

New Grove models

The line up of Grove model cranes has expanded significantly in recent years and this is largely as a result of the partnership with the model maker TWH Collectibles of Wisconsin. Two new models have just appeared and these are the most detailed yet. They are the four axle GMK 4100L and the five axle GMK 5095 both of which are 100 tonne capacity cranes.

The review models are in the colours of German crane hire company Wiesbauer and should be very collectible as only 150 of each model has been made in this livery. The colour scheme is also particularly striking, so they look beautiful.

The packaging of the models is very good and a reprint of the Grove product brochures is included which is a practice that we believe should be followed for all construction models. The instructions are also excellent consisting of another full colour brochure. There is a small amount of assembly of the models, but they are pretty much ready to display out of the box.

It is the level of detailing which sets these models apart from others. Underneath, there are brake lines running to each wheel, and the chassis also features full working suspension. The cabs on the carriers have very good mirrors, a beacon light and an antenna. Inside, the details continue with a fire extinguisher and seat belts visible. The carrier decks have good diamond plate surfacing and the GMK 5095 also features an opening equipment box. The outriggers are particularly good, with realistic jack cylinder rods connected to the pads. The crane superstructure on both models is a shared design and features a mass of hydraulic hosing running to the various motors and

cylinders. The operator's cab has excellent detailing and also tilts back to a similar angle to the real crane if required. The counterweights are removable by undoing a couple of screws and are made up of a number of plates so that self ballasting can be posed realistically. A further very good feature is that both models can be fitted with an optional second winch to provide a second hook for the swingaway extension.

Another good looking component of these models are the booms which are finely detailed with a couple of cable reels fitted, and the only slight modelling weakness is the collars on each boom section which are plastic and have a colour match that is very slightly off.



Excellent outriggers

A nice lattice swingaway boom extension attaches to the side of the boom for transport and can be attached to the boom head to provide extended reach. It also has a working offset mechanism allowing it to be posed at a variety of angles.

Overall the 4100L is the slightly better model as it appears a to be a little closer to the real crane in a couple of areas, but both models are strikingly good looking and make great display pieces. These are very high quality and rare models and this is reflected in the price which is around €300.

To read the full review of these models visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

Cranes Etc Model Rating

GMK 4100L	85%
GMK 5095	82%



Fly jib rigged in short formation



The GMK 4100L



The GMK 5095



Loading the counterweight



The makings of a fleet: the GMK 4100L and 5095

A view from the top

Ken Derry is a highly experienced crane and heavy equipment operator based in Chicago, Illinois. In his 30 year career, mostly with James McHugh Construction, he has worked from the depths of the city's deep tunnel project to a 400 metre perch high above the city operating its highest tower crane, on the Trump International Hotel and Tower. It was during this three year period that Derry took the fantastic photographs that make up his first book, Chicago - A view from the top.

As a keen and clearly highly accomplished photographer, Derry charts the period from the cranes initial erection through to the last skip of concrete poured and the erection of the building's antenna, all from the top of his beloved Liebherr crane. This is a beautiful book for both crane and photography lovers alike, not to mention anyone with a love of the 'Windy City'.



The book is short on words, with the occasional caption or poignant observational comment, the pictures say it all. From fantastic sunrises, to icy scenes, views of the city and candid pictures of iron workers in action, the book gives a unique view of life at the top of a high rise construction project. This is a superb piece of publishing, carefully and lovingly designed with a quality hard back binding. A book to dip into now and again it would make an excellent gift.

Chicago - A view from the top by Ken Derry is published by Spycrane publishing and can be ordered online from www.KenDerry.com for \$29.95.

The author and photographer Ken Derry on the back mast of his crane.



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Nationwide

T H WHITE

Contact: David Ottaway 01380 722381

Email: cranes@thwhite.co.uk

www.thwhite.co.uk

Nursted Road Devizes

Wilts SN10 3EA



Ireland



Church Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland

Tel: 086 2500 825 Mobile: 086 1042 787

Nationwide



Wharfedale Road, Euro Way Ind. Est. Bradford. BD4 6SL

Tel: 0870 017 0606

Web: www.atlascranes.co.uk

Nationwide



Hiab Ltd

Cargotec Industrial Park, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9JW

Tel: 01691 626427 Fax: 01691 626472

e-mail: training.uk@hiab.com • Web: www.hiab.co.uk

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