



Engine No 10 – a replica of a Honolulu fire truck stationed in the Aiea district.

# Going Stateside: Introducing Pierce Quantum fire trucks



Excellent detailing on the Honolulu fire truck.



A full-sized Honolulu fire truck – the department employs over 1,100 fire fighters.

To begin our focus on the American collectables market, **Steven Downes** looks at the extremely detailed range of Pierce Quantum models by TWH Collectibles.

**P**ierce Manufacturing was formed in 1913 by Humphrey and Dudley Pierce in Appleton, Wisconsin where they built after-market custom truck and bus bodies for Ford Model T and one-ton truck chassis. In 1940, the company began producing fire truck bodies and today, the company is one of North America's leading manufacturers of custom fire apparatus.

The robust Quantum chassis is powered by a 515hp Detroit diesel engine with Allison automatic transmission giving it the power and agility to arrive on-site promptly, coupled with the TAK-4 independent front suspension system with rear airbag suspension for superior road-holding, improved ride quality and shorter braking distances. With industry leading safety features including electronic stability control (ESC) and advanced 'Command Zone' technology which links the key vehicle systems together for greater safety and efficiency, the Quantum is a great choice for any fire service.

TWH Collectibles has released a range of five Quantum fire trucks which are an exact replica of the full sized fire trucks in use with the fire service that the model is based upon. With exacting attention to detail, these replicas are some of the finest fire truck models to be mass produced. The chassis houses a fully modelled Detroit

diesel engine block which can be accessed by tilting the entire cab forward, where the network of exhaust pipes and hoses are revealed along with the battery compartment and transmission housing. The front TAK-4 suspension system on the full-sized vehicle has been faithfully replicated on the model and offers a good degree of pivoting motion and turning movement which is a great piece of engineering. A drive shaft runs from the transmission to the rear axle which also features a working suspension.

The spacious interior of the cabin features a wrap-around ergonomic dashboard with all the controls at the fingertips of the driver with a 180° view through the large front windscreen with air-actuated steps and side-roll protection system, coupled with frontal airbags for optimum crew protection. The flat floor and low engine tunnel provide more head clearance for up to 10 fire fighters and this has been accurately reproduced on the model with a fully replicated interior with Command Zone computer screen prominently displayed on the console. There are also detailed interior panels and contoured seats complete with fabric seat belts and printed Pierce logo for total realism.

## Honolulu Fire Department

The Honolulu Fire Department consists of 44 fire stations across five battalions employing over 1,100 fire fighters. Engine 10 is featured here and is stationed in the Aiea district and has been meticulously modelled to include the exact specification of the actual in-service fire truck. The Quantum chassis design



The full-sized Henrico fire truck which TWH Collectibles has expertly captured in its models.

provides numerous options for the layout of the rear body, depending on the specific needs. For Engine 10 there is a folding ladder holder, complete with a three-stage extension ladder, which actually extends, while the upper body houses moulded hoses with replicated nozzles and tool storage tubes. The body sides have simulated roller shutter doors with silver frames and crisp printing of the fire brigade logos and engine details.

The pump panel is the most important aspect of any fire truck and varies greatly between the five departments featured here with two distinct designs, side mounted controls (found on the Honolulu, County of Henrico and Kern County version) and top mounted controls (found on the San Antonio and Seminole versions).

On the Honolulu engine, the large pump panel has been authentically reproduced and is an exact replica of the full-sized panel from the various printed gauges, dials and knobs down to the large water intake. Above the pump housing is a storage area for the flat stored hoses which have been simulated from moulded resin giving an authentic look. A separate water stang is supplied in the box and needs fitting above the pump panel housing and can be rotated through 360°.

Considering the scale, it is amazing that so much detail can be captured in

such a small area and yet everything is there. Five replicas of the Honolulu fire truck are available including Engine No 4, Engine No 9, Engine No 10, Engine No 17 and Engine No 26.

## Henrico County Division of Fire

Henrico County is located in Virginia with 22 fire stations covering the county with Engine 10 housed at fire station 10 in the northern district of the county. The two-bay station was constructed in 1962 and, as well as the Quantum Engine, has a 100ft Pierce Arrow aerial ladder truck.

Photo-etched ventilation grilles and chromed diamond plate panels feature throughout the model and greatly add to the realistic appearance, coupled with the



Every detail of the full-sized vehicles has been captured in the model including a pivoting, opening cab.





Engine No 41 of the Kern County Fire Department. As on the real vehicle, the model features a pivoting ladder rack.



**Above** The model of Engine No 41 features opening hose crosslay doors.

**Below** Engine No 16 of the Seminole County Fire Department.



intricate detailing parts like chromed door handles, glass light lenses and modelled tools. There is even a rolled-up hose mounted in one of the storage bays for a little more authenticity.

The cab roof sports a telescopically extending tubular mast with rotating floodlight assembly with a full length red and white tinted light bar across the front and air conditioning unit, complete with painted fan detailing, topped with flexible radio aerials. Four versions of the model are available including Engine No 4, Engine No 10, Engine No 11 and Engine No 21.

## Kern County Fire Department

The Kern County Fire Department serves California with Engine 41 located at the Virginia Avenue fire station in Bakersfield. This was the first release of the Quantum

model program and, as models go, it is about as realistic as you can get in 1/50 scale and clearly establishes TWH Collectibles as a leader in producing museum quality replicas.

The top hose crosslay doors, which have an intricate diamond plate texture and high chromed finish, open up to reveal the authentic looking hoses all aligned in their storage compartments. The side storage door panels have intricate handles and textured roller shutter finish. There are two hose reels mounted above the pump control panels complete with accurately modelled rubber hose and nozzles along with two additional flat hose storage compartments with lift-up cover. A separate deck stang is supplied in the box and needs fitting above the pump panel housing and can be rotated through 360°. Five versions of the Kern County fire truck are available, including Engine No 21, Engine No 41, Engine No 42, Engine No 63 and Engine No 64.

## Seminole County Fire Department

Seminole County is located in the state of Florida and Engine 16 is based at the Sabal Point station on Wekiva Springs Road, one of 18 stations in the county which provide emergency services. The department has over 400 personnel with 16 engines, two ladder trucks, 17 advanced life support rescue units and a heavy rescue/special response unit at their disposal across the 18 stations. Three 1/50 scale models are available in the Seminole decoration including Engine No 16,



**All the details of the full-size model have been reproduced including its chrome grille and front bumper.**

Engine No 22 and Engine No 36.

The side panels of the pump housing have the chromed hose connections with a foot well on one side holding a replicated hose and nozzle while two modelled axes have been fitted to the model for that extra bit of realism. Two floodlights are mounted above the pump housing and there is a hose storage area covered with a fine mesh material where realistic looking moulded hoses are stored. The pump housing and panel on the Seminole pumper is a totally different design with the fire fighter controlling the systems from a central position behind the cab. The entire panel has been accurately reproduced with all the dials, gauges and controls present and correct, just like the full-sized engine. All the panels of the pump housing are finished with a chromed diamond plate texture which really gives the model a realistic look.

## San Antonio Fire Department

The San Antonio Fire Department was founded in 1891 and has 50 fire stations providing cover for the region. Engine No 38 is housed at the 6000 Distribution Station which was built in 1975 and is one of a fleet of engines, ladders, platforms,



**The model features rotating hose reels with replicated hose fairleads.**



diamond plate panels. Across all five releases, the intricate detailing is amazing with the smallest of details precisely added to the model. Each truck features a different chromed front bumper with various hose outlets, warning lights and towing hitches while they all share the prominent and distinctive photo-etched front grille and chromed surround, topped with the Pierce logo.

Each of the models are securely packaged in a polystyrene carton with a quality printed outer cardboard box, which is custom to each department, along with several pieces of literature including details of the Pierce range and information about the featured fire department which adds the finishing touch to an exceptional model package.

The full range of TWH Collectibles replicas are available in the UK from BS Bates models ([www.models-of-distinction.co.uk](http://www.models-of-distinction.co.uk)). TWH Collectibles is scheduled to release several new models that are based on the Pierce Velocity chassis. For more info on these new models as well as the Quantum pumpers, visit [www.twhcollectibles.com](http://www.twhcollectibles.com) **DC**

• See page 11 this issue for more news from TWH Collectibles.



**Engine No 38 of the San Antonio Fire Department. The model is unique in that it has no ladders or ladder holder fitted.**