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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

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Lifting frame

This is a 1:50 scale model of a lifting frame with a nominal capacity of 720 tonnes and it is made by YCC Models. The original equipment manufacturer is not identified, however it looks like those produced by Hydrospex - now part of Enerpac. The model is in the colours of Sarens, the Belgian lifting specialist.

The model comes in a fairly plain box with high quality foam rubber protecting the parts. There is no information about the real machine or model, and no instructions. However assembly is straightforward, although a photo or sketch of the assembled model would have been helpful. Some spare pins and two tools are included.

The model comprises sections of metal track which are pinned together, and four bare cylinder jacking units. Each one is highly detailed. There are tiny rollers underneath, so they roll along the tracks smoothly, and the 'pusher' cylinder can extend and retract. The hydraulics have rubber hoses and the casting details are very good including non-functioning lifting eyes, fine grab rails and a detailed equipment and console area. There are realistic small graphics/decals around the units.

The lifting cylinders are well engineered in three stages and extend easily and the head rotates. The locking system is by means of a small Allen key turning very small grub screws, although some were a little stiff initially.

The main beams are heavy-sections, with a safe load graphic. Brackets fit over the beams and four heavy strap guides are supplied for using on loads, however no straps are included with the model which is a pity.

Overall this is a very high quality model with small parts which have to be handled with respect. It can be posed as haulage loads, or when assembled the frame is sturdy enough to handle a heavy model load although care has to be used to make sure lateral loadings are not applied to the frame. Quite a large and detailed model results when it is built up and it can be obtained from the Sarens Shop (https://www.sarensshop.com) for \in 139.

To read the full reviews of these models visit **www.cranesetc.co.uk**

Cranes Ect Model Rating			
Packaging (max 10)	6		
Detail (max 30)	27		
Features (max 20)	15		
Quality (max 25)	20		
Price (max 15)	11		
Overall (max 100)	79%		





The parts as a haulage load



Lifting a six axle Tadano



