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GOING UP IN THE WORLD

A history of Simon Engineering, the development of the powered access industry and a lifetime as an engineer, by Denis Ashworth

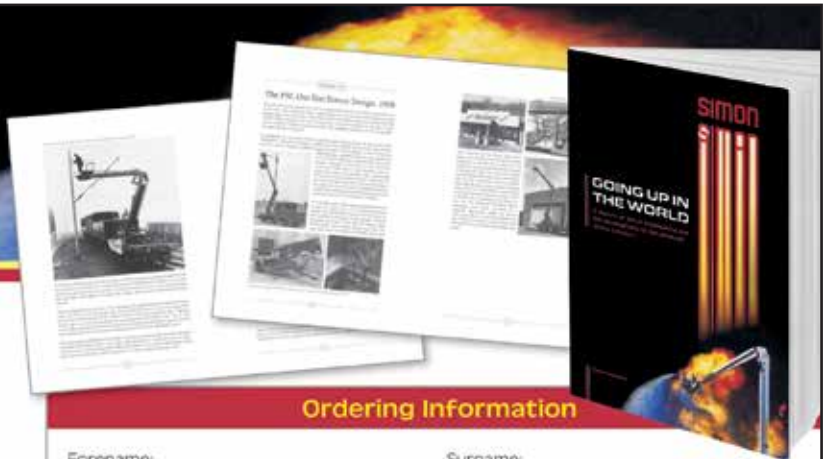
Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

His book is an unusual combination of autobiography and history of Simon Engineering Dudley, a pioneer of the powered access industry and at one time, the world's largest manufacturer of aerial lifts.

The coffee table sized book, is highly readable and includes around 150 photographs and drawings from the very beginning of the industry. It is a 'must read' for anyone who is interested in powered access, the hydraulic equipment industry or in comparing modern day engineering challenges with those of an entirely different era.

The book is available direct from the publishers at £19.50, plus £4.50 postage and packing.

- Continental Europe €23 plus €6.50 postage & packing
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Liebherr LTM 1500 Luffing Jib

This review looks at a kit which provides jib options for the 1:50 scale model of the Liebherr LTM 1500-8.1 All Terrain crane. It is made by WSI Models, which also produces the crane model. The real jib can be fitted in many fixed or luffing configurations and a maximum system length of 145 metres under hook can be achieved. The model contains parts to enable the full jib to be built.

It comes with an instruction manual which has a parts list and clear photos showing the assembly of the maximum length configuration, but it would have been nice to have some information about other configurations. Assembly is generally straightforward.

The kit is very detailed with accurately modelled components throughout. Metal sheaves are used, and metal mesh is used for the various walkways and platforms. Jib section connections are generally made using brass nuts and bolts, and in some places, pins.

A number of the lattice sections are modelled in plastic, rather than metal and this is probably a compromise to reduce the weight of the jib, which is around 1.6 metres long in its longest configuration. The plastic parts are strong and well-made but there is a perceptible colour difference to the metal parts. The main feature of the kit is the sheer variety of configurations that it is possible to build. In addition the parts also make good transport loads.

The LTM 1500-8.1 crane is a stand-out model and it is fitting that the jib for it has been made as an add-on accessory. It scores well for high detail and flexibility, but the small colour differences in the plastic and metal lattice components will annoy some. The kit would be better if the plastic parts were painted to match the metal parts. With that said, the kit does allow impressive displays to be achieved and at the full model rigged with the full jib is almost three metres tall.

The kit is €298 from the Liebherr webshop.

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

Cranes Ect Model Rating

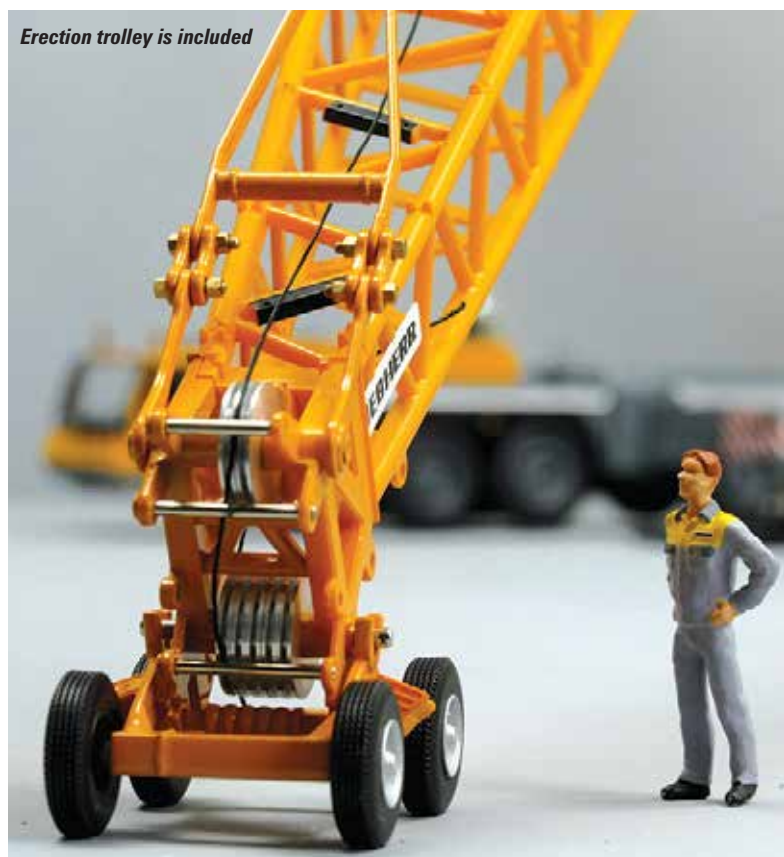
Packaging (max 10)	Individual scores are not given for accessories and kits.
Detail (max 30)	
Features (max 20)	
Quality (max 25)	
Price (max 15)	
Overall (max 100)	



Lifting a tower crane section



Luffing jib pivot as a load



Erection trolley is included



Rigged with a short jib



Realistic pose