

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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Good transport load



Ground pressure reduction plate



During self-assembly



Lifting a bridge beam on the main boom

LIEBHERR LR 1400 SX

The Liebherr LR 1400 SX is a 400 tonne crawler crane, the model of the crane was presented at this year's Bauma. Made by WSI Models, it is 1:50 scale and comes in high quality packaging with an extensive build manual. Tools are supplied to assemble and operate the model.

The track frames are very detailed and can be detached from the carbody for display as transport loads. The tracks can also be retracted to reduce the crane's overall operating width. Self-assembly jacks can be used to support the crane for offloading and set up, and ground bearing pressure reduction plates can be installed or left off, and the jacks can be operated.

Detailing of the cab and crane is to a very high standard. There are many tiny graphics, and the winches include motors and hydraulic hoses. Metal handrails and excellent mesh walkways are used throughout. The operator's cab can also be tilted to a good angle.

The counterweight installation cylinders and chains are modelled well, and the lift mechanism works and can be posed. Counterweight lashing can be fitted, although in practice it is extremely fiddly to fit, very fragile and easily dislodged.

The A-frame has a self-erection cylinder, and all the sheaves on the model are white plastic. The

lattice boom and jib sections are metal and of a high quality, with very nice mesh walkways. They are connected using tiny brass nuts and bolts, which are effective.

All winches are operated by a key. They have positive brakes which are released by pushing in against a spring. The two hook blocks are very good metal parts with rotating hooks and working safety latches and also included are a set of lifting chains.

The model is flexible, and a number of different configurations are possible. Out of the box, the boom butt section is already attached and it can be removed to make good transport loads, but it is not easy to remove the connecting pins.

Overall, this is a highly detailed and authentic model of the LR 1400 SX. It is very well made and of a high quality, with a very high metal content. It is large and impressive and offers display flexibility. It costs €754 +VAT from the Liebherr Store: <https://www.liebherr.com/liebherrshop>.



Full configuration

CRANES ETC MODEL RATING

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	29
Features (max 20)	18
Quality (max 25)	23
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	90%

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