

Groundbreaker

This month, Steven Downes reviews the exquisite 1:24th-scale die-cast Caterpillar D7E electric-drive dozer from Classic Construction Models.



Caterpillar recently introduced the world's first electric-drive track-type tractor (featured in past issues of *EARTHMOVERS*) and it is no surprise to see Cat commission an exacting 1:24th-scale model of this ground-breaking machine. Classic Construction Models of Beaverton, Oregon, were chosen to develop the model based on their ability to produce exceptionally fine detailed pieces with an amazing level of realism and functionality.

The model is limited to 1000 pieces and has a fully replicated diesel engine at the heart of the engine bay with nothing missing. Both hinged side door panels open to reveal the interior and have photo-etched grilles and handle detailing. The individually linked tracks are tensioned and rotate smoothly, and the single front blade cylinder holds the blade in any chosen position.

The cab interior has been fully replicated,

including the contoured internal panels with the offset driver's seat, complete with headrest, highlighted armrests and joystick controls. The cab frame has scaled handrails and integrated rear-facing worklights with protective mesh grilles and rear mounted air conditioning unit. Windscreen wipers and door handles are present and the central console has printed dials and display screens.

The most impressive feature of the model is its

opening side compartments, which fold open and swing back to allow the entire cab frame to be tilted to the side to reveal the exceptionally detailed electrical system. All the electrical connections have been modelled, along with the generator and electrical motors that drive the tracks.

This level of detail is seldom seen in a die-cast model, making this a museum quality masterpiece by CCM.

