

Terex AC500-2 luffing jib

In the February 2011 edition of *Cranes & Access*, the Terex AC500-2 model in Felbermayr's colours was reviewed. The manufacturer Conrad has now released the luffing fly jib accessory kit for the model in matching colours. The real jib is massive and gives the overall crane a system length of almost 150 metres and sure enough when the 1:50 scale model is fully built up with the jib installed, it stands around three metres tall.

The kit comes in a plain box with the two halves packed with numerous parts and an instruction leaflet describes how the parts are fitted and how the luffing gear is reeved. The kit also includes a two-line hook block which matches the jib well.

Each of the jib sections is nicely cast and they are dead straight and true. They fit together using plastic bolts which push fit into place. These are not as good as the small nuts and bolts supplied with some other

lattice jib models, but they are effective. The pendant bars are plastic and they do their job. Although not as nice as metal versions they will be less prone to snapping than if made in die cast material. Details on the sections are good with the jib head including a rubber dolly tyre, while the luffing gear section has plastic pulleys for the hoist line.

A great feature of the kit is that as the jib sections are all separately modelled just like on the real crane it is possible to create many different rigging configurations including both fixed and luffing jibs. The separate parts also make excellent haulage loads on suitable vehicles.

Assembling the jib up is straightforward, but with the longest jib measuring around 1.8 metres it is a two person job to set it up. As the stresses and strains on a big model like this are



The jib sections look great on a truck

very significant it is not advisable to winch the model up like the real crane, but instead rig it in the raised up position. Shorter luffing or fixed non-luffing jibs are much easier.

With the model set up to its maximum size it is stable on the outriggers as extra counterweights are supplied in the kit. The model engineering is very good and the quality of finish and paintwork is well up to Conrad's usual standards. The kit costs around €150 and turns a big model into a massive one which will impress anyone who sees it.

To read the full review of this kit visit www.cranesetc.co.uk



The massive full length jib looks real



Rigged with a short luffing jib prior to booming out



Reeving the hook on a short fixed jib



Rigging of the crane underway