

Home wanted for 6 tonne Rapier

The Rushden Historical Transport Society in Northamptonshire is looking for a good home for a Rapier H7 mobile crane which is in desperate need of restoration.

Surviving examples of these cranes are rapidly disappearing which is a great shame for what is a classic, if not iconic mobile crane. If someone with the space and possibly engineering apprentices that would work on such a restoration could take on this project we would be delighted to chart the progress in our magazines. If anyone is interested they can contact the society via email andy@rhts.co.uk



This old Rapier needs some TLC - free to a good home

The Rushden Historical Transport Society runs Rushden Railway Station and operates steam and historical trains on a railway line that it has restored. www.rhts.co.uk

The Rapier H7 was a popular crane for rail freight handling and featured in the Thomas Tank Engine books as Kevin.



Construction Plant-hire Association

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Construction Plant-hire Association, 27/28 Newbury Street, Barbican, London EC1A 7HL. email: enquiries@cpa.uk.net

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

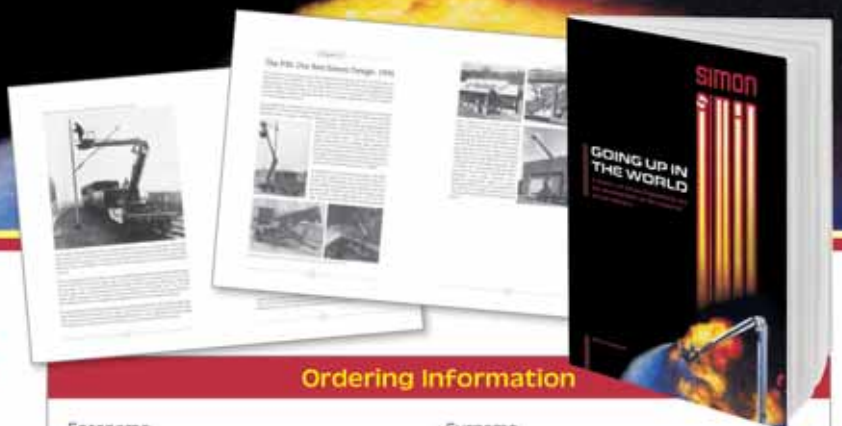
Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

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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Manitowoc 4100W Liftcrane

The Manitowoc 4100W is one of the most popular cranes the Manitowoc Crane Company ever built. It was launched in 1968 and was in production until the mid-1990s with nearly a thousand having been made. This 1:50 scale model by TWH Collectibles is the Liftcrane version which had a capacity of 200 tons.

It comes in an interesting box style with printed instructions inside the lid, and the crane takes an hour or two to assemble. Also provided is a reproduction of the original 1969 product brochure which includes load charts.

The metal linked tracks are excellent and the track frames are very detailed with realistic working chain drives which move as the tracks roll. The crane body is impressive and the cab is fully detailed inside with seat and control levers, while the sliding cab door has some exceptionally fine graphics applied. There are two more opening doors on the superstructure. At the rear, the characteristic counterweight blocks are smoothly finished and are detachable.

The roof has an exhaust with chrome muffler, and the gantry structure is very well detailed with step irons leading to a ladder.

The boom sections are very good with the main chord members cast to replicate the inverted angled sections of the original. Main boom sections all have internal bracing which is an unusual detail on crane models. The screwed connections

between sections are good and positive. Both the boom but and tip are finely crafted pieces of modelling and the whole boom has excellent geometry.

Two hooks are supplied. The headache ball has a realistic connector and the hook itself rotates, while the main block has four free rolling sheaves and the hook has a working safety catch which is an excellent feature. The luffing and hoist drums are operated using a key which inserts through holes in the bodywork and these work fine, not slipping under load.

This model exudes the feel of a quality product. As a representation of an historic crane a fine effort has been made to produce a model that lives up to the real machine. Although it has been available for some years it is timeless and is still available from Manitowoc's European web shop for €289 which is good value for the high quality.

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



Boom top is first rate



Characteristic body shape

Cranes Etc Model Rating

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Packaging (max 10) | 8 |
| Detail (max 30) | 27 |
| Features (max 20) | 16 |
| Quality (max 25) | 22 |
| Price (max 15) | 12 |
| Overall (max 100) | 85 |



Manitowoc 4100W Liftcrane



Excellent drive chain on the tracks



Detailed cab