

Hotwheels – U.S.S. Vengeance

Reviewed by Jonathan Aird

As the in-the-box photograph shows, this particular Hotwheels Star Trek Universe Starship was new for 2014. I don't know what it is with their distribution, but it seems as if I only come across these items once they have made their way to the discount stores. I found this example in a chain of stores called Poundland (where, surprise, surprise, all items are priced at £1, around \$1.50). Great! That's a real bargain! Well, yes, but if in an ideal world I'd have bought 2 or 3 or more and, of course, this shop only had a single example. Oh well, it was meant to be a unique ship after all.



The USS Vengeance was the Dreadnaught Class starship from the second film of the rebooted Star Trek movie franchise -- the one where the flagship of the fleet has a bridge crew of newly graduated cadets, and none of the longer serving crew ever complain about being overlooked for promotion! Fortunately, this film was really a showcase for Benedict Cumberbatch as Khan, and this is the ship that he attacks the Enterprise with. It is somewhat vaguely described as being twice the size of the Enterprise, if taken at face value, this would make it 1894 feet long. This fit-in-the-box scale model is 3 inches long, making it a very unusual 1:7576 scale. Readers may recall that the film Enterprise was also issued by Hotwheels last year, and being almost the same length was to a scale of approximately 1:3400. Which leaves two choices when gaming with them, to treat the

models as just being representations of the ships on a tactical representation of the combat, and not scale models, or assume that the USS Vengeance is actually a different, and much smaller, Starship.

As a representation of the USS Vengeance, it is a nice model, reproducing the elongated main saucer section and has a good representation of the camouflage pattern the vessel sports, although why something this big, in a universe of advanced long-range sensors, needs a camouflage pattern is a good question. It does look cool, which may well be the best answer going. Whatever the limitations of scale, this is a useful little model and makes a handy addition to Starfleet's small-scale fleet. It looks nice on a bookshelf too, and is definitely worth a pound!

