

Tefco Excellence

In an unusual move for these pages and just for this month, we are bringing you a fairly extraordinary 1/14 scale radio-controlled model from Austria. Christian Ambichler is what we would call a radio-control enthusiast but he is also a truck modeller of some considerable talent.

Christian lives in the small village of Pinsdorf in central Austria. A little more than five years ago Christian watched a TV show on Australian road trains and his idea was borne.

In 2003 he started to research the project via the web and settled on a Tefco tri-axle B-double, high-sided, aluminium bulk tipper with a sliding body A trailer. Not content with what might have been a fairly straight forward B-double combination, Christian built four sliding-body tri-axle A trailers and a single standard length, tri-axle, tip-over-axle B trailer.

He began in earnest in early January 2003 and by the end of the year had finished a set of scaled plans and started work on making the parts for the prototype of a sliding body A trailer. It was an enormous challenge as Christian wanted to include as many working functions as he could.

After testing and modifying the prototype, he set to work producing more than 2500 parts for the four A trailers. Each has full functioning sliding bodies, operating ram and rear tailgate, working landing legs and trailer coupling system. All the indicator lights, marker lights, auxiliary and reversing lights on each of the trailers also work.

Once the parts were cleaned and painted, they were assembled in a process that used

nearly 5000 screws, nuts, bolts and washers and there was more than 100 metres of fine electrical wire used for the lighting looms and for the radio control servos and battery connections.

With work on the trailer completed, Christian started on the truck producing a hybrid Aussie look-alike tri-drive unit complete with long range fuel tanks, twin high-rise air-ram air intakes, twin exhaust stacks and a bullbar. More than 1200 screws, nuts, bolts and washers hold the truck together and more than 80 metres of wiring serves the lights and the radio control servos and battery packs.

Each of the trailers can be operated

Christian Ambichler took around four years to complete the model of the Tefco Trailers, including having a friend take pictures when visiting Australia.



The trailers are radio controlled and used 100 metres of electrical wire and nearly 5000 screws, nuts, bolts and washers. The model road train has four sliding body tri-axle A trailers and a single standard length tri-axle tip-over-axle B trailer.



BE IN IT TO WIN...

Each month, Auslowe Model Accessories and Truckin' Life give away a selection of model conversion accessories and truck decals to the Model of the Month winner.

Truckin' Life's model competition is always looking for entries, so send us good colour photos of your favourite model truck and a brief description.

Write to...
Bob Riley, Chasing Trucks Productions
PO Box 2705, Toowoomba, QLD, 4350

AUSLOWE MODEL ACCESSORIES

210 Tea Tree Road
Brighton TAS 7030
Phone/Fax 03 6268 1166

independently while an infra-red system Christian developed himself directs signals between the trailers to operate the lights. The decals and mudflaps were developed on AutoCAD using photos taken of a full size Tefco Trailer by one of Christian's friends who visited Australia during the time he was working on the project. The decals and sign writing were printed onto clear self-adhesive film.

The fully-rigged five trailer road train measures nearly four metres in length and is

stored and carried in a specially built heavy-duty carry case. After nearly 5000 hours of part-time work, Christian completed the project in September 2007.

The complete story and a full set of pictures of this amazing model can be found on the Tefco Trailers website at www.tefco.com.au in the archived story 'Tefco Replicated in Miniature'.

The model is a fitting tribute to Tefco who celebrate 20 years in the industry in 2008.