

Liebherr LHM 550

The Liebherr LHM 550 is a mobile harbour crane that has a maximum radius of 54metres and a lift capacity of 144 tonnes. It is a big machine, weighing around 440 tonnes. This model by NZG is in the smaller scale of 1:87 but it is still a big model, standing some 760mm (2.5ft) high. An instruction sheet is supplied to help with the assembly, which is easy.

The carrier has twenty sets of wheels which are very nice for the scale, with good rubber tyres mounted on detailed wheels and assemblies. Each wheel unit steers independently so all of the steering modes of the real crane can be replicated including crab steering and rotation on the spot. Large metal spreader plates are hung off metal beams and they can support the full weight of the model wheels-free.

The crane superstructure and counterweight are metal as are most of the ladders and handrails, and the graphics and paint have a good finish. A hole in one side, where a window would be, allows the winch to be accessed with a key, and this means the look of the model is not spoilt. The winch has two lengths of thread and the hook can be raised and lowered using the key. Equal lengths of thread for each half of the hook are maintained well, and the level luffing of the real crane is also reproduced.

The tower is an enclosed metal design with the upper cab and platform modelled in metal and at the tower top the sheaves are all in metal.

The large lattice boom is cast in metal in two parts and it is well made and painted, and there is a large metal dolly wheel at the boom tip for when the boom is lowered to the ground. The tension luffing cylinder has a plastic barrel with tube detailing and a good colour match. It can be set to hold the boom at any angle.

This is a very good 1:87 scale model, with a high metal content. It is an impressive harbour crane which is updated from the previous LHM 500 version to reflect changes in the real crane. It makes a very interesting display piece and the functionality is also very good.

It costs €294 from the Liebherr webshop.

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

Cranes Ect Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	22
Features (max 20)	18
Quality (max 25)	22
Price (max 15)	8
Overall (max 100)	78%



Wheel sets steer individually



Boom down



It towers over a tipper truck



Operator's cab on the tower



The Liebherr LHM 550