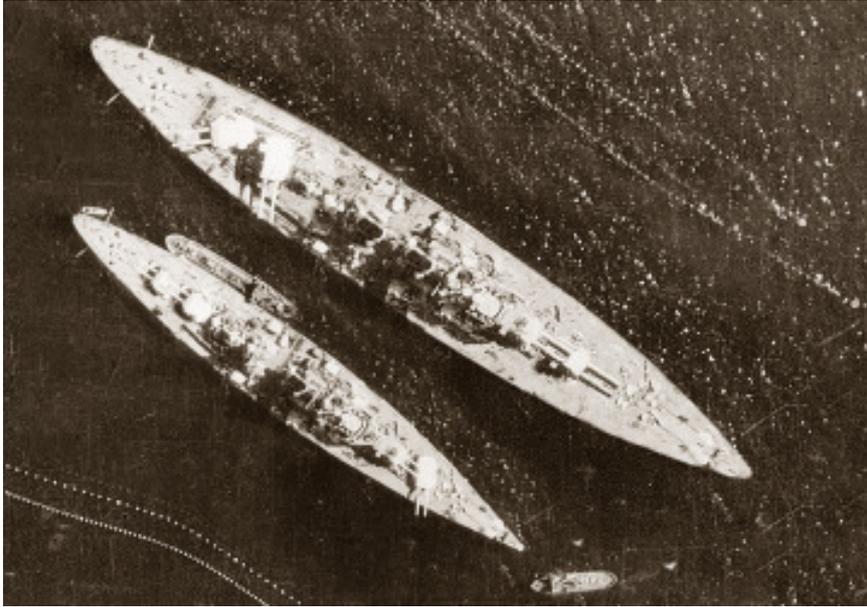


The Z-Plan Kriegsmarine Leviathans of the 3rd Reich

The Z- Plan Kriegsmarine Part 2– Leviathans of the 3rd Reich

by Agis Neugebauer (with some serious help of Rich L. Bax and the rest of the "Salty Seadog" VaS playtest group)

Big thanks again to Michael Emmerich whose website (<http://www.german-navy.de/kriegsmarine/zplan/index.html>) was a great primary sources for all the ship data and ship pictures.



As said in the original Z-Plan Kriegsmarine list the Z-Plan was Germany's fleet building program started shortly before World War 2. In the mid 1930s a major discussion about a new fleet program started in Germany. The list from Signs & Portents number 40 was focussed on the core plans of the German Kriegsmarine and on the ships that were the most likely to be build or that had even been laid down.

The following Victory at Sea supplement is about German Naval battleship projects that never went beyond the drawing board. As many

ideas of the German military leadership of that time serious delusions of grandeur influenced these projects.

Battleships

The six battleships of the H-class were the projected successors of the battleships Bismarck and Tirpitz.

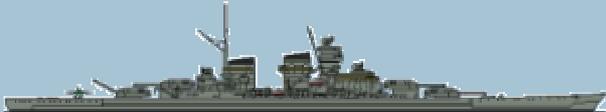
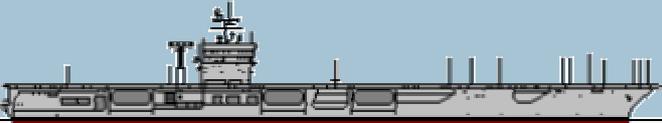
These ships were mainly enlarged and improved versions of their predecessors. Designed with a commerce war in mind; diesel engines were selected instead of the usual high pressure steam turbines typically used for ships of this size.



Although it was obvious that Germany would not be able to build a complete new battleship during wartime, the plans for the H-class battleships were further developed and improved, to study the design of a competitive battleship and increase sheer ship scale to counteract increasing bomb weights. Lessons learned in naval conflicts involving German warships, like Norway, the sinking of the *Bismarck* and the loss of the *Scharnhorst* were used

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to upgrade the plans, resulting in later H-class designs increasing in size in a very spectacular way. Comparing the basic data of the different H-class designs clearly indicates this jump in size, as shown in the table next page:

Design	Size / Length	Artillery	Performance / Speed
Tirpitz 	52.600 tons 251 m	8 x 38 cm	163.000 shp 30,8 kn
H39 	62.496 tons 277,8 m	8 x 40,6 cm	165.000 shp 30,0 kn
H40A 	64.575 tons 282,9 m	6 x 40,6 cm	230.000 shp 32,2 kn
H40B 	68.779 tons 299,8 m	8 x 40,6 cm	240.000 shp 32,3 kn
H41 	74.779 tons 300,4 m	8 x 42 cm	165.000 shp 28,8 kn
H42 	96.451 tons 305,2 m	8 x 42 cm	270.000 shp 32,2 kn
H43 	118.104 tons 330,2 m	8 x 50,8 cm	270.000 shp 31,0 kn
H44 	139.264 tons 345,1 m	8 x 50,8 cm	165.000 shp 30,1 kn
CVN John C. Stennis, completed 1995 	102.000 tons 332,9 m	none	280.000 shp 30,0+ kn

It is obvious that everything after the H40 fell into the realm of fantasy. The H44 would have been bigger than the latest U.S. Nuclear Aircraft Carrier, the *John C. Stennis*, and would have been unable to use any of Germany's wartime ports.

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The Z-Plan Kriegsmarine List

The following list supplements the official Kriegsmarine fleet list of the main Victory at Sea rulebook and the Z-Plan list of S&P number 40:

Priority Level: War

H-40a-Class Battleship
H-40b-Class Battleship
H-41-Class Battleship
H-42-Class Battleship

Priority Level: Total War

H-43-Class Battleship
H-44-Class Battleship

This list introduces a new Priority Level: Total War. Therefore there are now six Priority Levels in Victory at Sea as shown below in ascending order.

1. Patrol
2. Skirmish
3. Raid
4. Battle
5. War
6. Total War

Please use the following table instead of the table on page 46 of the Victory at Sea rulebook to buy ships when using the Total War Priority level:

Fleet Allocation

Difference in Priority Level	Fleet Allocation Points Cost
Ship is same Priority Level as scenario	1 per ship/squadron
Ship is one Priority Level higher than scenario	2 per ship/ squadron
Ship is two Priority Levels higher than scenario	4 per ship/ squadron
Ship is three Priority Levels higher than scenario	8 per ship/ squadron
Ship is four Priority Levels higher than scenario	16 per ship/ squadron
Ship is five Priority Levels higher than scenario	32 per ship/ squadron
Ship is one Priority Level lower than scenario	1 point buys 2 ships/ squadrons
Ship is two Priority Levels lower than scenario	1 point buys 3 ships/ squadrons
Ship is three Priority Levels lower than scenario	1 point buys 4 ships/ squadrons
Ship is four Priority Levels lower than scenario	1 point buys 12 ships/ squadrons
Ship is five Priority Levels lower than scenario	1 point buys 24ships/ squadrons

When using Victory points use the following table instead of the one on page 19 of the Victory at Sea rulebook.

Victory Points

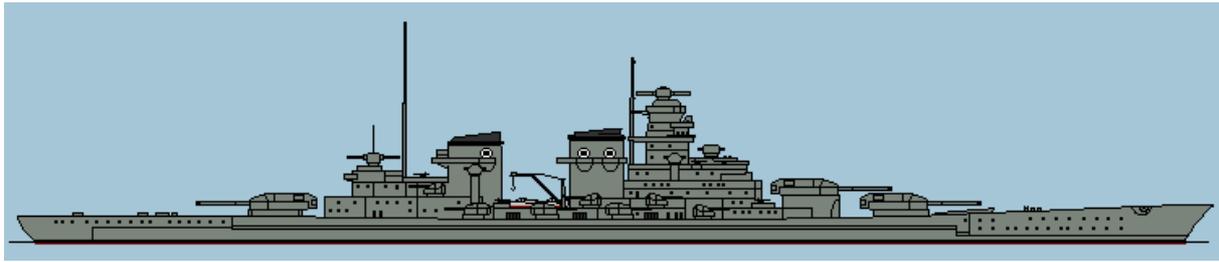
Difference in Priority Level of Ship and Scenario	Victory Points
Ship is same Priority Level as scenario	10
Ship is one Priority Level higher than scenario	20
Ship is two Priority Levels higher than scenario	30
Ship is three Priority Level higher than scenario	40
Ship is four Priority Levels higher than scenario	50
Ship is five Priority Levels higher than scenario	60
Ship is one Priority Level lower than scenario	5
Ship is two Priority Levels lower than scenario	3
Ship is three Priority Levels lower than scenario	2
Ship is four Priority Levels lower than scenario	1
Ship is five Priority Levels lower than scenario	1/2

Please bear in mind that the Total War level is only useable with permission of your opponent. This list is not intended to provide an unbeatable fleet list but to add an additional level of "What If" games to Victory at Sea.

Alternately you can just use the simplified system published in S&P number 41: Use 2 War level points for the H-43 and 44 Class Battleships.

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H-40A



Ships of this class: unknown

After construction of the Schlachtschiff H was halted in 1939, the Kriegsmarine continued to develop plans for new battleships. Although most of these plans were only design studies and never intended to be built, some of these plans did reach a level that could be used for the construction of ships.

The H-40A design was an attempt to maintain the speed and displacement of H-39 but with increased armour protection. The Krupp Works was hard-pressed to manufacture the 16-inch guns along with the other ordnance currently on order, so reducing the number of guns made deliveries a bit easier. The main problem lay in propulsion. More power was needed to maintain speed over H-39 even though the sizes and displacements were similar. To do this required four propeller shafts, rather than the three used in the H-39 design. Four diesel power plants were impossible to mount in the required beam; doing so would have reduced the torpedo protection. Switching to steam turbine propulsion would allow the use of three shafts, but would also have required lengthening the armoured citadel to protect the longer engine rooms and this would have increased the displacement even more, so four shafts using a compromise of diesel/steam turbine machinery was introduced.

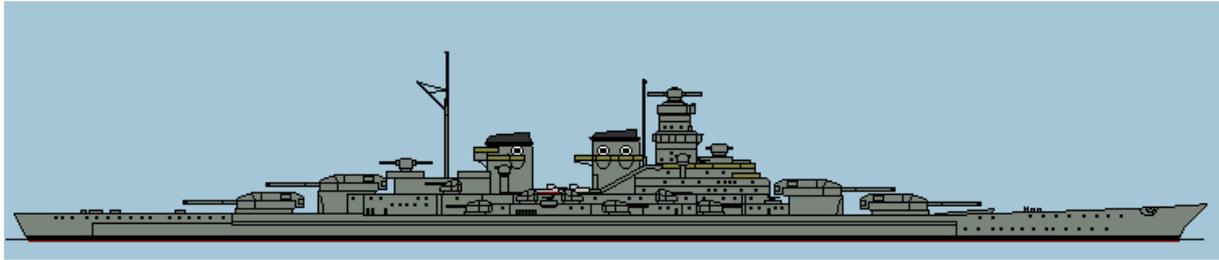
Speed: 6'' **Armour:** 6+ **Special Traits:** Aircraft 4, Torpedo Belt, Armoured Deck, Radar
Turning: 1 **Damage:** 52/17 **In Service:** 1945 (Planned)
Target: 4+ **Crew:** 108/36

Weapon	Range	AD	DD	Special
A Turret (2 x 16 in)	41''	2	3	AP
B Turret (2 x 16 in)	41''	2	3	AP
X Turret (2 x 16 in)	41''	2	3	AP
Secondary Armament	17''	5	1	Weak
AAA	8''	6	-	
Port Torpedoes	10''	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading
Starboard Torpedoes	10''	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading

Length: 885 ft. **Displacement:** 64.575 t **Speed:** 32 kts. **Crew:** 2.693

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H-40B



Ships of this class: unknown

The H-40B design was essentially an enlarged H-39 design which would make use of advances in diesel technology by using a more powerful engine that required less space. Armament would be unaltered from the H-39 design but like the H-40A design there would be marked improvement vertical protection and, in particular, torpedo protection. The primary attempt was to detonate any torpedo as far away from the vitals of the ship as possible. Simply put; the greater this distance, the better the protection, but the wider the beam. This was accomplished on the drawing board, by providing as much as a 20 foot wide void, or voids, between the outer skin plate and the final armoured bulkhead protecting a vital area.

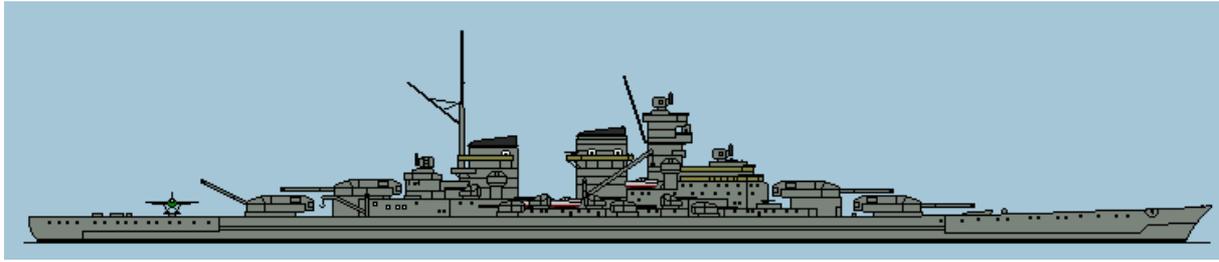
Speed: 6'' **Armour:** 6+ **Special Traits:** Aircraft 4, Torpedo Belt, Armoured Deck, Radar
Turning: 1 **Damage:** 53/17 **In Service:** 1945 (Planned)
Target: 4+ **Crew:** 115/38

Weapon	Range	AD	DD	Special
A Turret (2 x 16 in)	41''	2	3	AP
B Turret (2 x 16 in)	41''	2	3	AP
X Turret (2 x 16 in)	41''	2	3	AP
Y Turret (2 x 16 in)	41''	2	3	AP
Secondary Armament	17''	5	1	Weak
AAA	8''	6	-	
Port Torpedoes	10''	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading
Starboard Torpedoes	10''	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading

Length: 941 ft. **Displacement:** 68.906 t **Speed:** 30 kts. **Crew:** 2.874

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H-41



Ships of this class: unknown

After the loss of the battleship Bismarck, the requirements for a new battleship were redefined by the Kriegsmarine construction office. Based on the original H39 design, the result was a battleship design based on four main requirements:

1. Strong horizontal armour protection
2. a top speed of at least 30 knots
3. a main artillery best fitting to the ship size
4. a good protection against mine hits

There was no given limit on displacement and the resulting design was roughly the same size as the Japanese Yamato class. Compared to previous designs the ship had a thicker horizontal armour protection. To achieve the required speed, a mixed diesel / steam turbine engine system was chosen, similar to that specified in the H40A and H40B design studies.

In terms of main armament, the original 16 inch gun of the H-39 though H-40B designs had itself been designed with a very heavy barrel. For the H-41 design it was proposed that the gun to be "bored out" to a larger diameter of 16.54 inches (420mm). Krupp indicated that the change was slight and studies conducted with H-39 ammunition handling equipment showed the machinery could handle the new rounds.

Compared with future design studies, the planning for the H41 reached a point where construction could have begun after the war.

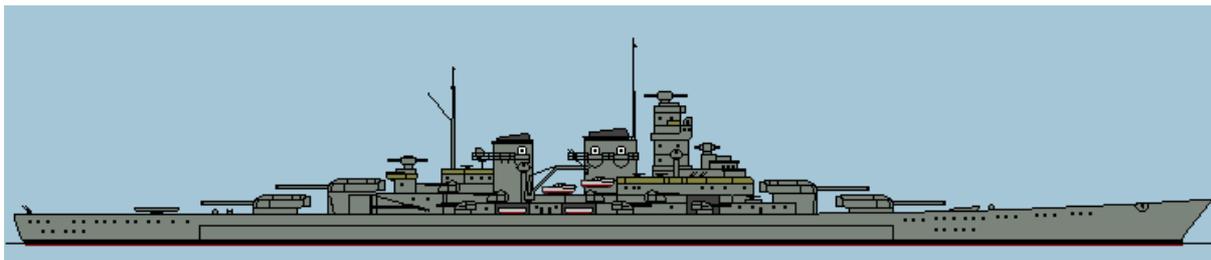
Speed: 6'' **Armour:** 6+ **Special Traits:** Aircraft 6, Torpedo Belt, Armoured Deck, Radar
Turning: 1 **Damage:** 55/18 **In Service:** 1945 (Planned)
Target: 4+ **Crew:** 125/41

Weapon	Range	AD	DD	Special
A Turret (2 x 16.54 in)	42''	2	3	Super AP
B Turret (2 x 16.54 in)	42''	2	3	Super AP
X Turret (2 x 16.54 in)	42''	2	3	Super AP
Y Turret (2 x 16.54 in)	42''	2	3	Super AP
Secondary Armament	17''	5	1	Weak
AAA	8''	6	-	
Port Torpedoes	10''	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading
Starboard Torpedoes	10''	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading

Length: 901 ft. **Displacement:** 74.799 t **Speed:** 28 kts. **Crew:** 3.120

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H-42



Ships of this class: unknown

Given the progress of the war, further development of the German battleship design studies was influenced by the experience learned by the lessons of the ongoing sea war. In particular, the loss of the battleship Bismarck had a huge impact on the construction office of the Kriegsmarine.

The plans for the battleship H42 were focused on a better protection of the ship. Based on the design H41, the armament was kept identical, but the armour protection was again increased, leading to a projected ship size of 80.000 t. The increased protection was achieved by enlarging the complete armour scheme, but also in improving the underwater protection against torpedo and mine hits.

Because of the lethal torpedo hit on the Bismarck, the stern of these ships would be equipped with two fins, which would protect the props and rudders from the side, but its questionable if this system would have provided the required manoeuvrability. Since the performance requirements still called for a top speed of 32 kn, the traditional three prop arrangement would not be sufficient. Therefore a 4 prop system was chosen, two of them powered by diesel engines, the other two powered by steam turbines.

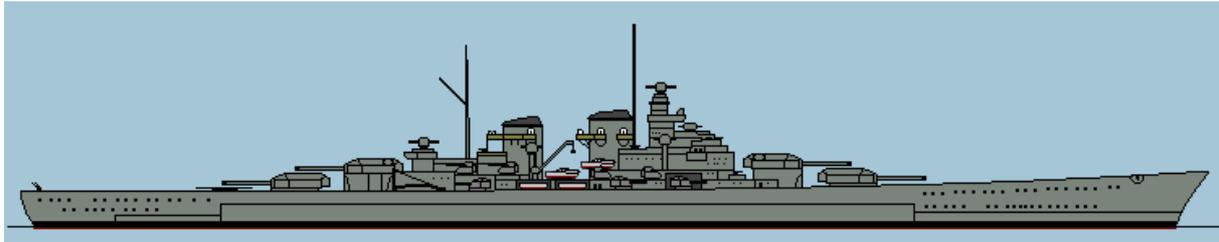
Speed: 6" **Armour:** 6+ **Special Traits:** Aircraft 6, Torpedo Belt, Armoured Deck, Radar
Turning: 1 **Damage:** 62/20 **In Service:** 1945 (Planned)
Target: 3+ **Crew:** 131/43

Weapon	Range	AD	DD	Special
A Turret (2 x 16.54 in)	42"	2	3	Super AP
B Turret (2 x 16.54 in)	42"	2	3	Super AP
X Turret (2 x 16.54 in)	42"	2	3	Super AP
Y Turret (2 x 16.54 in)	42"	2	3	Super AP
Secondary Armament	17"	5	1	Weak
AAA	8"	6	-	
Port Torpedoes	10"	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading
Starboard Torpedoes	10"	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading

Length: 1.001 ft. **Displacement:** 96.451 t **Speed:** 32 kts. **Crew:** 3.284

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H-43



Ships of this class: unknown

With the H43 design, the naval construction office finally left the path of battleship construction reality. Being an enlarged version of the H42, the new design had no counterpart in other countries. Having a size of over 111000 tons and a length of 330 meters, the ship was more than twice the size of any existing battleship of that time. The main artillery was also enlarged to 50,8 cm guns, while the secondary and flak armament was unchanged.

The projected top speed of 31 knots required the same mixed propulsion system as previous designs. The main armour was not increased, but it covered a larger area of the ship.

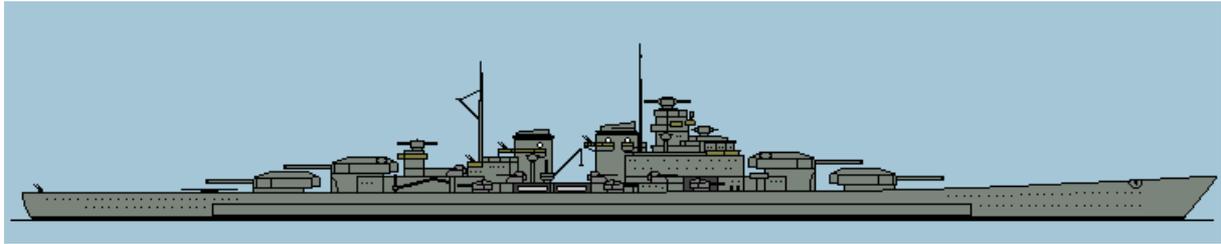
Speed: 6'' **Armour:** 6+ **Special Traits:** Aircraft 6, Torpedo Belt, Armoured Deck, Radar
Turning: 1 **Damage:** 67/22 **In Service:** 1946 (Planned)
Target: 3+ **Crew:** 197/65

Weapon	Range	AD	DD	Special
A Turret (2 x 20 in)	44''	2	5	Super AP
B Turret (2 x 20 in)	44''	2	5	Super AP
X Turret (2 x 20 in)	44''	2	5	Super AP
Y Turret (2 x 20 in)	44''	2	5	Super AP
Secondary Armament	17''	5	1	Weak
AAA	8''	7	-	
Port Torpedoes	10''	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading
Starboard Torpedoes	10''	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading

Length: 1.083 ft. **Displacement:** 118.104 t **Speed:** 31 kts. **Crew:** 4.927

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H-44



Ships of this class: Friedrich der Grosse, Grossdeutschland

The H44 design was the final result of the designs for a battleship which started with the H39. Again enlarged in size and armour protection, the armament and engines did not change compared with the previous design, the H43, though the maximum speed was reduced to 30 kn. It was never intended to build a ship like the H-44; it was a design study to see how a battleship had to be designed to be protected against all known threats.

Speed: 6'' **Armour:** 6+ **Special Traits:** Aircraft 9, Torpedo Belt, Armoured Deck, Radar
Turning: 1 **Damage:** 71/23 **In Service:** 1946 (Planned)
Target: 3+ **Crew:** 232/77

Weapon	Range	AD	DD	Special
A Turret (2 x 20 in)	44''	2	5	Super AP
B Turret (2 x 20 in)	44''	2	5	Super AP
X Turret (2 x 20 in)	44''	2	5	Super AP
Y Turret (2 x 20 in)	44''	2	5	Super AP
Secondary Armament	17''	5	1	Weak
AAA	8''	8	-	
Port Torpedoes	10"	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading
Starboard Torpedoes	10"	2	3	AP, Slow-Loading

Length: 1.131 ft. **Displacement:** 139.264 t **Speed:** 30 kts. **Crew:** 5.809