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XCMG XCA 230

The XCMG XCA 230 is a five axle All Terrain crane with a capacity of 230 tonnes. This 1:50 scale model is from XCMG's preferred model supplier, Yagao, and tools are provided to help with the assembly and operation of the model, but no instructions are included.

The chassis is detailed and all axles steer independently and have sprung suspension. The carrier cab has nice interior detail which is visible because the cab doors can be opened. Behind the cab the engine area has nice fine mesh grilles, and tiny graphics add detail along the carrier sides.

The outrigger beams are metal with separate pads, but the model engineering is unusual as the outriggers are not load bearing, which is a disappointment. Metal spreader plates are included.

The crane cab is very good as it tilts and has a sliding door. The crane superstructure is well detailed

with graphics, metal platforms and handrails. The counterweight is made of separate parts, so it is configurable, although care is needed during display as the counterweight hangs but is not locked when fitted. The winch drums have good quality rope, but there are no hydraulic hoses running to the motors.

The boom is detailed with spooling drums, sharp graphics, and metal sheaves. The boom raises easily and is locked by tightening grub screws in the lift cylinder jacket and this works well. The telescopic sections pull out smoothly but lock at full extension only.

The bi fold swingaway extension is very good, but surprisingly there are no brackets on the side of the boom to stow it in transport mode, but this may reflect the real crane. It is luffing so it can be set at variable offset angles using a reasonably stiff hydraulic cylinder. Two nice metal hook blocks are supplied.

Overall, this is a well made crane model which looks good. However, in terms of functionality it is odd that the outriggers are not load bearing. It is not easy to find but can ordered direct from China for around \$180.

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

Swingaway extension fitted



On the road



Opening carrier cab door



Nice carrier deck detailing



Fully loaded counterweight

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	7
Detail (max 30)	27
Features (max 20)	14
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	80%

Northwest picture book volume 3

This is the final book in a series of three covering Northwest Engineering Company – the crane and excavator manufacturer that was established in 1918, and which petered out in 1990 having provided the foundations for the current Terex Cranes business in 1986.

The book by Mathew E. Folsom and Mario Torres is characterised as 'A photographic Archive Collection' and covers the final days of the company and its premises along with series two machines and hydraulic and experimental models from 1967 to 1990. Unlike volume two, this book has a strong lift crane content, with a wealth of old photographs, and while it is dubbed as a picture book, it actually contains a wealth

of documented information, with a particular focus on the engineering side of the business, clearly with an abundance of inside knowledge. The authors carried out extensive research speaking to dozens of ex Northwest employees.

The book highlights the company's resistance to making the move from traditional cable excavators to hydraulic machines is a classic example of how the big names of the American crane and excavator industry lost their market dominance and vanished almost without trace. During the period covered Northwest did finally move into Hydraulics for both its excavators and cranes, but it was coming from behind and never managed to catch up.

This book provides a fascinating

insight into what proved to be a critical period in the development of cranes and excavators, which saw customer loyalty switch from the long established, all powerful names like American Hoist & Derrick, Lorain, Koehring, Northwest, Bucyrus Erie and P&H/Harnischfeger - many of which ended up as brands within Terex – to upstarts like Grove Manufacturing. It managed to go from a regional farm trailer manufacturer to market leading

crane manufacture in a little over a decade, as the giants of the industry failed to adequately respond to changing market. If the history of the crane industry interests you, especially North American manufacturers then this book is a must have.

It is published by Buffalo Road Imports and can be purchased on Amazon, from the Historical Construction Equipment Association for \$54.95.



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

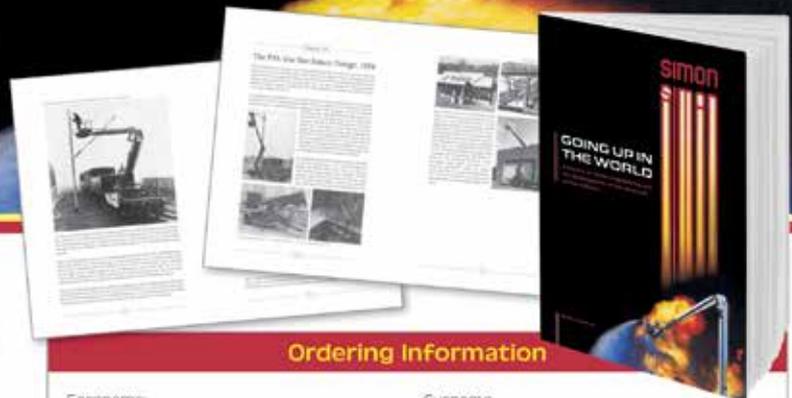
Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

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.

- Continental Europe €23 plus €6.50 postage & packing
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