

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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*As a transport load**Self-assembly in progress**Realistic profile**Tilting cab*

TADANO GTC-1800EX /GTC-2000

The real version of the 180 tonne Tadano GTC-2000 - 200 US ton - telescopic crawler crane, the GTC-1800EX internationally, made its debut at Bauma 2019 in Demag colours and has now been modelled by IMC in 1:50 scale. It comes in a Tadano branded box complete with an excellent manual and good quality tools.

The metal tracks are fine quality and roll freely. They are mounted on extendible track frames, and the walkways telescope accordingly. It is also possible to remove the track frames to create transport loads. Four hydraulic jacks can be used to self-assemble the crane, and two metal carbody ballast boxes fit between the track frames.

The standard of detailing is high with small warning sign graphics giving a realistic appearance. The cab tilts to a good angle and a walkway extends out from under the cab.

The main boom lift cylinder has a metal barrel, and a grub screw can be tightened to lock the cylinder in an extended position. The profile of the telescopic boom is very good with inner sections having a two colour finish. Telescoping is smooth

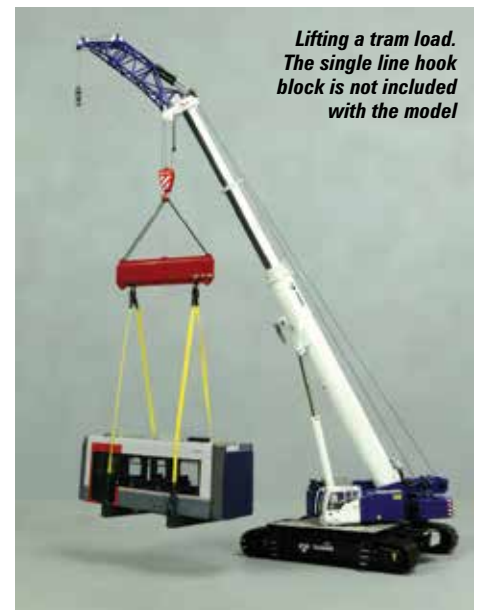
and easy with a spring clip to lock each boom section at 45 percent or in the fully extended position.

A key is used to operate the winches. They are spring loaded with decent brakes, and winch motors are supplied as separate parts which can be plugged into the winch key holes so the model looks accurate.

The swingaway extension is metal with the luffing cylinders having plastic barrels. It can be carried on the side of the boom or fitted for use. In service, the extension offset angle can be altered by using the luffing cylinders which are stiff to operate.

A single metal three sheave hook block is included, and it is good. However, the model really needs a separate smaller hook to complement the extension.

In summary, this model is of a very good quality with a high metal content. The use of plastic is appropriate and executed well. A second hook block for use with the jib extension would be a welcome addition. It costs €229 at European dealers.

*Lifting a tram load. The single line hook block is not included with the model*

CRANES ETC MODEL RATING

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	26
Features (max 20)	18
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	85%

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