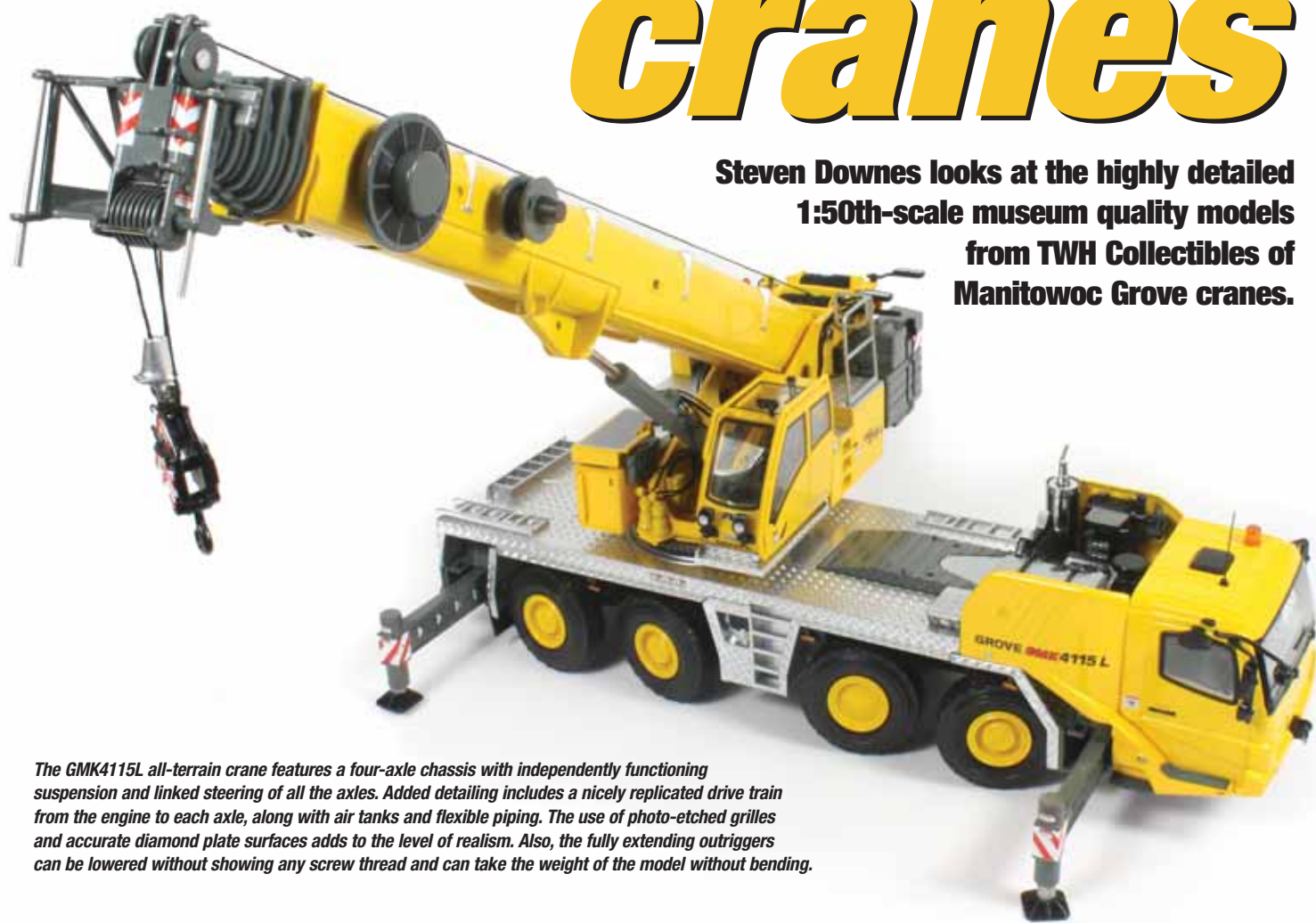


# Museum cranes

Steven Downes looks at the highly detailed 1:50th-scale museum quality models from TWH Collectibles of Manitowoc Grove cranes.



The GMK4115L all-terrain crane features a four-axle chassis with independently functioning suspension and linked steering of all the axles. Added detailing includes a nicely replicated drive train from the engine to each axle, along with air tanks and flexible piping. The use of photo-etched grilles and accurate diamond plate surfaces adds to the level of realism. Also, the fully extending outriggers can be lowered without showing any screw thread and can take the weight of the model without bending.



The front cab has been accurately modelled and features a fully reproduced interior complete with seat belts on the driver and passenger seats and a fire extinguisher for total realism. The upper crane chassis has a tilting cab with a replicated interior as well as printed computer screens integrated into the console. The individual counterweight pieces can be removed by unscrewing the fixing bolts to simulate a transport configuration – a good touch on the model.



The level of detail is exceptional, with hydraulic piping to the main lift cylinder and rear winch motors. TWH have also supplied a secondary winch housing in the box, complete with hydraulic hoses and hook block, which can be fitted to the rear of the upper-structure or, optionally, a small counterweight is supplied. The seven-section telescoping boom can be extended and a side mounted swing-out jib is supplied, including the ability to hydraulically adjust the angle as well as part dismantle the jib for close-in work.



Joining the GMK4115L is the GMK5115 crane, based on a highly detailed five-axle carrier chassis with the same upper crane works as the 4115L. Both GMK models are pictured with US designations while European versions of 4100L and 5095, respectively, are also available along with several different limited edition company decorated versions.



The RT540E rough-terrain crane features a rugged two-axle chassis with steering axles, opening engine door revealing the internal power plant, an opening battery box. Four outriggers that extend from the chassis can be lowered to give stability for the model. The cab has a sliding door with a fully replicated interior, including all controls and a monitoring console. Fine details include a fire extinguisher and protective screens on the side window. The hydraulic distribution panel can be removed to reveal the exquisitely detailed hydraulics system and there are two functional winches mounted to the frame with a large counterweight block to give good balance.

