



Air, land and sea

compiled by the editor

New look Leander

A LITTLE OVER 3½ years ago a new 'type' of British warship appeared in the Channel when HMS *Leander* (F109) commenced her trials after refitting with the Ikara ASW missile in the summer of 1973. The Ikara Leanders are basically anti-submarine conversions of the Leander Class general purpose frigates which have been with us since HMS *Leander* was launched in June 1961.

By this summer all seven Ikara refitted ships will be completed and the half-life conversions for this class will include refits for certain ships with the Exocet SSM sys-

tem. Therefore, a whole range of exciting conversions from the Airfix Leander kit are now possible. The following describes the Ikara equipped, new-look HMS *Leander*, but does not go into the general detailing of the Class as this has been adequately dealt with in *Warship Modelling* by Peter Hodge and published by PSL.

Modifications

The 114 mm Mk 6 gun mounting is removed and a new superstructure extension is added forward of the bridge. This superstructure contains the Ikara well and

can be seen in the photographs. The two 40 mm Bofors gun mountings (similar to the AA guns) are fitted slightly abaft the bridge on special platforms. They are angled at 45 degrees and face forward whilst the ship is underway. (The two 20 mm Oerlikons are removed to make way for these.) The 114 mm gun director has been removed and replaced by a 'thimble' type GWS director on the bridge top. This director controls the Ikara missile. The large air/surface warning radar — the 'bedstead' — on the mainmast has been replaced with a lighter and smaller warning radar scanner and on the hangar top two Seacat SAM launchers are positioned side-by-side and aft of the Seacat director, the latter now being positioned on a platform directly at the base of the mainmast.

Continued on page 618



news

A small 'mast', approximately 6.5 feet high, is positioned on the foredeck 20 feet forward of the breakwater. Various winches and deck fittings have been added as shown in the photographs. HMS *Leander* and all Ikara Leanders will retain their variable depth sonar (VDS) aft.

Colour scheme

Mid grey: hull, superstructure, Ikara superstructure, breakwater, fittings, anchor, mortar, Seacat launchers and director. Dark grey: flight deck area. Dark green: starboard navigation light, all decking except the flight deck but including the mortar well and bridge top. Black: funnel cap (although not shown in the photographs, HMS *Leander* now wears the thick black cap of a Leader), boot topping, band on the foremast, search and signal lamps behind the foremast, 40 mm gun barrels, bridge windows, Gemini, pennant numbers F109 in three positions. White: dome of the 'thimble' director, bollards, fairleads, caps-

tans, chains, life rafts, Dory, flight deck codes LE, cabin and gunwhale of the sea-boat (when not covered with mid-grey cover), Ikara missile. Dark blue: Seacat missiles, whaler (starboard side) and ship's launch hull and decking. Red: port navigation light, whip aerial bases, numeral '3' on funnel sides immediately below the black cap because although not shown in photographs HMS *Leander* is the leader of Squadron 3. Dark red: anti-fouling under waterline. Bronze: propellers, Seacat launcher bosses. Brown: ensign staff and jack staff.

HMS *Leander's* capstans are striped red/white on the port side and green/white on the starboard side (*Paul Beaver*).



A fine bow shot of *Leander* showing the Ikara well and superstructure, plus the thimble director.