

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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Very good packaging and manual



On the road



Deck ladders lowered



Winch motors can be removed to allow operation

TADANO GT-1200XL-2

The Tadano GT-1200XL-2 - a 120 ton (110 tonne) four axle truck crane, designed for faster road travel between sites compared to All Terrain cranes - is aimed at the North American market. It features a five section 51 metre main boom and can be equipped with a 10.3 to 17.9 metre bi-fold swingaway extension for a maximum tip height of just over 70 metres. Self-rigging counterweight options range from 3.5 to 25 tonnes.

This 1:50 scale model is made by IMC Models and it comes with an excellent build manner. Good quality tools are supplied to assemble and operate the model. The chassis is very good with the transmission and suspension fully detailed. The front axles have non-linked steering with a good range of notched movement. Behind the detailed drivers cab the deck surfaces are smooth. Five ladders on the carrier deck can be rotated and lowered.

The outrigger jacks have visible screw threads when lowered rather than smooth faces and small metal spreader plates are included. There is also a front outrigger under the carrier cab, and it has a very good extension. The tilting superstructure cab has very good detailing, and the display screen inside has graphics. More small graphics enhance the detailing across the model.

The main boom lift cylinder is a metal part and contains a locking screw. Detailing on the boom includes a spooling drum and tiny rope guide wheels which are non-functional. Telescoping is fine and each boom section can be locked at maximum and approximately 50 percent extension. An auxiliary boom nose can be installed for two line work.

The counterweight is complex being made up of numerous pieces having chevron markings. It can also be posed on the carrier deck for self-ballasting. The winches have removable motors fitted to use the key to operate them and they have positive brakes. Three hook blocks are provided: three sheave, single sheave and a two-part single line, all with good quality metal parts.

A metal swingaway extension can be carried on the side of the boom, with or without the top section. It is modelled with a fairly heavy lattice which appears thick for the scale and cannot remain stowed if the boom is raised, which is a disadvantage.

Overall, this is a nice truck crane model, it has some good flexibility in terms of configurations, although some aspects could have been modelled to allow better detail or functionality. It costs €239 from the Tadano merchandise shop.



Rigged for two-line work

CRANES ETC MODEL RATING

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	24
Features (max 20)	15
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	10
Overall (max 100)	78%

To see the full review, including a full unpacking and set up video, visit www.cranesetc.co.uk