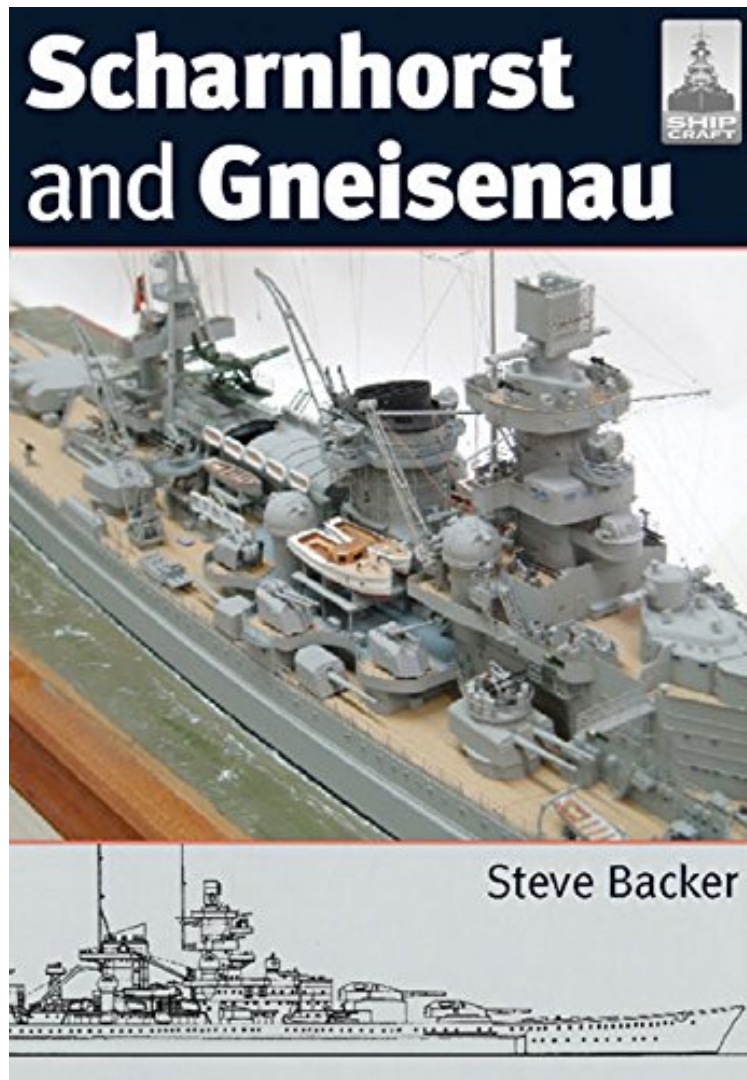


Shipcraft 20 - Scharnhorst and Gneisenau

Steve Backer

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Steve Backer : Shipcraft 20 - Scharnhorst and Gneisenau before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shipcraft 20 - Scharnhorst and Gneisenau:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good overview with many illustrations --- a must for modelersBy Max PrendergastThis is another in the "Shipcraft" series published in the UK. These paperbacks are produced to a very high standard and are aimed primarily at modelers, but are also good for those with interest in the subject matter from a historical perspective.This volume covers two of Germany's four modern WWII battleships, the Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau (though referred to as "battlecruisers" by the British, the Germans themselves always rated these as full battleships). These were handsome ships and had a very active war, so there has always been considerable interest in

them from students of Second World War naval operations. Here's what you get in this volume: Apx 25 pages of text covering the design, operational history, appearance, and refits of these two ships over their careers. There are numerous well-captioned BW photos, many of which this reviewer had not seen before despite having several other books on this subject. The book is on glossy paper so the reproduction quality for pictures is very good. The operational history is brief and with no real revelations, but it does the job of covering all the major points. Apx 10 pages of model products consisting of color photos and reviews of the various scale model kits and accessories that are currently available. (This information, obviously, is time sensitive.) Apx 15 pages of "Modelmakers' Showcase" in which some expertly made models of these ships are depicted each with several close-up color photos and brief comments. As ever in this series, the skills of the master model makers will take your breath away, and it is amazing the realism they are able to achieve. Because of the incredible attention to detail, the photos of the models are often highly useful as a guide to how the real ships looked (there being, perhaps, no published historical shots of precisely the portion of the real ship which you are interested in). Also included are color profile drawings showing various camouflage schemes, plus plan and profile drawings of both ships at various stages in their careers (including an interesting one showing how Gneisenau would have looked had the conversion to 15-inch twin main turrets been completed). Lastly, a useful annotated bibliography of other historical references is included. This series is nicely produced, and this volume is no exception. Though aimed at modelers (a must-have if interested in these ships), this would also be a useful addition to the library of anyone with a special interest in the Kriegsmarine in general or the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in particular. Given 5 stars as a modelers guide, which is how it is intended; would be 4 stars as a historical reference only due to brevity. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A little dated and needs to be revised. By Richard C. Vaughan Shipcraft books are awesome but many of them should be updated since many new kits have been released in the last 5-6 years. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Gabriel Claudio Amigot Excellent

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 gallery 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 relevant websites. The two German ships which form the subject of this volume were among the first products of rearmament under Hitler. For political reasons they were neither as large nor as well armed as foreign equivalents, but they were very fast, which led them to be described as battlecruisers in some quarters. They enjoyed an adventurous war, both surviving heavy damage, before Scharnhorst was sunk in an epic gun battle off the North Cape, while Gneisenau succumbed to heavy air attack.

About the Author STEVE BACKER is the editor of steelnavy.com, the best warship modeling site on the web, for which he writes extensively on warship kits and accessories. He is also the author of five previous titles in this ShipCraft series, the most recent being Admiral Hipper Class Cruisers.