

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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XCMG XCA1200

The XCMG XCA1200 is a 1,200 tonne capacity, eight axle All Terrain crane aimed particularly at wind turbine erection applications. This model is made by Yagao in 1:50 scale.

The model comes with an instruction sheet, but it is not the best and a novice collector may have some difficulties. Out of the box it is a large and heavy model, and the details are really good. The chassis has independent steering on each axle and the tyres have branding on the sidewalls.

The carrier cab features opening doors and there are two removable magnetised covers on the engine deck which reveal engine detail underneath. Fine mesh grilles and tiny graphics add detail.

The outrigger beams are metal and the pads and transverse beams are nicely shaped. The pads include magnets to stick them to the transverse beams, and metal spreader plates are included.

The crane cab has a sliding door and it rotates from the transport position and tilts a little. The counterweight is made up of nicely shaped blocks with useable lifting eyes, and each has the weight indicated by graphics.

The heavy boom has some nice details including spooling drums and sharp graphics. It is removable for road travel and support legs are modelled which allow the boom to unload itself from a transport trailer and for installation on the crane. The boom raises easily and is held in place by tightening grub screws in the lift cylinder jackets and this works well. The sections pull out smoothly and lock at full extension with three locking positions provided for each section at around 50, 90 and 100 percent. Superlift arms are included and these can be attached and utilised as an option, and they tension up well.

The heavy lattice extension/jib is made up of separate bolted sections so the configuration could be altered. The metal lattice work is particularly good and there are fine quality mesh walkways. The model can be posed with the extension folded down on top of the main boom for transporting between on-site locations.

Three metal hook blocks are supplied, and they are very good quality. The main winch has a positive brake action and performs well.

Overall, this model has a high metal content with little plastic used and is an impressively large mobile crane model from Yagao. It is a good blend of detail with many functional parts, not flawless but most collectors will be pleased with it on display. It is distributed in Europe by NZG Models and costs around €499

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	5
Detail (max 30)	27
Features (max 20)	19
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	84%



Jib and superlift in service



Opening cab doors



Boom being attached



Poses wheels free



Rigged for an on-site move