

Small Plant & Machinery



Steven Downes highlights models of interest to collectors.

Bauma 2013 is the home show for Liebherr and it is clear that it pulled out all the stops to have the most interesting stand of the entire show, taking more than six months of building work to construct the three storey main building. With exhibits shown from its entire product line including cranes, foundation equipment, loaders, dozers, excavators, pipeline equipment, mining equipment and material handlers, its range of new scale models is equally impressive, a selection of which are shown here.

Liebherr LH80 material handler

The introduction of a range of dedicated material-handling machines is represented with two new models. The largest, the LH80, is produced by NZG with an elevating cabin, side platform and modelled energy-recovery cylinder, one of the new technological advances to reduce fuel consumption.

The undercarriage has lowering pads to provide a sturdy base and the metal five tine cactus grab is fully functional. The smaller LH24 has been produced by Conrad with very good levels of realism and detail throughout.

Maker: NZG
Scale: 1:50
Price: £120



Liebherr A914 wheeled excavator

and accurate placement of hydraulic hoses throughout.

The A914 is one of several new wheeled excavator releases, again from NZG with a detachable trenching bucket and Likufix coupler, the model has a blade and outrigger undercarriage with steering axle, double tyres with an authentic tread pattern, a replicated cabin interior

Maker: NZG
Scale: 1:50
Price: £80



Liebherr L580 log handler

The L580 is typically seen as a standard wheel loader but the newly-developed log-handling machine is based on the wheel loader chassis with high lift arms and a rotating log grapple allowing the productive handling of log loads, from unloading duties to stacking.

The model has articulated steering, a front hydraulically

adjustable stump ram and a very nicely-engineered grapple which is fully functional. The cabin has been modelled with integrated protection screens fitted to the arms while the rear body has good surface detailing.

Maker: NZG
Scale: 1:50
Price: £100



R916 classic tracked excavator

The R916 classic tracked excavator is an interesting release, having many of the same properties as the Advance version of the R916 with an older generation cabin, slightly different main boom casting and the omission of the coupler, although the bucket is pinned in place so can be removed.

The linked tracks fitted to the undercarriage have good surface detailing with tensioned idlers keeping the tracks taut.

Maker: NZG

Scale: 1:50

Price: £70



Liebherr L556 industrial wheel loader

Conrad has produced a model of the L556 industrial loader which features a quick-coupler mounted to the arms to allow one of three different work tools to be fitted, from the loading bucket and adjustable pitch pallet forks to a log grapple.

The scaled metal grab and safety railings look good and the rear engine grills are photo-etched for added realism. The panoramic glazing has been accurately modelled with a good looking interior.

Maker: Conrad

Scale: 1:50

Price: £90



Liebherr PR764 & PR754 dozers

A prototype of the latest dozer design was on display during Bauma and while a model is sure to follow once the range enters production, in the short term; both the PR754 from Conrad and PR764 from NZG will be updated to include grey lift hydraulic cylinders.

Maker: NZG

Scale: 1:50

Do you remember?

Liebherr has been developing hydraulic excavators for a number of years and one of my favourite early models is the R984 which was produced in both backhoe and face shovel versions (*pictured*). The shovel is particularly interesting with the design of the frame placed over the cabin to protect the operator from falling debris.

Maker: Conrad

Scale: 1:50



Next month: I take a look at the first of a new range of New Holland models from Motorart and focus on the latest models from JCB and Volvo.