

Over the next few issues, we will be bringing you news of the latest releases of models of American vehicles. There are many different models available, in a range of scales, representing all the types of cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles to be seen on the road in the USA and many of them are available from specialist retailers in the UK. This month, we're concentrating on trucks...

TWH and Sword Models

These two companies offer a wide range of highly-detailed models of American trucks, as well as construction and plant models.

The latest releases include different versions of the Peterbilt 335, an up-to-date two-axle rigid in 1/50 scale.

Peterbilt was founded in 1939 and is America's premium quality heavy duty truck manufacturer. The company's high performance, low maintenance and extremely durable vehicles can be seen across the USA.

Two versions of the model have been produced with TWH Collectibles releasing a recovery truck version, while both TWH and Sword have released a mechanics' service body version. The Jerr-Dan 5 ton Steel Shark recovery body features a fully functional tilt and slide deck with opening storage compartments, cab doors and bonnet. The cab has roof-mounted chrome air horns and amber lights with self-fit rear view mirrors. The opening engine compartment reveals the fully-detailed engine block, while the cab interior has seats and detailed dashboard with printed gauges and driver's controls. The level of detail on this model is incredible, including the patterned exhaust stack, diamond-plated steps and photo-etched mesh safety screen. The rope on the winch can be unwound

while the rear towing bar can be lowered, extended and rotated, side to side. A set of car wheel-clamps, stored in holders on the chassis, can be inserted into the towing bar. The rear deck slides smoothly, with twin hydraulic cylinders stiff enough to hold the deck at any angle.

The mechanics' body based on the Peterbilt 335 has been released in eight different company liveries and plain colours and contains a replicated air compressor and generator, with non-opening storage compartments along the body sides, complete with tiny chromed handles. The floor of the deck has an anti-slip pattern, while the upper surface where the crane is mounted has a black-painted simulated anti-slip finish actually rough to the touch. The upper storage compartments on the

model open, to reveal a host of modelled accessories including coiled wire and tools, three cones, four wheel-chocks and a creeper. The underside of the model is as highly-detailed as the rest, with drive shaft to the rear axle, air tanks and replicated suspension. The front wheels can be posed and suspension is another nice touch.

Another leading US truck manufacturer is Kenworth, founded in 1923. The Kenworth T800 is one of the most versatile trucks on the market today and can be tailored for uses including dump trucks, mixers, crane trucks and heavy haulers. The 1/50 scale T800W prime mover with Rogers four-axle low loader trailer is another of the latest releases from Sword Models and demonstrates the same incredible level of realism and attention to detail. The chassis

of the truck has large chromed fuel tanks on both sides with black fixing rings and tiny printed warning labels. The chassis upper deck has a diamond-plate texture with chromed headache rack behind the cab. Chains hang from the rack and the coiled service lines appear from below, with small connectors that couple to the trailer. The large and distinctive bonnet houses a large photo-etched grille with prominent Kenworth logo and a large chromed bumper. The cab has been authentically modelled both inside and out with painted rubber window seals and metal rear view mirrors that need fitting to the model. The roof sports two air horns and five amber lights with a chrome sun visor, while the interior of the cab has sprung air ride seats with a fully replicated dashboard



Peterbilt with Vermeer Tub-grinder from TWH.



Sword Models Mack Granite (top) and Kenworth T-800 with Rogers low-loaders.



LEFT: Sword Models Mack Granite with Elliot fuel and lube body.



BELOW: Sword Peterbilt 335 with mechanics' body in one of the eight liveries available.TWH

including dials, gauges, controls and steering console. A nice touch on the model is the door windows, modelled part-lowered, which also makes it easier to open the cab doors. The distinctive air filters are present outside the engine bay and the bonnet can be tilted forward to reveal the engine compartment with the large engine block at its heart.

The gooseneck of the Rogers trailer can be coupled to the sliding fifth wheel with working king pin connection bracket, activated by moving the handle, just like on the full-sized truck. The trailer has a flip-up rear axle with replicated suspension arms and very accurate-looking tyres, while the side frames have small fold-out brackets, allowing the bed to be widened with the supplied extension boards.

Mack Trucks, founded in 1900, is one of North America's largest producers of heavy duty trucks and a member of the Volvo Group. The Mack Granite series of rugged trucks is based on a strong chassis frame specially designed for harsh job sites and it is no surprise that Sword Precision Scale Models has chosen to produce two models, a rigid truck with a fuel and lube body and a tractor.

The Granite tractor features a tri-drive design with accurately-moulded and realistic-looking rubber tyres with silver wheel hubs. A nice idea is the self-fit fenders and mudguards, which allow the collector to decide how to configure the model. The large chromed headache rack has intricate tie-down fixings and metal chains along with a centrally-mounted chromed storage box. A service lines hook-up bar is also fixed to the rear frame where the

service line connectors can be placed if no trailer is connected. The twin exhaust stacks rise on each side of the chassis with integrated grab-rails and photo-etched cooling jackets. The accurately sculptured engine cover with chromed front trim and hood ornament opens forward to reveal the fully-detailed engine bay. Exhaust piping, radiator, complete with cooling fan, air filter and the main engine block have been authentically reproduced. The cab roof has five amber lights, two air horns and a red visor. The metal mirrors need adding to the model and fit into the three holes in the cab doors, both of which open to reveal the intricately captured interior with detailed dashboard with simulated wooden panelling, steering wheel, controls and dials. The seats appear to be sprung, with printed pattern, another nice touch. An extra detail is the fire extinguisher fixed to the cab floor.

The rear of the Rogers trailer features a single flip-up axle, along with three fixed axles, the rear of which can be raised, leaving only the front two axles on the ground. The flip-axle locks into place with a metal pin and all four axles have accurate service line and suspension detailing. The gooseneck is removable from

the trailer, with a plastic clip to lock into place. Three flexible hoses located on the side need connecting.

The three-axle rigid Mack Granite chassis with Elliot 'fuel and lube' body is another interesting model with an amazing level of realism and detail. The model features the same engine, bonnet and cab castings as the tractor version, with a single exhaust stack. The batteries are located in the opening compartment fixed to the chassis with a cast textured diamond pattern, as the battery box also acts as a pair of cab steps. The Elliot body features a large tank behind the cab with side-facing floodlights in the frame, opening filler cover and lifting eye on the top surface. Below the tank are large opening storage

compartments on both sides, with visible fire extinguisher and fold-down ladder giving access to the upper body, where a small generator is located. The rear of the model features an opening shutter door, which reveals a host of hose reels, with dispensing nozzles and pipe detail. The paint finish is second to none and all hazard warning markings have been authentically reproduced, along with the addition of fire extinguishers on both sides and the distinctive MACK logo embossed into the front grill. This model demonstrates what can be achieved in a miniature replica and is supplied with a booklet detailing the Elliot range of bodies and information on the company.

TWH has released a model of the The TG7000 Tub Grinder, commissioned by the manufacturer Vermeer, with its Peterbilt tractor unit. The tub grinder, used on large sites where trees have to be cleared and disposed of, is equally well detailed, part of range of models for Vermeer.

For the latest news on the full range of TWH Collectibles and Sword Precision Scale Models, visit their websites, www.twhcollectibles.com and www.swordmodels.com. The full range of TWH and Sword models can be purchased from Steve Bates (B S Bates Models). Steve can be contacted on 01531 632585, by email at sales@models-of-distinction.co.uk or visit the website, www.models-of-distinction.co.uk

(see the advert elsewhere in this issue).



TWH Peterbilt 335 with Jerr-Dan recovery body.