

# 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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# Raimondi MRT 234

The Raimondi MRT234 was introduced at the Intermat Exhibition earlier this year. It has a maximum jib length of 70 metres and can lift up to 12 tonnes, depending on configuration.

This model is by CGM Models of Italy and is to 1:87 scale. It is made of engineered plastic, with the metal parts limited to the counterweight and ballast blocks, as well as the sheaves and hook. The model reviewed was a pre-production version and no instructions were included, although assembly is straightforward.

The cruciform base has feet which were not perfectly level on the review model. The ballast blocks have metal inside, and there is some detail to represent layers of concrete counterweight blocks.

The tower sections are made up of 10 realistic length sections which are the same as the real crane. Plastic ladder sections and platforms are included, although the ladders are vertical rather than angled. The mast sections join together using small screws, and they provide a robust connection.

Detail at the cab level is very good, and inside, the seat has joystick controls. Behind the cab there are hand rails and an electrical cabinet.

The counter jib has a detailed structure, and it looks realistic. It is integral with the tower head, but can be separated from the slew ring. The Raimondi name board looks good.

The jib is very straight and looks realistic. A plastic trolley motor adds detail, and the trolley can accommodate two falls of rope only. The hook block is metal

and there is not enough rope on the drum to allow the hook to be posed much lower than approximately half height.

The model can be posed at a variety of heights, and with the jib, trolley and hook in different positions, but there is too much friction in the model for the hoist to work smoothly. Having said that, although the model is almost all plastic, it looks very convincing. It is expected to cost €139 Euro when released.

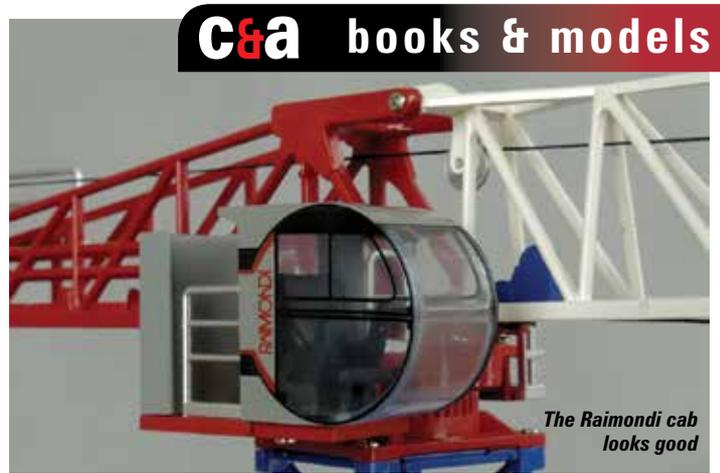
If any manufacturer would like some advice on getting a model made for promotional or merchandising purposes, please contact [CranesEtc@gmail.com](mailto:CranesEtc@gmail.com).

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

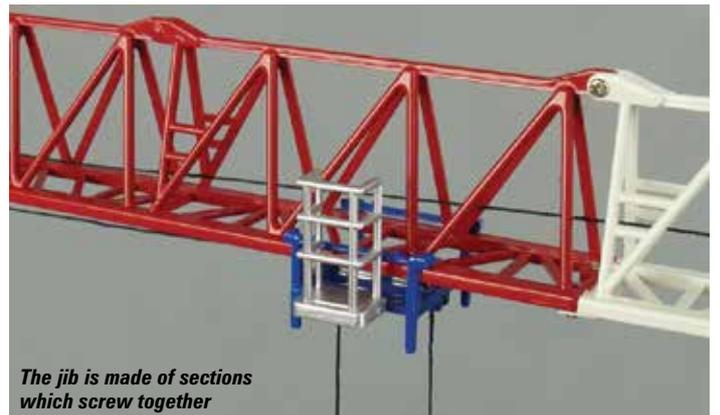
| Cranes Etc Model Rating |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Packaging (max 10)      | 6   |
| Detail (max 30)         | 18  |
| Features (max 20)       | 13  |
| Quality (max 25)        | 18  |
| Price (max 15)          | 10  |
| Overall (max 100)       | 65% |



*Tower sections have rigid screw connections*



*The Raimondi cab looks good*



*The jib is made of sections which screw together*



*Geometry is very good*



*Convincing on the skyline*