



Background – A Legendary Battleship:

The German battleship *Bismarck* needs no introduction to naval enthusiasts. The drama of her sortie into the Atlantic in May 1941 that resulted in the destruction of the British battlecruiser *HMS Hood*, an epic chase, the last minute crippling of her steering gear from an aircraft launched torpedo, and her subsequent loss after being pounded into wreckage by battleships *HMS King George V* and *HMS Rodney* is probably the most famous of all naval actions during the Second World War.

Over the passage of time, her dimensions, armament, and armour plate have assumed mythic proportions. While quite a fearsome battleship, *Bismarck* was a very conservative design with roots in the World War One German battleship *SMS Baden*. Some of her design features were questionable; mainly the splitting of the secondary armament into two types – 5.9” guns for surface combat and 4.1” guns for AA. Her contemporaries, *USS North Carolina* and *HMS King George V*, utilized a single weapon for their secondary armament that was capable of both surface and anti-aircraft fire. This was far more efficient and weighed less, allowing more armour plate to be worked in. *Bismarck’s* armour plating was

equivalent to that used on foreign contemporary designs, although there is no denying that she took incredible punishment before sinking.

Her Achilles Heel was her rudders and propellers; the torpedo hit aft from *HMS Ark Royal's* Swordfish jammed the rudders and sealed her fate. It is interesting to note that jammed steering gear also doomed *HMS Prince of Wales* and the Japanese battleship *Hiei*.

Nevertheless, *Bismarck* is probably the most recognized battleship in history. She continues to draw attention, being the subject of many books and model kits. The discovery of her wreck in 1989 has only renewed interest in her story.

Not surprisingly, Flyhawk has chosen *Bismarck* as the first in their new line of 1/2000 scale Pocket Fleet Series of clip together models.

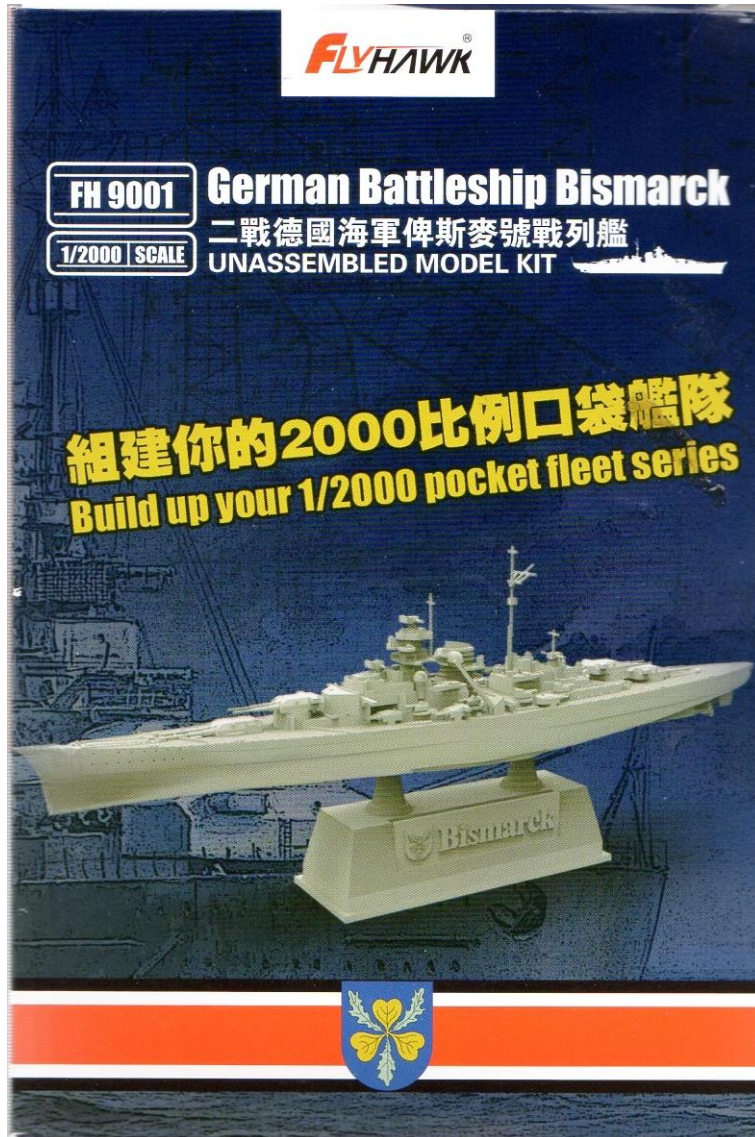
The Kit:

This features *Bismarck* as she appeared in May 1941 and is a clip-together kit.

Packaging:

The kit comes in a well-constructed box featuring a photograph of the completed and unpainted model. Painting instructions are on one side of the box with the assembly instructions on the back. The other side of the box contains a list of upcoming kits in the series: *Tirpitz*, *Scharnhorst*, and *Gneisenau*.

The kit comprises 46 parts on three sprues with all parts moulded in medium grey and individually sealed in plastic bags or wrapped in packaging material. The upper hull, lower hull, and main superstructure parts are single pieces not attached to any sprue.



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| <p>警告!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1、內含小零件，嚴禁3歲以下兒童使用。 2、本產品與包裝圖形所示略有不同。 3、本產品并非玩具！適合14歲以上青少年及成人使用。 <p>WARNING!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contains small parts, the children under 3 years old cannot use it 2. The real product is little bit difference from the one on the box 3. The product is not a toy, only suitable for people over 14 years old | <p>No.01</p> <p>FH 9001 Bismarck FH 9002 Tirpitz FH 9003 Scharnhorst FH 9004 Gneisenau</p> | <p>FLYHAWK</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div> <p style="font-size: small;">Made In China</p> |
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----- Box Art -----

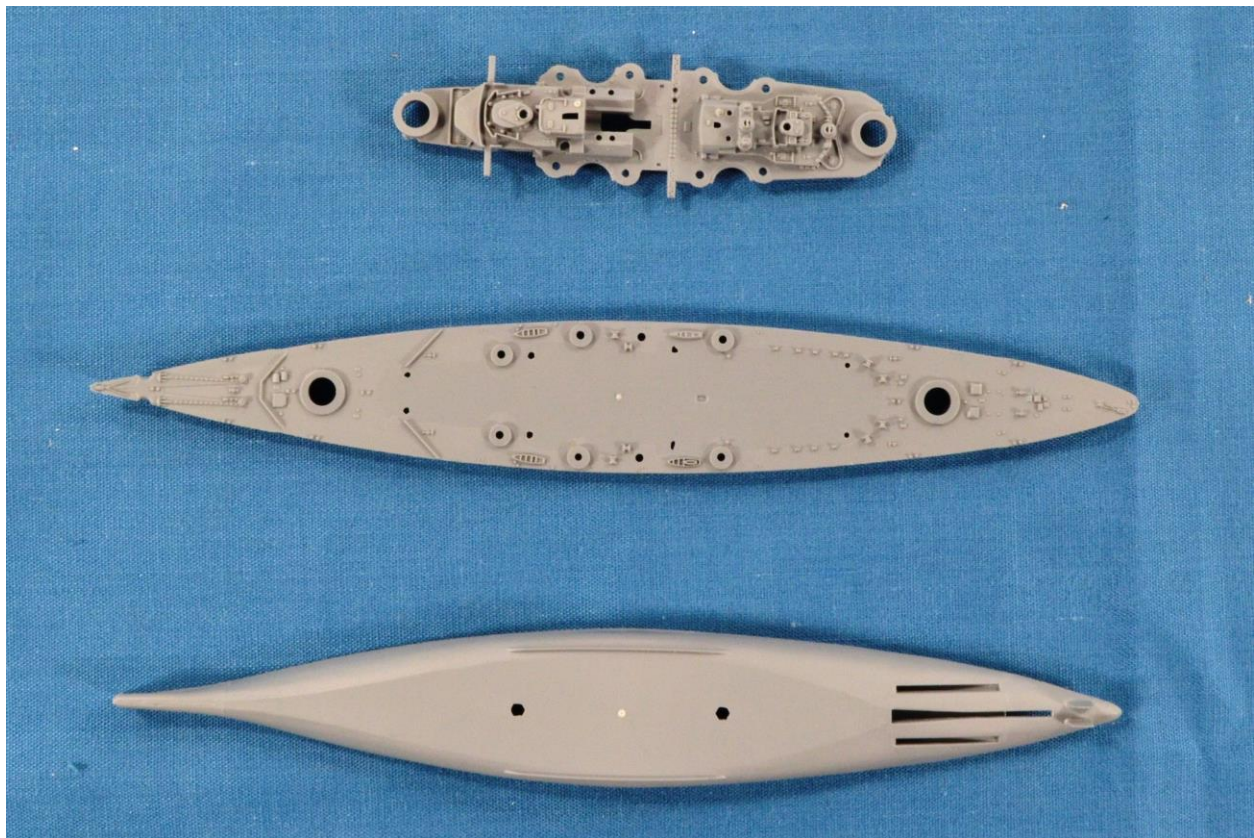
Hull and superstructure:

The upper hull and main deck is one piece and scale out perfectly to the actual length of 823 feet overall. A lower hull is supplied giving the modeller the option to build either a full hull or a waterline version.

The hull features the top of the armour belt, a recessed stern anchor, and portholes. The main deck has engraved deck planking, breakwaters, bollards, capstans, hatches, anchor chain, cable reels, and four moulded-in boats.

The lower hull itself has finely molded bilge keels, a bulbous forefoot, and twin rudders. The propellers and shafts are included as separate pieces.

The superstructure is a separate piece and contains the bridge up to the level of the forward tower, and the complete after superstructure. The wood decks are engraved, the catapult is very well defined, and there are even bridge wings.



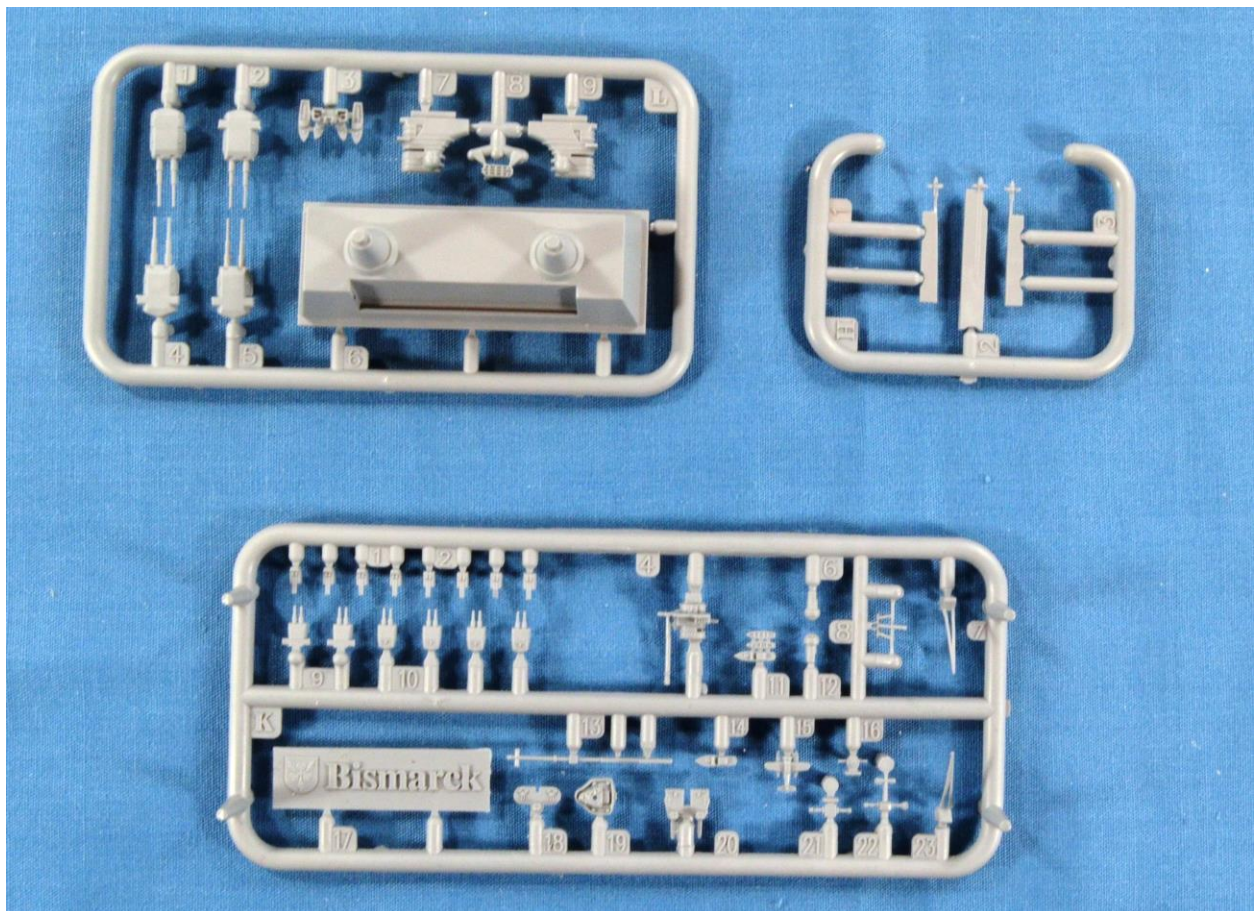
----- *Superstructure, upper hull, and lower hull* -----

Weapons and Fittings:

The main 15" armament, the 5.9" secondary, and the 4.1" AA guns are all supplied as separate pieces with moulded on barrels. Main turret 'Anton' (the first from the bow) is correctly moulded as having no rangefinder; the other three 15" turrets all have rangefinders. The 15" barrels are all very finely moulded and have 3 different thicknesses from the muzzle to the breech. The secondary armament and AA guns are also very finely moulded, only two of the 5.9" turrets have rangefinders.

There are pieces for the funnel, funnel grill, cranes, main armament directors, masts, boats, propellers, and even a tiny Arado 196. All the parts are very crisp and well detailed.

There is also a large 2 part display base.



----- Weapons and Fittings -----

Instructions:

The instructions are on the back of the box. Some colour coding is used to assist with the placement of smaller parts; this eliminates a lot of guess work.

板件組裝圖 Sprues Assembly

装配前请仔细阅读!
Please Read Before Operation!

Including Parts : Gx1;Hx1;Ix1;Jx1;Kx1;Lx1

Standard (实施基准)
GB 6675-2003
GB 5296.5-2006
QB/T 2862-2007

Main Material : PS Plastic
主な材料: PS合成樹脂
www.flyhawkmodel.com
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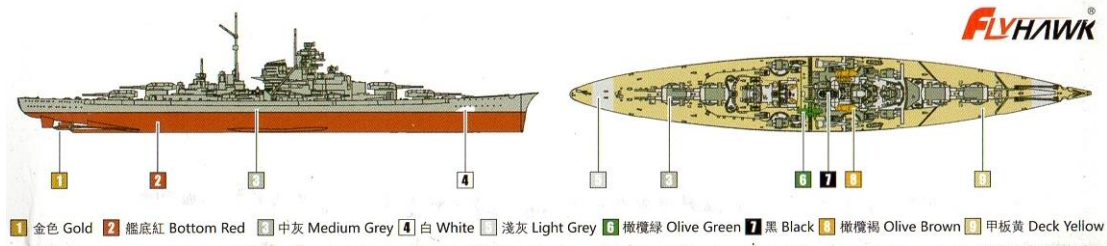
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FLYHAWK
鷹翔模型 FLYHAWK MODEL
MADE IN CHINA
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----- Instructions -----

Colour scheme:

On the side of the box, there is a full-colour diagram of the overall dark grey scheme with the forward false bow wave worn by *Bismarck* during her Atlantic sortie.



----- Colour scheme -----

Overall Impression:

As accustomed as I am to Flyhawk's considerable attention to detail and the quality of their products, this kit really is a showcase of how much effort and research they put into their kits. It is just under 5" long, but packs an incredible amount of detail and includes Bismarck's distinguishing features. Every piece is extremely well defined. The fact that it is also clip together and does so very easily shows how much care Flyhawk put into the design of the kit.

There is absolutely no flash on any of the pieces, no ejection pin markings, and none of those lines that result when two mould halves are used to make a single component. The plastic is quite durable; it stands up to very rough handling without any breakage.

The small parts count and the clip together assembly can make this kit a quick afternoon's build, or it can become a top quality display model once painted.

This is another highly recommended kit; modellers who customarily build in this scale will be delighted. I'm looking forward to seeing the next kits in this series.

Review kit courtesy of Flyhawk Models