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SARENS GOTTWALD AK 680-3

The Gottwald AK 680-3 was a 1,200 tonne capacity class mobile crane originally purchased by Scott Greenham in 1980, and it later went into Grayston White & Sparrow. After more corporate changes, the crane ended up with the UK branch of Belgian international transport and heavy lifting specialist Sarens.

This historic crane has worked all over the world including Thailand and Argentina. It has been maintained and overhauled over the years, repainted, and updated parts such as a more modern Demag cab were added in 2000.

This model is a limited edition made of resin and etched parts rather than diecast metal. As such it has no moving parts and is intended as a showcase model. The reason for the choice of resin is economic, as a limited volume model such as this in diecast would be unaffordable. The version reviewed here is a pre-production sample and is made by IMC Models in 1:50 scale.

The model is displayed in a good quality showcase, and it has exceptional detailing. The

wheels look good, and the production version of the model will have branding on the tyres. The carrier cab has a towing hitch, and a UK number plate, and other details around the model include tiny decals and lights.

The carrier deck has textured surfaces and the slew pivot point has numerous hydraulic hoses. The outrigger connection points are robustly modelled and are uniquely numbered. The crane body has excellent detail in the moulding, and the Sarens graphics are very sharp.

The crane cab has excellent detailing including very thin protection bars above the roof window, and the ladder even has rung holes in the side rails. The luffing gear for the moving mast is fully reeved, and the rope windings on the winch drums look great. Gearing on the rear winch drum is also modelled as are the rope rollers.

IMC Models has produced a superbly detailed model of the AK 680-3. It is a great display piece. This model is a limited edition and can be ordered for €599 at the Sarens webshop.





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