

Variations on a theme

Steven Downes reviews three much anticipated models of classic Cat dozers.

The latest releases in Classic Construction Models' vintage Cat range are three versions of the historic Caterpillar D9H in 1:48th scale. Since the models were first announced, collectors have been eagerly awaiting their release and after three years, the wait is finally over. Are they up to scratch?

The track frames on all three versions are engineered with sprung idler wheels that keep the individually linked metal tracks taut. The track pad detailing is good, featuring single grouser and bolt detailing on each link and the mounting of the track frames allows for some oscillation.

1a, 1b and 1c: The D9H SxS is an unusual configuration, comprising two dozers paired to a large blade. The blade can be raised and tilted, although it will not remain in the raised position. The enclosed cab is a different design and construction to the single D9H and again has a replicated interior with all the hand and foot controls present, while a linked bar is connected to the rear to keep the pair in sync.



The paint finish is good, including very fine printing of the Caterpillar logos and markings.

Overall, the models represent an insight into an interesting time period although they are not without flaws. Small paint chips are evident here and there and parts are coming loose in the box. Each model is individually serialised and comes with a small card providing additional information on each version.

Both special versions – the D9H SxS and the DD9H – have been produced in a 650-piece run.



2a, 2b and 2c: The DD9H is ideally suited for giving extra pushing power when filling scraper bowls. The front tractor housing the operator's controls sits beneath an open ROPS canopy and the seat is angled on one side for a good view of the blade edge. The rear tractor is connected to a pintle hitch to give further pushing power and both have open engine compartments and alternatively designed front grilles.

3a and 3b: The single D9H has been produced in a limited run of 1000 pieces and features a blade and adjustable single shank ripper. The open engine compartment houses the fully replicated power-pack and a photo-etched front grille hides the radiator within. The cab has excellent detailing and a fully replicated interior, highlighted rubber window seals and metal grab rails throughout.

