

PLANTWORX PRIZE

Steven Downes takes an in-depth look at the new 1:50th-scale model of a Liebherr R9800 face shovel, which will be given away to a lucky visitor to *EARTHMOVERS* Magazine stand at the forthcoming Plantworx show.

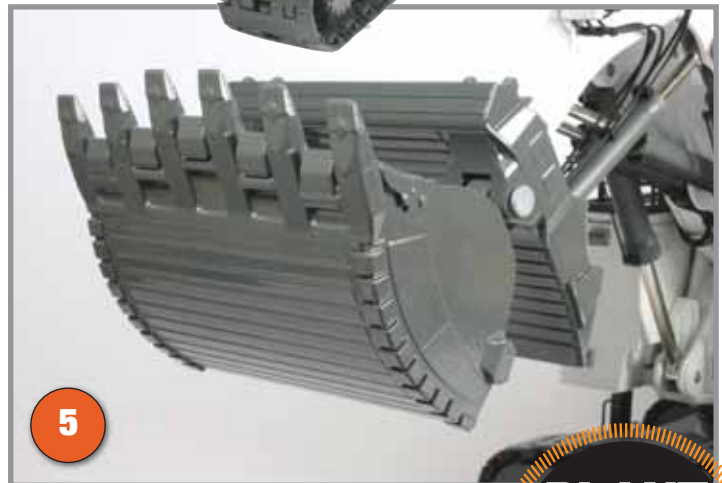


1: The R9800 from Liebherr is the flagship product in their mining excavator range and Conrad has produced a highly detailed and accurate 1:50th-scale model of this behemoth. Immediately noticeable are the extra levels of detail, which are not usually found on Conrad models, and an indication of the current trend, where more and more detail and realism are needed to compete against other model manufacturers.

2: The rear deck has a line of red decorated fire suppressant bottles, just like on the original with all metal safety railings, self-fit amber warning beacons and printed anti-slip mats on the decking. The two large chromed exhaust stacks are hollow and look great, and access to the upper deck is via the pivoting ladder assembly which folds down. The underside of the main carriage has a folding service assembly with mimicked refuelling and hydraulic fluid lines.

3: The weight of the model is impressive as most of the castings are produced from metal. Plastic is used rather cleverly for engine grille panels, sun blinds and other fine detailing. The track frames have rotating lower and upper rollers with tensioned idler wheels, allowing the plastic linked tracks to rotate very smoothly, despite the weight being carried. The final drive housings have the Liebherr name raised from the surface with good definition of the bolt fixings and drive ring.

4: The back of the boom is fitted with a moulded plastic hydraulic pipework assembly, which directs all the lines to the various cylinders through the use of pliable plastic hoses. These are also fitted to the main hydraulic distribution housing at the heart of the machine. This additional detailing really enhances the realism of the model. The two main slewing motor assemblies have been replicated below the boom and the slewing ring has been finished with fixing bolt detailing.



5: The bucket has been meticulously cast to include all the wear and cutting tooth detailing, which really does look the part, with side cutting plates, a ridged underside with re-enforced corners and six contoured teeth. The range of movement of the digging equipment is very realistic and extremely stiff cylinders allow the model to be positioned as desired without any movement. Conrad has produced what will become a much sought-after model.

6: The cab has a sparsely finished interior with a plastic moulding representing the operator's station while the exterior of the cab is finished with authentically modelled sun blinds and a protective roof plate. The side walkway has photo-etched floor panels while on the opposite side of the model, cooling fan detailing above the hydraulic tanks is visible beneath the etched walkway.

Editor's comments:
I have one of these to give away



I have an example of this model sitting in its box in my office; it truly is a thing a great beauty. If you are visiting the Plantworx show in May please visit the EARTHMOVERS Magazine stand in the entrance pavilion. One lucky person will receive the model with the compliments of Liebherr.