

Review of Shipcraft Book 14 'Yamato' Class Battleships by Steve Wiper.

Another Shipcraft book with the same great quality and information that goes with this series.

Once again the colour photographs are of the highest quality. The black and white World War 2 photos are generally excellent especially bearing in mind the few photos that are available of these ships taken during their lifetime. Two battleships of this class were built between 1937 and 1942 for the Imperial Japanese Navy. A third was completed as an aircraft carrier.

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

As there have been many model kits of 'Yamato' class battleships (possibly more than any other) Steve Wiper concentrates his review on ten of the kits that he believes represent the best quality, accuracy and value. The scales range from 1/2400 to 1/144. He also reviews two 1/96 scale fibreglass hulls which give an overall length of 108 inches.

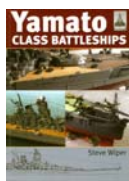
Steve Wiper then reviews and recommends seven different manufacturers that market accessories, in varying scales from 1/700 to 1/200, for this class of battleship.

The Modelmakers' Showcase shows photographs of some of the best examples of models by advanced kit and scratch builders from around the world. Interestingly, pictures include a film set of part of 'Yamato' for a film about the ship, and a 1/10 scale model of 'Yamato', 86 feet long, which is on display at the Kure City Naval and History Museum.

The outline drawings show both the 'Yamato' and 'Musashi' in plan and elevation in their final configuration. 'Yamato' is also shown in her 1941 colours.

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

For anyone who has an interest in building a model of one of these battleships this book would be an invaluable first avenue for reference.



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