

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

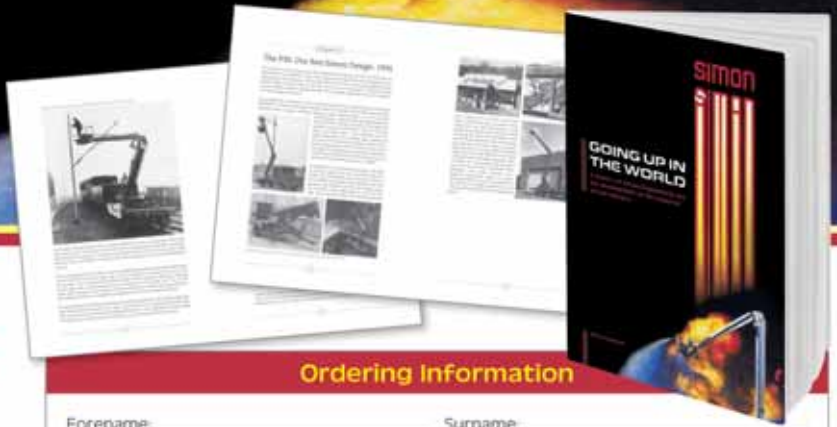
Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

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.

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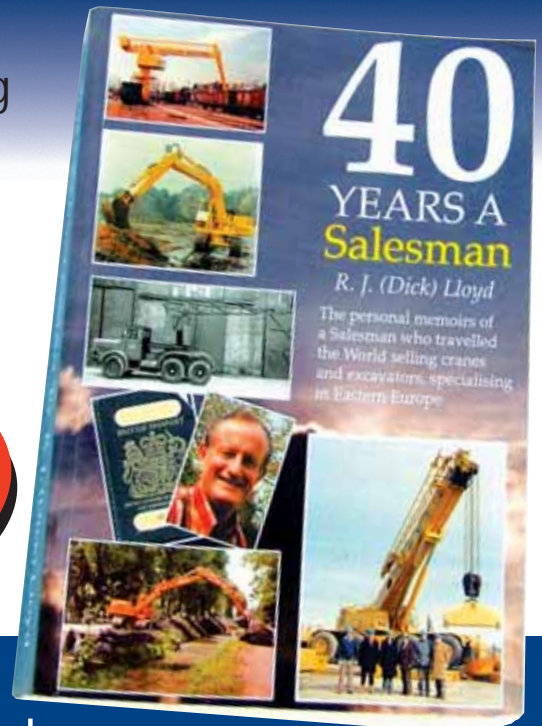
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Terex AC 1000

The original Terex AC 1000 mobile crane appeared at Munich's Bauma exhibition in 2010, and has been in an extended period of development and testing ever since. It has a maximum capacity of 1,200 tonnes, while the overall system length of boom with fly jib is 163 metres. The 1:50 scale model by Conrad has now been released indicating that the real crane is approaching entry into service.

A comprehensive pictorial assembly manual for the model is included and assembly of the crane in its various configurations is straightforward, although there are no reeving diagrams for the hooks.

The nine axle carrier is impressive with all axles steering independently so all steering modes can be simulated, and fully working suspension is included. The outriggers are metal and heavy with good casting details and graphics, and are fully functional with smooth pistons. They are also removable so the carrier can be posed in a minimum weight configuration.

The crane cab has metal handrails and mini ladders, and there is reasonable detail. It tilts and swings from the transport position. The crane superstructure frame is a simple but heavy casting and it includes a small auxiliary winch and a pair of plastic slew motors.

The main winch assembly is a separate part with three large winch drums, and two counterweight trays hook on and can be loaded with detailed ballast plates. The model can be posed in a self-ballasting pose.

Impressive supported off the wheels by the outriggers



Ready to lift



The telescopic boom consists of a heavy five stage main section and a removable four stage secondary section, and both have nice metal sheaves. The boom is raised using two very large lift cylinders which have a locking mechanism which is tightened using a supplied spanner. It works really well and gives confidence that they will hold the boom up as desired.



In the lightest road configuration



The parts make very good transport loads



Setting up

The sideways superlift system is mainly metal with some plastic elements and it is also both fully functional and removable. Three different sized hook blocks are supplied which gives welcome display options and they are nicely detailed.

A key feature of the model is the flexibility of display. A variety of transport configurations for the carrier is possible and many of the parts make very good transport loads. The crane can be configured in many combinations of boom, sideways superlift and hooks, and with maximum boom extension the model is over two metres tall.

Overall the AC 1000 is a very well-made model which is both heavy and robust, and it is very well engineered having regard for the heavy loads that it will sustain. It is available from the Terex web shop for €393.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	22
Features (max 20)	19
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	82