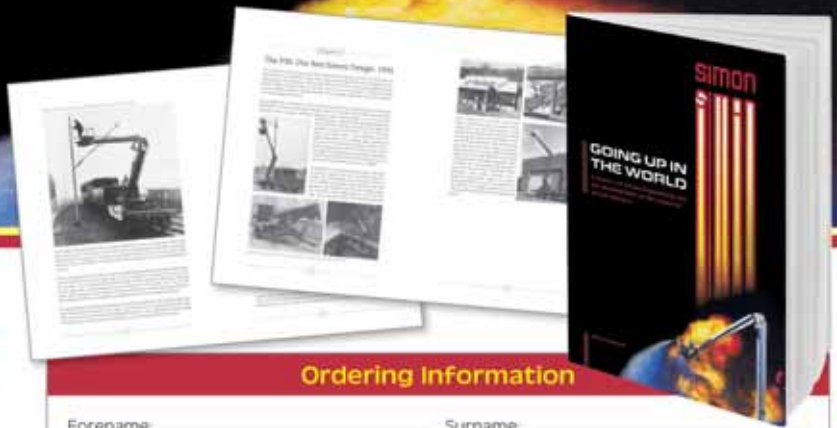


GOING UP IN THE WORLD



A history of Simon Engineering, the development of the powered access industry and a lifetime as an engineer, by Denis Ashworth

Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

His book is an unusual combination of autobiography and history of Simon Engineering Dudley, a pioneer of the powered access industry and at one time, the world's largest manufacturer of aerial lifts.

The coffee table sized book, is highly readable and includes around 150 photographs and drawings from the very beginning of the industry. It is a 'must read' for anyone who is interested in powered access, the hydraulic equipment industry or in comparing modern day engineering challenges with those of an entirely different era.

The book is available direct from the publishers at £19.50, plus £4.50 postage and packing.

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Liebherr HS 855 HD

The Liebherr 855 is a duty cycle machine, and as a crane it can lift up to 90 tonnes on the main boom and 25 tonnes on the auxiliary jib. This 1:50 scale model by NZG can be displayed in either crane or dragline modes, and the model reviewed here is in the colours of Dutch company Ballast Nedam.

NZG has produced a highly engineered model and it is assembled using extremely small brass nuts and bolts using the special tools provided. Two good instruction leaflets guide the process which takes a couple of hours.

The metal tracks are well made, and are removable for transport just like the real machine, and include tiny rollers on the lower edge. Four jacks are provided to support the crane when the tracks are removed and these screw down. The tracks are also extendible to provide a wide footprint.

The tilting operator's cab is a high quality part with a detailed interior and externally it has lights, antenna, mirror and windscreen wiper. Detail on the crane body is very good, with grilles and handles contained within the panels, and the Ballast Nedam colour scheme looks smart.

At the rear the counterweight blocks are very nicely made, 10 pieces - each weighing 1.5 tonnes on the real crane - are provided with the model which builds into the maximum counterweight configuration. The self-erecting mechanism is provided with two lift cylinders and chains.

The boom sections are well made and at the top a variety of metal sheaves are provided and these are fixed according to the configuration being used. A separate auxiliary jib can be attached for crane operation and this is another high quality part.

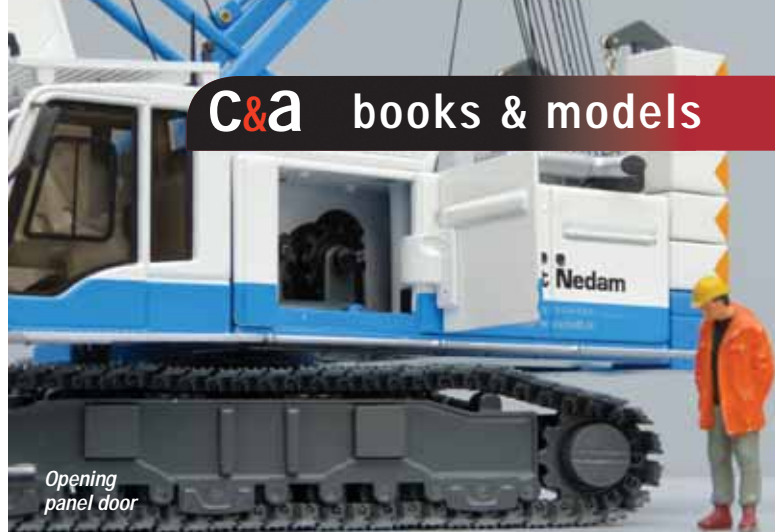
Two hook blocks are provided for crane operation, and for dragline use a bucket is provided which is a great part with high detailing.

This is a very high quality model which is beautifully made. It is also highly engineered with special care taken to produce a precision model. The paint quality is excellent and the graphics are very good. It is excellent value at around £170 and a version in Weldex colours is expected to be released in 2013.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	26
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	23
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	85



Opening panel door

C&a books & models



Nicely engineered boom



Rigged as a dragline



Lifting a load in crane mode



Excellent ballast arrangement