



# NEW RELEASES

## PLANT AND CONSTRUCTION

Steven Downes provides his regular look at recent model launches in the world of earthmoving and related industries, including a host of new Caterpillar, Liebherr and Komatsu replicas.



As you read this, the new set of 1/48 scale Caterpillar excavator models from Classic Construction Models should be hitting dealers' shelves. Three versions have been produced, with the 385C designation available in both shovel and general-purpose backhoe excavator boom configurations, while the 390D ME is modelled on the mass excavation version. All three have linked tracks, opening cabin doors and opening engine compartments with accurate boom, bucket linkage and dipper movements.



Arriving during February from CCM is a pair of Caterpillar 992C wheel loaders. The models are available with standard branded rubber tyres or the more specialist beadless tyres which resemble tracks. Both have fully functioning loader arms with Z-bar tipping linkage, an opening cabin door with photo-etched cooling grilles, accurately-scaled safety railings and access ladders and fire extinguishers for total realism. A full review of the latest CCM models will feature later in the year.



The long-awaited addition to the Malcolm Construction fleet has arrived in the form of NZG's 1/50 scale Terex TR60 rigid haul truck. Detail levels are high throughout with scaled safety railings, mirrors and access ladders added. The striking company decoration has been implemented very well, from the authentic yellow, blue and green base colours to the latest Malcolm logos, fleet numbering and website details.

NZG have been busy towards the end of the year with more limited edition releases including the HBM Nobas BG190TA grader in the dark blue and white company colours of Schnorpfel. Limited to 300 pieces, the model features a fully functional mouldboard with rotation and height adjustment. The front blade can be lowered, as can the rear ripper bar, while the articulating frame and front axle also feature working steering.



Two new limited edition models (each limited to 300 pieces) have been produced in the Geiger company colours, a rather interesting green livery with orange markings. The Liebherr L586 wheel loader has a functioning bucket and loader arms with articulating chassis and removable rock guard over the front windscreen.

Joining the L586 is the Liebherr R916 Advance tracked excavator which has been finished in the same company colours with a dark green undercarriage featuring linked metal tracks, 360 degree rotation of the upper body with a replicated cabin interior, position-able boom, stick and bucket linkage with a quick coupler and removable general purpose bucket.







Rounding out NZG's limited edition models is the Liebherr HTM804 concrete mixer with Liebherr telebelt conveyor, mounted to the latest Actros MP3 four-axle chassis. The Meichle + Mohr company livery is applied well, especially on the rotating drum, while the chassis has working steering of the front axles, extending stabilisers and a fully functional conveyor assembly, pivoting discharge chute and fold-down ladder giving access to the observation platform.

Conrad continues to surprise with its range of limited edition releases, the most recent of which is a set of three models based on the Liebherr R924 compact tracked excavator. Each represents a sub division of the French Colas construction group, with the striking orange version branded with Colas logos and yellow stripe while the Screg version features a dark yellow paint scheme with a green stripe around the body and Screg logos on the boom. Finishing off the set is the Sacer version, finished in a light yellow with black and red logos on the boom and counterweight.



Conrad has also been producing exclusive models for the HTM company, including a range finished in the Kibag company colours. The most exciting of these is the Liebherr R984C tracked excavator with backhoe boom, quick coupler, rock bucket and ripper tooth. The blue and light grey colours are done well, with the Kibag logo prominent on the body sides. The smaller Liebherr R954C tracked excavator has also been released (not pictured) along with a pair of articulated tipper trucks, one based on the MAN TGS chassis, and the other on the Mercedes Actros. Both are supplied with a two-axle Kogel tipping trailer.



Another HTM exclusive is the four-axle MAN TGS truck with Palfinger PK100002-SH knuckle boom crane in Friderici livery. The knuckle boom crane is fully functional throughout with operational winch, extending outriggers and front chassis mounted stabilisers for sure-footedness during maximum extension of the multi-stage boom. The platform can be removed to reveal a fifth-wheel coupling, allowing the model to be connected to any of the Conrad trailers.



For fans of 'oldtimer' trucks, Conrad has released a blue and red version of its latest offering, the MAN DHAK all-wheel drive tipper with Meiller rock tipping body. The model is 1/50 scale, with oscillating rear axles, steering front axle and drivetrain detailing from the engine through the distribution box to the front and rear axles. The curved bonnet can be raised to reveal the engine block within, while the large rock body can be tipped to a realistic height thanks to the multi-stage hydraulic cylinder which holds the body at the chosen angle. A version in orange has been produced exclusively for the MAN online shop.



Another MAN exclusive model from Conrad is the 1/50 scale MAN TGS four-axle truck with Palfinger PK53002-SH crane and rear-sided fixed platform. It has a green colour scheme with MAN cab markings. The front and rear outriggers are functional and the Palfinger crane can be realistically posed, with excellent detailing of the hydraulics on each boom section. The collector can also choose to deploy the winch for more posing possibilities.



It has been a long time since TWH Collectibles first announced its P&H 4100 XPC rope shovel, and production is coming to a close, so now is the last chance to obtain one of these exceptional models. They are highly detailed throughout, with accurately scaled railings, photo-etched panels and walkways. The fully-replicated cabin interior has been authentically captured, complete with driver and observer seating, internal storage compartments, desk space and restroom along with opening doors. The level of realism is impressive, and includes the pivoting main access platform, sliding ladder on the opposite side, detailed air conditioning units on the upper deck and the access leading up to the platform on top of the cabin. Safety and warning labels with tiny printing are located at the entrances to the main body, while the rugged undercarriage allows the tracks to roll well, considering the sheer weight of this mammoth model. A winding key is supplied, allowing the dipper to be raised/lowered and also extended, while a trip winch has been added to trigger the door release. There's also a battery compartment for two AA batteries to operate the floodlight system, with each housing having a white illuminating LED for a little extra effect.



WSI rounded out 2011 with the release of a 1/50 scale Hamm HW90 static triple drum roller, the design of which has been around for many years and is still popular throughout the UK for road surfacing duties. The model features a steering front drum with photo-etched grille plates and intricate protective light housings with an opening rear door revealing the fully-modelled interior complete with two operator stations and control console, authentically finished in the Hamm orange and grey colours.



Latest offering from First Gear is the Komatsu D475A tracked bulldozer with single shank ripper and semi-U blade. The 1/50 scale model is a great addition to the range, with nicely replicated track frames incorporating pivoting bogies to demonstrate the suspension system found on the full sized machine. The linked tracks rotate smoothly, with good detailing on each pad. The main blade has the cutter-bar bolt detailing along the bottom edge with a nicely cast upper grille with functional tilt cylinders allowing the push/carry cycle to be demonstrated. The cabin interior has been captured with good detailing throughout, as has the engine compartment. The single shank ripper can be adjusted in angle and height but the ripper tooth is fixed.



Although February's Nuremberg toy fair opened after this magazine was completed, we were able to take a sneak peek at a couple of new models which were unveiled at the fair. First up, from NZG, is the Eggersmann-liveried Liebherr L586 wheel loader. The striking red and blue base colours with small white stripe highlighting really makes the model stand out. Production is limited to only 300 pieces.

Conrad's latest Putzmeister model is the 1/50 scale M42.5 four-axle concrete pump based on the MAN TGS chassis. The new corporate livery has been captured well, with fantastic printing of the elephant logo across the boom sections, allowing the image to be clearly seen with the boom in transport mode. The X-pattern outriggers can be deployed, complete with plastic base plates, and the front axles have working steering. The boom is fully positionable, with an opening cover on the rear hopper, accurately scaled handrails and access walkways and a detailed cabin just some of the model's highlights. Full coverage of new construction models at Nuremberg will appear in the next issue.



While most replicas are produced by model manufacturers under licence more and more are being commissioned direct by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM). This is the case with the Keestrack Frontier screener, which has been produced in China exclusively for the Keestrack firm.

Established in Belgium in 1988, Keestrack manufactures high quality mobile aggregate equipment, with a varied portfolio of crushing/screening products including the Frontier Standard three-grade screener, accurately modelled here in 1/50 scale.

In the box, the model is presented in a transport configuration, and makes an ideal and convincing low loader load for any heavy haulage fleet. All three conveyors have functional linkages, allowing them to fully extend, and while some of the structural framing is a little oversize, there is no denying that the level of functionality is excellent. The main conveyor folds outward with a wide rubber belt which will rotate freely, coupled with flexible hydraulic hosing to the hydraulic drive motors.

One side conveyor has a double articulating frame with small hydraulic cylinders allowing it to realistically unfold fully, tensioning the rubber belt once set in the working position.

The opposite side has a rotating conveyor and this again is fully operational, with simulated roller detailing cast into the inside frame and rotating main rollers, all highlighted in red paint to match the full sized machine. When fully extended, the model looks very impressive with an individually linked tracked undercarriage and crisply cast body panels adding to the realism.

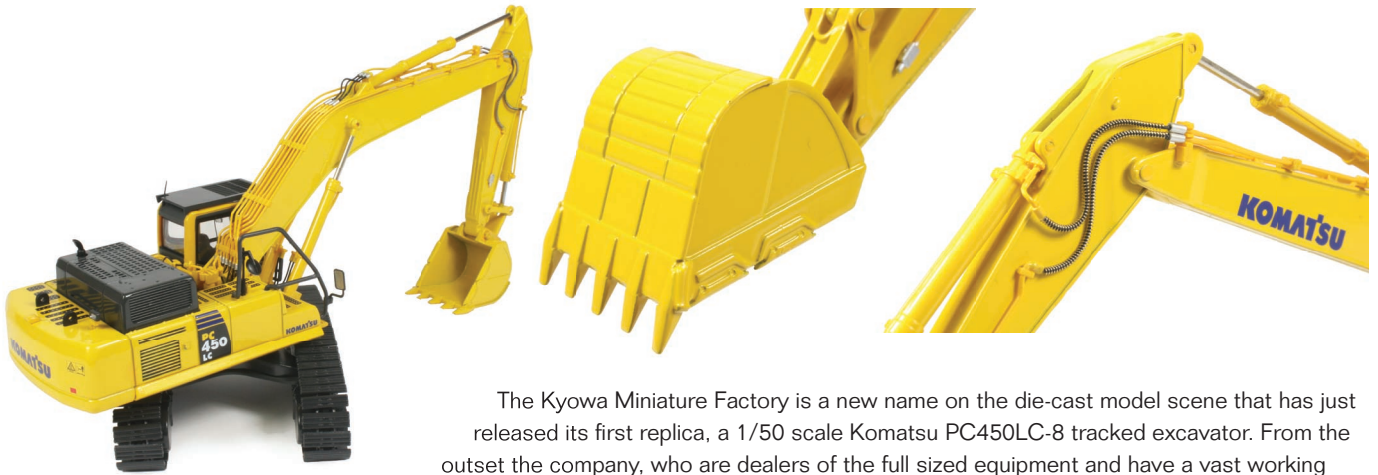
The main hopper has been executed well, with the side doors folding upwards while the rear door folds down. A locking mechanism has been integrated into the door components so they lock into position when assembled for a sturdy feel.

The inside surface of the hopper has ridged conveyor detailing where the material is transferred onto the screen box, which has a range of holes cast into the upper surface, while the side frame detailing includes the hydraulic vibrating motor housings and the damping springs, all giving the model a very accurate appearance.

This is possibly the first mass produced screener model and, while some areas are a little basic when compared to models produced by recognised manufacturers, the end results are very impressive. Visit [www.dmbmodels.co.uk](http://www.dmbmodels.co.uk) for availability.







The Kyowa Miniature Factory is a new name on the die-cast model scene that has just released its first replica, a 1/50 scale Komatsu PC450LC-8 tracked excavator. From the outset the company, who are dealers of the full sized equipment and have a vast working knowledge of the machine, wanted to produce a fully functional, highly-detailed replica of the Japanese specification PC450LC-8, incorporating almost every real machine detail to produce a

museum quality 1/50 scale release. Three years of development have created a model with a host of features and detailing throughout, with plastic used sparingly and die-cast metal making up most components to create a model with a heavyweight feel.

The box is typical, with a see-through front and top section allowing the model to be seen within. It's secured in a moulded polystyrene carton with printed machine details and images on the box surfaces. Once unpacked, the detailing and heavy weight of the model immediately becomes apparent.

The cab interior has been authentically modelled, with the light grey panelling and storage area behind the seat all visible. The seat has the Komatsu name printed onto the seat back with the joystick controls and safety hydraulic cut-off highlighted. The floor panel has raised foot pedals with steering levers all replicated and a small computer screen is integrated into the control housing. The exterior of the cab has mounting points where the roof and front screen protection guards can be fitted. Made from plastic, they have fine grilles and locate into the small holes in the cab frame, offering the collector different choices for displaying the model.

The upper body casting captures the aesthetics of the PC450, with its squared-off, raised engine compartment incorporating intricate cast vent holes and an opening engine cover revealing the fully replicated power plant within. Safety mirrors have been added to the cab frame and integrated into the safety railings on the opposite side. There's even a mirror allowing a view along the side of the body while the housing for the rear view camera is located on the counterweight, along with lifting brackets.

The slewing motors are visible along with the hydraulic distribution housing where accurately scaled fixed and flexible piping has been added to the back of the boom. The raised piping looks very realistic and is further enhanced by the silver-painted connection valves and the armoured flexible piping between the boom and stick. The bucket has some very fine wear and cutting plate detailing, with a very realistic range of movement of the bucket linkage, stick and boom, helped by the smoothly operating hydraulic cylinders, not to mention the small rivets and pins with painted heads connecting all the moving parts. KMF has given plenty of thought to the model's development: small things, like the bolts used to fix the bucket, allow the collector to easily replace it with other attachments.

The sturdy undercarriage has individually-linked metal tracks, complete with triple grouser and bolt detailing on each pad. These are fitted to the tensioned track frames, allowing the tracks to rotate smoothly. Access steps have been integrated into the track frames, with the bottom roller fixing bolts cast into the lower surfaces for added effect.

While the Komatsu PC450LC has been modelled before by Universal Hobbies, the version from Kyowa Miniature Factory is far superior in detail, construction and functionality.

It has been painted in the authentic Komatsu colours, with crisp printing of safety labels, anti-slip deck panels and the machine's designation on the body sides while, adhering to the Japanese specification, the Komatsu name is printed only on one side of the boom. The model can be ordered from the Kyowa webshop at [www.kyowa-pro.com/14/5/](http://www.kyowa-pro.com/14/5/)

