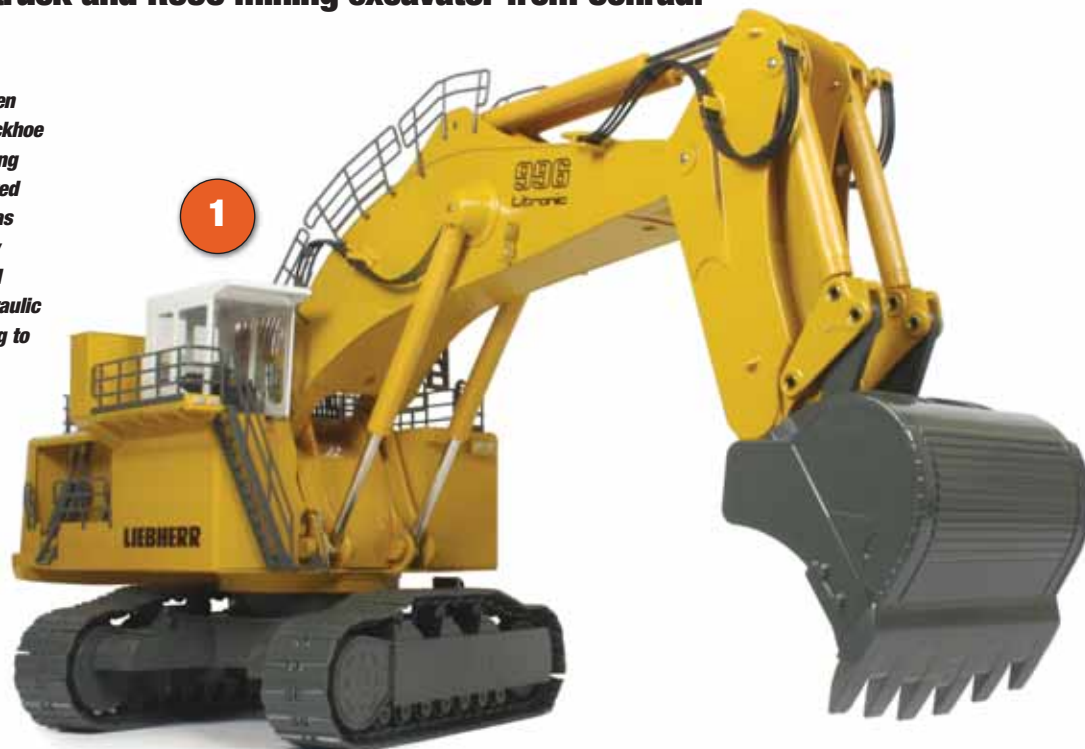




# BIG BOYS TOYS

Steven Downes takes a close look at the recently launched limited edition Liebherr T282B mining truck and R996 mining excavator from Conrad.

**1:** The 1:50th-scale Liebherr R996 has been around for a while in both shovel and backhoe configurations and finished in white mining colours. The recent introduction of a limited edition Liebherr yellow painted version has caused quite a stir. The model is certainly heavy and imposing, featuring some good detailing including fixed and flexible hydraulic pipework on the back of the boom leading to the stick and bucket hydraulics.



**2 and 2A:** The upper works have accurately scaled metal safety railings all round and an access stairway leading down to the tracks. The utility service crane can be deployed and offers a full range of movement while the upper covers can be detached to expose the two engine modules within. Both can be removed from the model to reveal the frame, engine and cooling systems that make up the power-packs.



**3:** The backhoe boom, stick and bucket offer a realistic range of movement plus additional safety railings leading up both sides of the boom while the large cab has a simple casting of the driver's seat and controls. The entire undercarriage is rugged, featuring linked metal track pads and bottom rollers that allow the tracks to ride smoothly, despite the heavy weight of the model. The track frames have good detailing of the fixing bolts on the drive housings, which add to the level of realism.



**4:** Also released from Conrad is a limited edition yellow version of the Liebherr T282B mining truck, the perfect companion for the backhoe. The large front grille, metal access stairway and scaled handrails capture the rugged looks of the truck very well while the replicated engine and Siemens-Liebherr AC-Drive at the heart of the chassis, complete with exhaust piping to the rear of the model, all add to the realism.

**5 and 5A:** The rear axle has working suspension while the front axle accurately captures the suspension and steering system found on the full-size truck. The large dump body has all the structural detailing added and tips to a very realistic height, at which three-stage cylinders allow the bed to remain raised.

