

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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Edilgru MH 1000-30/32

Edilgru is an Italian manufacturer of self-erecting tower cranes. CGM Models of Italy has produced this 1:50 scale model which is substantially made of high quality plastic, rather than being diecast. It comes in an Edilgru branded box, but there are no instructions included, which is a pity as they would be helpful.

The crane can be displayed in transport configuration with a suitable truck, and the axles have detailed wheels. The ballast trays fold down from the transport position. The outrigger beams have adjustable pads with visible screw threads and the plastic construction of the model helps the stability.

There is an equipment cabinet and the motors for the winch and slewing are modelled. The counterweight blocks are solid rather than segmented, and they are filled with metal to add weight. The lattice tower looks convincing and has detailed capacity boards. There is some precise model engineering with support cables accurately modelled for length.

The jib looks realistic with full triangulation of the lattice on all sides, and the use of plastic improves the stability of the model. The crane can be erected with the jib set at various lengths as many sections are connected by screws. There is also an Edilgru sign board.

The trolley and hook are plastic with

tiny metal wheels. The trolley can be positioned anywhere along the jib by hand. The rope used on the model is relatively thick so weight is needed on the hook for it to hang realistically.

The hoist can be operated using a supplied key, with little friction on the drum. A load is required on the hook to operate the winch successfully.

There is enough rope to fully lower the hook.

This is an almost entirely plastic model, although the engineering plastic used is high quality, and there are detailed graphics. CGM has made a good looking model of this Edilgru crane. It is available from the ModelMarris webshop for around €199.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	6
Detail (max 30)	22
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	10
Overall (max 100)	74%



On the road



Adding a jib section



Fully erected



Jib profile is very good

Cabinet and ballast