

CONSTRUCTION RELEASES

Steven Downes looks at the latest plant model news and releases that are soon to be available from model dealers and other good stockists.



Classic Construction Models featured a number of new releases in the last issue of Model Tractor. This time we have news of a further three models in the historic 1:48 Caterpillar range. All three are D9H variants, with a standard bulldozer featuring front hydraulic blade and rear mounted ripper along with the DD9H tandem version with two tractor units coupled front-to-back together with a small pusher blade on the front and open ROPs canopy. The third version is the SxS D9H with two tractor units side by side with a large blade up front. All three versions are expected to be released late spring 2010 with the DD9H and SxS D9H limited to 375 pieces each. All images are of the first metal samples and are subject to changes and enhancements.



Norscot have unveiled several new models in their 1:50 Caterpillar range including the Cat 600D wheeled paver - available in both standard and canopy versions, along with two versions of the Cat 655D tracked paver, again with and without a canopy. Also now available is a limited edition version of the D11T bulldozer in an antique bronze finish. In the 1:87 line are two updated compactor models, the CS56 smooth drum and the CP56 pad foot drum, both have enclosed cabs and articulated steering. An interesting 1:25 G3516 Gas engine has also been announced along with the Cat NR16N reach truck.

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The Nuremberg toy fair has unveiled a number of new and interesting models, with NZG announcing a number of Liebherr models including the RL64 pipe layer, the R944C tunnelling excavator, the LB28 drilling rig and the LR1300 lattice boom crawler crane, with Derreck accessory set. There are some interesting liveried models from them as well including the Liebherr R994 backhoe excavator in Mt Arthur Mining, the A924C wheeled excavator in "G.Mesken" and several liveried versions of the Wirtgen W100F. The surprise announcement from NZG is the release of two New Holland models, the LB115B backhoe loader and the W170B wheel loader, both models previously produced by Ros. The highlight of the NZG releases is the 1:50 Liebherr LTM11200-9.1 mobile crane, available in Franz Bracht livery.

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Conrad unveiled several new Goldhofer heavy haulage models at the toy fair, consisting of the Goldhofer vessel trailer with six axle rear trailer and four axle dolly with MAN TGX XXL prime mover and the ten axle Goldhofer STZ-H10 semi low-loader with Mercedes Benz Actros 4-axle prime mover. For crane fans, they have released the Liebherr LG1750 SL7DHS lattice mast mobile crane in a blue and white decoration and for historic fans, the MAN DHAS 26.240 truck with 2-axle low loader trailer. Joining the truck line-up is the 3-axle C-Version Mercedes Benz concrete mixer and 4-axle Mercedes Benz truck with Dautel three-way tipping body.



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CCM CATERPILLAR D10 1:48

In the last issue of Model Tractor, I reported the release of the 1:48 Caterpillar D10 model from Classic Construction Models. Now I take a closer look at these fantastic replicas, starting with the standard version of the D10, which features a single shank ripper fitted to the rear, with a large dozing blade at the front. The D10 was first announced in September 1977, powered by a 700hp diesel engine with a working weight of 80 tons and it soon demonstrated a massive increase in performance over the successful D9. It was also the first dozer to feature the triangular high drive system where the drive sprocket is elevated, still a feature on the latest range of large Caterpillar dozers produced today. It is no surprise that CCM chose to produce a highly detailed scale replica of this formidable machine, causing much excitement amongst collectors. The fully enclosed cab has a replicated interior with ROPS structure, fire extinguisher, highlighted rubber window seals and wipers for total realism. The track frames pivot and the individual linked metal track pads rotate smoothly, thanks to the fully working track tensioning system and modeled track rollers.

The hydraulically operated blade has a good amount of up and down movement with accurately scaled flexible hydraulic hoses, which are also added to the rear ripper hydraulics. The single shank ripper has an adjustable ripper bar which can be pre-set in several different heights or removed altogether, which is a nice touch on the model. The open engine compartment features a replicated V12 diesel engine with photo-etched upper side grills and large radiator hidden behind the photo-etched front grill, topped by the dominant single exhaust stack rising from the bonnet.

The second version of the D10 produced by CCM features a pusher configuration - used to assist in the loading of motor scrapers - and for this purpose, the front blade arms are mounted to the main chassis frame to more efficiently transfer the power of the tractor to the scraper. The blade is also narrower - allowing the D10 to fit within the width of the cut of the scraper - with additional plating in the centre to prevent wear damage when the blade makes contact with the scraper.

The rear of the model features a push block with integrated tow bar and has the same track frame castings, engine detailing and tracks as the standard D10. The other main difference is the open canopy design operator's station with all the hand and foot controls replicated with off-centre driver's seat for better visibility. Fine detailing includes small, clear plastic lenses for the work lights, scaled metal hand rails all round, small access steps and platforms with textured anti-slip surfaces and an etched front grill. Both models are painted in the "Highway Yellow" shade with authentic logos and markings and look great alongside the previously released Cat 988 wheel loader and 769 quarry truck models from the same range.

ERTL JOHN DEERE 650J 1:16

The John Deere 650J LT tracked dozer is powered by a 99hp 4-cylinder Tier 3 Deere 4045H engine with dual path, electronically controlled load sensing hydrostatic drive with infinite speed ranges coupled with triple reduction final drives to give a very capable, agile and powerful dozer. Ertl have released a precision 1:16 version of this workhorse, which has captured all the details and realism of the full sized machine perfectly.

The interior of the cabin has been accurately modeled and is viewable by opening the large doors on each side to reveal the detailing within, including the suspension armchair with an authentic looking fabric finish and adjustment controls below the seat with a ribbed effect suspension column. The floor of the cabin has a simulated rubber look, with contoured, anti-slip ridges and all the driver's controls have been added, including throttle, steering and blade controls and foot pedal, topped off with the instrument information screen integrated into the central console.

The engine bay has also been fully captured with the Deere 4045H 4-cylinder engine at the centre of the compartment with a side opening door and spring tensioned removable side panels to reveal the fantastic detail within. Even the storage and battery compartment doors on the sides of the cab can be opened to unveil the added detailing within, which is a great touch on the model. Even the door handles have been accurately replicated with a metallic appearance.

The Power-Angle-Tilt blade has a full range of movement mimicking the actual machine with lift, tilt and angular movement all possible, topped off with flexible hydraulic fluid lines to all the cylinders. The parallelogram ripper bar at the rear of the model has provision for up to five ripper teeth, three of which are supplied and fitted to the model with a single hydraulic cylinder providing the up and down movement. The tracks consist of individual metal pads with bolt head detailing running on six rotating undercarriage rollers with a toothed drive sprocket and spring tensioned front idler wheel with upper guide roller that gives the track a realistic contour. This is the third in the 1:16 Precision series of models from Ertl and is an exceptionally realistic looking model which any collector would be proud to own.



CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

NZG LIEBHERR HS855HD CRAWLER CRANE 1:50

The Liebherr HS855HD duty cycle crane can perform a number of different tasks, from lifting to material handling, demolition, soil compaction and foundation applications with diaphragm wall grabs or casing oscillators. The crane is powered by a 600hp diesel engine with an operational weight of 84.4 ton and a maximum lift capacity of 90 ton. The maintenance free Liebherr free-fall winches with integrated drive and disc brakes are powerful and robust with electro-hydraulic control systems allowing smooth and precise control whilst the removable track frames and ballast systems allow easy transport to the work site and the 1:50 model presented here from NZG has authentically captured all the details and functionality of the full sized machine perfectly.

The box is full of parts allowing the model to be erected in several different configurations which is a very nice touch from NZG. In the lift configuration, three boom sections are used along with the jib head and two hook blocks. In dragline configuration, the boom is shorter and the boom head is changed to use single pulleys. The pennant lines have been made from actual metal rope with crimped loops at each end, really adding to the realistic look of the model.

The track frames, complete with individually linked tracks, can be extended to provide a larger footprint while four screws hidden behind small plastic covers can be removed, allowing the track frames to be disconnected from the undercarriage to pose in a transport configuration. The cab has large glazed windows allowing the detailed interior to be seen, complete with contoured seat, joystick controls and control console. The cab tilts up to about 30 degrees and has a roof window protection screen with integrated work lights.

The rear counterweight system has been accurately captured and is fully functional, with the ability to connect the four lift chains to the main ballast section. The hydraulic pistons can be raised, lifting the ballast into position before it is secured with a pin. There are ten smaller ballast stones that can be used (up to five each side) and they are held steady with the use of metal pins, of which three sizes are supplied allowing three, four or the full complement of five ballast stones per side.

The main body of the model features opening side doors which give access to the winding mechanism fitted to the winches which are actually geared with the supplied winding keys being needed to release the drum locks before turning to wind the rope. This is a very nice piece of engineering on the model and the winches work well once pressure is applied.

The model is an exceptional release with a host of posing possibilities. The castings are crisp with great paintwork, accurate markings and some very good internal engineering. The level of detail found throughout the model shows the extra level that NZG have gone to in producing another exceptional addition to the Liebherr model range.

