

Plant Hire Investment Report

Catherine Stratton has released her latest analysis of the leading UK rental companies. Naturally crane, access and telehandler rental companies dominate making up over half of the 75 companies that are covered in detail.

The accounts used are for the 2007/2008 tax year so they are as up to date as these things can be, although for those companies such as

Lavendon whose fiscal year is the calendar year the information is a little historic. Stratton does update though in the detailed look at each company and refers to the company's latest interim and trading statements.

Unlike some of the rubbish for sale masquerading as serious reports on the industry, Stratton knows what

she is talking about and provides detailed analysis on each and every company. Very little gets past her sharp eye and her research includes calls to many of the companies to discuss items she has spotted. If you are looking for an overview of the UK rental market this is the one to go for. Catherine Stratton has

agreed a £100 discount for Cranes & Access readers, reducing the cost to £399. Copies can be ordered on 01249 700778 or by emailing mandy@executivehirenews.co.uk.



Haulotte threesome

The standard scale for construction models is 1:50 but in recent years there has been a trend among access platform and telehandler producers to migrate to larger scales. Haulotte's latest range of models however stays true to the 1:50 scale. The company has three such models which cover its scissor lift, articulated and telescopic boom ranges.



Scissor lift stands tall

The scissor lift is the H15SX and is produced by the German model maker NZG, although the model is made in China. This machine is in the middle of the Haulotte scissor range with a platform height of 43ft/13 metres. The model is small but quite heavy as it is almost all metal, is fitted with rough terrain tyres and has neat screw down outrigger pads. The platform has metal

handrails which are a little on the large size, but the floor has a nicely patterned non slip surface.

The scissor mechanism works well opening up straight and true and the hydraulic cylinder is stiff enough to hold the platform at any height. The platform extension is also extendible. Overall the scissor lift is pleasant enough, although perhaps a little lacking in detail compared to some modern models.

The articulated boom model is the HA20PX which in real life has a platform height of 60ft, just over 18 metres

(See Vertikal Check - page 33). This model is also made by NZG in China. The chassis is good, featuring two steering axles with chunky rough terrain tyres and pleasingly they can be set to a very hard lock. The body of the machine is simply represented and would benefit from some replica warning notices to improve the detail.



H43 TPX - the big brother



Unloading the H15 SX

Articulating the boom requires some energy as it is stiff, but this ensures that it can be set at any angle and remains there.

The quality drops off a little at the end of the boom as both the telescopic section and the basket are plastic and unfortunately it shows. This does keep the weight at the end of the boom down and means that the model is not in danger of tipping over at any boom angle or extension.

Again some more detailing would enhance the model.

The telescopic boom model is the H43TPX and is made by the Spanish company

Joal. The real platform has a platform height of 135ft/41 metres and this is reflected in the model, which is much larger and heavier than the other two. It does not feature the extending axles of the original, but the steering and underbody stabilisers work well. The four section telescopic boom is very stiff to raise but it holds well in any position. Although the basket is plastic it does have a



Don't look down

detailed control panel. With the boom fully extended this is an impressive model and is well finished at a very reasonable price.

These three 1:50 scale Haulotte models pose well on their own or with other models and are worthwhile additions to any collection. They are available from the Haulotte webshop. To read the full review of these models visit www.cranesetc.co.uk



Three from Haulotte

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Haulotte H15 SX	60%
Haulotte HA20 PX	61%
Haulotte H43 TPX	65%