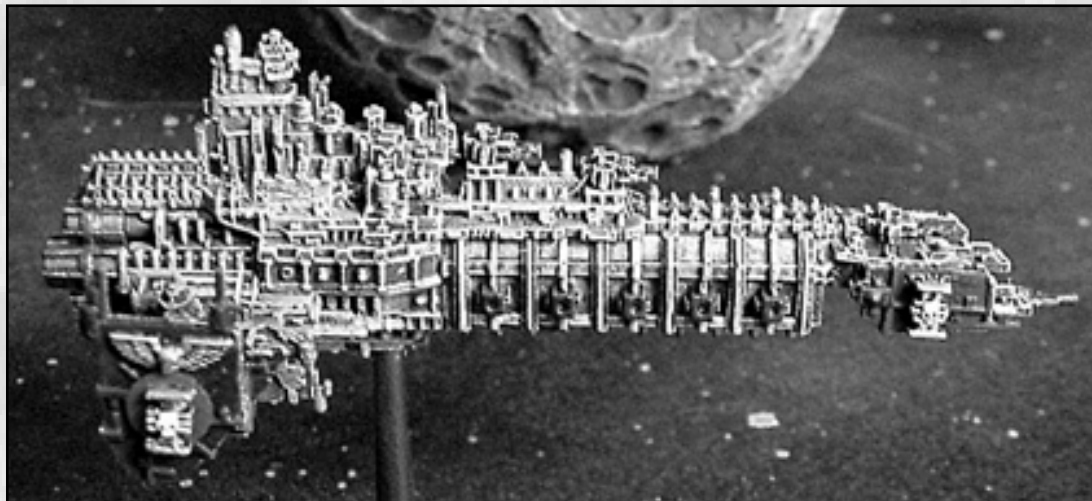


INQUISITION BLACK SHIP

Experimental Rules by Bob Henderson

The Inquisition is the most powerful force within the Imperium, moving through the galaxy rooting out heresy and treachery. To facilitate their movement they command the infamous Black Ships, these are powerful vessels, much feared by all.



Constructed solely by the Adeptus Mechanicus of Mars, the 'Black Ships' are among the most secretive of warships currently in the service of the Imperium. Sometime in the distant past the Grand Masters of the Inquisition viewed the reliance upon Imperial Navy or Space Marine forces for transport, support and protection as unacceptable and a new vessel capable of independent action was required.

Combining many features of a Space Marine Strike Cruiser with a full sized Battle Cruiser hull, the Black Ships, (so called due to their somewhat sinister reputation) can deploy company-sized formations with orbital support. Usually operating alone or in conjunction with Imperial Navy or Space Marine escorts, these vessels can serve as the core of a formidable battle group for dealing with rebellions or heretic incursions.

These rarely seen vessels usually operate only on Inquisition business but occasionally, when the interests of both the Inquisition and the Imperial Navy coincide, a Black Ship will join with an Imperial battle group. While it is a rare Admiral who welcomes an Inquisitor to his counsels, these vessels are highly capable additions to any force.

Such is the secretive nature of their work few of the exploits of the Black Ships are known. However, the destruction of the *Ecclesiarch Nevsky* while destroying the Tyranid incursion on Horatia III stands out. The *Nevsky* and her

escorts destroyed all three hive ships of the invasion fleet before succumbing to the remaining drones. The destruction of the hive vessels prevented any reinforcement reaching the embattled planet and the Imperial Guard, coupled with the Deathwatch Space Marines from the *Nevsky*, exterminated the Tyranid horde.

Speculation has long existed that several Space Marine Chapters have requested similar ships from Mars' shipyards. All have so far been refused.

SPECIAL RULES

Black Ships automatically pass Leadership tests for All Ahead Full special orders due to their exceptional reserve engine capacity.

An Inquisition Black Ship may not be squadroned with any Imperial Navy or Space Marine cruiser squadron, nor may an Admiral or Fleet Master use a Black Ship as a flagship.

Leadership rolls are for the Black Ship only and use the Space Marine Leadership table.

USING A BLACK SHIP

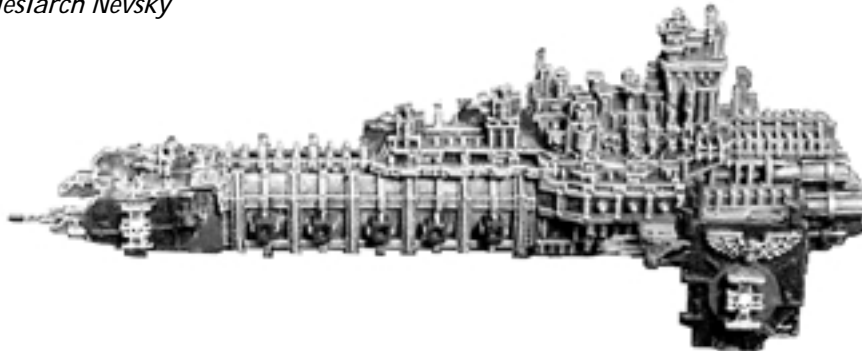
Only 1 Black Ship may be used per 2,500 points of Imperial and/or Space Marine vessels.

Black Ships may operate as a separate force with Imperial Escorts. Each Black Ship may take up to a maximum of six Escorts of any type.

INQUISITION BLACK SHIP 270 pts

FAMOUS SHIPS

Ecclesiarch Nevsky



TYPE/HITS	SPEED	TURNS	SHIELDS	ARMOUR	TURRETS
Cruiser/8	25cm	45°	2	6+	2
ARMAMENT		RANGE/SPEED	FIREPOWER/STR		FIRE ARC
Dorsal bombardment cannon		30cm	6		Front/left/right
Port weapon battery		45cm	8		Left
Starboard weapon battery		45cm	8		Right
Prow launch bays		Thunderhawks 20cm Assault Boats 30cm	2		-
Prow torpedoes		30cm	6		Front

Notes: Black Ships automatically pass leadership tests for All Ahead Full specail orders due to their exceptional reserve engine capacity.



HOW TO BUILD A BLACK SHIP

Here is a step by step guide to how I built my Black Ship.

1. Cut the prow off an Imperial plastic Cruiser (save the prow for your next conversion).
2. Add the prow of a Space Marine Strike Cruiser. I used a bit of plastic sprue as a spacer to fit between the Strike Cruiser prow and the Imperial hull. Drill a small hole through all three items and pin with fine brass rod for extra strength before gluing.

3. Using the bottom bridge off a Space Marine battle barge, cut the Imperial hull down and back a little, until it fits.

4. You'll need to slightly file the top and bottom of the battle barge batteries but they can be added to the sides of the cruiser hull as a perfect fit with just a little work.

5. Add three bombardment cannon turrets to the two existing openings on the dorsal surface of the cruiser, and place a third right on top of the Strike Cruiser prow.

6. Glue the dual engines from a Battle Barge on the underside of the plastic cruiser wings and add the side shields, also from the Battle Barge.

7. To make the ship disinctively Inquisitorial I added Inquisition sigils, purchased from Mail Order, on both the rear and front shields. If you don't wish to order four sigil sprues, simply paint or decal as appropriate.