

Review of Shipcraft Book 13 'New Orleans' Class Cruisers by Lester Abbey (Plans & Colour Artwork by George Richardson)

On receiving this book I was particularly impressed with the quality of both the cover and the detail presentation. The photographs throughout, including the black and white World War 2 photos, were very clear and contained a wealth of detail for even the most discerning modeller. George Richardson is to be congratulated on the quality of his plans and artwork. Seven ships of this class were built in the 1930s for the United States Navy.

The book includes chapters on History, Model Products, Model Showcase, Colour Schemes and Drawings. All of these subjects are likely to appeal to the serious modelmaker.

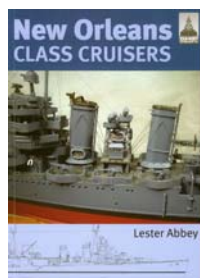
In the chapter concerning model products, Lester Abbey gives a good idea as to the quality and accuracy of various plastic and resin kits that are available at scales 1/350 and 1/700. He also gives details of 'after market' accessories to the same scales which will improve the quality of any model.

The Modelmakers' Showcase shows high quality photographs of various completed models with a brief history of the model maker and hints on his modelling techniques.

I particularly liked the outline drawings, both plan and elevation, of each of the ships in the class with a note of the year represented. Camouflage details of each ship are also shown.

There is a good list of reference books and websites that offer dedicated modellers and marine enthusiasts further information about these important cruisers.

For anyone who has an interest in building, either from a kit or from scratch, one of these good looking cruisers, this book would be an invaluable first avenue for reference. Lester Abbey writes with a great deal of knowledge regarding the detail differences of the seven ships in this class.



Available from www.pen-and-sword.co.uk
Price £14.99