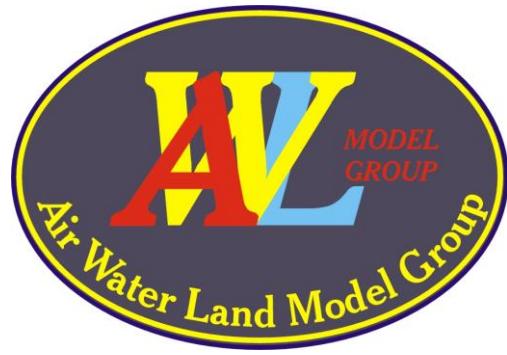


Man TGX 26 Truck Tractor and Trailer

Built by Pete Dickinson



This impressive truck, which made its debut at the 2007 European Transport Road Show in Amsterdam, was the winner of the 2008 Truck of the Year award. It features twin rear axles which assist in the carrying of heavy loads over long distances. It is powered by an in-line 6 cylinder 12.4 litre turbocharged diesel engine which meets the stringent Euro 5 emissions standards to make it more environmentally friendly.

The Tractor

The kit is a 14th scale R/C model of the MAN TGX 26.540 6x4 XLX tractor truck and container trailer manufactured by Tamiya which comes completely unassembled. The model features a metal ladder frame with the motor and transmission positioned in the space where the full size truck would have its engine and gearbox. Power is provided by a 7.2volt 3.3Ah NiMH battery which is situated under the model in a container disguised as a transverse fuel tank.

The 3-speed manual transmission (gear box) is operated via a servo controlled by the transmitter. A second servo controls the steering and a third actuates the coupling/decoupling which also serves to raise and lower the trailer parking legs. The speed of the motor is controlled via an electronic speed controller which utilises an on board microprocessor to control the braking, reversing and also the lighting and sounds.

The twin rear axles are both assembled with fully functional differentials, half shafts and propeller shafts. The front and two rear axles are attached to the frame via working spring steel leaf springs, shackles and dampers. All the tyres are pneumatic and deform under load as would the full size ones. Providing the model with greater scale realism are the accurately reproduced exhaust cover, side mirrors, step plates and wheel hubs.

Several modifications have been made to the original kit utilising the extra channels on the 6 channel 2.4GHz Transmitter and receiver. There is also an additional PCB coupling circuit, designed and built by the builder, to enable the trailer lighting to be activated without any manual intervention by the operator.

The trailer.

The 3-axle semi-trailer is designed for loading one 40ft. or two 20ft. containers, which are the most commonly seen in Europe. The kit for the trailer is also manufactured by Tamiya to the same exacting standard as the tractor unit.

The model container features the same grey livery and logo as that of the shipping company MAERSK. The container side, top, and front panels feature different panel patterns which are accurately reproduced, as are the rear doors which sport accurate and functional locking bars. It also features the same twist-lock system as the actual container to enable attachment/detachment from the trailer. The plethora of decals attached to the trailer also enhances the realism of the model, as does the addition of working rear lights.

The suspension on the trailer is of the original swinging arm and leaf spring design, with working shock absorbers and pneumatic tyres. The lighting, hook-up and support legs on the model are also automatic and the operator doesn't need to manually do anything to attach or detach the trailer. Although some of this was already implemented in the electronic control it was very cumbersome to use and has been superseded by the utilisation of a spare channel on the transmitter.

If you would like a demonstration of this model or wish to ask any questions of the builder please speak to one of us and we will do our best to answer your query.