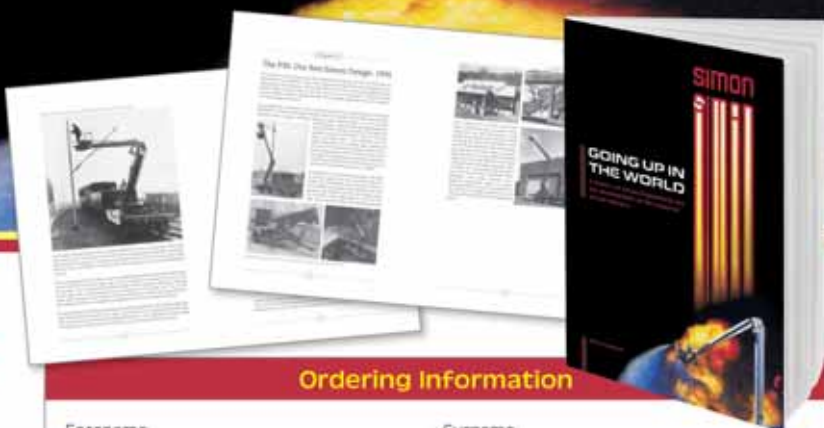


GOING UP IN THE WORLD



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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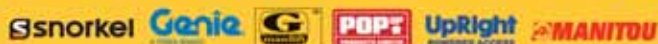
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Manitowoc 18000

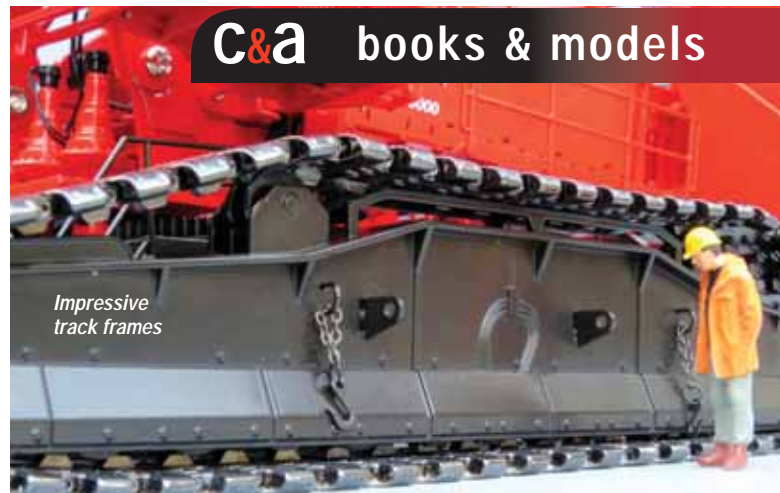
The Manitowoc 18000 crawler crane has a maximum capacity of 600 tonnes, or 750 tonnes when rigged with the optional MAX-ER ballast attachment. The maximum boom and jib combination allows lifts to around 180 metres high. This 1:50 model has been re-released in a limited run of 300 models by TWH Collectibles.

It is shipped in robust packaging and includes an assembly manual and a toolkit to aid assembly. Much of the model is pre-assembled in the box but still quite a number of hours are required to fully erect and reeve it. This crane is very detailed. The tracks are metal, and have an excellent free-rolling mechanism and the frames are finely detailed with rivets and chains with hooks.

The operator's cab is detailed with various notices replicated in tiny writing at the rear. It has a detailed interior complete with the 'Manitowoc' logo printed on the back of the seat. The cab also tilts and has a sliding

door. The handrails and platforms around the model are metal and finely crafted.

An engine block is present inside the body and is complete with a rotating cooling fan inside a radiator assembly. The counterweight slabs are detailed with step irons and lifting lugs. The MAX-ER attachment provides additional counterweight on a wheeled carrier with large rubber tyres. The walkways and handrails are excellent and there is some very good hydraulic hosing detailed on the legs.



Impressive track frames



Detailed cab



The huge MAX-ER



Jib head detail



It stands 1.7 metres tall

The hydraulic cylinders for lifting the carrier have metal rods and pads.

The boom and jib sections of the crane are a combination of brass and diecast elements, with the die-cast sections being perfectly straight while some of the brass parts are not quite as true. The connections are positive screw joints so they are strong, and the straps are

metal but are easily bent.

Included detail such as winches are very good and are complete with hydraulic hosing which connects through into the main crane body. Sheaves on the model are first rate as they have spokes and turn freely on their axles. The boom and jib nose have plastic 'Manitowoc' sign boards.

Two hooks are supplied. The main block is large piece with 15 sheaves and a swivelling double hook. The whip line is a single metal piece.

The winches can be operated although they do not have effective brakes and the model is designed to be built in only one configuration.

However its main strength is the very high quality detailing making it an impressive 'museum quality' model. It can be obtained for around €750.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	27
Features (max 20)	15
Quality (max 25)	21
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	83