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May Photo - A Cat RD4 crawler and No. 22 pull grader at work. Weighing 3,575 pounds and wielding an eight-foot blade, the No. 22 was produced from 1936 through 1942, the year that Cat discontinued all pull graders. (Caterpillar, Inc. image, HCEA Archives)

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Liebherr 81K

The Liebherr 81K is a self-erecting tower crane with a maximum lifting capacity of six tonnes and a maximum radius of 45 metres. It can operate at various tower heights and can also climb using additional tower sections. This model of the 81K is made by NZG and is in 1:50 scale. It comes with a good quality instruction sheet.

The base has fold-out metal outriggers with simple screw thread pads which can be lowered to level the model. The crane has nicely decorated metal cabinets and the two winch drives are good too.

Counterweight slabs are metal with the Liebherr name embossed on them, and step irons are also included. An extra block of four slabs is supplied which is more than the real crane has and is a modelling compromise in order to give the model some extra stability.

Mast sections are good metal castings although there are no ladders, and the rope-operated mast raising system is modelled with small sheaves. It works well and the mast erection can be simulated, although only one height can be set. At the top is the distinctive cab.

The complex jib consists of three separate sections and the geometry and profile of the erected jib is very good. The jib suspension cables and rods are of a high quality and a very good job has been done to match lengths to obtain equalised tension. The trolley and erection motors are modelled in metal as is the

hook, and a small piece of chain is included which adds detail and also weight to the hoist line.

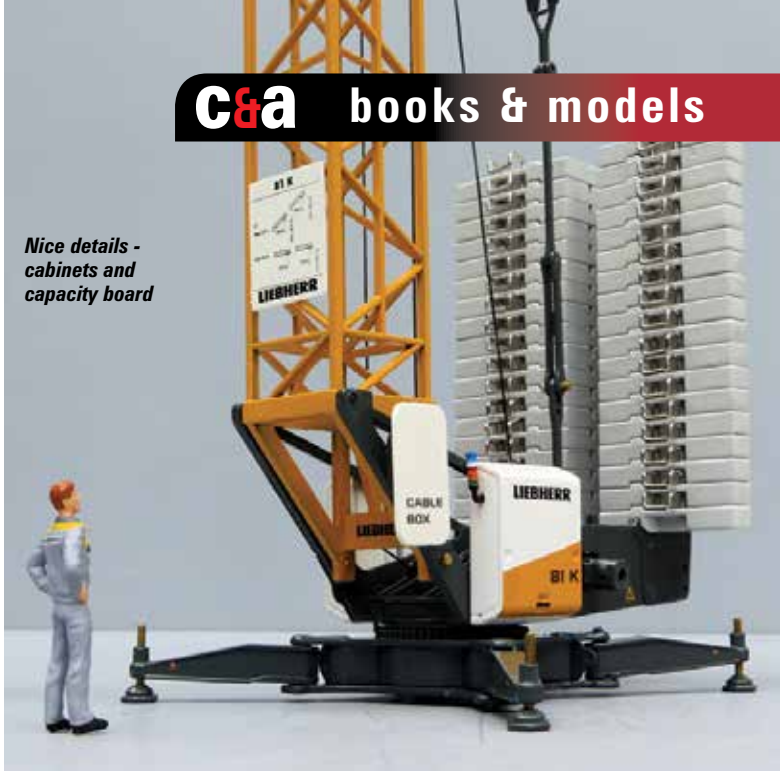
The crane slews and the trolley can be positioned anywhere along the jib by hand. The hook can be raised and lowered using a key in the winch drum although it works best with a small load on it.

The 81K is an interesting and complex crane and this is a reasonable effort by NZG to model it. Fully erected this is a large and impressive model - 600mm high overall and nearly a metre end-to-end. It can be folded up with care, although there are no transport axles in this version of the model. It is good value at around 135.

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

Cranes Ect Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	25
Features (max 20)	15
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	79



Nice details - cabinets and capacity board



Lifting a panel



Mast raising system is modelled



Distinctive cab