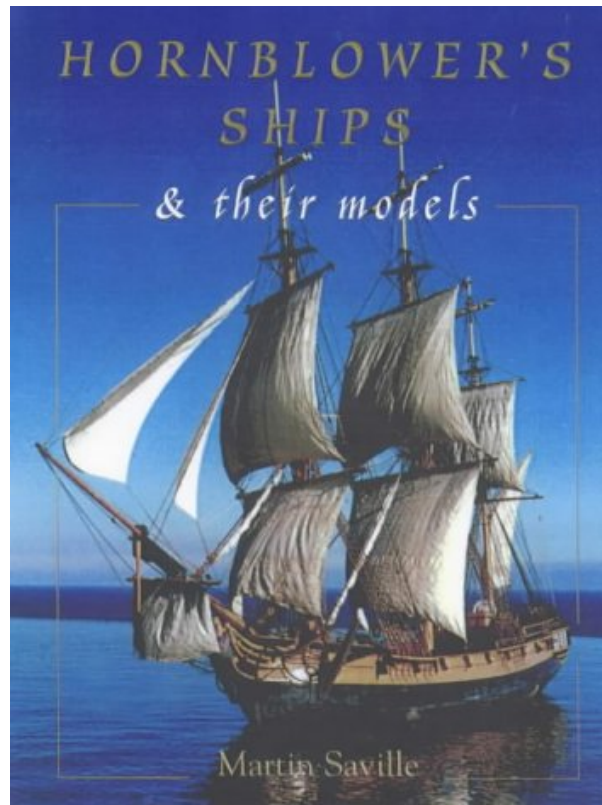
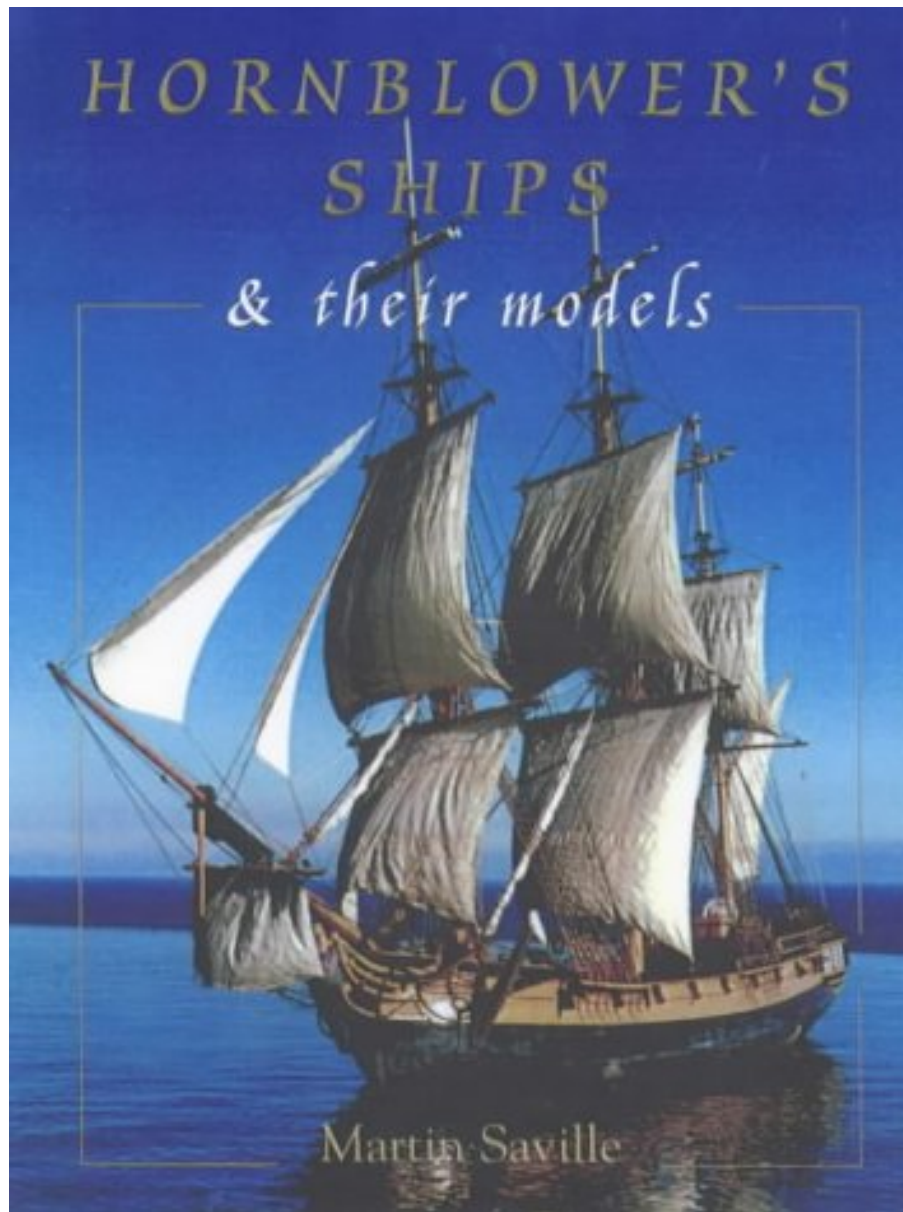


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TV's dramatization of C.S. Forester's Hornblower stories was one of the most expensive series ever made for television. Much of the \$30 million budget went into the lavish special effects used to recreate the epic sea battles featuring a fleet of eleven specially commissioned, fully working, scale models. The models included such famous fictitious vessels as the frigate *Indefatigable* (a full-scale sailing replica was used when filming the on-board deck scenes); Hornblowers's first ship, *The Justinian*, and the Baltic trader, *Julia*.

Hornblower's Ships tells the story behind the creation of these models through the research, planning, design, and construction by author and professional modelmaker Martin Saville, who managed the entire project from Petrozavodsk in Russia where the models were built, to the huge tank at Pinewood film studios in London. Over 100 models sequences were shot for the first four Hornblower programs. The book offers revealing full insight on the production and photographic techniques used in the painstaking filming process. Each shot took three to four hours to set up and film to ensure that the wind, waves, and sea appeared realistic when the rigging and remote control miniature cannons functioned correctly.

The book also includes a full reference section detailing the ship types, full specifications, historical precedents and fictional role of the series' vessels, as well as scale plans of the vessels that will delight both ship enthusiasts and ship model builders.

- Sales Rank: #8486418 in Books
- Published on: 2000
- Format: Import
- Original language: English
- Binding: Hardcover
- 128 pages

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

I was expecting ships from the book series. Something ...

By karen a. perry

I was expecting ships from the book series. Something that could be used in model making. This was only the A&E TV series and how they were made. No helpful construction info.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating and Informative

By Kevin Hing

Though the number of recreational ship modelers is legion, few have achieved such breadth of knowledge and mastery of craft as author Martin Saville, who served as senior supervisor and consultant for the Emmy award-winning *Horatio Hornblower* films.

Anyone with even a passing interest in tall masted ships is apt to be enthralled with the Hornblower series, due in large part to the quantity and exceptional quality of the models used to depict the English, French and

Spanish ships. The sailing and combat footage, complete with flame-spewing cannon, billowing sails and multiple-vessel horizon perspective shots, is so realistic that even expert model builders may find their disbelief inadvertently and momentarily suspended.

Saville's book admirably answers the dominant question that rings in your ears after seeing each episode: "How did they do all that?"

He provides a fascinating behind-the-scenes account of the design, construction, and filming of the eleven model ships that were constructed for filming, complete with revealing photos during the various stages of construction.

One of the delightful things about Saville's approach is that he assumes that the reader has little or no prior knowledge about period ships and sailing. In addition to providing an understandable and novice-friendly explanation of each aspect of ship design and construction (hulls, masts, rigging, armament, etc.), he also includes concise summaries of the actual historical people and events upon which the Hornblower series is based.

For ship modelers, this book answers many of the nagging questions that may have been gnawing at you as you watched the films. To accommodate the requirements of the film cameras, most of the models were 4 meters (13 feet) in length and were designed to remain afloat for weeks at a time, thus requiring an innovative combination of the skills of shipwright and modeler to achieve such convincing success. Saville's book gives an interesting and detailed description of the headaches endured and triumphs enjoyed by the design team in making the project a reality. And yes, he even describes the electrical firing system they rigged for the cannon.

Saville also includes an excellent bibliography listing the best reference materials regarding the history of the period and details of ships, masting and rigging.

In short, this book is a satisfying read for those interested in the Hornblower books, in tall masted ships, in shipbuilding, in ship modeling, and in the mystical methods of Hollywood moviemakers in capturing these images on film.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Hornblower secrets revealed!

By A Customer

I got this book because I just loved the Horatio Hornblower mini series on A & E. This book really shows how they did the special effects in the movie. The detail in the writing as well as the great photographs is amazing. It goes into how they copied to scale perfectly the old ships to make the models for the movie. It also goes into detail about the actual ships they modeled the models after. I must say after I read this book I watched the movies again and found myself looking for the models! The book is a must have though if you love Hornblower. Its well done in every way.

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