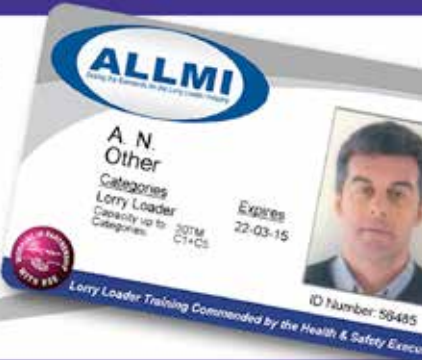




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A history of Simon Engineering, the development of the powered access industry and a lifetime as an engineer, by Denis Ashworth

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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Liebherr LTM 1400

This model of the Liebherr LTM 1400 represents a crane from the 1990's, and is modelled in 1:50 scale by YCC Models of Taiwan. It comes in very high quality packaging with an excellent brochure included, along with a reprint of the original machine specifications and very good instructions for the model. Assembly is straightforward, and care is required to handle some of the very small parts and pins.

The crane carrier is very highly detailed with tyres which have Michelin and the tyre details moulded into the sidewalls. There is fully sprung suspension on each axle and each steerable axle can be steered, enabling any of the available modes of the real crane to be replicated.

The carrier cab has opening doors and in the engine compartment behind, the detailing is really good too, with fans visible under the grilles and opening hatches reveal a detailed metal engine. At the rear either a spare tyre or a tool box can be fitted.

The outriggers are excellent with special loaders for the pads replicated, and the beams are metal with high quality graphics. Even the locking bolts for the beams are provided.

The crane superstructure has a tilting operator's cab with sliding door and the interior detail is top class with highlighted instrument clusters. Under opening covers there are detailed components, and hydraulic hoses run to the various hydraulic cylinders and motors.

The four stage telescopic boom has a great profile with the external locking pins of the real crane modelled and they are able to lock each section at the 50, 92 and 100 percent positions of the real crane. The boom nose sheaves are all made from metal and free-rolling.

The superlift arrangement is also finely modelled and the winch has a positive brake so it can be tensioned up quite tight. Three different sizes of hook are supplied and they are all metal and top quality.

This YCC model sets a new high standard for a mobile crane model, and it seems as if every detail has

been carefully considered. It sells for around £500 in Liebherr colours and versions have also been made in Thomen and Sarens liveries.

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

Cranes Ect Model Rating	
Packaging (max 10)	10
Detail (max 30)	29
Features (max 20)	19
Quality (max 25)	24
Price (max 15)	13
Overall (max 100)	95%

