exceptionally detailed Liebherr R994 face shovel in Mt Arthur Coal livery. The Liebherr A900C-ZW road-rail wheeled excavator is an update to the original release with a new design body and updated graphics whilst the latest release in the Terex range is the TA6s swivel skip site dumper which features rotating and tipping skip, articulated steering and adjustable safety roll over bar along with fully replicated driver's controls. The Sennebogen 835 material handler is another recent release from NZG for the Sennebogen online store. The elevating cab, detailed undercarriage and fully functional boom and stick are all highly detailed with metal cactus grab and flexible hydraulic lines all adding to the realism.

Sandvik have released the fourth model in their "high detail replicas" series. The 1:50 scale UJ440i mobile crushing unit features rubber lined hopper, fully movable boom and rock hammer along with adjustable side conveyor, operator platform, rubber conveyor belts and detailed jaw crusher to name some of the highlights. The model is produced by Conrad and is now available from the Sandvik store (www.3pr.se/scalemodelshop).

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Conrad has also released an updated version of the Liebherr LTM1030-2.1 mobile crane which features a new cab design and updated graphics and paint work with silver deck trim and highlighted access steps.

TWH Collectibles are about to release a new 1:50 scale Kenworth T908 tractor with Drake 4x8 swing wing trailer and 2x8 dolly. The model is an exact replica of the unit used in Australia and it is great to see some Aussie style truck / trailer models being produced. The model is available in a very limited edition run of different decorations and colour combinations whilst the T908 tractor is also available on its own in one of four decorations. TWH have also announced the production of a 1:50 scale P&H 4100XPC mining rope shovel. They are taking pre-orders now through the normal dealer network and the model is scheduled to be released around September 2010 with only 1500 models available to collectors worldwide.

Ros have released details of a new 1:50 scale Pegasus telehandler model featuring 360 degree upper structure and three stage telescoping boom with lifting arm and work platform attachments.

For the latest news and rumours in the world of construction, mining and heavy lifting models, visit www.miniature-construction-world.co.uk



CATERPILLAR 299C MULTI TERRAIN LOADER

The Caterpillar 299C multi terrain loader is the largest in the range with a powerful 90hp Caterpillar C3.4 DIT diesel engine. The vertical lift arms allow for extended reach and easy truck loading along with a coupler that allows various work tools to be deployed. The 1:32nd scale model from Norscot features a quick coupler allowing one of the three work tools (bucket, pallet forks and grapple bucket) to be connected. The cab interior has been replicated whilst the cab frame has mesh side panels and roof window. The newly designed suspended undercarriage is an industry first, offering versatility, durability and comfort and this has been fully replicated on the model with elevated drive sprocket and upgraded rubber tracks with an authentic moulded tread pattern.

CATERPILLAR 336DL TRACKED EXCAVATOR

Another recent release from Norscot is the 1:50th scale 336D L tracked excavator which has been updated to reflect the new naming scheme to better represent the machine's working weight. The casting is the same as the previously released 330D with the markings being the only difference. This is a pity as Norscot have missed an opportunity to produce a different work tool for the model to give the collector another reason for purchasing it, especially as it has a quick coupler already fitted to the stick.

CATERPILLAR 854K WHEELED DOZER

The 854K wheel dozer is the largest in the range, used for demanding large scale dozing applications. The planetary power shift transmission has proven strength and reliability, coupled to the powerful Caterpillar C32 ACERT diesel engine that generates a massive 800hp of pushing power. The 1:50th scale model from Norscot is a completely new update to the original 854G model with accurately scaled safety railings, detailed coal blade and updated cab just some of the highlights. The blade can be raised / lowered and tilted and has replicated cutting blade and re-enforcing detail. The different style blade makes the model stand out even more which is a nice touch, considering Norscot could have used the original blade from its predecessor. The paint finish is good throughout with accurate placement of the "Power Edge" markings on the engine sides.

CATERPILLAR 993K WHEELED LOADER

The Cat 993K is the latest wheel loader to be produced in model form, designed to load 777 and 785 class haul trucks and powered by the C32 ACERT diesel engine to produce an impressive 950hp of digging power. The model features a replicated cab interior that is visible through the

clear glazed windows with work lights integrated into the cab roof and rear view mirrors extending from the cab frame. Large mirrors have also been integrated into the metal safety railings on each side and have a silver painted surface. Access to the cab is by the walkways integrated into the rear wheel arches which have accurately scaled safety railings around the rear counterweight and up the sides. The rock bucket has wear plate detailing on the underside with accurately cast teeth and ribbed top section and is connected to the high lift loader arms with Z-bar linkage that have been accurately replicated but do not lift quite as high as would be expected. The hydraulically operated articulating frame has some good details including the replicated driveshaft and side mounted easy access service cabinet.

CATERPILLAR D7E TRACKED DOZER

The innovative D7E dozer is the first AC electric drive track-type tractor in the industry featuring a revolutionary electric drive system for unmatched balance of power, efficiency and control. The 1:50th scale model from Norscot features excellent levels of detail and realism throughout with the linked metal tracks having grouser and bolt detail on each pad with sprung loaded idler wheels. The tracks rotate smoothly and the track frames have some very nice cast detailing. The new design of cab with pointed front has been fully replicated with door mounted windscreen wipers, integrated roof lights and grab rails running round the top of the cab with an air conditioning unit high up to the rear. The replicated cab interior looks good with the operator's seat and central console all visible through the clear glazed windows. The rear, three shank ripper and front dozer blade are fully functional with good detailing on the blade and arms. The body casting is also nicely done with engine panel and bolt details all highlighted along with accurately scaled grab rails all round. The paint finish is very good on the model with the distinctive yellow and black colours and "Power Edge" markings printed on the sides and this is a must have model for any Caterpillar fan.

CATERPILLAR 613G ELEVATING MOTOR SCRAPER

The 1:50th scale 613G elevating scraper from Norscot is another great looking replica with plenty of detail throughout. The accurately replicated wheel hubs on the front axle with moulded rubber tyres, complete with accurate tread pattern and sidewall detailing along with the authentically textured cooling grill fitted to the engine compartment and realistic scaled plastic steps and safety grab rails leading up to the top of the engine bay give good realism to the model. The transmission and drive train housing have been modelled with some nice casting detail along with working articulated



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steering linkage and service platform on the scraper bowl cross member giving access to the replicated Accu-Grade levelling device. The flexible mud guards and panel detailing on the rear frame are a nice addition and the scraper bowl can be lowered whilst the elevating conveyor pivots upward away from the cutting edge. This model is another example of the extra effort that Norscot are putting into their model line and the 613G is another great addition to the Caterpillar model fleet.

CATERPILLAR 140M MOTOR GRADER

The 140M grader is powered by the 183hp C7 ACERT VHP diesel engine with electronically controlled power shift transmission and electro-hydraulic load-sensing hydraulics. The advanced, twin joystick steering and implement control system offers unparalleled ease of operation making the 140M the most operator-friendly grader. The 1:50th scale model captures all the detail from the full sized machine including the replicated cab interior with joystick controls, the detailed body casting with rear mounted ripper, oscillating suspension, articulating steering and detailed front steering linkage to the rotating mouldboard with tilting and sliding blade. The paint finish is very good on the model with the distinctive yellow and black colours and "Power Edge" markings printed on the body.

CATERPILLAR 966A TRAXCAVATOR

Continuing with the historic releases, the Caterpillar 966A traxcavator is the latest machine to be released in 1:50th scale. Produced in association with the ACMOC, the model is a very good representation of the 966A and is mounted to a plastic base with silver printed details and clear plastic cover. The large wheels have rubber tyres that have a deep tread pattern moulded into them, extending down the side walls with intricate fixing bolt detailing on the hubs and functional steering of the rear axle. The loader arms can be raised to a reasonable height and the linkage to the bucket is accurately modelled with the rivet heads all painted over for a more realistic look. The decking panels have an accurate diamond plate texture with tool box, fuel filler cap and access steps all reproduced. The driver's compartment has been accurately captured with driver's seat, control console with steering wheel, foot pedals and hand controls all present. Even the dials on the control panel have been cast and highlighted for added realism. This is the third 1:50th scale historic model from Norscot and, in my opinion, they have done a great job in capturing this iconic machine.

VEHICLE REVIEW

Steven Downes



For years, Corgi have released some very striking models representing a number of companies seen across the UK and their recent range of heavy haulage models featuring Nootboom trailers with construction loads are an interesting choice. Until recently, the loads have been produced by Motorart and supplied with the trucks in specially designed packaging, however, Corgi have now introduced two new construction models which, as well as being used as loads for the heavy haulage rigs, are also available separately in their own distinctive packaging in a limited edition run.

The Thwaites Alldrive 9 tonne front tip dumper features tipping skip, articulated steering and accurate floatation tyres along with a fully replicated driver's station with hand and foot controls all present. The folding roll over safety bar is a nice touch, topped with an amber beacon which is only fitted to the version of the model sold on its own.

The JCB 3C Mk1 has been a long time in the making but the end result is a good replica of one of the most recognisable products from JCB. The cab interior has been modelled with all the controls visible whilst the front wheels have working steering with authentic looking tyres. The loader arms rise to a very good height and the rear backhoe features side shift movement of the king post along with pivoting boom, stick and bucket.

Two Nootboom trailers have been developed and each is available in different decorations with various loads. The Nootboom 3-axle extending step frame trailer features folding rear access ramps with replicated wooden panels and a diamond textured main bed with inset simulated wooden decking and removable plastic ramps leading up to the front of the trailer. The trailer is coupled with different tractor units and pictured here is the 3-axle J&M Murdoch & Sons Volvo FH tractor in the distinctive white and red decoration with Thwaites dumper load along with the Leicester Heavy Haulage DAF XF Super Space Cab and Volvo A25D articulated dump truck.

The Nootboom 3-axle low loader trailer is also available in different company decorations, featuring simulated wooden deck panels down the centre of the trailer frame with fitted side extensions and a detachable gooseneck. Authentic Nootboom markings have been added to the model along with number plates, plastic mud guards and amber warning beacons. The most recent release is the W.H.Malcolm liveried 3-axle Volvo FH tractor with a JCB 3C Mk1 backhoe loader as a load. Also pictured is the J B Rawcliffe & Sons Mercedes-Benz Actros with Volvo EC210 tracked excavator load.