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Potain MDT 389

It has been a number of years since a new tower crane model has appeared but that has been put right with this model of the Potain MDT 389. The model release coincides with the display of the real crane at Bauma 2016. It has a maximum jib length of 75 metres and can lift up to 16 tonnes, depending on configuration.

The model is made by Conrad of Germany and is to 1:87 scale, but even so it is a very large model. It comes as a kit and has to be assembled, and good instructions are provided.

The cruciform base has plastic wheel bogies and metal counterweight blocks, with the mast sections being made up as pairs of two sections on the real crane. Plastic ladder sections and platforms are included, and a climbing frame is also included although there is no hydraulic cylinder detailed.

Detail at the cab level is very good. The cab has a windscreen wiper and inside, the seat has joystick controls. The tubular mast section has an access slot and behind the cab there is a hoist winch deck with plastic hand rails.

The counter jib has the distinctive Potain profile, and it looks good. The counterweight block is a single metal casting and is perhaps a little large, in order to provide the necessary weight for the model. If it had been made in two or three pieces displaying the model with shorter jib configurations would have been possible.

The jib is made up of three metal sections which interlock to make the full jib length, which scales up at a full 75 metres. Conrad has done an excellent job to fabricate the jib elements to fit together and be dead straight. The trolley is plastic, the hook is metal, and small metal sheaves are used throughout the model.

The crane can be slewed and the trolley can be positioned anywhere along the jib by hand. A key is provided to operate the hoist winch.

In summary, Conrad has met the 1/87 scale model engineering challenge very well, producing a big model which looks realistic when carefully assembled. It can be obtained from the Manitowoc Store for €145.

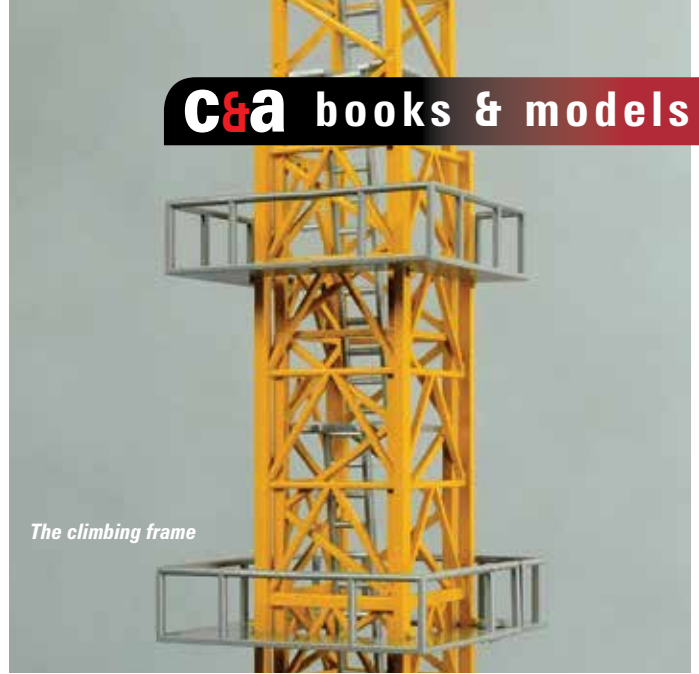
To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

Cranes Ect Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	20
Features (max 20)	14
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	10
Overall (max 100)	72%

Parts and instructions



The climbing frame



Distinctive Potain counter jib



Detailed cab



Convincing on the skyline

