

Feisty Faun

The Tadano Faun HK 70 is a crane mounted on a five axle 10x4 Mercedes Actros truck chassis. It has a maximum lifting capacity of 70 tonnes with a maximum tip height of 61 metres with the lattice bi-fold swingaway extension fitted. This new model is made by WSI Collectibles and the review version is in the colours of the Dutch rental company Mammoet.

The truck chassis is very detailed and has fully working steering. Viewed underneath, the suspension and transmission are reproduced to a high standard. The wheels are nicely modelled with treaded tyres on detailed hubs, with the fifth axle having larger diameter tyres.

The Actros cab looks great with detailed lights and door mirrors, and it tilts forward to reveal the engine. Detail behind the cab includes a very good perforated exhaust and diamond checker plate covers the deck surface. The outriggers jacks are particularly good with dual rods and adjustable pads which are pinned. A set of plastic spreader plates are also included.

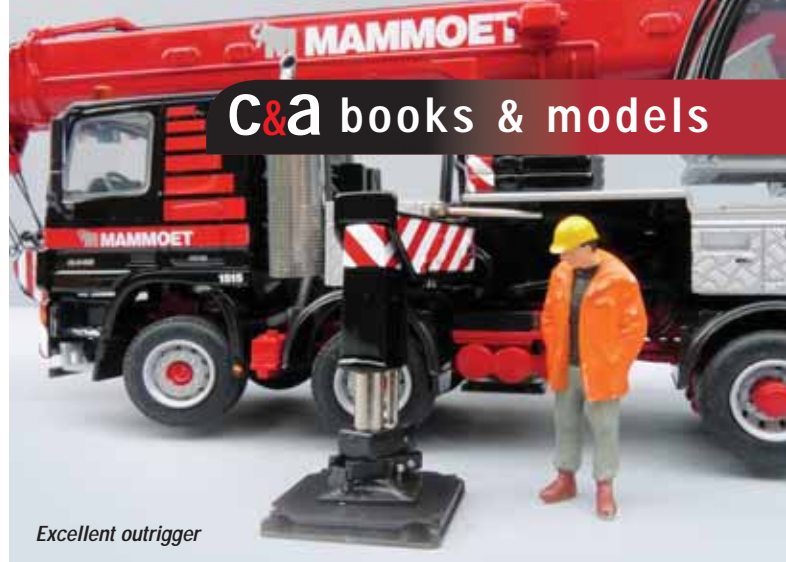
Detail on the crane superstructure is excellent with a mass of hydraulic cabling running to the various motors and cylinders, while the counterweight is made up of five plates like the real crane. It is detachable and can be either stowed on the carrier deck or attached to the superstructure in its working position. The crane engine has also been modelled and this is revealed by lifting two opening panels.

Setting up to lift



Chassis detail is great

Excellent outrigger



C&a books & models

over time so a small pin is provided to insert through a hole in the cylinder barrel to keep it propped up.

A twin sheave hook block is provided and the

tie off realistically fits on a pinned connector at the end of the boom. An anti two-block switch, chain and weight also hangs from the boom and adds to the detail. Also included as a display load is a metal ingot with 'Tadano Faun' on it.

This is a highly detailed model that looks impressive in the Mammoet livery. It is available from the Mammoet Store at €149.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	26
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	82%

Extension boom rigged



The five stage telescopic boom is metal and the base section has a metal spool, a pair of lights and supports for the boom extension. The boom sections lock into place when extended, and as the extension is pinned to the main boom side it does not fall off when the boom is raised.

The swingaway extension is metal, and it has a pop-out guide pulley and folding top section. It can be connected to the main boom by pins and the offset angle can be set although the cylinder used tends to bleed over time.

The crane functions work well with the hoist operated by a supplied key. The main boom cylinder is not particularly stiff and bleeds down



Ready for the road

UK rental market report

Catherine Stratton has published the 2009/2010 version of her annual UK Plant Hire Investment Report. The 130 page book is Stratton's 17th annual review of the UK equipment rental industry in which she charts the progress of the UK's leading five equipment companies.

The period covered in this year's publication, she says, is without question the most difficult encountered by the sector in the last two decades, if not ever.

In spite of the challenges that the industry has faced she notes that most companies have survived, albeit with some restructuring and rationalisation. She now predicts a period of consolidation, with private equity firms likely to be making the significant running.

As with some other reports on the rental industry, Stratton uses information filed by each company with Companies House as her base, but unlike most of the others, the results are compiled manually, cross checked and further information added. This approach allows Stratton to evaluate the numbers of each company compared to other information that the company might have published. She can, and does then follow up

where necessary using the contacts she has built up over the years with the senior management of many of the largest players. As a result she publishes candid and incisive overviews on each company as well as a large number of comparative and meaningful charts.

This is a report that is well worth buying, which cannot be said of most of the other tomes that

automatically gather Companies House information by SCC codes and then masquerade as analytical reports. The price for a hard copy is £499, while an electronic copy costs £899. Cranes & Access readers can claim a £100 discount by quoting that you are a Cranes & Access subscriber/reader. To purchase a copy, email Mandy Rees on mandy@executivehirenews.co.uk





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