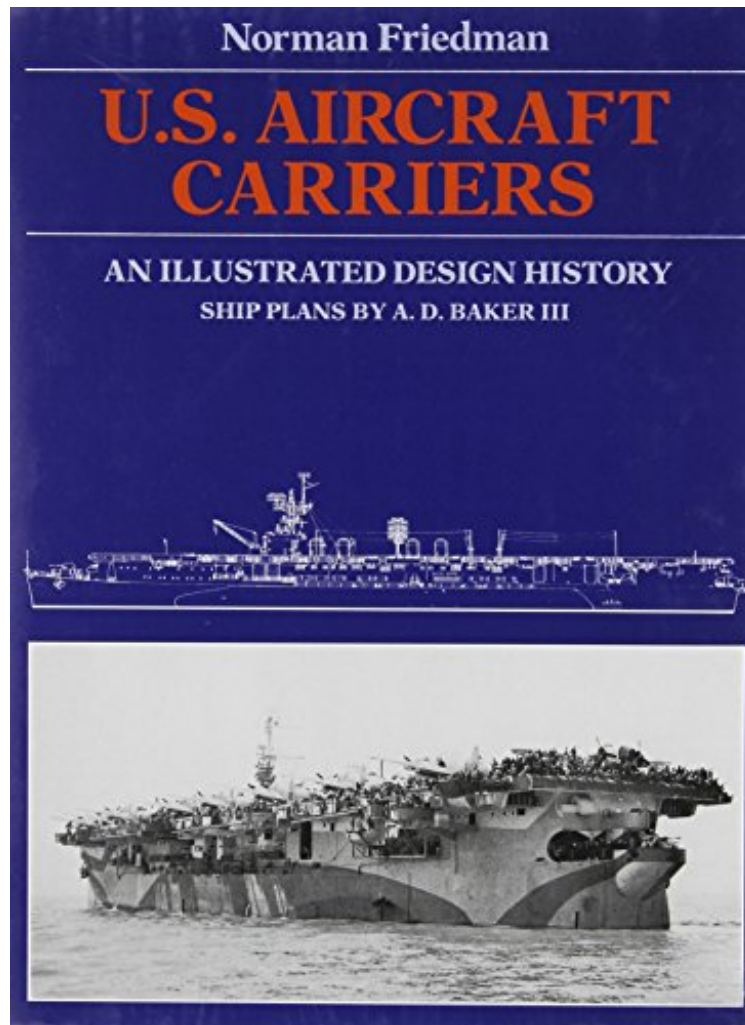


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U.S. Aircraft Carriers: An Illustrated Design History

Norman Friedman

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Norman Friedman : U.S. Aircraft Carriers: An Illustrated Design History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised U.S. Aircraft Carriers: An Illustrated Design History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. AN ILLUSTRATED DESIGN HISTORY is a very good book that could have been excellent if betterBy Michel PoulinU.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS: AN ILLUSTRATED DESIGN HISTORY is a very good book that could have been excellent if better, more detailed drawings of the aircraft carriers would have been included. There was plenty of technical information and lists of specifications to satisfy the naval aficionado, but I am sure that more detailed deck layout drawings and, particularly, drawings of the machinery and armament, could have been included, since the USA must still have the complete blueprints if these carriers available. That deficiency made the difference between this book and the books of the Naval Press Institute's series 'Anatomy of the Ship', which are unequalled in my mind when it comes to describing specific ships in detail. It was worth its price

but lacked that extra 'oomph' to completely satisfy me. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Serious Library Addition for Serious Historians By MajorCase302 This book is not a take-to-the-beach-for-light-summer-reading fare. It is a technically dense, exhaustive study of United States aircraft carrier design, from the first awkward experiments, (the Langley), through a brief description of the then-new (1983) Nimitz class. Reading it is like trying to run through knee-deep mud, but oh, what mud. Everything a serious historian--(or naval architect, for that matter)--could possibly want to know about pre-1983 American carriers is here. Want to know where the avgas tanks were in the first Yorktown class ships? You got it. How about a complete description of the electronic suites--radars, HF/DF, communications, meteorological--on the post-war carriers? Every minute iteration in the continually evolving systems is there, and which ships had which systems and when they were installed, upgraded, replaced or removed. Why did some of the Essexes have fold-up gun sponsons? (To fit through the locks of the Panama Canal.) There is even the only good description I've ever seen--with photographs--of the two WWII cargo carriers converted from paddle-wheel (!) steamers that operated in Lake Michigan. CVEs, the post-war conversion projects, LPHs, dedicated ASW carriers, the second Enterprise, catapults, arresting gear, and on and on. If you are a serious naval historian, this book belongs on your shelf. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not the greatest edition. By Saloon Fan I gave this a 4 instead of a 5. I have the "Cruiser" volume of this series. It is a beautiful book printed on excellent slick paper. The "Aircraft Carrier" volume I received was a good edition obtaining similar formatted information a photos. The difference is that it was printed in an inferior grade of paper, more like a rough bond type, not slick at all. In my opinion, the photos suffered in quality as a result. I would like to buy other volumes in this series but I won't purchase them without first either seeing the or having the assurance that they are printed on superior quality slick paper.

This fully illustrated series offers detailed descriptions of the evolution of all classes of the principle U.S. combatant types, as well as plans, profiles, and numerous detailed photographs.

From the Back Cover This account of U.S. carrier development, based on the internal files of the U.S. Navy, presents a complete evolutionary design history at a level of detail and accuracy never before approached. The author, a recognized authority on U.S. warships, uncovers the issues behind the emergence of today's carrier, explaining the reasons for the periodic but always aborted attempts to trim back its dimensions. About the Author Norman Friedman is a prominent naval analyst and the author of more than thirty books covering a range of naval subjects, from warship histories to contemporary defense issues. He is a longtime columnist for Proceedings magazine and lives in New York City.