

asp games

# FIREPOWER

rules



Naval gaming with rules and model ships for the period

**1900 to 1945**

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## INTRODUCTION.

My first introduction to naval gaming began over 22 years ago. With a motley collection of various Airfix ships, the action was played out on the front room floor. When my friends QE2 rammed my Bismark and sank it, I knew something fundamentally was wrong with the rules. After all, he did write them.

In the intervening years I have read a number of WW2 and modern naval rules from a variety of authors. Most of the WW2 sets gravitate around the plotting of the individual shell, penetration of armour and where it detonates in the target ship. Hardly realistic considering the number of shells actually fired.

These rules take a different approach to classifying ships, for example, a battle cruiser was generally classed the same as other battle cruisers, and differences between ships of the same class were almost ignored. While this may not satisfy the purist, it prevents the excessive preoccupation of theoretical differences in weapon performance, armour protection, compartmentalisation etc. Besides, these alleged differences did not win battles or wars, and the two most technologically advanced and powerful ships fell to the element most ignored by purists, the aircraft. This approach also prevents some ships not being used simply because their 'alleged' performance characteristics did not meet the players approval, which, of course, did not occur historically.

In many respects writing and researching this set of rules has been, in many ways a disturbing experience, more so than the other sets of rules that I have written. How, so. When high explosive shells detonate in closely confined spaces such a warship the results are devastating. The wounds inflicted on the crew by fire, explosive and high speed metal shards, are horrific beyond imagination. People being ripped apart, mutilated and dying in extreme agony. Then there is the horror of being trapped in a sinking ship, perhaps several decks below. The darkness, the cold, the fear. In our warm, fuzzy, safe tabletop war where no one gets killed and the crew all escape safely to 'fight' another day I ask you please to have a thought about the men who did not return home to their wives and children. How much better we keep battle and conflict confined to the table top. I wish you peace and long life.

That being said, I have endeavored to capture the firepower of Capital ships, the rate at which damage occurred, the confusion, the fire, the flooding, the explosions, the smoke. Successive editions will expand and refine the atmosphere, and it's all yours **FREE** of charge. In these rules YOU win the battles not you equipment, and that is what happened historically. The way you use your equipment is the key to success.

### **WHAT YOU NEED.**

The equipment you need to play this game is a minimum of two players. At the end of the rules are some suggestions on how to run multi-player games, this is quite simple. Obviously you will need model ships, a playing surface, dice and some markers. All will be explained in due course.

### **THE PLAYING AREA.**

The minimum recommended playing area is 6' by 4', an average of 4' or 5' by 8' will suffice for most games, even those that use aircraft. If using 1/700th scale models, I suggest using the floor or limit the action to small scale.

### **PLAYING SCALE.**

These rules can be used for any of the popular scales, though most players will prefer the smaller scales for space and cost reasons. For the purpose of this game, scales are divided into two classes; 1/700th and smaller (sub-1/700th). The most popular small scale is 1/3000th. At the end of the rules there is a special section for players (including myself) who prefer the 1/700<sup>th</sup> - the real scale.

### **TIME AND DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP.**

It would not be practical to use a directly proportional time, distance and model scale. For obvious reasons! Battles often took place over hours and days and covered a good deal of surface area. On average 30cm (1') represents 10,000m, 3cm equals 1000m, One turn of game time represents the passage of 30 minutes of real time.

### **MODEL SCALE.**

Each model ship represents its real life counterpart. If you are using the small scale, it is best to mount the model on card a few millimeters

thick. Sea relief can be then painted onto the ship's base enhancing it's aesthetic appeal.

## PERIOD DIVISIONS.

For the reasons of technological development, games should be fought within the follow period divisions. The **Early Period** 1895-1906, the pre-dreadnought era that includes the battle of Tsushima (1905), the first major sea battle since Trafalgar 100 years previous. The **Middle Period** 1906-1925, starts with the introduction of HMS Dreadnought, the introduction of the ill-fated Battlecruiser concept and submarine warfare becomes an important aspect. This period also saw the pre-World War One arms race, a programme of frenetic capital ship building that developed the HMS Dreadnought 'template' to its zenith. This can be demonstrated by the difference between the Dreadnought (1906) itself and, say the Iron Duke (1912), Agincourt (1913) and Warspite (1913). Finally, the **Late Period** covers the years 1925-1945 but really starts with the Washington treaty which curtailed the development of Capital ships for those who stuck to it. This treaty took the emphasis off big gun Capital ships and transferred it (unintentionally) to another solution - the Aircraft Carrier. The **Late Period** saw ship design being developed on from the previous dreadnought models to include improved gunnery, armour, compartmentalisation, communications, propulsion and targeting, a refining not radical development. As so much emphasis was put into the big gun solution, other ship classes took a back seat, their development was at a much slower rate. As you know, it was during the late period that saw the rise and dominance of the aircraft. If you fail to provide adequate air cover for your capital ships they are as good as sunk. The late period is a combined arms affair. On the other hand aircraft could really function at night, in bad weather or against aggressive nimble fighters.

## SHIP CLASSIFICATION.

Ships are classed according to the below groupings. Which, in turn, is based on their real life role. The 'standard' classifications are demonstrated in the table on the next page. Some ships are awarded a + or - postfix for their class, this denotes a finer grading (see list on P23). At the end of the rules is a list of ships according to their class. For now, slot ships in where appropriate. In the future we intend to produce a full listing of WW1 and WW2 ships.

Class	Description	Main Battery	Secondary Battery	Armour	AA
SB	Super Battleship	SB	CA	SB	30
BB	Battleship	BB	CL	BB	25
BC	Battlecruiser	BC	CL	BC	15
CA	Heavy Cruiser	CA	DE	CA	10
CL	Light Cruiser	CL	-	CL	7
DD	Destroyer	DD	-	DD	5
DE	Destroyer Escort	DE	-	DE	3
MTB	Torpedo Boat	T	-	-	1
SM	Submarine	T	-	DE	-
CV	Carrier	DE	-	DE	10
CVE	Escort Carrier	DE	-	DE	10
CVA	Armoured Carrier	CL	-	CA	20
AK	Cargo	-	-	DE	-
AKL	Large Cargo	-	-	DE	-

Matrix 1

Most ships of our period will conform to the above classifications. However, a number have differing characteristics, for example the early dreadnoughts, pre-1905 Battleships, the Graf Spee class etc. Full navy lists will be provided in the book format of these rules. Ships of the **Early** and **Middle Period** ignore the Anti-aircraft column. A **BC** is '2 up-class' of a **CL**, ie two steps up as on the above table. This works in the opposite direction as well, so the **CL** is '2 down-class' of the **BC**. 2 up class and 2 down class (etc) can also be expressed as

2+cl and 2-cl respectively or if you're into maths, expressed as **x+cl** or **x-cl**, where **x** is an integer of the required number of steps. Damage will reduce a ships armour and armament classes also expressed as **-cl** i.e. a reduction in class. The book will also append a post-fix to a ships class and this is its propulsion/fuel system. C = Coal, D = Diesel/Oil, G = Gas turbine and N = Nuclear. The G and N post-fix are for the post 1945 modern period. T, on the above table are Torpedoes.

Aircraft are represented by a few models on a stand, perhaps being supported at height by light wire, they represent a flight of up to five real aircraft. Aircraft are classified as **AS** for air superiority fighters, **TB** for torpedo bombers, **FB** for fighter bombers and dive bombers, **HB** for heavy bombers and **KM** for kamikaze.

An **HB** stand can represent 2, four engine heavy bombers or 4, twin engine.

## BATTLE SET UP.

Each ship is allotted a points value (which can be found at the end of the rules). Both players choose ships (and if applicable, aircraft) up to an agreed points value before the game, also, both players write down their orders of battle on paper. Such orders of battle has to describe the ships in each squadron, the flagship(s) and the position of squadrons in relation to each other using inches. The fleet will then move on table in this order. The fleets come on table from opposite table edges.

## COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION

This is a area of naval warfare that is practically totally ignored by contemporary naval wargames. In other rules you have complete control of all of the vessels in your fleet all of the time. 100% unrealistic. In battle, naval warfare is characterised by bad weather, poor visibility, poor communications, during which you have to respond to unexpected enemy actions, damage, panic, confusion etc. Don't be put of these rules. You'll find that responding to a loss of control is probably the most stimulating aspect of these rules. While compensating for the loss of control in your own fleet you're always watching like a hawk for that gap to appear in your opponents fleet due to his loss of control. Then move in to exploit the gap.

First, select your flagship, this is where **You** will be. Next organise

all your ships into battle groups or squadrons. All ships of the same squadron must stay within the minimum distance of another member of the same squadron unless such circumstances such as damage makes this impossible. Each squadron must have an appointed flagship which must be the leading ship all others taking the same move and turning through the same angles. You must give each squadron a formation order and a movement order.

## MOVEMENT ORDERS

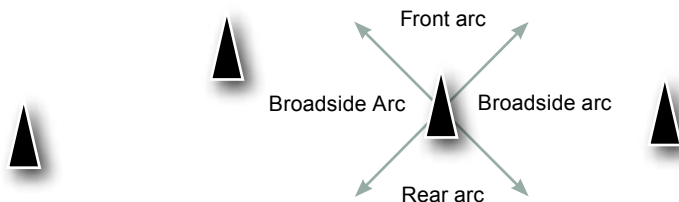
There are 4 movement orders, these are;

<b>ENGAGE:</b>	Turn broadside to enemy and fire.
<b>INTERCEPT:</b>	Move as fast as possible toward the enemy, turning broadsides in Line Ahead (see below) and fire.
<b>BREAK-OFF:</b>	Disengage enemy <b>now</b> , moving directly away, in line ahead or line abreast if possible. Vessels must re-group when 60cm away from enemy vessels of same or up class.
<b>MANOEUVER:</b>	The squadron may move in accordance to player's wishes.

## FORMATION ORDERS

There are 4 formation orders, and these are;

<b>LINE AHEAD</b>	The leading ship of the formation must be the squadron flagship. All others must be in line and within the rear arc of the ship to its front.
<b>LINE ABREAST</b>	Each ship of the squadron must be within the broadside arc of another ship of the same squadron
<b>SCATTER</b>	All vessels attempt to evade attacking aircraft, the models moving in circles to do so.
<b>OPEN</b>	The squadron may adopt a formation as player wishes.



Above: an example of Line Abreast. It doesn't matter which ship is the squadrons flagship. Each ship must be within the broadside arc of another ship of the same squadron. The Broadside, Front and Rear arcs are described as the diagonals through an the ship as pictured in the diagram.

## CHANGING ORDERS.

Before the game begins, each squadron is issued a **Movement** and a **Formation** order of choice. Only the fleets flagship may change a squadrons orders. Only one order can be changed per turn. However, all of a fleets squadrons (except the squadron that contains the fleet's flagship) throw a die once per turn to see if they remain under control. Squadrons under control obey their orders, squadrons not under control will act on their own initiative. The throw to remain in control or to change orders is as on Matrix 2, use a six sided die (d6).

Current Formation or Movement order	Score required
Open or Manoeuver Order	4+
Other Order	2+

Matrix 2

The score of the die is modified if any of the below conditions apply.

-1	If the Squadron is more than 90cm from the fleets flagship.
-1	If the Squadron and/or Fleet flagship has received damage.
-1	If the squadron is under the <b>OPEN</b> formation order.
-1	If the Squadron is under the <b>MANOEUVER</b> movement order.
-2	If vision is obscured by smoke or bad weather (see below).
+3	If in possession of radio and/or radar.
+1	If Japanese pre-1944.
-1	If WW2 Americans at night.



## BREAK OFF.

When any of the below conditions apply a squadron will break off any action on a score as on matrix 3 below, use a d6.

At least **half** (round down) of the ships in the squadron have lost 2 or more main battery classes.

At least **quarter** (round down) of the ships in the squadron have been destroyed.

Nationality	Score Required on D6
Japanese.	5+
British, American, German.	4+
French, Italian, Other.	3+

Matrix 3

**+1** to the die for every friendly squadron that has broken off within 90cm of the squadron starting from the games beginning.

A squadron breaking off will leave the combat area as fast as possible and head for its own side's table edge. If the squadron is also under air attack, then the squadron can move off table under a **SCATTER** order. It is removed from play when the table edge has been reached. No overhead fire is permitted. A squadron cannot pass through or interpenetrate another squadron. However, gaps between squadrons may be passed through if the gap is greater than 10cm. Ramming ships is not allowed as historically, though this did occur, it amounted to little significant effect, or futile gesture.

## ACTING ON OWN INITIATIVE.

Ships that fail the die throw to remain under control (i.e. Under your direct control) as on **MATRIX 2**, act on their own initiative. Throw on **MATRIX 4**, which is on the next page, and follow the course of action. Throw first for the squadron's flagship, then for every other ship in the squadron. Ships continue to act on own initiative until the throw is succeeded as on **MATRIX 2**.

Course of Action	Die Score if Flagship	Die Score if Other
Change Movement order to Intercept (Page 7) and head for enemy of similar (1+/-cl see Page 5) or same class, if none, then engage any enemy vessels of lower class.	<b>1, 2</b>	
Change movement orders to disengage (Page 7)	<b>3, 4</b>	
Follow ship in front if in Line Ahead otherwise follow flagship		<b>1, 2, 3</b>
Make a maximum turn to starboard and continue straight ahead until control is restored	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Make a maximum turn to port and continue straight ahead until control is restored	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
As player wishes		<b>6</b>

Matrix 4

## MINIMUM DISTANCE

As we have stated before, all ships of a squadron must stay within the minimum distance unless circumstances make this impossible. The minimum distance is as on the following matrix.

PERIOD	MINIMUM DISTANCE	MOVE RATE
Early (1895-1906)	5cm	10cm/20cm
Middle (1906-1925)	10cm	15cm/30cm
Late (1925-1945)	30cm	20cm/40cm

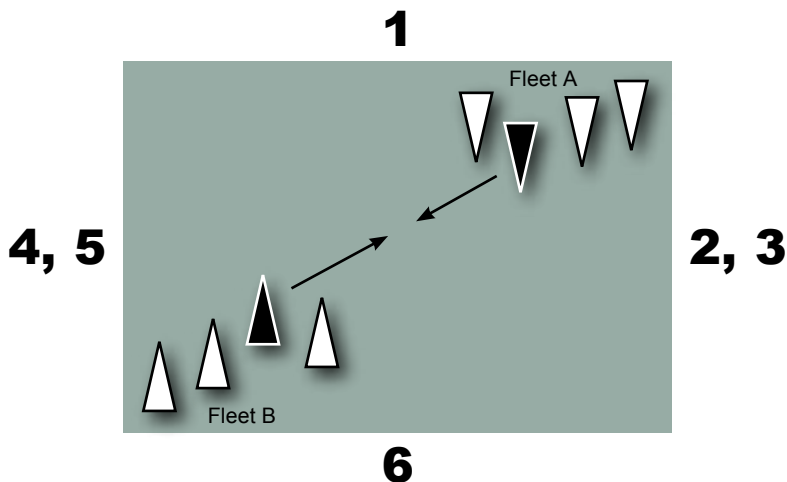
Matrix 5

## MOVEMENT.

The Move Rate is given in the above matrix. The figure before the slash in the Move Rate column is for the smaller scales while the figure to the right of the slash is for the 1/700<sup>th</sup> scale.

## BATTLE AREA CONDITIONS.

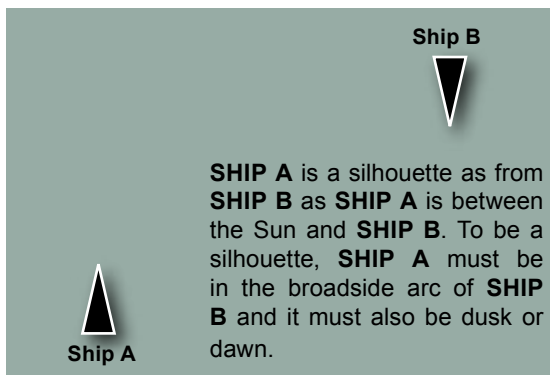
This section describes time of day/night, weather and the position of the sun. We next dice for the direction of the sun, the below diagram demonstrates this;



Throw a **d6**, compare the result with the above table. This is the

table edge that has the sun, if the battle takes place at dusk or dawn (P12), ships may be silhouetted and easier to target (as some were at Jutland). In the below diagram, the player has thrown a 5 (as above) and demonstrates how **SHIP A** is silhouetted from the point of view of **SHIP B**. The same applies to any ship or fleet under these circumstances.

## Sun



To discover day/night/dusk/dawn and weather conditions, throw a d6 on the matrix below;

DIE SCORE	TIME OF DAY	WEATHER
1 - 4	DAYLIGHT	GOOD
5 - 6	DAYLIGHT	BAD
7	NIGHT	GOOD
8	NIGHT	BAD
9	DUSK	GOOD
10	DUSK	BAD
11	DAWN	GOOD
12	DAWN	BAD

Matrix 6

Weather effects gunnery range and accuracy. Now, things get exciting.

**RANGE.**

The range at which targets can be fired on is as on the below matrix. For 700<sup>th</sup> scale multiply the range by two.

BATTERY CLASS	EARLY PERIOD SHIP		MIDDLE PERIOD SHIP		LATE PERIOD SHIP	
	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short	Long
SB	6"	12"	12"	24"	18"	36"
BB	6"	12"	12"	24"	18"	36"
BC	6"	12"	12"	24"	18"	36"
CA	5"	10"	8"	15"	10"	20"
CL	5"	10"	8"	15"	10"	20"
DD	5"	10"	8"	15"	10"	20"
DE	5"	10"	8"	15"	10"	20"
T	6"	8"	9"	12"	12"	18"

Matrix 7

The score to hit a target is as follows. Throw once for the Main Battery and once for the Secondary Battery if the ship has one. The die score is modified if any of the below modifiers apply. Use a six-sided die.

TO HIT	
SHORT RANGE	LONG RANGE
4+	6+

Matrix 8

**Firing at night is only possible with radar or flares, please see the section on the use of these later**

- +1 If firing on an enemy that has already fired.
- +1 If firing on a silhouetted ship.

- +1 If firing in Line Ahead and under control (see Page 6).
- +1 If firing on **CV, CVE, AL** or **AKL**.
- 1 **SB, BB** or **BC** Battery Class firing on **CA** or **CL**.
- 1 If the target is under scatter orders.
- 1 If ship or aircraft firing in bad weather or at night or for every 10 degrees list.
- 1 If firing when moved more than half of your move rate.
- 2 If **SB, BB** or **BC** Battery Class firing on **DD** or **DE**.

Make a note of how by many the score 'TO HIT' is exceeded or failed,

add it to the score of a d6 then modify it by cross referencing the firing Battery Class with the Ship Class of the target as on the below Matrix.

FIRING BATTERY or AIRCRAFT CLASS	TARGET SHIP'S CLASS						
	SB	BB	BC	CA	CL	DD	DE
SB	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
BB (HB)	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
BC (TB)	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
CA (KM)	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3
CL (FB)	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
DD	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1
DE	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0

Matrix 9

Now, with your final modified score consult the following Matrix to establish the level of damage on the target ship.

DEFINITION	CODE	DAMAGE LEVEL
		FINAL MODIFIED SCORE IS...
No Effect	-	-12 to -4
Superficial	S	-3 to 0
Light	L	1, 2
Medium	M	3, 4
Heavy	H	5, 6
Extensive	E	7, 8
Catastrophic	C	9+

Matrix 10

## DAMAGE.

The next step is to determine the damage inflicted. Throw four **d6** which are coloured **RED**, **BLUE**, **GREEN**, and **WHITE**, cross reference the result with the damage level inflicted as on **MATRIX 10**. For each die consult the appropriate tables and explanations that follow.

## RED DIE

Die Score	Damage Level (Flooding)						C	Aspect
	S	L	M	H	E			
1	-	-	5	10	15	20		Bow
2	-	5	10	15	20	25		Stern
3	5	10	15	20	25	30		Port
4	10	15	20	25	30		S	Port
5	15	20	25	30		S	S	Starboard
6	20	25	30	S	S		S	Starboard
Special Effect	6+	5+	4+	3+	2+	2+		

## BLUE DIE

Die Score	Damage Level (Propulsion)						C
	S	L	M	H	E		
1	-	-	-	-	1/2		1
2	-	-	-	1/2	1		2
3	-	-	1/2	1	2		3
4	-	1/2	1	2	3		4
5	1/2	1	2	3	4		5
6	1	2	3	4	5		6
Special Effect	6+	5+	4+	3+	2+	2+	

**RED DIE:** The result is the amount of list in degrees. Throw another die on the **ASPECT** column to establish if the list is to the Bow, Stern, Port or Starboard. The aspect is optional. The effects are cumulative, if listing exceeds 40° or the result is a black square the ship turns turtle and sinks. When shooting **-1** to hit for every 10 degrees of list.

**BLUE DIE:** The result is the loss of movement rate as expressed in inches. If the result is also a Black square then throw once on MATRIX 4 (P10) middle column. The effects are cumulative, so if the ships speed is reduced to 0 or below or a black square is rolled, then the ship loses all propulsion and cannot move.

# GREEN DIE

Die Score	Damage Level (Armament)					
	S	L	M	H	E	C
1	-	-	-	-1	-1	-2
2	-	-	-1	-1	-2	-2
3	-	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3
4	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	
5	-1	-2	-2	-3		
6	-2	-2	-3			
Special Effect	6+	5+	4+	3+	2+	2+

# WHITE DIE

Die Score	Damage Level (Superstructure)					
	S	L	M	H	E	C
1	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	4	5	6	7	8	
5	5	6	7	8		
6	6	7	8			
Special Effect	6+	5+	4+	3+	2+	2+

**GREEN DIE:** The result is how many battery classes the ship loses. If the ship also has a Secondary Battery class then the Secondary Battery is reduced at half the rate (rounding down) of the Main Battery. The effects are cumulative. If the result is a black square, then the ship explodes in a huge flash and ball of flame sinking immediately.

**WHITE DIE:** The result is the number of fire points inflicted. If the fire points exceed 5 then -1 to the die when dicing 'TO HIT' due to severe fires and smoke. If fire points exceed 8 then -2 to the die when dicing 'TO HIT' the cause of which is a combination of intense superstructure fires, smoke and devastating heat. The ship must pull out of formation and head out of the combat zone towards its own table side. If fire points exceed 12 or a black square is rolled, then the ship has to be abandoned and left to burn.



On each table is repeated a special effect row. The fact that it is repeated on each table has no bearing. This is optional, throw one die and consult the below table:

DIE SCORE	SPECIAL EFFECT
<b>1</b>	<b>C3 hit</b> , the ship has to act on its own initiative for the remainder of the game.
<b>2</b>	Dice once again on each of the above damage tables.
<b>3</b>	<b>Engine Rooms</b> , boilers receive a critical hit and that leaves the ship without propulsion.
<b>4</b>	Power supply units, generators are hit and shut down. The ship loses power. Unable to use armament.
<b>5</b>	<b>Fuel</b> . Oil tanks rupture and catch fire spilling burning fuel into the sea. Coal bunkers ignite, coal dust laden air may explode, causing severe fires. Throw once on the <b>WHITE DIE</b> table above. If the ship is Oil fuelled use an irregular piece of black cloth to simulate the leaking fuel.
<b>6</b>	<b>Munitions</b> . In a dramatic fireball the ship erupts in a fierce explosion as the ship's munitions detonate sinking the ship within 2d6 minutes.

Damage, especially fires can be simulated by copious supplies of appropriately coloured cotton balls. It is also a good idea to have some model ships in various stages of sinking.

### TORPEDOS.

These have a move of **20cm** (or **30cm** if Long Lance) per turn. The target has to be nominated at launch. A marker is used to represent the movement of the torpedos towards their intended target. The marker is not moved in a straight line but are moved towards the nominated target ship, this simulates more accurately the course prediction of the target by the torpedo crew and shows the symbolic movement of torpedoes toward their intended target. In real life, torpedoes move in straight lines. When the moved marker intersects that of the target ship a potential number of hits can be recorded. This

is achieved by throwing a 'plus' die and subtracting from it a 'minus' die. The result, if positive indicates that the target has been hit, either by single or multiple hits. A **d6** is used. The score is modified if any of the following criteria is met;

+1	If the target is <b>BC, BB, SB, AK, AKE, CV, CVE</b> or <b>CVA</b> class.
-1	If the weather is bad or at dust/dawn or sustained Medium Damage.
-2	If at night or is a damaged Submarine or sustained Extensive Damage.

If a hit or hits (we are not going to distinguish between single and multiple hits as this a) creates extra work for you and b) we've worked it into the hit result) occur, then consult **MATRIX 11** below and cross reference the target ship's class and the period of the torpedo and add the result to your score. The Japanese Long Lance torpedo has a special entry because of its effectiveness.

TORPEDO PERIOD	TARGET SHIP'S CLASS						
	SB	BB	BC	CA	CL	DD	DE
Long Lance	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Late	-2	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
Middle	-3	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Early	-4	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3

Matrix 11

Now, you should have a positive score, look up this score on **MATRIX 10** to establish the damage level inflicted on the target. Next, throw on the **RED**, **BLUE** and **GREEN** die tables to record the damage. Note: The **WHITE** die table (superstructure) is not used.

## AIRCRAFT ACTIONS

It was, in essence, the Washington treaty that sealed the fate of the big gun warship. If it were not for this agreement the development of the battleship platform would have gone ahead unabated. Of course, in time someone would have put two and two together, and voila.

As it was, the treaty forced 'think tanks' to seek other solutions to demonstrate armed naval power. The aircraft was there waiting in the wings (pardon the pun) and because of the Washington treaty, the aircraft (and by extension the carrier borne force) began its domination of warfare. The point of this paragraph is summed up in the question 'Did the aircraft make the battleship redundant'? The introduction of aircraft is of course going to fundamentally change your naval games, and to answer the question, "only without adequate air cover". Modern naval combat is a combined arms affair. Forget this basic fact and your big gun fleet is doomed.

Aircraft are represented by a few models on a stand, perhaps being supported at height by light wire, they represent a flight of up to five real aircraft. Aircraft are classified as **AS** for air superiority fighters, **TB** for torpedo bombers, **FB** for fighter bombers and dive bombers, **HB** for heavy bombers and **KM** for kamikaze. An **HB** stand can represent, 2 four engine heavy bombers or 4 twin engine.

Aircraft are not given orders per se, as they are written into the aircraft's class, they act within their class roll. Some aircraft types may have more than one class. However, an aircraft can only have one class during a game. Before the game begins, aircraft are organised into waves. A wave can consist of any number of aircraft stands and may contain a mix of class. A wave can come onto table at the appropriate point in the sequence of play on a throw of **5+** (d6) or **6+** if there is bad weather or at dusk/dawn. No aircraft actions can occur at night. Aircraft stands move at **45cm** (**90cm** for 1/700<sup>th</sup> scale) per turn and can make any number of turns. When aircraft come within **10cm** of another aircraft stand or ship they may engage each other. The player whose turn it is may pair off aircraft stands as he see fit, and places any aircraft stands attacking ships short of their target. He may also work through each combat once for each aircraft stand in any order he wishes. When aircraft fight each other **BOTH** stands throw a die and add their combat factor. When an aircraft stand attacks a ship it throws a die to score a hit. The combat factors and scores to hit are as on **MATRIX 12** below. **TB**, **FB** and **HB** stands are placed short of their target when attacking surface ships. **KM** stands are moved into contact with the target.

SHOOTERS' CLASS	TARGETS' CLASS						
	AS	FB	TB	HB	KM	CA-	BC+
AS	0	+1	+2	+3	+2	-	-
FB	0	0	+1	+2	+1	6+	5+
TB	0	0	0	+1	+2	+5	+4
HB	0	0	0	0	0	+6	+5
KM	0	+1	+2	+1	0	+4	+3

Matrix 12

The scores in the two far right columns is the score required for the aircraft to hit a target which is a surface vessel. **CA-** means any ship including and lower in class than **CA**. **BC+** means any ship including **BC** class as well as **CV**, **CVE**, **CVA** and **AK/L**. The scores in the other columns is the combat factor when fighting aircraft and is added to the score of a **d6**. Both scores are compared, if the scores are within **3**, then a no result occurs and the combat continues next turn. If one score is higher than three, then the higher score has victory. The losing stand is destroyed and removed from play. However, casualties may have been inflicted on the winning stand. Throw a **d6**, if the score is **1** or **2** then no effect, **-1** if the score is **3** or **4** and **-2** if the score is **5** or **6**. This score then modifies the score of the **d6** when dicing for combat in addition to the modifiers on **MATRIX 12**. **KM** stands are removed when they hit their target. Aircraft stands that pass their score to hit on surface vessels as in the **CA-** and **BC+** columns, if the score in those columns are equaled or exceed, modify it by using **MATRIX 9** on Page **14**. Then consult **MATRIX 10** on Page **14** this will establish the level of damage. Next, throw on the **Blue**, **Green**, **Red** and **White** damage tables and apply the result. An aircraft's use of Torpedos, bombs or air-to-surface missiles are written into the factors.

## ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE

On **MATRIX 1** Page 5 in the right hand column is the number of **AA** points a ship will have. Attacking aircraft are placed **10cm** short of their target, before they can conduct their attack, the target vessel is allowed to shoot at them. For every **5** full points the vessel has it gets to roll one die. Roll one die at a time while clearly nominating shooter and target. If the score is **6** the target is destroyed. If the score is **5** the target receives a **-2** to its 'to hit' and/or combat factors, if the score is **4** the target receives a **-1** to its 'to hit' and/or combat factors.

Remember, during battle a vessel's battery class is reduced, its **AA** points is also reduced in a like manner. For example, if a **BB** with **30 AA** points has its battery class reduced to **CA**, its **AA** points will be reduced to **10**, see **MATRIX 1** on Page 5.

## SUBMARINES

Submarines are treated, near enough in every respects the same as surface ships except for the following.

Submerged submarine models may be false. One real submerged submarine model can have up to three false models which may be moved like real subs until revealed as false. The false models have to be within **120cm** of the real sub. False targets should induce a degree of fear and paranoia which happened in real life. As an example, the fear of U-boats caused the Rodney and Duke of York to leave the Bismark to the cruisers. In fact, I think there was only one U-boat in the near by area. Real submarines are revealed when they surface (they start the game submerged), fire or are engaged by surface ships. They conduct torpedo attacks as if surface ships already discussed. Subs may only be effectively engaged by **DD** and **DE** class ships. The **DD** or **DE** has to move to within **3cm** of the target sub model (even if it is a false target) and conduct a depth charge attack. The score to succeed in the attack is **6+** to destroy the target and **5+** to damage it (see modifiers for damaged subs on Page 17). Submarines can only engage surface targets.

## GAME SEQUENCE

Players take it in turns to work through the following sequence. Both players throw a die, the players with the highest score has the option of taking the first turn or abdicating it to his opponent. The turn sequence is:

**A**

Change an order (Page 8).

**B**

Make Brake-Off moves (Page 9). Note: break-off test are done as soon as the conditions for testing occur, but the actual move is made here.

**C**

Any ships acting on their own initiative can make their move in this segment of the turn. After a ship has moved, it can conduct fire. Make sure ships acting on their own initiative obey the table as on Page 10. Ships acting on their own initiative can be moved in an order the player wishes.

**D**

Squadrons under control obey their orders. The player can move them in any order he wishes. After each ship has made its move it can fire. **The move rate is found on MATRIX 5 P11.** They can also make one turn of up to 90°, or up to 45° if **BC** class or higher (includes **CV**, **CVE**, **CVA**, **AK** and **AKL** classes).

In other historical periods, having an alternate fire system is inherently unrealistic as in real life one side does not obligingly stand still while the other blasts away at it, fire and movement of both sides is intermittent to the degree of being simultaneous over a given period of time. I hate alternate 'bound' systems. However, accounts of naval battle suit alternate fire, as we read about ships in the middle of a gunnery duel suddenly being hit by an on target salvo, and that is generally the end of the story.

## VICTORY CONDITIONS

When half of a players squadrons break-off, the game is considered lost. See P9.

## USE OF RADAR AND FLARES.

The use of radars and flares are written into the modifiers already in the game, see Page 13. Firing at night is only possible with the use of flares, radar or are Japanese. It took a while for the Americans to learn how to use radar, and while on paper this should seem to give the Americans a huge advantage, it was often negated by the Japanese extraordinary keen eyesight. It is hard to measure with any degree of accuracy the effectiveness of the American radar because when they did learn how to use it, the Japanese training levels had fallen somewhat.

Obviously use of radar and flare can only occur in the late period.

## POINTS VALUE.

As we mentioned on Page 6, before the battle, both players choose ships and aircraft to an agreed points value. Of course, this is totally unrealistic, and unless playing a campaign, is necessary for a fair battle. The points values are as below. You can easily insert ships where required and have included a number of examples. A further edition will expand this list greatly, but, for now, this will get you started.

CLASS	POINTS	EXAMPLES
SB	30	Yamato, Mushashi, Shinano.
BB+	25	Washington, South Dakota, King George V.
BB	20	Nagato, Bismark, Rodney.
BB-	15	Hyuga, Ise, Kirishima, Warspite.
BC+	12	Scharnhorst, Gneisenau.
BC	10	Hood, Indefatigable, Invincible.
BC-	8	Repulse, Renown.
BC--	7	Deutschland, Graf Spee, Scheer.
CA+	6	Tone, Chikuma, Chokai.
CA	5	Indianapolis, Cornwall, Suffolk.
CA-	4	Hipper, Prinz Eugen.
CL	3	Noshiro, Ajax.
DD	1	Fletcher, Fubuki, Cossack, Narvik Class.
DE	1	
SM, MT	1	U-Boats, I-Boats, Vosper.
CVA	10	Shinano, Kaga, Akagi.
CV	7	Shokaku, Zuikaku, Enterprise.
CVE	5	Zuiho,
AK, AKL	1	Tankers, Cargo and Supply Ships.
Any Aircraft +	3	Zero, Mustang, Black Widow, Fortress, FW 190.
Any Aircraft	2	Me109, Hellcat, Avenger, Val.
Any Aircraft -	1	Italian aircraft.

Matrix 13

The use of the + or - modifications is optional. Ships classed as + (plus) get a **+1** on **MATRIX 9** when fighting ships of the same class, while ships of - (minus) class get a **-1** on **MATRIX 9** when fighting ships of the same or upper class. + (plus) Class aircraft get a **+1** on **MATRIX 12** when fighting other aircraft while - (minus) class aircraft get a **-1** on the same Matrix when fighting aircraft.

We will produce an additional module that will contain the fleets of the world, together with some campaign rules. This project has been in the planning stage for some time and, depending on our commitments, will appear within the year. We also aim to extend these rules upto the present day. If however, you would like to comment, suggest new rules, modifications or lists etc. Please feel free to do so.

Regards

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