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40 Years a Salesman

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Gottwald in Lego

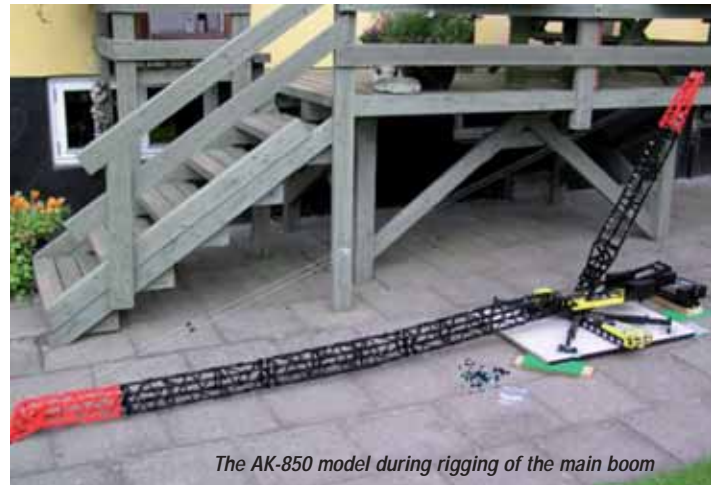
Since this is the heavy lift issue it seemed appropriate to look at models of big cranes. Spurred on by information provided by three of our readers we were very surprised to find three model enthusiasts around Europe that have built highly detailed scale models of the 1,200 tonne Gottwald AK912, lattice truck crane using standard Lego materials.



The AK850 fully erected with builder Anders Gaasedal

Sadly in spite of several attempts we were not able to speak directly with them prior to publication. However we did manage to see the fruits of their labours and it is highly impressive. We thought therefore that in this issue we would give you a glimpse of two of them.

The most impressive has to be the crane built by 27 year old Anders Gaasedal from Northern Zealand in Denmark. His attention to detail is spectacular. The working model stands nearly six metres tall when



The AK-850 model during rigging of the main boom



The AK912 model built by Stephen Lane of Birmingham

fully rigged and is based on the Gottwald AK850-1 owned by Schmidbauer which was modified into the AK912.

Also very impressive was the model built by Stephen Robert Lane, from the Birmingham area. His AK912 is based on the machine previously

owned by Baldwins Heavy Lift and is painted in its livery.

If you would like to see more of these models in the magazine, please write and tell us and we will dedicate more space to them in future editions.

In the meantime you can learn more about the Gottwalds on-line:

Anders Gaasedal:

www.gaasedal.dk

Steve Lane:

<http://members.aol.com/steveroblane/navpage.htm>

Big Green with all the options

The Merlo Roto 40.25 scale model is big and follows the recent trend for a larger scale than the old 50:1. While the scale is not mentioned on the box, it appears to be 1:32, a scale increasingly adopted for telehandler models.

The larger scale does allow for additional detailing and the Merlo has that in abundance, with an opening engine compartment, a tilting cab and even working spring suspension! Possibly a first on a telehandler model?

The fully extended five section boom is long and heavy, so a small pin is provided to lock the lift cylinders should you wish to display it in the extended position.

The model has four wheel spring suspension.



The Merlo is fully equipped with forks, work platform and jib, even its own pallet

The model also comes fully equipped, not only with the optional crane jib and work platform, but also



Attention to detail is excellent.

with its own wooden pallet to go on the forks. All in all this is an excellent model. It can be ordered from the parts department of Merlo dealers for £35, you will also find it in a few specialist model shops.

UK plant hire analysis

Catherine Stratton has published the 14th edition of her plant hire investment report, which takes a detailed look at 75 of the largest rental companies in the UK. This year's edition was probably one of the hardest to prepare, given the significant developments in the market, with consolidation and changes of ownership as it was being compiled. In spite of this Stratton manages to keep it bang up to date in the extensive commentary that makes up a good half of the book's 128 pages, all of which are packed full of information.

Stratton uses her many years of experience to add valuable information and insight into each company and to annotate the results. The report as usual contains numerous charts, including benchmark comparisons of a number of financial measures, such as profits and revenues as a percentage of book values and revenue per employee.

As the information is gleaned from publicly filed accounts, there are invariably some discrepancies, but Stratton rarely misses a trick and highlights them clearly. (Unlike others who use such information via computer generated comparisons to produce garbage.) If you have any interest in looking at the UK rental industry this is the book to buy.

The report is available at a special price of £399 to CPA members and readers of Cranes&Access.

It can be ordered on www.phir.co.uk or directly from Catherine Stratton on CathEstrat@aol.com Tel:01865 741116



Catherine Stratton's latest tome