

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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Genie SX-180

When introduced at bauma 2013, the Genie SX-180 was the world's largest self-propelled boom lift ever built, with a platform height of 180ft/54.9 metres. This scale model by NZG is 1:32 scale, which is a scale often chosen for powered access models. It comes in a large box, although there is no information about the model or real machine.

The level of detail is not high. Underneath it is purely functional, although the rubber tyres have a realistic tread pattern and they are mounted on plastic wheels which are detailed on the outer faces. There are no hydraulic hoses running to the wheel motors.

The chassis can be posed in transport or operating mode. The beams at each end of the carrier are interlocked so they open and close together. Each wheel has independent steering so all modes of the real machine can be replicated, and the wheels roll well.

The superstructure captures the general shape of the real machine and the indented Genie logo looks good, although there are few other details.

The lower boom section is metal with very sharp graphics and the boom lift cylinder has a plastic jacket. The inner three sections are plastic with a very good colour match. However the cable power track on the side of the boom is not modelled at all.

The boom cylinder is reasonably stiff and holds most poses. There is a major compromise in that the inner

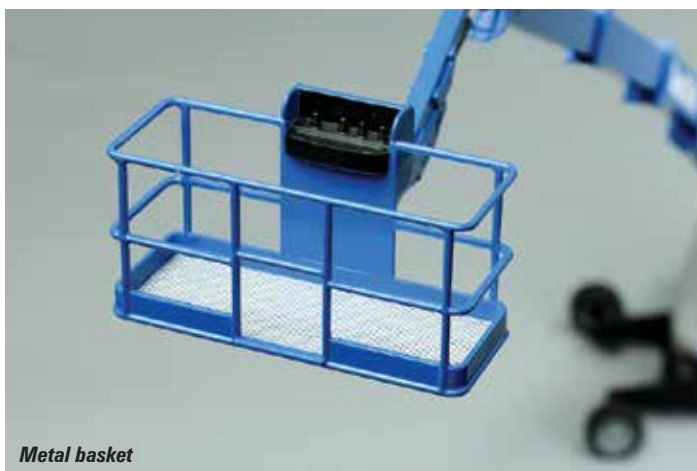
sections have limited extension so the model can only represent around 60 percent of the full height of the real machine.

The rotating jib is metal with detail in the casting. At the end the basket is metal with metal guardrails and a nice mesh floor. A simple control console is modelled in plastic. The rotating jib has a full range of movement, and the basket rotation works fully.

This is a heavy and robust model. However the major modelling compromise is disappointing and it seems odd that the model was not made to represent the full height of the SX-180 realistically. However it costs £55 from the Genie webshop which is good value for a large model.

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

Cranes Ect Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	7
Detail (max 30)	15
Features (max 20)	13
Quality (max 25)	19
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	66%



Metal basket



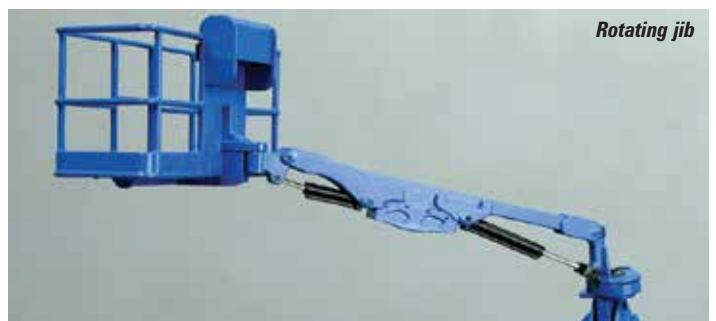
The Genie SX180 retracted for transport



Chassis spread to operating position for stability



Boom fully extended



Rotating jib