

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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On the road



Tilting cab



Folding deck access ladders

Deck access ladders



SSL arrangement

TADANO AC 7.450-1

The Tadano AC 7.450-1 is a 450 tonne class All Terrain crane with an 80 metre main boom. It has been modelled by IMC Models in 1:50 scale and comes in high quality packaging with an excellent build manual and clear steps describing the assembly and features. Tools are supplied to assemble and operate the model.

The chassis is highly detailed, and the wheels have different hubs on driven and non-driven axles. Each axle steers and has suspension, and all steering modes of the real crane can be realised.

Detailing of the carrier is to a high standard with various textured surfaces and grilles and small warning graphics enhance the detailing around the crane. Handrails can be added to the crane superstructure and counterweight tray when in working mode. The tilting crane cab has a diamond plated access platform outside and the interior detail including a computer console is excellent.

Outrigger beams extend and the pads lower, with the crane able to be supported wheels free on

the included spreader plates. The outrigger beams remain reasonably straight under load.

The counterweight system can be fitted in various configurations including mounting on the carrier deck during self-assembly. The counterweight slabs also have useable lifting points.

A realistic boom profile has thin walls and the overall geometry is excellent with sections having locking positions at 45, 90 and 100 percent of extension. The boom lift cylinders are locked using a key to tighten grub screws. The SSL Superlift system is well made and is nearly all metal, and its winches provide reasonable tension on the boom.

A key is used to operate the main winch and it has a positive brake system. A three sheave hook block and a Tadano branded load plate is included.

This is a very nice model of the AC 7.450-1 which can also be displayed in transport mode, either with or without the SSL attached. It is an excellent combination of details and features and will also look attractive in company colour schemes. This model can be ordered for €419 from the Tadano web shop.



On tower crane erection duty

CRANES ETC MODEL RATING

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	27
Features (max 20)	18
Quality (max 25)	22
Price (max 15)	10
Overall (max 100)	86%

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