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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

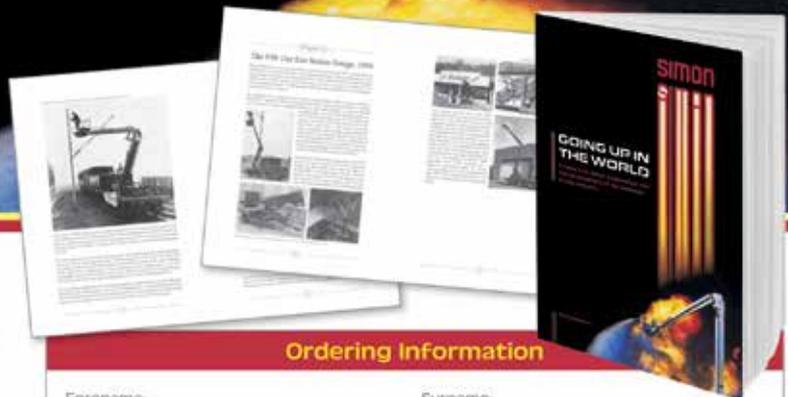
Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

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.

- Continental Europe €23 plus €6.50 postage & packing
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Wolff 7534.16 Clear

The Wolff 7534.16 Clear flat tower crane has a maximum jib length of 75 metres. This model of it is in 1:87 scale and is made by Conrad of Germany.

It comes in a high quality box with a very detailed instruction manual. The cross frame is a detailed casting with concrete coloured pads and large ballast blocks. The tower sections are very good with the fixing positions located at each corner like the real crane. Inside each section there are plastic ladders and platforms. Each tower section on the model is made up of two sections on the real crane.

The climbing frame is very robust, but the main jacking cylinder is modelled in metal as part of the main casting rather than being a separate component. The cab is very good considering the scale, and the cab platform also includes an equipment cabinet and metal handrails.

The counter jib has a very good structure with a mesh walkway, but the support bars are slightly overlong as the counter jib hangs a little low. The counterweight is made up of separate blocks and they can be individually secured in configurations to suit the chosen jib length.

The jib is excellent with a slight upward profile at the longest length. It is made up of separate sections just like the real crane, and the lattice work is fine quality with mesh walkways on the first section.

The trolley is a plastic part to keep the weight down and has metal sheaves. The hook block is nicely detailed and has a part to allow two or four fall operation.

The main feature of the model is its flexibility. The tower can be built in different heights, with or without the climbing frame, and all of the jib lengths of the real crane can be replicated, complete with the appropriate counterweight configuration. Parts can also be used as loads, and this includes a folding counter jib. The crane can also be accurately displayed during various stages of erection.

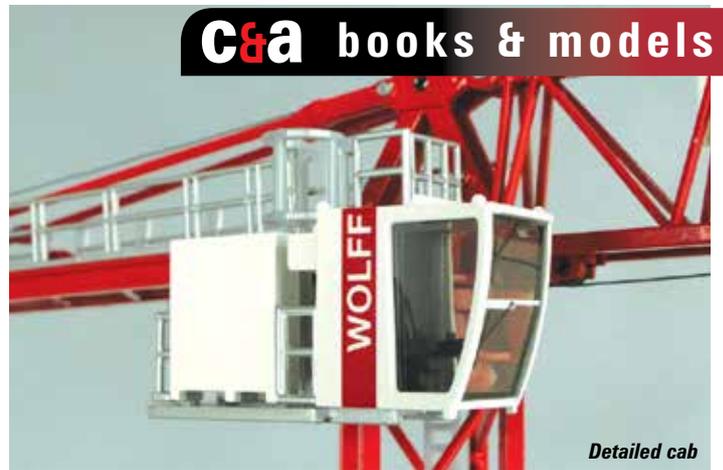
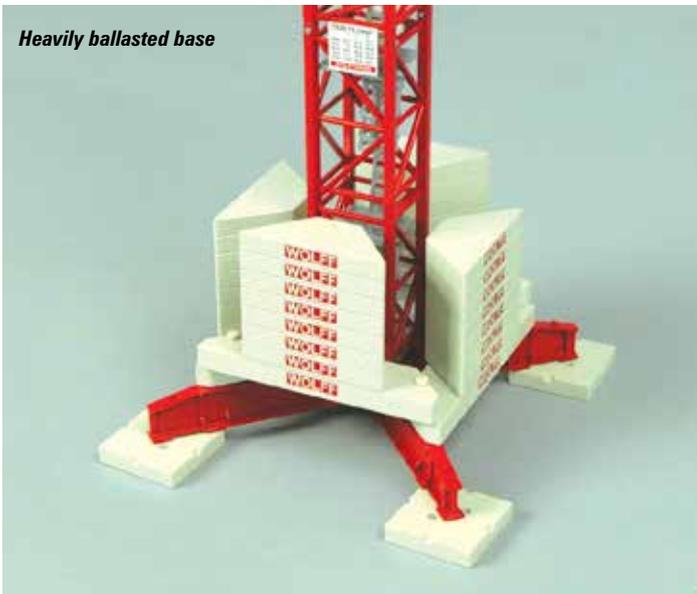
Overall this is an excellent tower crane model, and the variety of configuration options is terrific. Only the double height mast sections are a compromise compared to the real crane. It is available from Wolff for around €240.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	24
Features (max 20)	18
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	83%

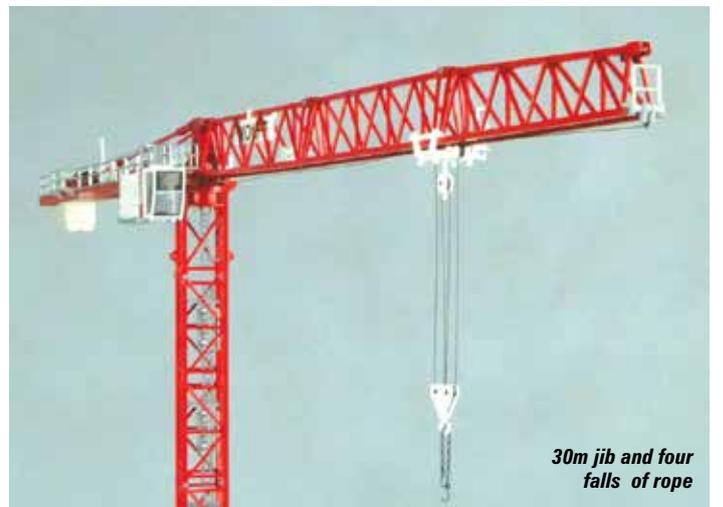
Heavily ballasted base



Detailed cab



The counter jib has separate counterweights



30m jib and four falls of rope



Full 75m jib