

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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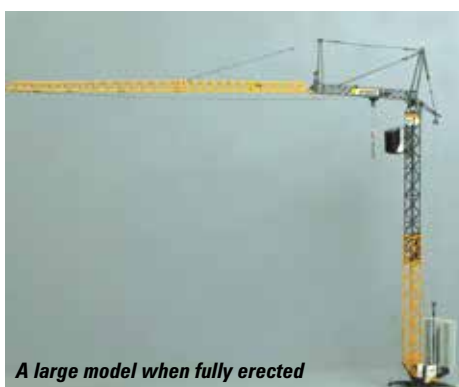
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(truck is not included)*



Detailed cabinets



A large model when fully erected



*Optional
cab attached*

LIEBHERR 81 K.1

The Liebherr 81 K.1 self-erecting tower crane has a maximum capacity of six tonnes and a maximum radius of 48 metres. This 1:50 scale model is by NZG. An instruction sheet is provided which is in both English and German, but it is a complex model to assemble.

The crane can be folded with care, and a tie needs to be used to keep the folded jib in position. Two transport dollies can be attached to the crane and it looks very good in a transport configuration.

The base of the 81 K.1 has metal outriggers with simple screw thread pads, while metal spreader plates are included. The equipment cabinets are metal and nicely decorated, and the two winches are modelled well but an excess of rope hinders performance.

The counterweight is a complete metal block with the Liebherr name embossed, while step irons add detail. An extra four slabs are modelled to help improve the model's stability.

The tower or mast sections are a good metal casting. The rope operated mast raising system is

modelled with small sheaves and increasing the tower height using the winch is implemented, and it works well enough.

The cab is a separate part, complete with access platform, and it has heavily tinted windows. It can be fitted or left off, but it is a pity it does not have a lifting point so that self-assembly can be posed.

The complex jib consists of three main metal sections, the geometry and profile of the erected jib is very good. The suspension cables and rods are high quality. The trolley can be positioned anywhere along the jib by hand and the hook can be raised and lowered, but it helps to have some load on it. A short length of lifting chain is also included. The model is quite large when fully erected, and optionally the pinned end of the jib can be removed.

The 81 K.1 is an interesting and complex crane, although some modelling compromises mean some of the functionality of the real crane could not be implemented. Although it is not really a model for a beginner, it certainly is impressive and costs around €235 from the Liebherr web shop.



Stacked counter-weight has step irons

CRANES ETC MODEL RATING

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	25
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	19
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	79%

To see the full review, including a full unpacking and set up video, visit www.cranesetc.co.uk