

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 XGC260 crawler crane

The XCMG XGC260 is a 260 tonne capacity crawler crane, which has been modelled by Yagao in the unusual small scale of 1:120. It is fully assembled out of the box, although the reeving of the main hook block was changed for the review to a two fall configuration.

The small tracks are metal with good detailing, and they roll very well. The carbody ballast blocks - between the track frames have graphics applied. The crane cab has grab rails and hand rails, which look too thick for the scale. The cab rotates from the transport position into its working position.

The crane superstructure has ladders on each side, and the counterweight stacks are one piece, but they look surprisingly good for their size. On one side of the superstructure there is a winding handle to operate the winch.

The gantry looks right although the reeving of it is weird and does not appear to represent the real machine. Brass sheave blocks are used.

The boom and jib are fully modelled lattice structures, although the thickness of the lattice chords detracts from the look somewhat. Walkways are represented by grey plates and there are signs attached. Hydraulic cylinders are modelled, but again they look over large on the model.

The winch drums are brass, as are the sheave blocks at the boom and jib heads. There seems to be one extra set of sheaves at the top of the jib and the luffing pendant ropes are glued to it. Two metal hook blocks are supplied. They have fixed sheaves, but nice graphics.

The boom and jib luffing mechanisms are non-functional, although the jib angle can be altered by hand and a different angle could be

set with the pendant rope lengths adjusted to suit.

The main winch works well and is operated by the handle. It is possible to operate the secondary winch also, but it has no friction to hold it.

This model has a high metal content given its very small size, and the quality level is fine overall. Inevitably there are compromises, but it would suit anyone looking for a smaller sized heavy crane model. It costs \$96 from China with shipping costs on top.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	7
Detail (max 30)	22
Features (max 20)	12
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	73%



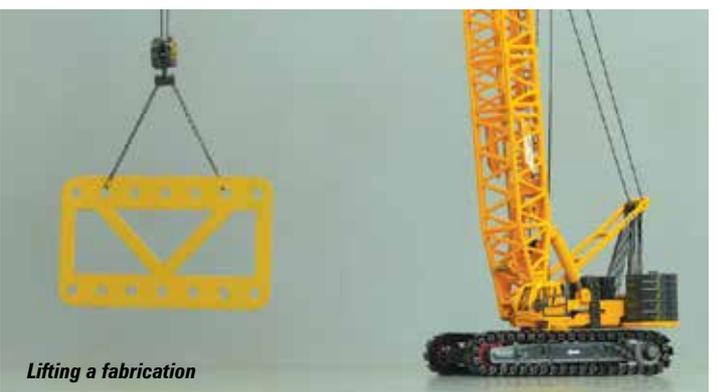
Good detail in very small scale



Reeving of the luffing gantry is odd



Nice geometry



Lifting a fabrication



A large crane in very small scale