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Die Cast Report

Heavy Haulers

Construction equipment is always popular with the collector.

A number of mining truck models have been released, including such names as Komatsu and Liebherr, so let's take a look at three popular truck models currently available.

Liebherr has recently launched the T264 mining truck to compete in the popular 240-ton capacity hauler range, with German model manufacturer Conrad, chosen to produce a 1/50 scale replica.

The model has a high metal content with working rear suspension and a steerable front axle which looks to be very realistically powered by hydraulic cylinders as used in the full-scale. The underside highlights the drivetrain from the engine and transmission to the rear gearbox, which is accurately modeled, and at the heart of the chassis is a replicated engine block with inner service ladders fitted to the frame. One of the really nice features on the model is the front wheels with modeled disc brake system. As the wheel and silver disc rotate, the inner calipers remain static, and this really looks the part.

The large front grille is a photo-etched metal plate. Also present are side access ladders and a sloping stairway diagonally located across the front leading to the textured-surface upper deck, opening safety railings, main electrical cabinet, and fire suppression canisters. The cabin has a plastic interior with glazed windows and a roof-mounted weight monitoring system, complete with digital displays on both sides indicating the loaded weight of the truck, depicting the maximum payload of 240 tons.

The dump body can be tipped to a very realistic height with the stiff hydraulic cylinders ensuring it remains in the raised position unaided. Rubber mud flaps and protective debris bars are located on the underside of the body, while twin exhaust pipes peek out from underneath the deck, with piping visible when the body is raised. The model has been produced in standard Liebherr mining white colors, but is also (as



shown) available in a limited edition yellow and gray finish.

Komatsu is another competitor in the 240-ton capacity haul truck class, which has recently commissioned a model of its 830E AC electric drive mining truck. This has been produced by First Gear to that company's usual high standards, and joins the larger flagship 960E which was recently updated to 2K specification.

The inner workings of the 830E model have been done very well, with the engine block at the heart of the chassis surrounded by service platforms, safety railings and folding access steps on both sides. The upper deck has electrical cabinets with small printed safety labels, while photoetched mesh grilles have been used for the cooling panels. The large front radiator housing is also protected by a mesh grille with the extended front frame providing access to the cabin with no fewer than three ladders with metal safety railings running around the upper deck, and simulated gates with authentic-looking integrated handles.

The body rises to an impressive angle, displaying the underside structural detailing with small black mudguards and rock deflectors. The detail underneath is equally impressive with the hydraulic steering linkage fitted to the front axle and a mid-mounted electrical generator and ridged coupling connecting the rear drive housing which has working suspension. Hydraulic fluid and diesel fuel tanks are attached to the side of the chassis with interior highlighting the driver and secondary seating with access behind the cabin leading down to the chassis.

First Gear has done an excellent job on this 1/50 scale



A range of Komatsu models was a pleasant yet surprising announcement from NZG at this year's Germany International Toy Fair.



The inner workings of the 830E model have been done very well, with the engine block at the heart of the chassis surrounded by service platforms with safety railings and folding access steps on both sides. The cabin features a replicated and painted interior highlighting the driver and secondary seating with access behind the cabin leading down to the chassis. Photoetch parts abound and are prevalent on the grille and surrounding stairways leading to the operator's cabin.

replica with a fine paint finish and crisply applied markings.

NZG surprised everyone at the 2014 Nuremberg Toy Fair with the announcement of several models including the HD785 rigid quarry truck, which has been meticulously engineered. With the full-scale having a load capacity of 89 tons, the 785-7 is ideal for quarrying applications where it can be economically loaded by a wheeled shovel.

The model highlights the excellent level of engineering NZG has put into creating this superb off-roader with a very high metal content and great detailing throughout. The front grille is a fine photoetched panel with access ladders on both sides leading to the upper deck. Accurately scaled metal safety railings and a cabin with reproduced interior, exterior door panel detailing, integrated grab rails, and a windshield wiper all add to the realism. An extending side platform is integrated into the upper deck with fine mesh

floor panels added along with a red fire extinguisher, large rear view mirrors with silver-painted inner surface, and front facing safety mirror.

The rear axle is connected to the frame with working suspension while the front axle can be steered to a realistic angle. Two-stage hydraulic cylinders tip the body to a good height for material discharge, and rock deflectors are fitted to the underside with pins used to secure them in a raised position. The engine bay houses a replicated 1200hp Komatsu SAA12V140E-3 diesel power plant with a drive shaft connecting the transmission to the rear axle, while the tires have a crisp and accurate tread pattern with plenty of fixing bolts visible on the wheel hubs.

Overall, these exciting releases have heavy machinery collectors dumping dollars with many retailers who have them in stock. **HM**

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