

# Mobile Magic

At Bauma last year, two prototype models were shown of All Terrain carrier mounted construction cranes. One was the Spierings SK599 and the other is the model reviewed here, the Liebherr MK100 made in 1:50 scale by Conrad of Germany. The mechanical connections within the real crane are highly complex in order to allow it to fold for transport and this presents a challenge to model at small scale.



Rear view

A good instruction leaflet is supplied with the crane with very clear pictures. This assists the assembly process which takes over an hour including the stringing up of various hoists. A CD is also included which has a selection of good photos, a screensaver and technical datasheets and hopefully more models will have this feature in the future.

The MK100 is to the usual standard of detail for Conrad which is generally very good, if perhaps not to the standard of models currently produced by some competitors in China. Overall there is relatively little use of plastic except for the outrigger beams, which fortunately are tough enough to support the model, and a

short section of the jib which is telescopic and where plastic keeps the weight down.

The mast of the crane is a three section telescopic to which metal ladder rails clip on the side to permit the operating cab to elevate smoothly and this is a working feature



This is a complex model

of the model. The jib is complicated because of its folding nature and Conrad has done a good job here with the lattice work. Particularly impressive are the various connecting pendants and wires which have all been made to very good tolerances to ensure that the jib is straight and that there are no sagging parts lacking tension.



Flying the flag



Tightly packed for transport

Extended to the max

The crane looks very impressive both in transport mode and when displayed in working configuration. In fact the model is large when erected, being over 800mm high, when the jib is horizontal, and around 1,160mm long from jib tip to counterweight, so a lot of space is needed to display it to its best advantage.

## Summary

This is a complex model and Conrad has been up to the task of producing a pretty faithful representation of the real crane. There are a few areas where perhaps

the model making boundary could have been pushed a little further but overall it is very good value at around €225 and is recommended.

To read the full review of this model visit [www.cranesetc.co.uk](http://www.cranesetc.co.uk)

## Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	23
Features (max 20)	15
Quality (max 25)	19
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	77%

## New boom from Aichi

Aichi has produced a new 1/32 scale model of its new SP14CJ telescopic boomlift to coincide with the launch of the real thing. See news section for more details.

This model does not compare with the highly detailed reproductions turned out by NZG or Conrad or the 1/32 and larger scale models that JLG has made in China.

The SP14CJ does not pretend to be such a fully accurate miniature of the original, but neither can it be dismissed as a mere toy for children, it is perhaps a hybrid. While it might lack some of the details found on many models these days, such as opening machinery chests and



operational oscillating axles, it is overall accurate and well made. The inner boom sections though are made from plastic and appear to be far slimmer than the real thing, while the jib pivot pins are clearly oversized as are the platform guardrails.

In spite of these criticisms and its slightly odd scale, collectors will almost certainly want to add it to their collections. Aichi has not yet released any details of how much the new model will cost or where you can order them.

