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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**

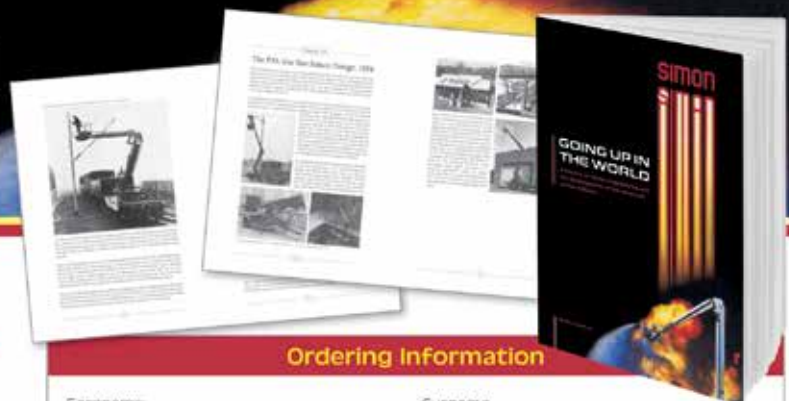
Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

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.

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# Jaso J560 tower crane

The Jaso J560 is a flat top tower crane with a maximum capacity of 24 tonnes and a jib length of up to 85 metres. This model - in 1/87 scale and made by Ros of Italy - comes in a very long box with the model substantially assembled.

At the bottom the freestanding cruciform base is a detailed casting which can be screwed to a plastic stand plate. Four solid ballast blocks assist the stability of the model. The tower sections are modelled in the correct length and are screwed together. The lattice work is good although the end connections are a little bulbous. The ladders and rest platforms inside the tower sections are plastic and are a bit thick for the scale.

The entire upper structure/top kit is one piece out of the box, although it is made up of screwed together parts. The cab has thin wipers and window seals and inside there is a seat and controls. The handrails are metal, but overly thick.

The jib is excellent with a very straight profile, and only the down stand connections between jib sections impact on the realism. It is made up of full lattice work on all sides and includes a modelled trolley motor and some tiny brass sheaves are used to guide ropes. The support ties are metal.

The counter jib has large Jaso sign boards and the hoist winch and cabinets are modelled. Solid ballast blocks sit at the back.

The metal trolley can be moved by turning a knob although the

mechanism is very stiff. The hook block is metal with brass sheaves and the hoist winch works well by turning a knob. A plastic concrete skip is provided for use as a load and it provides some helpful weight when using the hoist winch.

The model has been made up of realistic sections which are screwed together, so different configurations are possible, or realistic transport loads could be formed. However, the tie supports are riveted which is a pity. To change, the jib length would require significant work to adjust the trolley rope system.

It is good to see Jaso introduce its first tower crane scale model and the potential configurability is a plus point. It is a nice quality, robust model, with a high metal content. It costs €250 direct from Jaso.

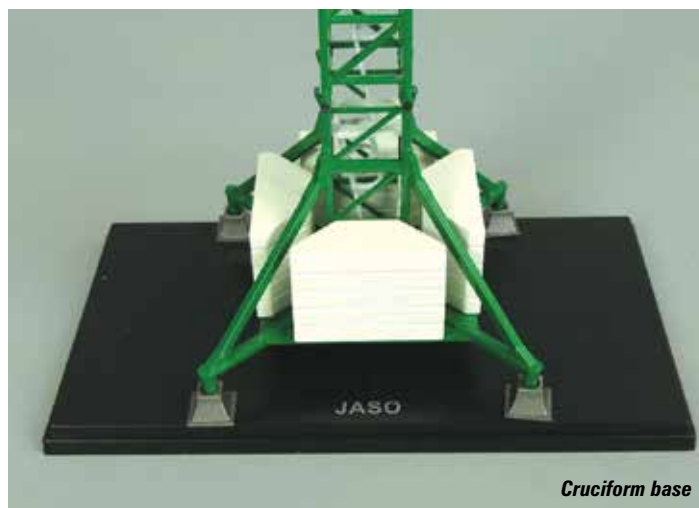
To read the full review of this model visit [www.cranesetc.co.uk](http://www.cranesetc.co.uk)

## Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	7
Detail (max 30)	23
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	8
Overall (max 100)	75%



Realistic on the skyline



Cruciform base



Very straight jib



Cab detail



Detailed counter jib