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Kato KA-1300R

The Kato KA-1300R is a five axle All Terrain crane with a capacity of 130 tonnes and has been modelled in 1:50 scale by the Chinese model maker Yagao. It comes in a good quality box, and tools are provided for its operation. Assembly is straightforward, but it would have been good to have had instructions and a parts list.

The carrier chassis has very good detail underneath with the transmission and various parts modelled in metal. The metal wheels look good, with different hubs on the non driven axle. All axles steer, with the front three linked together so not all modes possible on the real crane can be replicated. The carrier cab is finely detailed, and the cab doors open. A chain is provided at the front to serve as a hook block tie down during transport.

The two stage outrigger beams are metal with extension decal graphics included, and the pads are nicely shaped. When extended, the outrigger jacks have visible screw threads. Plastic outrigger mats/spreader plates are provided. Although the crane can just about be supported with wheels free of the ground, there is a lot of vertical play between the outrigger sections, so they look bent.

The crane superstructure cab also features an opening door, this one sliding as on the real crane. At the back, the counterweight installation mechanism is modelled, and there are fine mesh grilles. The winch

drums are good, and the ropes have a realistic appearance. The counterweight is made up of nicely shaped blocks with useable lifting eyes on the cheek weights.

The boom has impressive detailing with sharp graphics, and the boom lift cylinders have metal jackets. The boom nose and the large hook are single pieces rather than separate sheaves. An unusual feature is the base boom section which has tilting safety posts for use when the crane is being rigged.

This crane comes with an unusual three section telescopic jib, which can be offset at several angles using the luffing cylinder. It has an impressive length when fully extended. The detailing is very good and the luffing cylinder has a metal barrel. Two hook blocks are supplied, one is a single line headache ball, and the other a three sheave block.

It is good to see a Kato crane model, and overall it is of a high quality. One or two aspects could be improved, and a rigid outrigger system would improve the ability to pose the model more realistically when the crane is in use. The model costs around €300 from importers but is cheaper direct from Yagao.

If any organisation would like help on getting a model made for promotional purposes, please contact CranesEtc@gmail.com.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	7
Detail (max 30)	25
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	12
Overall (max 100)	80%

On the road



Detailed carrier



Opening cab door



Rigged and ready to lift



Telescopic jib with hydraulic luffing

