

Backhoes, loaders & pipe-layers

This month Steven Downes takes a look at a number of new additions from JCB, Case, Caterpillar and Liebherr.



1a and 1b: The major news item this month is the launch of a JCB 3C Mk3 backhoe-loader model in Britains' expanding Heritage & Collectables range. It is an iconic machine introduced in 1977 and said to have outsold all of its competitors. In the 60th anniversary year of the JCB backhoe loader it is no surprise that Britains and JCB have introduced a 1:32nd-scale replica of the vintage 3C Mk3, highlighting the front 6-in-1 clam bucket and optional rear grab bucket. The model features a sliding king post, steering front axle, rotating wheels and working front and rear digging equipment. The raised JCB logo is authentic to the period and the interior showcases the controls and two-colour seat.



2: Case has introduced its T Series backhoe and the 1:50th-scale replica from Universal Hobbies is exceptionally realistic, down to the intricate hydraulic pipework found throughout the model. With an opening front bucket, excellently replicated cabin interior and fully functional backhoe, complete with sliding extra-dig and lowering jack legs, the model is a must-have for any backhoe loader fan.



4a and 4b: The latest releases from Norscot include the Caterpillar 980K wheel loader, which has been produced in 1:50th scale in two separate versions, one with a rock bucket and one with a material handling bucket. Both feature the same chassis castings and the only other difference is the tread pattern of the tyres. Unlike previous wheel loaders from Norscot, the range of movement of the loader arms and bucket tip has been authentically captured, including a fine paint finish and crisp graphics.



3a and 3b: Classic Construction Models have produced an updated Caterpillar pipe-layer, based on the previously released 587T, the 1:48th-scale PL87 features updated graphics and an enclosed cab, a pair of working winches, linked metal tracks and authentic scaled safety railings and grab handles. The front grille allows glimpses of the radiator within while the side counterbalance can be extended.



5: Material handlers come in all shapes and sizes, and Liebherr has commissioned a model of its L580 log handler, produced in 1:50th scale by NZG. The arm design permits vertical lifting, allowing quick unloading of log trucks and this has been accurately replicated on the model. The grapple opens, rotates and pivots while the main lift hydraulics are covered with a protective cover. The chassis has articulating steering and metal safety railings, excellent definition of the side engine grilles and interior cab detailing.