



1: TMC Scalemodels have produced arguably one of the finest 1:50th-scale models in the form of an Hitachi ZX470-5. This has museum quality levels of detail throughout, including a fully replicated cab interior with an opening door revealing every little detail of the full-size machine. Hydraulic piping runs throughout the model and armoured hoses really look the part. The rear engine cover rises to reveal the engine compartment and decorated engine block within. Fine details include authentically scaled safety railings, photo-etched side walkway, double grouser tensioned metal tracks and authentic paint and printing.

SMALL, BUT PERFECTLY FORMED

Steven Downes reviews the latest scale models to hit dealers' shelves.

2: Another new Hitachi model is the 1:50th-scale ZW310-5 wheel loader produced by Replicars. While not to the same levels of detail as the excavators from the same company, the model has a replicated cab interior, authentic range of movement of the loader arms and tipping angle, and a rear grille revealing the radiator and cooling fan within.



3: The Hitachi Sumitomo SCX1500A-3 lattice-boom crawler crane is another surprise release this year, again in 1:50th scale from Replicars. The model is supplied in component form, allowing it to be posed for transport and has the self-assembly mechanisms included to demonstrate how the crane is erected on site. The track frames have tensioned metal tracks that rotate well, while the metal lattice boom can be raised and lowered using the rear winch and the main hook block is also functional. The model is also available in the SCX1200A-3 designation with the omission of the undercarriage ballast.



4: The Link Belt 250X3 is an interesting release from Conrad, based on the body castings for the Case CX240 with a standard digging boom and bucket. Additional fine detailing has been added, including flexible hydraulic hoses and auxiliary circuits coupled with linked metal tracks and a tweaked cabin design. The paint finish and printing are first class, as expected from Conrad, and the model has also been produced in Case colours as the CX250C.



5: After several years in development, Bymo have finally released the Michigan 475B wheel loader, which has been produced in China in 1:50th scale. The model authentically captures the basic and rugged appearance of this old-timer very well, from the construction of the loader arms, which have a very good range of movement, to the distinctive ROPS protection over the cabin and safety railings round the upper platform. For a small model company, credit has to be given to Bymo for producing this historic replica at their own expense, considering the high cost of tooling up such a model.



6: The Caterpillar D5K2 dozer is the latest release from Norscot and offers some nice functionality, including a PAT blade that provides a solid range of movement, a rear mounted three-shank ripper and a modelled cabin interior painted in grey and featuring driver controls and contoured interior panels. The wide tracks rotate smoothly and the definition of the engine panels and front grille add to the realism.



7 and 7a: Two new MAN truck models were launched at Bauma and comprise the TGS Euro 5 8x4 with Liebherr HTM904 concrete mixer body and a TGS 6x4 with high-sided tipping body. Both feature tilting cabins and steering axles and are produced in Germany by Conrad in 1:50th scale.

