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# Grove RT540E

**c&a**

**books & models**

Grove, one of the first crane companies to commission 1:50th scale models - the TM800 in the 1970's - is now a brand within the Manitowoc Crane group. In recent years it has been steadily expanding its 1:50 range and the latest model to be released is the RT540E, a classic Rough Terrain crane, most often seen on sites where a long term rental is the norm, ground conditions are not ideal and/or pick & carry is a requirement.

gives sight of the engine within. Other details such as ladders, handrails and other equipment are all very authentically reproduced.

The high standard of detail continues to the superstructure, with the cab having windscreen wipers and mirrors, and inside the controls are fully replicated. It also includes a fire extinguisher, textured floor and numerous internal notices for the operator. The cab also features an opening sliding door.

*Detailed cab*



On the opposite side of the superstructure there is a removable panel which gives access to the hydraulics and it is here that a particularly complex and detailed piece of modelling is found. In fact

The full size version of the crane has a maximum capacity of 35 tonnes, and a main boom length of 31 metres. A telescopic offsettable swingaway extension adds a further 13.7 metres, taking the maximum tip height to 47 metres.

This model is made by TWH Collectibles and is available in several different liveries including the standard Grove yellow. It comes complete with a small reprint of the Grove Product Guide, which is a nice touch, and a simple instruction sheet which describes some of the features of the model.

Our review model was produced for Sword Models in red and white colours and the quality of the paint finish is very high. Equally impressive is the quality of the applied graphics with some of the warning notices being absolutely tiny.

The crane is mounted on good quality tyres with a realistic tread and these are mounted on detailed hubs. The chassis is really well detailed with the outrigger jack cylinders look like cylinders instead of the usual screw threads of older models. The engine area is excellent with superbly etched grilles looking particularly convincing, and an opening flap

the hydraulics are really good on this model with the lines to the drive motors for the winches also modelled.

The boom is a four piece telescope which is nicely made and includes a working boom angle indicator. A metal hook block is provided and this is already reeved in the factory, so there is no need for an inexperienced collector to worry about doing this. Also supplied is a working version of the lattice swingaway extension, which attaches to the boom nose with pins and includes the telescopic stinger extending section.

The functions of the model work well. Both axles steer, and the outriggers can support the weight of the model with the tyres clear of the ground without sagging. The crane slews well and the boom can be set at any angle without the main cylinder bleeding down. Two winches are fitted, and two hooks are supplied so it is possible to run an additional line and hook over swingaway extension.

Overall this is a very high quality Grove model and is rated as 'Highly Recommended'.

To read the full review of this model visit [www.cranesetc.co.uk](http://www.cranesetc.co.uk)



*The Grove RT540E travelling*

*Excellent outriggers*



*Detailed hydraulics*



*Ready to lift*

## Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	8
Detail (max 30)	25
Features (max 20)	17
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	10
Overall (max 100)	80%

# The Plant Hire Investment Report

Catherine Stratton has published the 2008/2009 Plant Hire Investment Report, As usual the report, which has consistently been the best available overview of the UK rental market, is produced in two parts.

The first part covers the Industry as a whole, market conditions and market make up, while the second and larger section gives a review of each of the 75 largest UK rental companies, using not only the public record information available from Companies House, but also from her discussions with the relevant companies and her own inside knowledge of the industry. The result is an accurate, comprehensive and incisive overview of the markets and the key players within it.

The report includes 18 different tables or charts that compare the 75 companies according to different statistics and ratios. Finally at the end of the report is a table of the top 100 UK rental companies in the UK by the gross book value of their rental fleets.

There are a number of market reports produced using the publicly available financial reports from Companies House, they tend to range from utter junk to weak and pointless and the price you pay is no guide to the quality. This report though is



shining exception and this year is no different. Stratton says that this is the most challenging one that she has had to produce in the 16 years since she started. While this may well be the case she has excelled herself and produced a report that is worth every penny. If you are interested in the UK rental market and the companies that operate within it or you are just a curious industry insider with a few pounds to spend - this report is a worthwhile acquisition.

Our only regret? That we are not the publishers.

The report is available from Mandy Rees - [mandy@executivehirenews.co.uk](mailto:mandy@executivehirenews.co.uk) or Catherine Stratton [CathEStratton@aol.com](mailto:CathEStratton@aol.com) Tel 01865 741116.

Cranes & Access readers are able to obtain a £100 discount off of the £499 published price by asking for the 'Cranes&Access offer'.

*The report includes numerous charts.*



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