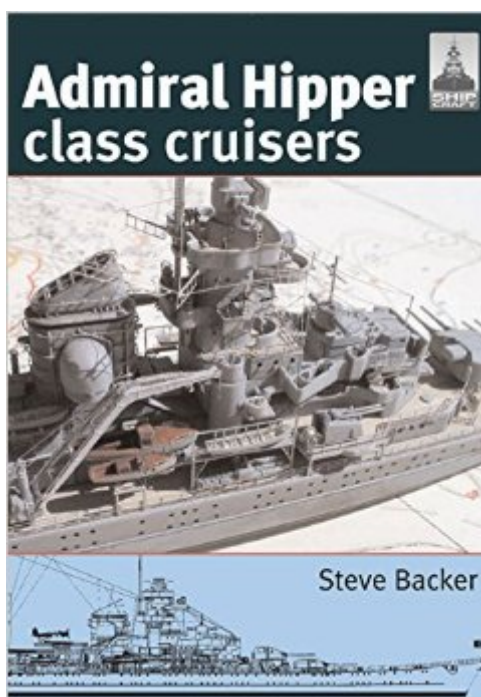


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Shipcraft 16 - Admiral Hipper Class Cruisers



Synopsis

The *ShipCraft*™ series provides in-depth information about building and modifying model kits of famous warship types. Lavishly illustrated, each book takes the modeler through a brief history of the subject class, highlighting differences between sister-ships and changes in their appearance over their careers. This includes paint schemes and camouflage, featuring color profiles and highly detailed line drawings and scale plans. The modeling section reviews the strengths and weaknesses of available kits, lists commercial accessory sets for super-detailing of the ships, and provides hints on modifying and improving the basic kit. This is followed by an extensive photographic survey of selected high-quality models in a variety of scales, and the book concludes with a section on research references - books, monographs, large-scale plans and websites. The subject of this volume is the largest and most sophisticated German cruiser class of WW2. The five ships suffered very different fates. Blucher was sunk during the invasion of Norway in 1940, whereas Admiral Hipper fought right through the war. The most famous, Prinz Eugen, escaped when Bismarck was sunk and survived to be expended in a postwar Atomic bomb test. Seydlitz was intended to be converted to an aircraft carrier, but never finished, while Lutzow was sold to Russia and sunk by her erstwhile owners.

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Customer Reviews

This is not a "be all, end all" volume on the Hipper-class heavy cruisers, especially not in 64 pages. It does not cover design, construction, or engineering details, and does not concern itself with

questions of the morality of war or the human experience of those that served aboard these ships. The text is brief, describing the histories of the finished Hipper, Prinz Eugene and Blücher (no, I do not remember how to insert umlaut, leave me alone), the uncompleted Seydlitz and Lützow, and their eventual fates. There are a few color plates showing the different camouflage schemes each ship carried and when, and a good collection of dated and captioned B&W photographs mostly from--for obvious reasons--Hipper and Prinz Eugene. (There is a solitary color photo of the capsized hull of Prinz Eugene in the Pacific following the 1946 nuclear tests, but that hardly counts.) The photographs do a very respectable job in showing the differences of these ships as completed, and the differences in their modifications as the war went its course. A smaller section of the book is an overview of commercially available model kits of the class in different scales, and their various shortcomings. There is also a brief "builders showcase" of models finished to a high degree such that I am embarrassed to ever show another person my own efforts in this regard. While this volume is not meant as a deeply scholastic work, there is a much appreciated bibliography of print and online resources. Given that most modelers do not finish their projects to match black-and-white photographs, some greater discussion concerning the hues of the colors worn by these ships at various points in their lives would have been beneficial, this is a fairly minor issue.

The Shipcraft series are a great pictorial reference for model ship builders. They teach by example but are intended for modelers who already know their way around injection-molded plastic, resin and photo-etch metal i.e. they are not suitable for beginners. This edition features the Hipper class heavy cruisers of which Admiral Hipper and Blücher formed the first subclass with Prinz Eugen, Seydlitz and Lützow being an enlarged and improved second subclass. The last two of these were never completed while Seydlitz was slated to be converted into an aircraft carrier. There is a useful, potted history of each ship, with specs, good detail photographs and many line drawings showing the specific differences. A useful table of modifications is given for each ship so the modeller can accurately portray his or her subject for a given timeframe. Also very useful is the list of book references and websites given at the end. At the time of printing the most recent kit covered by this book is the Trumpeter 1/350 Prinz Eugen (1945), so all the most recent Hipper and earlier Prinz Eugens are missing. A good account of the existing model offerings is given.

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