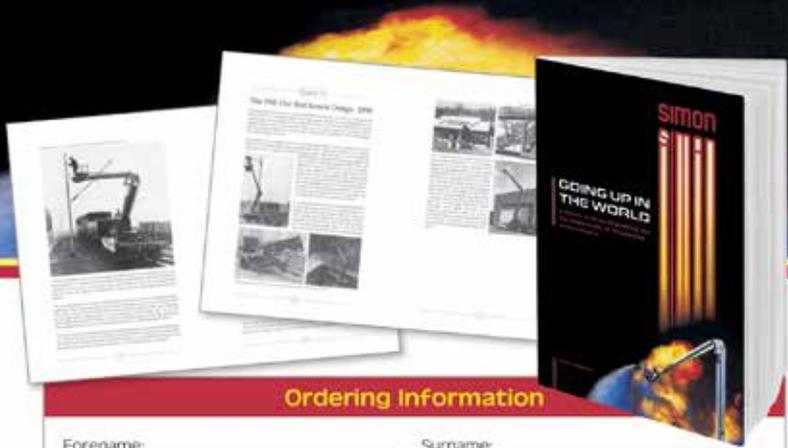


GOING UP IN THE WORLD



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.

The book is available direct from the publishers at £19.50, plus £4.50 postage and packing.

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Demag AC 45 City

The Demag AC 45 City is a 45 tonne class crane designed for city work. IMC Models of Holland has produced this new model of it in 1:50 scale. It comes in nice packaging with a manual describing the crane's main features.

A high point is the detailing, the chassis in particular is very good with the transmission, suspension, wheels and tyres all looking convincing. All three axles have independent steering and suspension, although the steering is a little springy as the wheels want to remain straight.

The travelling mode looks good with a hitching point for the hook block and a metal bumper for the boom head provided. There are nice lights, metal handrails and texturing, and tiny decals add realism. Two fold down ladders are fixed to the deck.

The outrigger jack rods have visible screw threads when the pads are lowered rather than smooth faces, and they cannot be fully retracted which is a pity. Nice metal spreader plates are also included.

Small detailed graphics enhance the detailing around the cab and there are work lights and a beacon. The counterweight is nicely decorated with chevrons and the Demag name.

Detailing on the boom includes a couple of spooling drums, and the winch is modelled well including a guard, hydraulic hoses and tubes. The sheaves resemble the plastic sheaves used on the real crane.

The boom angle is set on the metal main boom cylinder by using a key to tighten a screw and this works well. Telescoping the boom is smooth with a spring clip to lock each section at maximum extension.

The metal bi-fold swingaway extension can be used in both lengths, while the only

hook block is three sheave, although the model really needs a separate single line hook to complement the extension.

A key is used to operate the main winch but there was not much brake action on the review model.

This model is generally very good quality and it is really good looking in Demag colours. It is available to purchase from the Demag brand shop for €145. A version with smaller road wheels is also available.

To read the full review of this model visit www.cranesetc.co.uk

Cranes Etc Model Rating

Packaging (max 10)	9
Detail (max 30)	26
Features (max 20)	16
Quality (max 25)	20
Price (max 15)	11
Overall (max 100)	82%

