

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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Produced in 1:50 scale, the new Zoomlion R370-20RB flat top is an impressive tower crane model



The model comes in a large Zoomlion branded box complete with carrying handle



The base is well stabilised by 12 solid metal ballast weights

ZOOMLION R370-20RB

Zoomlion has launched a brand new 1:50 scale model of one of its larger flat top tower cranes, the R370-20RB. Nick Johnson has one and reports.



Complete with prominent Zoomlion lettering, the counter jib even includes a lifting davit

Due to the large size of the real machines, scale models of top slewing tower cranes are almost exclusively made in the smaller 1:87 scale, while the larger 1:50 scale is used for most other crane models.

Until now, the only mass produced, top slewing tower crane models in 1:50 scale have been a Liebherr 630 EC-H 40 by Conrad and a Potain MDT178 by TWH. Both were released in 2008 and are now difficult to obtain. So many model collectors will welcome Zoomlion's decision to go with 1:50 for this big crane. The real machine has a maximum capacity of 20 tonnes, an 80 metre jib and a maximum freestanding height of 64.3 metres.

To keep the model manageable Zoomlion has produced it with a 50 metre jib. Even with this reduced configuration, it is still impressive, standing 1.32 metres high and measuring 1.45 metres across the combined length of its jib and counter jib.

The model comes in a large Zoomlion branded box with a carrying handle. The parts inside are all well protected in two polystyrene trays, and there is a 12 page illustrated booklet with parts list and good assembly diagrams.

A 230mm square base with 12 ballast weights provides good stability. The heavy slabs are aluminium coloured rather than being painted to look like concrete.

The sturdy aluminium coloured tower sections are very well modelled in metal, with their internal ladders and safety cages replicated in plastic. Some sections are already connected together in the box, whilst the others need to be connected with very small, discreet screws using the

supplied screwdriver and Allen key.

A well-detailed external climbing frame in Zoomlion's distinctive lime green colour features all the appropriate working platforms and safety rails. A monorail beam and trolley system is also included, but there is no connector to allow the installation of a new mast section to be posed.

The lime green jib sections are connected with the discreet screws, and the assembled jib is nice and straight. The counter jib detailing includes a lifting davit and prominent Zoomlion logos on each side. There are seven individual counterweight slabs, each with a central lifting eye, and they each locate securely into the counter jib. Removable keys are provided to operate the hoist and trolley winches.

Each side of the counter jib carries the R370-20RB crane designation, plus rather surprisingly, a 1:50 logo indicating the scale of the model. Some collectors may want to paint that out in order to make it look more like the real crane.

The four fall, double hook is modelled as a single piece, which means it cannot be split to replicate two fall working. Surprisingly, the hook throat is too small for the use of scaled chains or a



The external climbing frame has the full complement of access platforms and safety rails

concrete skip. However, it can be widened with the careful use of a small file.

Overall, this is an impressive 1:50 scale model which will provide a dramatic addition to any model crane collection. I hope Zoomlion will make it more readily available - especially in countries where the real machine is not yet sold.