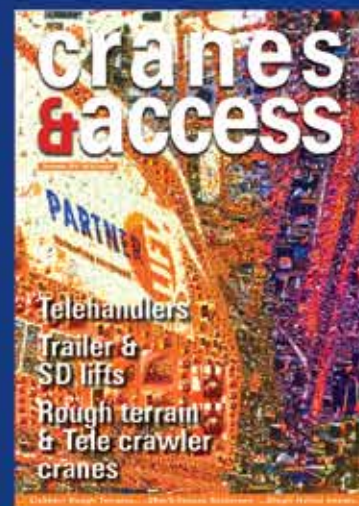


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Manitowoc MLC300

The Manitowoc MLC300 crawler crane made its debut at the ConExpo Exhibition in 2014, its main feature being the Variable Position Counterweight (VPC). This 1:50 scale model is made by Towsleys.

It comes in a big box and a comprehensive assembly guide for the model is included which has an annotated parts list and step by step instructions covering the largest configuration of the crane. Tools are provided to aid the task, and a number of hours is required to complete the model.

A highpoint of the model is the detailing. The tracks are metal, and excellent, and the frames are detailed and include fold out lugs and access steps. The operator's cab tilts and is fully detailed with windscreen wipers, grab handles and a mirror, and at the rear various signs are fully replicated with tiny writing. Handrails and platforms are metal and very good, although some are loose fitting.

The VPC-Max 'superlift' counterweight arrangement is very good with nicely modelled energy chains. It works well, and is a major plus on the model as on the real crane, as it is possible to position the counterweight to keep the model in reasonable balance whether it has a load or not.

The lattice boom, back mast and jib sections of the crane are nice castings with excellent geometry. They are nearly all metal and include useable lifting eyes, mesh walkways and ladders as appropriate. The connections are made with tiny black nuts and bolts, and the straps are very thin metal.

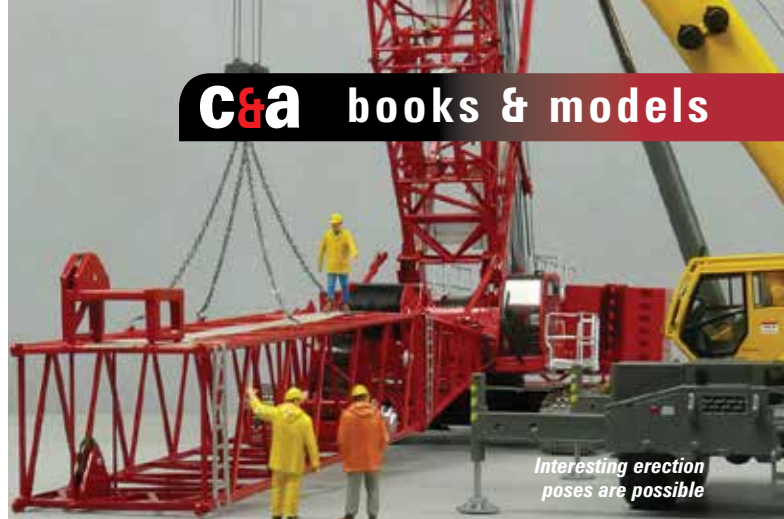
Three hooks are supplied. The main block is a large piece with a swivelling double hook. The second hook is a smaller block, and the whip line has a single metal piece with rotating hook.

To operate the model a key is provided for the winches. When the key is pushed in, the drum presses against a spring and away from a brake surface such that it turns freely when the tool is turned.

This is another excellent large Manitowoc model with great detailing and very good functionality. A big plus point is the flexibility of the model with the use of bolted connections throughout, allowing many display possibilities. It costs €550 from the Manitowoc Europe web shop which is good value given the size and quality.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	25
Features (max 20)	19
Quality (max 25)	22
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	86%



Interesting erection poses are possible



Variable Position Counterweight



High detail - graphics behind the cab



Lifting a bridge segment



Very large model when fully assembled