

# Detail upgrade

Steven Downes reviews the latest Liebherr models from Conrad and NZG.



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1 and 1a: Conrad surprised many not just with the number of new Liebherr models this year, but also the increase in detail over what would normally be expected from the German producer. The LTC1045-3.1 mobile crane is especially well engineered and captures the unusual cab linkage very convincingly. A hydraulically elevating and telescopically extending arm supports the cab to give the operator an exceptional view of the work area. Conrad has achieved a fine replica thanks to the provision of extending outriggers with screw-down jacks to hide the screw thread, a detachable and fully adjustable luffing jib and working steering of all axles. For confined spaces, the front platform can be detached to reduce the length of the chassis, a feature duplicated on the model.

2: The A920 wheeled excavator is another recent and realistic release from Conrad, featuring full hydraulic pipework throughout with both fixed and flexible hoses and auxiliary lines. The quick coupler works well and is complemented with a digging bucket and clamshell. The undercarriage features a working front dozing blade with steering axle and double tyres while the cab interior has been accurately replicated, with fine printing of the engine cooling grilles and silver coloured metal safety grab rails.

3: The third new model from Conrad is the LH24 material handler, based on the same body size as the A920, with a hydraulically elevating cab and sorting grab attached to the straight stick and boom. Again, the level of realism and detail is excellent throughout, with all the intricate piping added along with four-point outriggers that allow the model to be posed with the wheels off the ground. The tyres are different to those fitted to the A920, indicating the attention to detail, while the cabin interior has been modelled well.

4: Another release from Conrad is the L556 wheel loader, which has been modelled on the industrial version with a quick coupler allowing a choice of bucket, pallet forks or logging grapple to be deployed. The tilt linkage is different to the standard version with a very realistic range of movement. The side engine grilles are photo-etched and allow a glimpse of the interior of the engine bay – another nice addition with metal safety railings and a nicely engineered cabin with plenty of contoured glazing.



5: The Liebherr LH80 is an update to the original A954C material handler and has been replicated in 1:50th scale by NZG. The model has great features, including large outriggers allowing it to be posed in a working configuration, along with all chrome safety railings and grab rails made from metal. The five-tine cactus grab operates well, with a good range of movement of the tines and pipe detailing on the back of the main boom through to the detachable grab. The hydraulically elevating cab and platform are functional and the flooring plates are a fine mesh, adding to the realism.

6: The entire range of Liebherr wheel loaders have been updated so it is no surprise to see new loaders in model form. The L538 from Conrad is an update to the previous version. Completely new castings authentically capture the new looks of the latest loader, including a good range of movement of the loader arms and tipping angle with Z-bar linkage, articulating chassis and detailed cabin.

7: While not a new model, the R313 tracked excavator from NZG has been produced with grey coloured hydraulic cylinders reflecting the new colour branding across the entire Liebherr construction range. Updated versions of the A918 Compact, R936 and PR764 models are also available.