

# NEW RELEASES: PLANT & CONSTRUCTION

Steven Downes looks over the latest site, construction and earthmoving replicas soon to be available from model dealers and other good stockists.

**CLASSIC CONSTRUCTION MODELS** has announced several new additions to its 1/48 scale Caterpillar model programme. The wait is almost over for the release of the Cat D9H, which has been produced in three different configurations. In its standard format, the D9H has a hydraulically operated blade and a single shank ripper at the rear. The fully enclosed cab has a replicated interior with fine photo-etched grille detailing, linked metal tracks and open engine compartment revealing the modelled power plant.

Caterpillar D9H



Caterpillar DD9H



The second version is an interesting combination, with two tractors coupled in line, designated the DD9H. The front tractor has a hydraulic push blade, while the second tractor provides more pushing power through the linkage. Both have open engine compartments with replicated engines, and an open ROPS canopy on the front tractor.

The final version features a large blade with two tractors lined up in a side-by-side configuration designated the SxS D9H. With a fully enclosed cabin, which is a different casting to the standard version, attention to detail is excellent, with photo-etched grilles, linked tracks, replicated engines and functional hydraulics for the enormous blade. The standard version is limited to only 1,000 pieces, while the two other versions are limited to 650 of each.

Caterpillar SxS D9H



Caterpillar 660  
Coal Hauler

After the launch of the Caterpillar 666 scraper, CCM has now announced the Cat 660 tractor with Athey bottom dump coal trailer. The tractor unit has a fully enclosed cab with a steering front axle, open engine compartment with replicated engine block, and a gooseneck linkage to the trailer, which has opening doors along the bottom and large tyres with an authentic tread pattern. Production is limited to only 750 pieces, which are selling fast.



Joining the 660 is the 769B quarry truck, an update to the original 769 model with a revised dump body and access steps up both sides of the engine compartment. Added detailing includes the rubber mud flaps, replicated engine compartment, steering front axle, authentic treaded tyres and photo-etched grilles, not to mention the replicated cabin. The 769B is also limited to 750 pieces.



Caterpillar 769B Quarry Truck

Expected to be released towards the end of the year, development of the Caterpillar 992C wheel loader is progressing well, with two variants being produced. The standard version has Goodyear-branded tyres, while a more limited-run model is being produced with beadless tyres, consisting of a rubber core with metal shoes which



Caterpillar 992C on Goodyear tyres

certainly looks a little different. The prototype images show the progression of the model, with etched panels, a replicated cabin interior and fully functional loader arms and bucket linkage. Actual production quantities have yet to be decided, but pre-orders for the model are already progressing well.



Caterpillar 992C on beadless tyres



Caterpillar 390D ME, 385C L and 385C FS prototypes

While CCM has been concentrating on producing models of historic Caterpillar machinery, the firm has also announced the production of three versions of the flagship Cat 385/390 tracked excavator. These comprise the 385C L backhoe excavator and 385C FS shovel, plus a 390D ME tracked excavator featuring a mass excavation boom, stick and digging bucket. All the models – see photo (left) for the three variations – are expected to be released in late 2011.

The 1/24 scale Caterpillar D7E electric drive bulldozer from CCM has been released in a new configuration with rear mounted cargo H90 winch. Limited to 250 pieces, it is sure to sell fast, with exceptional levels of detail throughout. A pivoting cab frame allows the entire cab to be tilted to one side, showing all the electric drive components beneath. Opening doors reveal a well-replicated cab interior, while opening side panels enclose a fully modelled engine.



Caterpillar D7E Bulldozer



Ginaf X5250 TS Tipper



Ginaf X4345 TSV Tipper



While WSI is well known for its high detail trucks, its range of construction models has grown with the release of the Hamm HD+110 tandem drum roller, which has been produced in two versions. One has a ROPS canopy, while the other is fitted with a fully enclosed cab featuring opening doors and a fully-modelled

Hamm HD+110 with cab



Hamm HD+110 with canopy



interior, including the slide and rotate control console (which is also fitted to the ROPS canopy version). Both feature opening engine bay doors, which reveal the modelled engine, while the articulated chassis linkage allows the model to be realistically posed mimicking the movement of the full sized machines.

The new Atlas 225LC and 140W excavators from **NZG** are now available from model dealers. The castings are based on the previously released Terex versions with the new Atlas decoration applied, including grey undercarriage and boom with orange bodywork. The 140W wheeled excavator has functioning

Atlas 140W wheeled excavator



Atlas 225LC tracked excavator



blade and outriggers with a steering axle, 360 degree rotation of the upper carriage and fully functional two-piece boom, stick and bucket. The 225LC tracked excavator has linked metal tracks, and a replicated cab interior with functional digging boom. Accurately scaled safety railings have been added, along with rear view mirrors, and both versions have crisp Atlas markings.



Liebherr R916  
tracked excavator

Also available from NZG is the Liebherr R916 tracked excavator in Geiger and in Heuvelman Ibis liveries. Attention to detail is very good, with accurately contoured body casting, linked metal tracks, quick coupler and replicated cabin just some of the highlights. Meanwhile, the German modeller has also announced a limited edition version of the Liebherr A954C HD material handler, painted in the OBM company colours.

New releases from **CONRAD** include the Liebherr HTM904 four-axle concrete mixer, modelled on the Mercedes Actros MP3 cab with an all-metal rotating drum, pivoting discharge chute and crisp printing of the Liebherr Worldwide artwork. The front two axles have working steering, and self-fit rear view mirrors and radio antennas add to the realism.



Liebherr HTM904  
'Worldwide' concrete mixer



Hamm 1911 Roller

The **WIRTGEN** group has commissioned a number of models recently, the latest of which is the historic Hamm 1911 roller, the first machine of this type that the company produced. Conrad has done a great job on the 1/50 scale model, with features including rotating and pivoting front drum with chain steering mechanism and detailed wheel struts, while all the operator's controls are present and correct. The model is supplied in a printed cardboard box, complete with a metal plinth with printed details of the model.



Case TR270  
tracked skid  
steer loader



Two versions of **CASE'S** latest machine are available. The SR220 wheeled version has an open cab which features driver's seat, controls and safety bar, plus rotating wheels, functional loader arms and three work tools – pallet forks, sweeper brush and bucket.

Joining the SR220 is the TR270 tracked skid steer, which is modelled with an enclosed cab with glass door, and comes with three work tools: bucket, grapple bucket and hammer. The attachments are interchangeable between the two models, although the quick couplers are crudely done and the plastic bumps shear off easily. The build quality is questionable, with several defects noticeable on the review models.



Case SR220 wheeled  
skid steer loader

Liebherr 112 EC-H tower crane

The latest addition to the growing range of **VINCI** group models is the 1/87 scale Liebherr 112 EC-H tower crane from Conrad. Finished in the firm's distinctive white, red and blue colour scheme, the model is supplied in sections which easily fit together perfectly, complete with counterweight stones, hook block and a set of stickers to offer the collector a choice of branding.

One of the biggest buzzes at ConExpo was caused by the launch of the new Caterpillar CT660 vocational trucks, and **NORSCOT** has now launched two new 1/50 scale models, one fitted with a dump body and one configured as a tractor with a three-axle Trail King trailer. Both versions are reviewed in detail later in this issue. 🚚

Caterpillar CT660  
Vocational Trucks



# CUSTOMISED CREATIONS PART V

There's more guidance on the different options available for customising 360-degree excavator replicas this month, as Steven Downes once again delves into the options available for creating a customised model.

**T**he subject for this chapter of 'Customised Creations' is Universal Hobbies' model of Liebherr's R944C tracked excavator, and more specifically how it can be converted into a specialist demolition machine with a straight boom kit from Gaz Evans.

The conversion for the Liebherr R944C is a little challenging, requiring the base machine to be disassembled and several components removed for re-use. The use of small screws for assembly does help a great deal in this respect, with the main boom removed easily. The resin boom and stick are void of any pipe work detailing, so the best option is to remove the flexible black plastic from the original boom for re-use. If removed in one piece, it can be cleverly attached to the new boom and stick, which gives the conversion a much more realistic, factory-produced look.

The resin boom needs a little filing and cutting for it to fit into place where the original boom was removed. This can be time consuming if the shape of the original is to be replicated accurately, but it's well worth the effort as the shape prevents too much movement of the boom so the hydraulics are not pulled completely out. The white metal boom castings supplied with the kit cannot be used for the R944C as they collide with the height-adjustable cab. One easy way around this is to carefully cut the castings from the original boom and glue them into place (as pictured).

Stripped down original model with kit parts



The finished piece, complete with several attachments

Right, above right and far right: Dry fitting of the parts prior to painting, ensuring everything fits



Once the boom and stick have been drilled and filed, the entire model is dry assembled to make sure everything fits together with enough clearance to ensure no issues with movement when painted. For the stick, I have added several scratch-built pipe holders from plastic strip with brass rods manipulated into shape to add both the bucket hydraulic feed and also two auxiliary feeds on the side of the stick, adding extra realism to the model.





Painting of the parts is done in two stages. Firstly, the parts are primed using Halfords white primer. After two coats have been applied and have thoroughly dried, the topcoats can be applied, taking care not to over apply. The original model is a slightly different shade of yellow to most of the other Liebherr models and yet, by using the white primer, the Liebherr construction yellow paint is a surprisingly good match to the rest of the model, although only available to purchase from Liebherr depots.



Left and far left: Hydraulic hose detailing (both flexible and fixed)

Before final assembly, it is important to leave the parts for several days to ensure the paint has dried completely. Any sooner and I have found that, while the surface appears dry, marks can be left in the paint during assembly because the paint has not fully dried on the inside. The first stage of assembly is to glue the flexible hose onto the back of the boom. The ends need to be split into two so they will pass to the stick on each side while the original moulded blocks can be glued onto the stick cylinder. Small ferrules are supplied in the kit and these can be pushed onto the ends of the flexible piping before gluing them into place on the stick. The hydraulic cylinders and pistons are then pinned into place and the chosen attachment added. Gaz Evans can supply a choice of buckets for the model, while the grapple shown here was produced by John Comben a number of years ago. 🚜



Finished model fitted with a grapple which was produced by the Miniature Demolition Company.

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# CATS CUT DOWN TO SIZE

Steven Downes scrutinises the latest Caterpillar construction releases from Norscot, including replicas of the construction giant's recently launched on-road trucks.

**T**he Caterpillar 587T pipe layer is the largest in the firm's range, weighing in at 53 metric tonnes, and is powered by the C15 ACERT diesel engine generating an impressive 394hp. It has an 8.5 metre boom, and its hook block has a maximum lifting capacity of 91.6 tonnes, with two independently controlled hydraulic winches and a hydraulically extendable counterweight for load balancing.

Norscot's 1/50 scale replica of the 587T has captured all the details of the full sized machine very well, although the first production batch were rigged incorrectly and, while the movement of the hook block and boom could be adjusted, it did not match that on the real machine. It is good to see that Norscot has rectified the problem and the second batch have been rigged perfectly. The track frames have linked metal tracks which look very detailed and rotate freely, and while there are no bottom rollers, the single piece casting includes the roller detailing and doesn't look out of place.

The two winches are operated by turning the covers, and this can be a little tricky. The top-most winch is rigged to the boom and allows the boom angle to be adjusted, while the lower winch controls the hook block, which can be raised/ lowered as required. The fully enclosed cab fitted to the model is a welcome addition, complete with roof-mounted window allowing the driver to see the boom tip. Front and rear facing work lights are integrated into the roof, with







windscreen wipers and ROPS frame added. The platform outside the cab has a textured anti-slip surface with the rope guide assembly mounted just in front of the cab, complete with accurately scaled safety railings and integrated ladder giving easy access for the operator.

The counterweight is made of a single piece casting with ridge detailing simulating the individual plates that are found on the full sized machine. Linkage extension is smooth and it holds fine in the extended position, which also gives better access for turning the winches. The front grille has an intricate ridged pattern cast into it which looks good, complete with dimples simulating the fixing bolts. The front bumper has an integrated towing bar with a number of scaled grab rails on both sides of the engine bay with work lights mounted to the top of the engine compartment. Classic Construction Models produced a 1/48 scale model of the 587T, and while their version was a little more detailed and refined, the Norscot model looks almost as good, and for considerably less money.



Caterpillar 587T pipe layer





The **Caterpillar 24M motor grader** is primarily used for the maintenance of haul roads in mines throughout the world, where the 7.3 metre mouldboard and C18 ACERT diesel engine give it the power and ability to quickly and efficiently keep the haul roads safe. The twin joystick control system offers precise control for unparalleled ease of operation coupled with a cab design that gives exceptional driver comfort.

The 1/50 scale 24M motor grader is an update to the previously released 24H and features a host of casting changes, most noticeably the cab area which has a new all round safety platform. The doors on each side of the cab are hinged and open to reveal the replicated interior while the cab frame has integrated rear view mirrors with front and rear facing work lights integrated into the roof, topped with an amber beacon. The walkways are made of plastic and have a grill pattern moulded into the floor with accurately scaled plastic handrails running along the edges. Catwalks have been integrated into the rear wheel covers on each side, complete with steps to give safe access to the cab which is an upgrade to the previous version. The rear body has been completely reworked with crisply cast panel detailing on both sides with small details, like the side facing lights and safety grab



rails along the upper edges all adding to the realistic look. The rugged tyres are a little larger than on the previous version, with the familiar block tread pattern crisply moulded. The front axle has both tilt and turn functionality which is good to see, although a little stiff to operate. The rear wheels are mounted to a pivoting frame which allows the model to demonstrate the excellent mobility of the machine. The main blade can be fully adjusted with both up/down and side-to-side movement possible while the angle of the blade can also be adjusted with the entire frame rotating left or right, mimicking the movement of the original fairly well. As updates go, the 24M is a much better model over the original release, with fine detailing added throughout.

**The 374D tracked excavator** from Caterpillar weighs in at around 72 tonnes, and is powered by a Cat C15 ACERT diesel engine generating 476 hp. The 1/50 scale model from Norscot is based on the mass excavation specification of the machine, which makes an interesting change and is a welcome sight from Norscot. The new style cab has a replicated interior including the driver's seat and joystick controls with both roof and front window debris protection screens fitted – a strange choice for a mass excavation spec machine, although they do look good on the model.

The side body casting has integrated access steps leading up to the top engine housing, complete with safety railings and an integrated catwalk along the side of the body, complete with a replicated anti-slip surface. The back of the boom has integrated piping cast into the surface with flexible piping leading to the hydraulics and between the boom and stick, including an auxiliary line which would be used for powering hydraulic attachments such



Caterpillar 24M motor grader







Caterpillar 374D  
tracked excavator



as a hammer. It is good to see Norscot put the extra effort into adding this detailing. Based on the XD extreme duty design, the bucket fitted to the model has four large pointed teeth that have a realistic contour with blades located between the teeth that have small dimples simulating the fixing bolts. The sides of the bucket also exhibits the replicated wear plates found on the full sized bucket. The boom, stick and bucket linkage have a good range of movement and the hydraulics are stiff enough for the model to hold any pose chosen. Tracked excavators are a favourite amongst collectors and the 374D is already proving very popular with model dealers already sold out and waiting for the next production run.

Rounding out the latest releases is the **Caterpillar 793F mining truck**. With a nominal payload capacity of 250 tonnes, the latest variant of the 793 line is powered by the enormous 16 cylinder C175-16 turbocharged diesel engine with a mechanical power train consisting of a six-speed planetary power shift transmission with lock-up torque converter and double reduction final drives. Cat claims this gives unmatched efficiency, and the 793F is rated the fastest truck in its class.

Several versions of the 793 have been produced in 1/50

scale in the past and the new version models the latest upgrades to the real truck. One nice addition is the inclusion of a replicated engine block which was sadly missing on the previous versions, and this alone adds greatly to the realism. The upper deck has a pivoting panel which can be raised to view the top of the engine, while a look underneath reveals more of the enormous power plant. The axles are mounted to the frame with functioning suspension, with the front axle featuring working steering, powered by small hydraulics, offering a good amount of movement. The new style cab has been added, with metal safety railings around the upper deck and access



Caterpillar 793F  
mining truck







CT660 Dump  
Truck version



ladders fitted to each side of the front bumper, leading up diagonally across the front engine grille which has an intricate and realistic texture. The 'X' body design skip is another difference over the other versions and has good structural rib detailing on the outer walls and underside, complete with protective wear plates fitted to the floor of the body. Two-stage hydraulic cylinders allow the dump body to tip to a fairly realistic height and they are stiff enough for it to remain in the tipping position. Additional detailing includes the simulated rope safety cables which would hook onto the rear axle on the real truck to keep the body raised during maintenance. The first production run of the model had the decals incorrectly placed lower down on the side of the dump body, but this has now been rectified.

Caterpillar has unveiled a number of new and updated products in the last year or so, and within the next three to four months, Norscot will be releasing three brand new 1/50 scale construction models, along with a new 1/87 scale model, while updated versions of several current models, featuring casting differences, will also be released before the end of the year.

The buzz at the ConExpo event in Las Vegas back in March was the launch of the new **Caterpillar CT660** vocational road truck range. To coincide with the event, Norscot produced a 1/50 scale version of the CT660, available in both dump truck and tractor versions.

The dump truck features a rugged chassis with twin rear axles and a steering lift axle at the rear, with the

front axle having working steering and wide flotation tyres that have a detailed tread pattern moulded into the surface. The cab interior has been captured well, with the contoured dashboard and seats, complete with Cat markings, visible through the clear-glazed windows. The steering wheel is present and tiny CT660 designations are printed onto the inside door panels, which shows the attention to detail Norscot has put into the model.

The light material dump body has a pivoting tailgate with a single, multi-stage hydraulic ram used to raise the bed to a reasonable height. The lip of the bed has non-removable extension boards with ladders on the sides and a non-working canvas cover holder, while the rugged-looking bonnet opens to reveal a replicated Cat







C13 engine with CX31 transmission block, both of which are also visible by looking underneath, where the drive shafts, axles and simulated suspension frames have been modelled. All in all, this is a good model from Norscot, and I would not be surprised to see future releases with different bodies and different paint schemes.

The tractor version of the CT660 is modelled with a day cab and twin axles to the rear. As with the dump truck version, the cabin interior has been replicated with seats, steering wheel and dashboard all visible, while rear view mirrors have been fitted to the cab frame, and additional mirrors fitted to the front fender. The chromed front grille surround looks good, with the large bonnet opening forward to reveal the replicated engine block and transmission with a steering front axle and wide tyres. The chassis has chromed fuel tanks fitted to both sides which have integrated platforms for easy access to the cabin, with single-piece chromed fenders fitted over the rear wheels. Flexible mudguards have been added to the rear, complete with printed CAT logos, while the fifth-wheel coupling makes firm contact to the gooseneck of the Trail King three-axle low loader trailer. The trailer itself has plastic panels simulating the wooden deck areas, with a detachable gooseneck and flip-over ramps for easy equipment loading. 🚚



CT660 Tractor version

