



Background – Norwegian Menace:

The German battleship *Tirpitz* was the legendary *Bismarck*'s sister ship. In direct contrast to her more famous sister's short and violent career, *Tirpitz* spent the Second World War mostly at anchor in various Norwegian ports where she was a direct threat to the Russian convoys and by her very presence was able to considerably influence the Royal Navy's global deployments. Her inaccessibility in her various anchorages also spurred considerable British research into and development of non-conventional methods of attack, mainly human torpedoes and miniature submarines.

Tirpitz was built in Wilhelmshaven and unlike *Bismarck* was fitted with the full Atlantic bow before she was launched on April 1, 1939. Once war broke out, she became the primary target of the first RAF bombing raids into Germany. She was targeted no fewer than 16 times between July 10, 1940 and March 13, 1941 when she arrived at Gotenhafen in Poland for sea trials; no damage was done to her in any of the raids. She exercised in company with *Bismarck*, but was not fully operational in May 1941 and therefore did not accompany *Bismarck* on that ship's fateful Atlantic sortie.

Declared fully operational on January 10, 1942, *Tirpitz* sailed for Norway and arrived at Trondheim on January 16. Between March 6 and 9, she and three destroyers sailed on her first combat operation, a

sortie against the Russian convoys PQ-12 and QP-8. No contact was made with the convoys and while the German force returned to base it came under torpedo attack by Albacores from *HMS Victorious*. By means of violent zig-zags and heavy flak, *Tirpitz* was able to avoid any damage. No doubt this raised uncomfortable memories of *Bismarck's* fate when attacked by torpedo carrying aircraft.

In early July 1942, a powerful task group consisting of *Tirpitz*, the cruisers *Admiral Hipper*, *Lutzow*, and *Admiral Scheer*, and ten destroyers sortied briefly against convoy PQ-17. When it was realized that this force was out, the British Admiralty ordered the convoy to scatter which resulted in the destruction of most of the separated merchant ships by aircraft and submarine attack. The German task group was recalled, its mere presence having accomplished the destruction of the convoy without any of the ships having fired a shot.

On October 31, a Norwegian fishing boat towing two human torpedoes underwater got within 16km of *Tirpitz's* Trondheim anchorage when both torpedoes tore loose during a sudden squall and were lost.

Between September 6 and 9, 1943, *Tirpitz*, *Scharnhorst*, and nine destroyers sortied to Spitsbergen where they bombarded an Allied weather station on what proved to be *Tirpitz's* last combat sortie. On September 23, two British miniature submarines (X-craft) succeeded in penetrating *Tirpitz's* Altenfjord anchorage where they laid mines under her hull. The subsequent explosions caused hull damage, put the turbines out of action, and disabled the rudders and propellers; the ship was out of action until March 1944. The repair work had to be conducted in Norway as it was considered too dangerous for the ship to return to Germany.

Once the repairs were completed in 1944, there was no respite for the ship or her crew as she came under carrier-borne air attack on April 3, July 17, August 22, August 24, and August 29. Damage to the ship from the April 3 attack was particularly severe as 12 bombs struck the ship. On September 15, the ship was hit by two 5,400 pound 'Tall Boy' bombs dropped from Lancaster bombers. This attack finished *Tirpitz* as an effective fighting unit. Moved to a shallow anchorage at Tromsø, she was meant to become a floating battery for coast defense. On November 12, 1944 she was hit by three Lancaster dropped 'Tall Boy' bombs and capsized to port; over 900 of her crew were lost. The wreck was broken up at the end of the war.

To accompany their previously released *Bismarck*, Flyhawk has chosen *Tirpitz* as the next release in their new line of 1/2000 scale Pocket Fleet Series clip together models.

The Kit:

This features *Tirpitz* as she appeared in November 1944 and is a clip-together kit. This is **not** a simple re-packaging of the *Bismarck* kit; it accurately reflects the differences between the two ships.

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 the other kits in the series: the already released *Bismarck* along with the upcoming *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*.

The kit comprises 47 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.



警告!

- 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。

NO.01

FH 9001 Bismarck
FH 9002 Tirpitz
FH 9003 Scharnhorst
FH 9004 Gneisenau

WARNING!

- 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

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---- Box Art ----

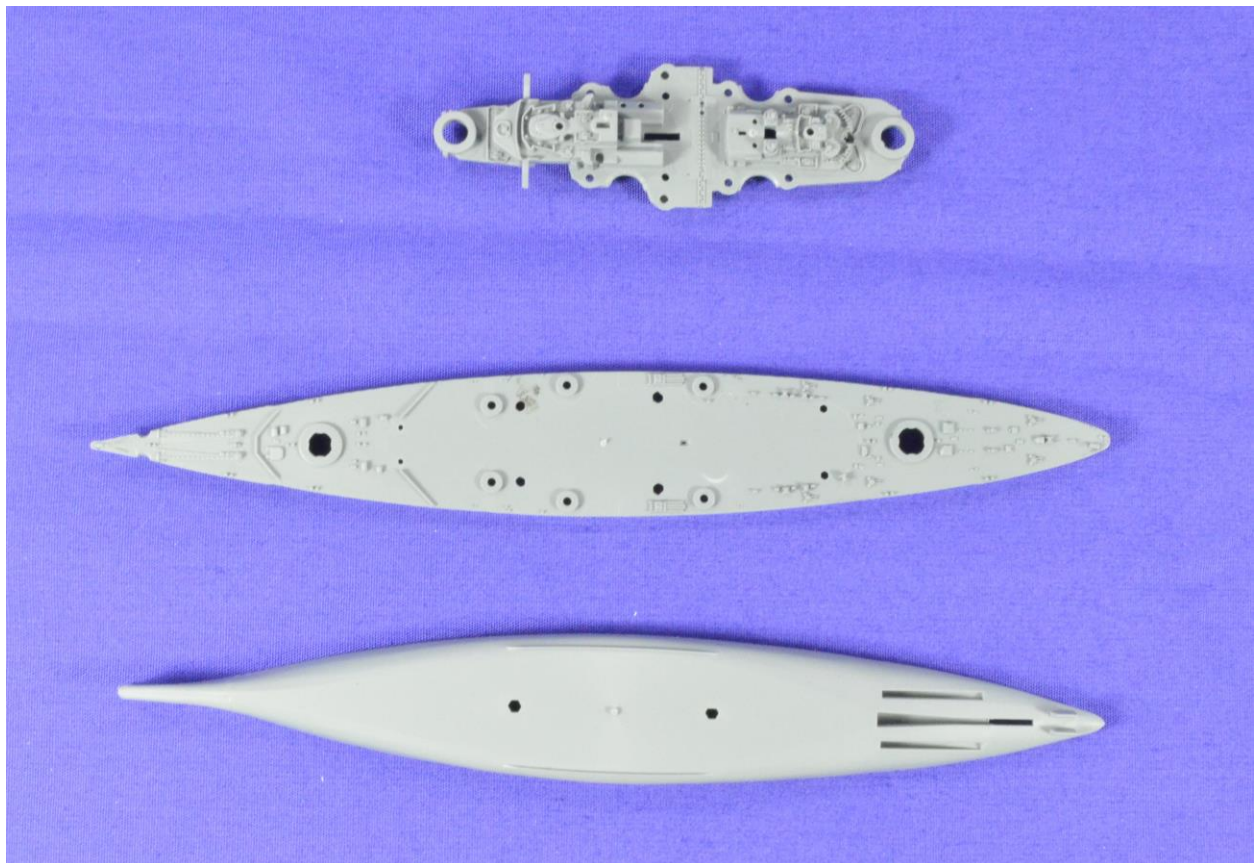
Hull and superstructure:

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 torpedo tubes.

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, multiple light AA mounts are cast in place, and there are bridge wings.



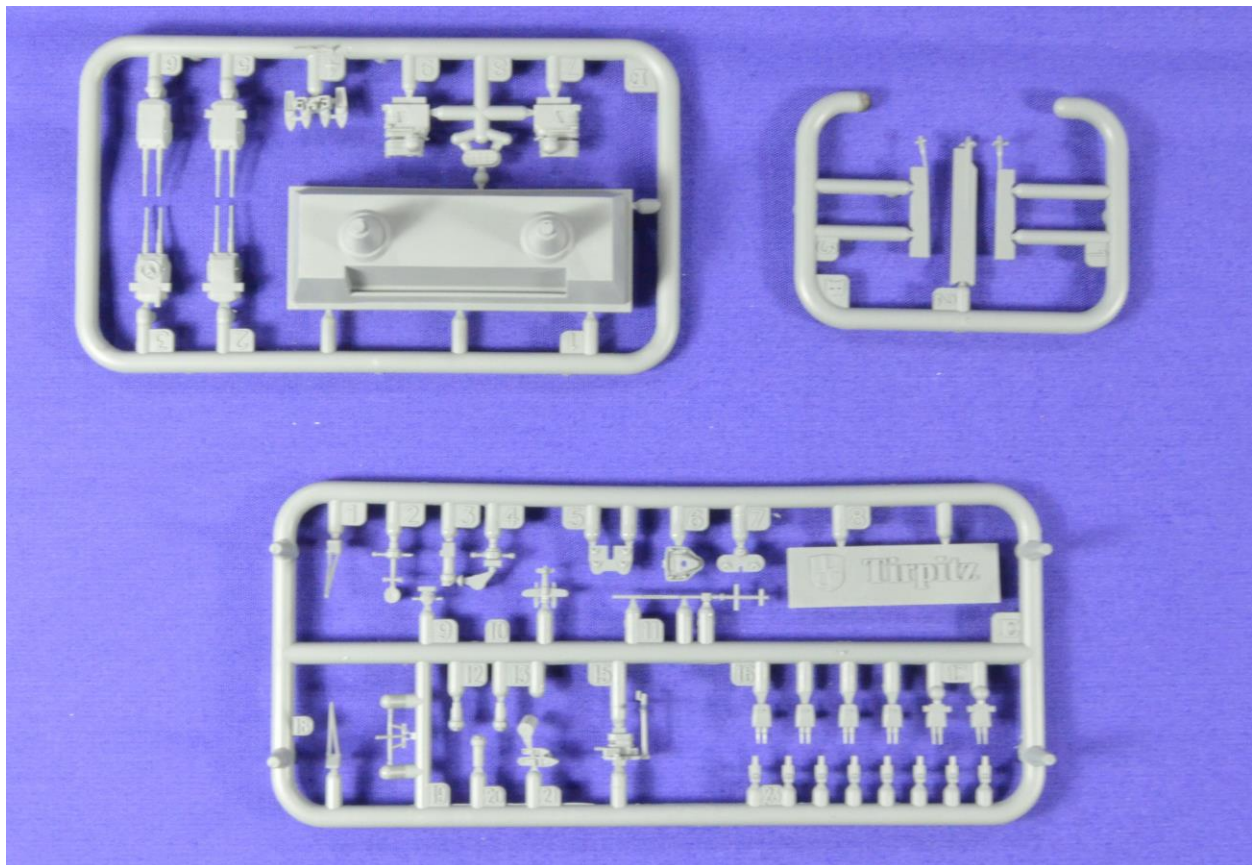
----- *Superstructure, upper hull, and lower hull* -----

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. Main turret 'Bruno' (the second from the bow) has an AA mount on the roof. 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

裝配前請仔細閱讀!
Please Read Before Operation!

Standard (實施基準)
GB 6675;2003
GB 5296.5-2006
QB/T 2862-2007

Main Material: PS Plastic
主な材料: PS合成樹脂

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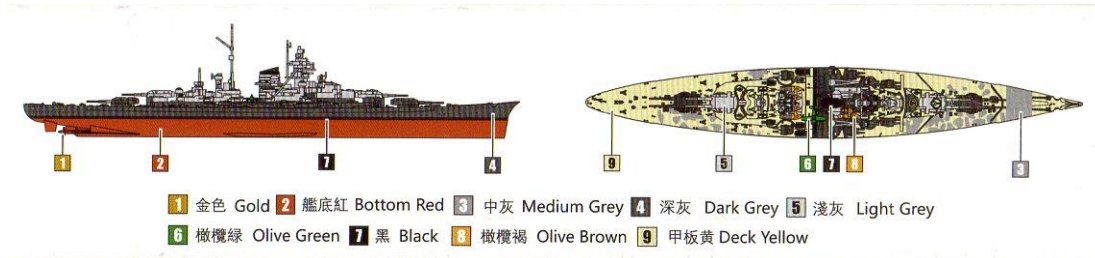
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----- Instructions -----

Colour scheme:

On the side of the box, there is a full-colour diagram of the two tone light and dark grey scheme worn by *Tirpitz* from July to November 1944.



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

Overall Impression:

Along with their exceptional attention to detail and to product quality, Flyhawk also puts considerable effort into research for their kits. This kit is no exception. It is less than 5" long, but is packed with detail and includes the main features that distinguish *Tirpitz* from *Bismarck*: the main deck torpedo tubes, the two additional main armament directors on the after superstructure, the enlarged funnel platform, revised boat layout, and the positioning of the two aircraft cranes on the enlarged catapult deck. Every piece is extremely well defined and the kit clips together very easily.

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