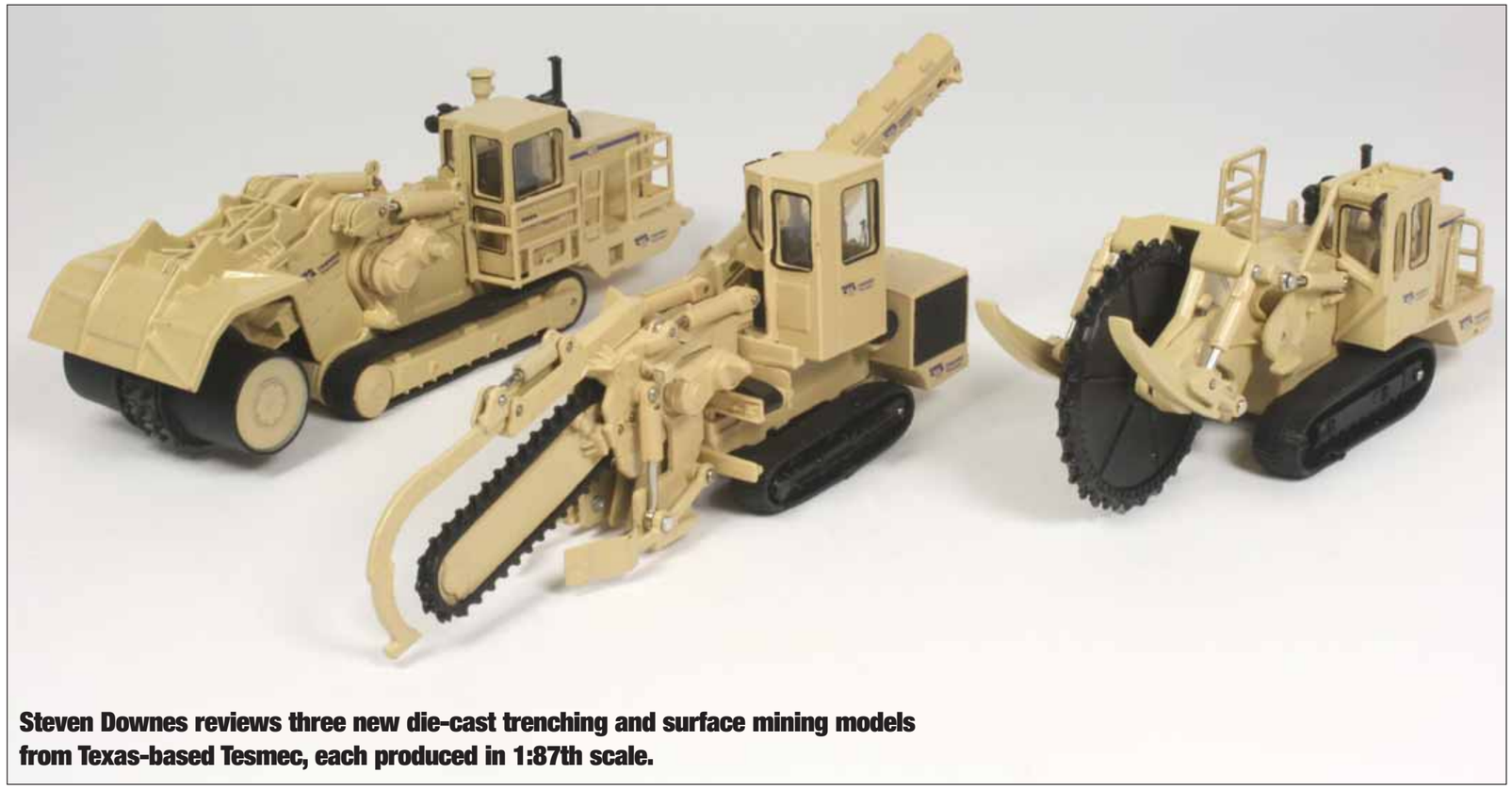
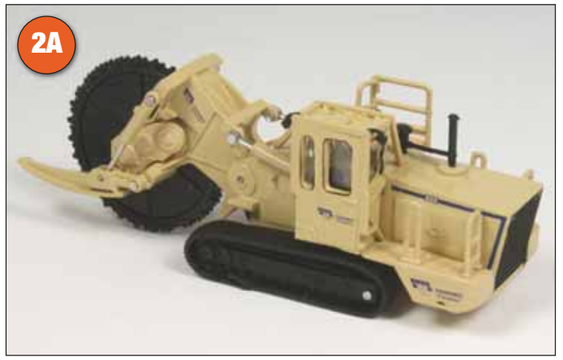
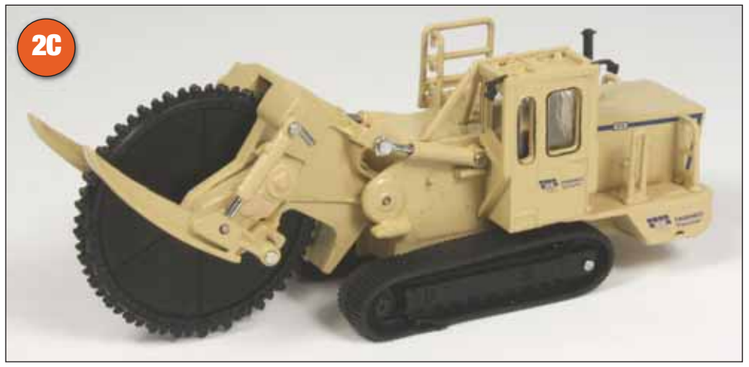
HARD ROCK CUTTERS

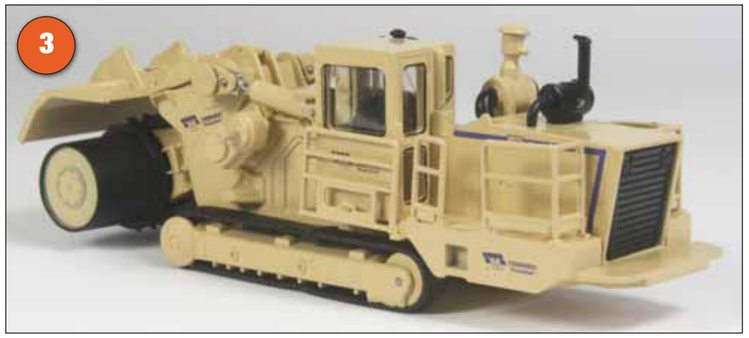


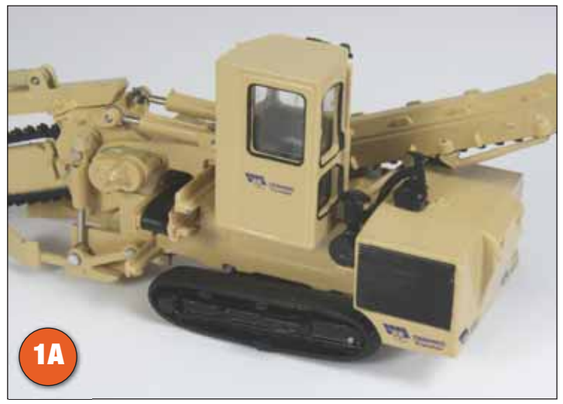
Steven Downes reviews three new die-cast trenching and surface mining models from Texas-based Tesmec, each produced in 1:87th scale.

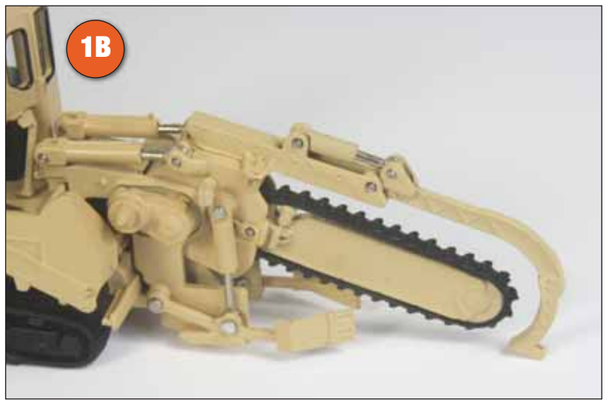


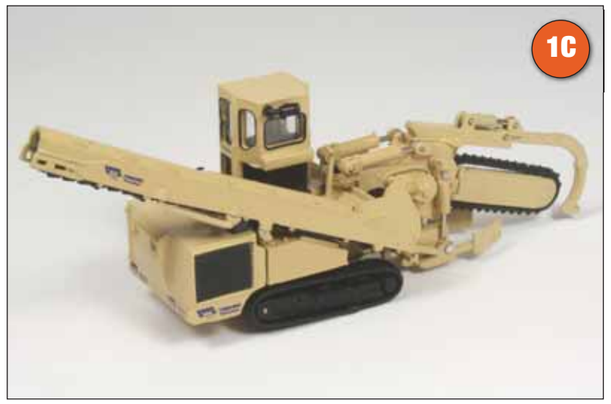


2A, 2B and 2C: The 975 rock saw has an interesting appearance and is ideal for cutting narrow trenches in hard rock and concrete. It is the only model in the set that has functional parts, allowing the cutter wheel to be lowered while the side support arms can also be adjusted. The wheel has good detailing of the cutting teeth and rotates, while the body has good structural support details, complete with safety railings and a large textured engine grille.









1A, 1B and 1C: The most detailed model in terms of appearance is the 885 chainsaw trencher, which has a non-functioning flexible cutter chain topped with raised teeth along with a pivoting upper guard. The main body houses a spoil removal conveyor that allows material to be deposited to either side of the chassis while the optional rear discharge conveyor has also been included on the model, demonstrating the ability to load trucks at the front of the trencher when working in confined spaces. The high position of the cab offers a good view of the worksite and the level of detail, from the painted window seals, engine grille and fully modelled hydraulic drive for the chain highlight what is possible to add to such a small model.

3: The range of Rock Hawg surface miners is equally suited for cutting large trenches in the most demanding rock. The 1150XHD is the smallest model in the range. The all-metal construction of the body gives the model a nice weighted feel, although there are no functional parts to the model and it is not possible to raise the cutter head. The drums are devoid of any cutting tooth detailing although the drum will rotate and a belt is fitted, which is authentically inset with cutters. Safety railings are fitted to the work platforms and the Tesmec printing is clearly readable, while an over-paint coat allows the casting details to be seen.