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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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A very small machine



Travelling with a load on the fixed hook



Size comparison with the Cranes Etc boss



Nice details

JEKKO SPX328

The Jekko SPX328 is a spider crane designed for carrying out lifts in tight spaces and is often used to install cladding and glass in commercial developments. It is battery powered and offers a maximum lift capacity of 2.8 tonnes with a maximum lift height of 12.8m.

This scale model has been produced by IMC Models in 1:18 scale and includes a simple instruction card and a key to operate the winch.

The underside is simple and the rubber tracks have a nice tread pattern and are in the standard black colour of the real machine. The rubber tracks can be rolled by hand, but they are very stiff.

The outriggers are metal apart from the hydraulic cylinder barrels. Each one is individually numbered and there are sharp chevron graphics. The twin element outrigger legs can be folded out and each one set at either of two angles and pinned into place. The lower leg section can also be set at one of two angles and includes a telescopic section which locks into place when extended or retracted. The jack cylinders are very stiff so that the crane can be supported with the tracks off the ground.

The body panels are nicely detailed with sharp graphics and black highlighting of details such as handles and hinges. There is a beacon light column with painted lights.

The boom includes the winch option of the real crane. The boom sections are metal with thin walls and the boom lift cylinders are stiff enough to hold any pose. Telescoping the boom is smooth and easy with a spring clip to lock each boom section at its maximum extension.

The boom nose includes a fixed hook which can be locked out of service, and twin sheaves for a hook block. A separate single line hook block is included for use with the winch which is operated by a key and has a friction brake.

It is good to see a high quality model of a mini/spider crane and IMC Models have made a very nice job of it. The main plus point is the flexibility of the various configuration options. It costs €200 including VAT and can be obtained by contacting marketing@jekko.it.



Full boom on maximum outriggers

CRANES ETC MODEL RATING

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	24
Features (max 20)	17
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	9
Overall (max 100)	79%

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