

# 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 MK 140

The Liebherr MK 140 mobile self-erecting tower crane is a five axle machine which can lift almost two tonnes at its maximum radius of 65 metres. The jib can be luffed up to 70 degrees to give a maximum lifting height of 94 metres.

This complex model of the MK 140 is made by WSI Models in 1:50 scale. A 24 page manual provides information about the real machine and many colour photos explain the assembly.

The underside of the carrier is very detailed, and each axle has working suspension and steering. The level of detailing on the rest of the chassis is very high and includes folding ladders and tiny warning graphics. The outriggers can be deployed, and four spreader plates are included.

The high standard of detailing continues on the crane superstructure, the winches are operated using a key, and the ballast is provided as three separate parts.

The tower is a three stage telescopic structure, with the cab rail fitted separately by hand as separate sections. At the top is a working cab winch which connects to the cab, which has a detailed interior just visible through the tinted windows.

The jib is metal throughout and for the first time on a model like this it is modelled in aluminium to reduce weight, compared to diecast metal. It is fully triangulated and is mechanically complex. The assembly ropes, cables and ties are made to tight tolerances to enable a decent jib profile. The trolley is plastic,

and a metal hook block goes with it. A single line metal block is also included for use in full luffing mode.

It is possible to pose the crane in the different phases of erection, although various hand manipulations are required.

The jib can be unfolded and either posed horizontal or luffed to other angles, just like the real crane. Extra jib sections enable the crane to have a full luffing mode with a 70 degree angle, and when displayed like this the model is nearly two metres high. The hooks can be raised and lowered, and the trolley is positioned by hand.

It is great to see Liebherr investing in a model of the very complex MK 140, and WSI has produced a very nice, highly detailed model. It is not really a model for a beginner, but time spent with it is rewarded with an outstanding model. It is available from the Liebherr web shop for €345.

To read the full review of this model visit [www.cranesetc.co.uk](http://www.cranesetc.co.uk)

### Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	27
Features (max 20)	17
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	84%



On the road



Erection poses can be simulated



Impressive full luffing jib



Cab elevated to the top



Very good jib profile