

Small Plant & Machinery



Steven Downes highlights models of interest to collectors

Back in 2007, Classic Construction Models (CCM) released the first of a new range of 1:48th scale die-cast historic Caterpillar models with the 988 wheel loader. Over the last six years, the range has grown to include scrapers, dozers, quarry trucks and excavators.

When, after several delays, the D9H finally appeared, the quality was not up to expectations. Despite this, the D9H sold out and the latest set of releases are back to the high standards expected from this well known-producer. This month, I take a look at the D9L in two configurations along with the 631E and 637E motor scrapers.

Caterpillar D9L impact ripper

The D9L was first introduced in 1980 and remains the most powerful of the D9 series with a power output of 460hp from the Cat 3412 direct injection engine.

It was also the first variation of the D9 to use the elevated drive sprocket design. The model has been released in typical configuration with an enclosed cabin, dozer blade and ripper while a pusher version has also been made.

The impact ripper attachment is very interesting, capturing the rugged appearance well while housing a sprung hammer tip which allows the ripper tooth to oscillate. The linked metal tracks roll freely and the open-sided engine compartment highlights the engine block, radiator assembly, cooling pipes and exhaust within.

The cabin has opening doors on each side offering a better look at the replicated interior which has been authentically modelled.

The front blade features height and tilt adjustment with stiff hydraulic cylinders and flexible piping. Piping is also replicated on the rear from the distribution block to the ripper frame hydraulics and hammer block.

Maker: CCM
Scale: 1:48th,
Price: £190
Limited to 750 pieces



Caterpillar D9L pusher

The D9L pusher utilises the same main chassis as the standard D9L with an inside-mounted front blade with re-enforced central section for scraper pushing.

The operator's area features an open ROPS canopy allowing all the intricate detailing of the driver's station to be observed, from the central console with

replicated dials and switches to the hand and foot controls, topped with a fire extinguisher and accurately-scaled metal grab rails.

The engine bay is open, showing the great detailing within with a slotted photo-etch front grille and accurate Caterpillar period markings.

Maker: CCM
Scale: 1:48th
Price: £180
Limited to 500 pieces



Caterpillar 631E scraper

The 631E single engine scraper is a welcome addition to the range with very good levels of detailing used throughout.

The bowl has a working ejector plate with raising front apron and can be adjusted in height from the two main lift hydraulics which have all the check valve and flexible pipework fitted.

The articulated gooseneck steering is particularly well-engineered with lateral movement from the base and an excellent range of steering motion.



Maker: CCM

Scale: 1:48th

Price: £250

Limited to 750 pieces

Caterpillar 637E twin engine push-pull scraper

The 637E twin engine scraper uses many of the same castings as the 631 including the operation of the bowl and articulated steering.

The bowl is fitted with a raised mesh screen towards the rear where the second engine is located.

The open sides to the compartment allow the internal six-cylinder, 250hp 3306 engine block to be seen, with a rear mesh grille hiding the radiator and a push block integrated into the chassis frame, complete with a fitted towing hook to allow push-pull operation of two or more scraper units.

The front of the model has a hydraulically-operated tow bar and hinged strike plate allowing it to authentically connect to another scraper. The paint finish is of a high standard with period correct markings throughout. All four models are supplied with a serial numbered specification brochure providing details of the individual machines. The next release in the series combines the D9L tractor and 631 as a tractor with hydraulically controlled towed scraper.



Maker: CCM

Scale: 1:48th

Price: £260

Limited to 750 pieces

Do you remember?

The Caterpillar 988 wheel loader celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013 and was the first model produced by CCM in its Historic Caterpillar Collection in 2007. The model featured an open engine bay with replicated engine block, articulated frame, functional loader arms and a removable cabin shell. The model was also produced with a log handling attachment.

