

Latest launches

Steven Downes reviews the latest 1:50th-scale model releases from Conrad, Norscot, First Gear, NZG and Motorart.



1 and 1a: Motorart has released the first two in a new range of Volvo models. The L250G wheel loader features an articulating chassis with oscillating rear axle and drive-shaft detailing, plus a toothed rock bucket with upper guard, authentically capturing the rugged looks of the original. All safety railings have been produced in metal and are accurately scaled. A tilting rear engine cover reveals the modelled and decorated engine, cooling and exhaust systems within. The L220G has also been produced using the same rear chassis and cab castings and features a material handling bucket, different design of loader arms and bucket linkage and a different casting for the front chassis.



2: Norscot has produced a model of the Caterpillar 740B articulated dump truck fitted with an ejector body, which is fully functional and includes a pivoting rear gate and sliding discharge plate. The chassis has articulating steering, oscillating suspension and authentic side access steps and scaled safety railings leading to the cab.



3: The Caterpillar PM200 cold planer is another new release from Norscot, featuring fabric belts on the collecting and discharge conveyors, pivoting track frames, a folding conveyor and replicated cutting drum. In addition, the operator station has left- and right-sided controls and a central console complete with protective cover. Plastic access steps and safety railings are located on each side of the chassis, and a fixed canopy to protect from the elements.



5: First Gear has released the Komatsu PC360-10 excavator, which is a new casting from the previous PC300/PC350 version with added safety railings and the new design cab. Linked metal tracks, a full range of movement of the digging equipment, great paint finish and crisp printing, and a heavy weight thanks to the predominantly metal construction all add up to another very good release.



4: Following hot on the heels of the Atlas 1604ZW is the Atlas 350MH material handler from Conrad, featuring a lifting cab with four functioning outriggers and steering axle, good engine grille definition and excellent paint finish. All the hydraulics have integrated piping, flexible hoses and silver fixed piping raised off the boom for extra realism.

6: As featured in a recent news section of this magazine, Hamm is producing a specialist biomass stockpile compactor. NZG has released a scale model of the 3412 compactor complete with an extra set of rear wheels and an updated paint scheme. The padfoot drum has good casting definition and is freely rotating with articulated steering.



7: First Gear has also released two new models of Komatsu dozers. The D65EX has plenty of fine detailing, from the functional rear three-shank ripper, tensioned linked tracks and blade to the replicated cab interior. In addition there is fine detailing of the engine area and safety railings, light housings and flexible hydraulic hoses. The paint finish is of a high standard with good colour matching of the plastic and metal parts.

Based on the same main body, the low ground pressure D65PX version has also been produced with extended width track frames and wide track pads, plus a PAT 6-in-1 blade design featuring lift, tilt and angular movement authentically captured from the full-size machine.