

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

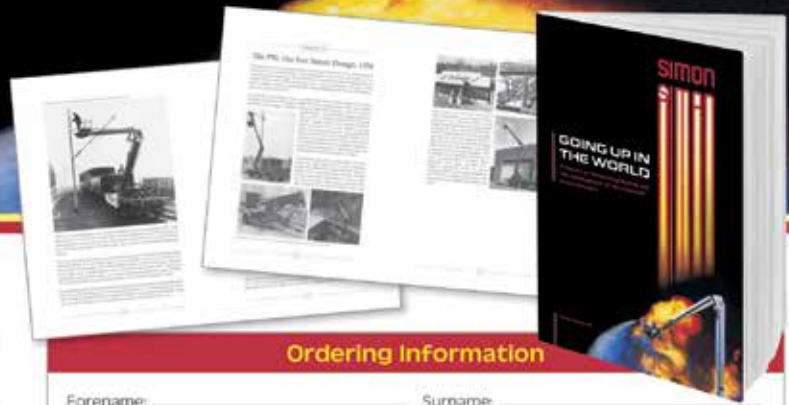
Ashworth was a keen engineer and from an early age found himself in at the very start of the modern powered access industry.

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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Manitowoc 4100W 'J E McAmis'

The Manitowoc 4100W was launched in 1968 and was in production until the mid 1990s with nearly a thousand units produced during that time. This 1:50 scale model is the lift crane version and is in the colours of the US contractor J E McAmis. It is made by Weiss Brothers and comes with an assembly manual and numbered collector's certificate.

The metal linked track pads are excellent and the tracks have realistic working chain drives which move as the crane is moved. The track frames are removable or can be set at a narrow width for transport. The carbody also has attachable ballast boxes.

The cab is fully detailed with seat and control levers, and outside there are patterned walkways, windscreen wiper, grab handles and detailed graphics.

There are sliding doors on both sides of the crane, an opening door at the front, and the door to the battery compartment which also opens. Engine and other details are modelled inside the superstructure. The top of the superstructure is well modelled and the gantry structure is very well detailed with step irons leading to a ladder. The counterweight is supplied as individual sections which push-fit together and attach to the back of the superstructure.

The boom sections are very good castings and represent the Boom No 22 of the original. The main chord members are cast to replicate the inverted angled sections of the original and the sections have internal bracing.

Two hooks are supplied. A headache ball which has a realistic connector and the hook itself rotates. The main block has four free rolling sheaves while the hook has a safety catch.

The crane functions work well. Slewing is smooth, while the luffing and hoist drums are operated using a key which inserts through holes in the bodywork.

In summary this is a high quality model with a very high metal content. The paintwork and graphics are top notch. It is great to see the Manitowoc 4100W available as a model again, and several different colour schemes have been released, including Sarens. This McAmis version is one of a run of 200 models and costs \$550 from the Weiss Brothers Store.

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

Cranes Etc Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	27
Features (max 20)	17
Quality (max 25)	22
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	85%

