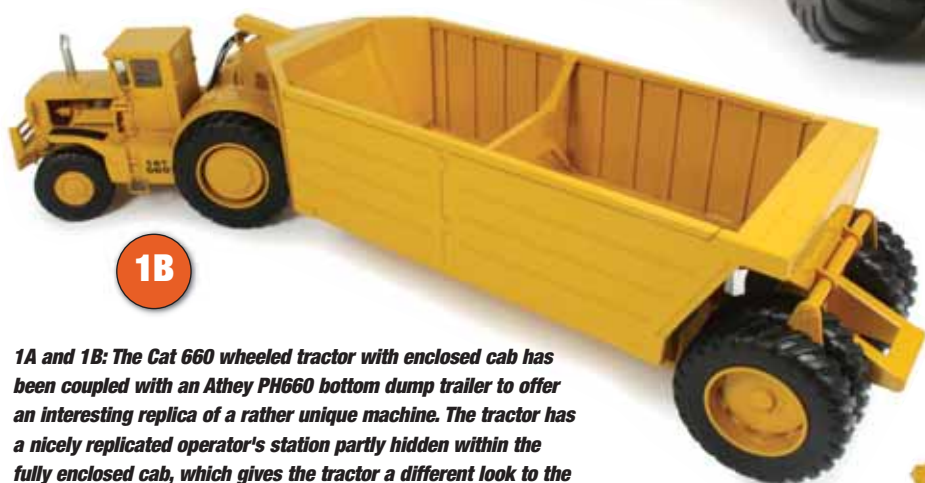


# CLASSIC CATS

Steven Downes reviews the latest releases in the historic 1:48th-scale Caterpillar range from Classic Construction Models.



1A



1B

1A and 1B: The Cat 660 wheeled tractor with enclosed cab has been coupled with an Athey PH660 bottom dump trailer to offer an interesting replica of a rather unique machine. The tractor has a nicely replicated operator's station partly hidden within the fully enclosed cab, which gives the tractor a different look to the 666 scraper model previously released.

The front windscreen has a plastic wiper with a mesh screen covering the rear window while black printed lines simulating the rubber seals have been added throughout. Accurately scaled metal grab rails have been added to both sides of the chassis.

The engine bay has been replicated well and the Cat engine block prominently displayed with all the cooling, filtering and exhaust components added. The front photo-etched grille's crisp perforations are painted yellow to match the bodywork and behind this is the radiator assembly, complete with cooling fan detailing and the large exhaust stack rising from the bonnet.

The rear wheels of the trailer are simply mounted to the frame and guides between the pair of tyres keep small rocks clear. The frame extends beyond the tyres and is rounded off in case a gentle push is needed, while at the other end, flexible hydraulic hoses have been added across the pivoting hitch and a protective panel is integrated into the neck of the trailer. The sides of the dump box have panelling details while the interior sides have ribbing and a re-enforcing frame.



2A

2A and 2B: The 992C wheel loader has been released in two versions, one fitted either with standard tyres or a more unusual version featuring beadless tyres. A ring of metal track pads with a rubber central core surrounds each wheel.



2B



3

3: The engine compartment of the 992C is encased in perforated covers that allow a glimpse of the modelled 690hp Cat 3412 diesel engine within. Turning the model over allows a better view of the internal components and transmission housing. The rear engine grille has fine etched slots with cut-outs for the light housings while the rear counterweight has an integrated towing hitch and finely scaled metal steps and safety grab rails.



4

4: The cab of the 992C has a fully replicated interior, which is visible by opening the side door, revealing the driver's seat, steering wheel and delicately printed console. The rubber window seals have been printed on to the frame and large rear view mirrors extend out on both sides. The rear service area houses two fire extinguishers and a perforated upper engine cover and the twin exhaust stacks rising up. The side access steps and safety railings are all metal and are accurately scaled.

5A



5B

5A and 5B: The Cat 769B rigid quarry truck is an update of the original 769 with plenty of additional detailing, from the sloping fuel tank, flexible rubber mud guards connected to brackets hanging from the underside of the dump body to the accurately modelled air and hydraulic tanks and clear plastic light lenses.

The front grille has a series of small circular holes etched into it and clear plastic lenses have been added to the light housings integrated into the bonnet. While the front protective frame is the same as the original 769 replica, the cab shape is a little different and features a replicated interior visible through the clear windows with accurately scaled metal grab rails fitted to the frame. An etched side platform is fitted, which has an intricate pattern of holes while access steps are located on both sides of the engine compartment.

The three-stage chromed piston rods lift the low-sided dump bed to a very realistic height and angle of tip and are stiff enough to hold the body in any position chosen. This also reveals the reproduced drive shaft, rear axle detailing and transmission within the chassis.

The rubber tyres have an upgraded pattern and a shaped tread instead of the slotted tyres fitted to the original, complete with detailed metal wheel hubs that are all freely rotating along with slight oscillation of the rear axle.

The steering of the front wheels is functional and small cylinders and linkage bars all visible underneath the model. Also visible is the engine block and drive-train to the rear axle, which is partially hidden by the protective cover fitted to the front of the chassis. The model is limited to only 750 pieces.