

Hot Wheels -- First Order Star Destroyer

Price: RRP £7.99, but actually £1.99

Review by Jonathan Aird

The impressive opening of the original Star Wars film saw a huge spaceship cross the screen, whilst being shot at but what was revealed to be a monstrous triangular spaceship which literally swallowed up what was now revealed to be a much, much smaller vessel. It was unlike anything seen before -- it was an Imperial Star Destroyer. Well, this is the First Order Star Destroyer, and at first glance I can't see any difference at all! These are really big star ships -- 1,600m long is quoted in various sources, so at 10cm long this die cast model is 1/16000th scale. There is nothing else in this range of spaceships from



Hot Wheels that is anywhere near the same scale.

Which is a real pity as it is quite a nice representation of the class. A very elongated pyramid in shape, it has some superstructure detail but really since anything projecting even 20m or 30m off the main surface of the vessel -- like a really large gun turret -- would only project 2-3mm in this scale. The model is painted in a light grey -- with engine detail and the like picked out in appropriate colours. It would probably benefit from a light wash to make it look a little less fresh off the Star Destroyer production line ó this would also bring out some of the surface detail.

Since it really does look like a small model of a big ship, the best opportunity to use it in space combat games would be to either recruit enemies from other Star Wars merchandising sources, such as the Micro Machines range produced by Hasbro or, alternatively, use non-star wars spaceship models. I think the Star Destroyer would look quite good against some of my quite ancient spaceships from Minifigs or Garisson. I'm

not sure of the current status of the Garisson ones but the Minifigs have recently come back into production. They can be seen here:

<http://www.miniaturefigurines.co.uk/Catalogue.aspx?ScaleID=3&CategoryID=35&SubCategoryID=353>.

Another source would be Irregular Miniatures ó some of their cleaner-lined spacecraft would fit quite nicely. Or scratch build something! Whilst they are being remaindered it would be possible to create a very impressive fleet of Star Destroyers from a very small outlay.

