

Modern muck-shifters from both sides of the pond

Steven Downes reports on the latest 1:50th-scale models of Volvo and John Deere machinery from Motorart and Ertl.



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1: The Volvo EC480D is the larger of the two new excavator releases and has narrow linked metal tracks on the undercarriage that look good. The main castings have good surface detailing, which is highlighted with printed grilles, while an opening engine cover reveals the plastic moulding within. The bucket has some good wear plate and tooth detailing, and authentic movement, while the plastic rams have been chromed to look realistic. Cab detail is good, featuring a replicated interior, exterior grab rails and tiny printed Volvo logo on the door handle.

2: Like its larger stablemate, the EC220D has some good detailing, from the linked metal tracks and detailed cab interior to the lift-up engine cover revealing the decorated engine mock-up within. All safety railings are plastic but look to be accurately scaled. However, like the L90G, all the hydraulic rams are plastic, which does spoil what could have been a very good model.



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4: The L90G is one of two wheel loaders sharing the same castings, and only printing differences distinguish between the L60G and L90G. The entire rear engine cover raises up to reveal a single-colour plastic cast of the engine block and radiator. The surface casting detail is good, revealing crisp printing of the Volvo markings and engine grilles although one surprise is the use of plastic for the hydraulic rams, which don't hold the weight of the loader arms, so posing with the arms raised is not possible.



5

5: The range of John Deere models has increased with three recent additions, including the 460E articulated dump truck, which has some interesting design touches. These include the engine block casting where the main cover lifts to reveal the engine block casting while the side panels are hinged and open to show the silver finished radiator housings on each side. The model is rugged in construction and has a tipping body and articulating chassis, and reasonably detailed rear axles highlight the drive-train.



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6: The 470G excavator is an update to the previously released 450 Series models, and the same castings are used for the undercarriage and digging equipment. The new body shape has been captured convincingly thanks to good surface detailing, a large exhaust pipe and opening engine cover. Plastic steps have been added to the side for access to the engine area, while the plainly replicated cab interior and good paint and printing finish all add to the realism.



3

3: The A40F is the third version of the popular hauler to be produced and is similarly detailed. An opening bonnet reveals the authentically decorated engine and cooling systems while the cab interior has been modelled well. The chassis features articulating steering with scaled hand rails and access steps to the cabin. The rear axles are rigid, which is something of a surprise considering the previous versions, which had oscillating axles, and the tipping angle of the body on this version is very shallow.



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7: The 850K dozer is fitted with a PAT blade offering a decent range of movement while the entire cab can be tilted back to simulate servicing, enhanced by the side opening panels and opening engine cover, the latter revealing a plastic engine casting. The wide tracks rotate smoothly and the paint finish is good, with crisply applied Deere markings.