

BKR Sovremenny (Project 956/956A) / DDG-136 Hangzhou

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General

Russian Designation: Project 956 Sarych

Users: Soviet Union, Russia, Peoples Republic of China

Roles & Mission:

- **Soviet Union/Russia:** The Sovremenny-class was originally conceived as a follow-on to the highly successful Kashin-class, with generally the same emphasis on ASuW and AAW operations at the detriment of ASW ability. These ships were expected to act as supplementary AAW escorts in CVBGs/SAGs comprised of other more important capital units, as well as undertake independent operations leading smaller surface units. Available in increasing numbers from 1980-82, with priority deliveries to the Northern Fleet. Nowadays, at least one Sovremenny can be found in every major Russian/Soviet deployment since their integration into the fleets.
- **China:** The currently two Chinese Sovremennys represent the most powerful and capable combatants within the PLAN. They would certainly be tasked as surface warfare group leaders and represent the first steps toward an effective blue water capability. In the event of war with any regional and global rivals they would be the principle players, acting as both flagship and anti-air protectors of the groups they are leading.



Strengths: This class has a fearsome anti-surface punch with their eight SS-N-22 Sunburn anti-ship missiles. They also have a useful anti-air warfare capability in the form of two SA-N-7 launchers and six Front-Dome directors enabling the simultaneous engagement of at least 6 targets. AAW ability has been further enhanced in the modified 956A ships with the adoption of the improved SA-N-12 system. The excellent dual 130mm guns make them dangerous surface-duel adversaries even after the missile exchange, as well as useful fire-support platforms for amphibious operations. Their electronic & sensor fit is fairly modern although offset by the lack of an integrated combat system.

Weaknesses: The Sovremenny is severely lacking in ASW systems. They only employ a short-ranged hull mounted sonar without any towed arrays or VDS systems. Unless carefully screened by more ASW-capable assets, they can be easy prey to enemy subs. Soviet/Russian standard practice is to pair them with Kresta-II or Kara-class cruisers, Udaloy-class destroyers and/or Krivak class frigates for this purpose. China presumably would task Luda destroyers or Qindao frigates in a similar role.

Game Stats:

Maximum Speed: 32 knots
 Displacement: 6600 Tons
 Damage Points: 159 DP
 Length: 156 meters
 Crew: 296
 Aviation: 1 helo (KA-27 and variants)

Equipment - Baseline 956 version (USSR 1980) – DB2000 v6.1.9

Radars

Type & Quantity	Max Range	Abilities	Notes
Bandstand (1)	140nm	Surface Search, Air Search, Range Information, Bearing Information, IFF Information	Main multi-purpose sensor on class and primary means of targeting the SS-N-22 missiles
Bass Tilt: 1970/ 30mm Fire Control (2)	5nm	Surface Search, Range Information, Bearing Information	Fire-control for the point-defence guns
Front Dome (6)	55nm	Surface Search, Air Search, Range Information, Bearing Information, Altitude Information	Fire-control for the SAM systems.
Kite Screech B (1)	30nm	Surface Search, Air Search, Range Information, Bearing Information, Altitude Information	Fire-control for the main guns

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Palm Frond: 1980's (3)	25nm	Surface Search, Range Information, Bearing Information	Navigation radar
Top Plate (1)	310nm	Surface Search, Air Search, Range Information, Bearing Information, Altitude Information, IFF Identification	Primary air-search sensor

IR/EO Sensors

Type & Quantity	Max Range	Abilities	Notes
Squeeze Box (1)	10nm	Surface Search, Air Search, Bearing Information, IFF Information, Classification	Back-up optical sensor

Electronic Warfare

Type & Quantity	Max Range	Abilities	Notes
Football ECM (4)	N/A	Electronic Counter Measures	Primary jamming system
Football ESM (4)	400nm	Surface Search, Air Search, Bearing Information, Classification	Very useful for EMCON-restrictive ops and passive-targeting of SSMs.
Half Cup (6)	12nm	Surface Search, Air Search, Bearing Information	

Sonars

Type & Quantity	Max Range	Abilities	Notes
Whale Tongue (1)	8nm	Sub Search, Range Information, Bearing Information	Active-only, medium/high-frequency
Bull Horn: 1980/MG 332 Titan (1)	6nm	Sub Search, Range Information, Bearing Information	Active-passive, medium/high-frequency

Mounts

Type & Quantity	ROF	Capacity	Weapons (service date)
(2) 533mm Quad TT 1980's/ASW/USET-80	5	4	USET-80 (1980) 53-65WH (1968) 53-65WH (1969) 53-68N Nuclear (1969?) SET-53N (1964) SET-53 (1958) SET-65M (1972) SET-65 (1965)
(2) AK-130 130/70mm Twin:1980	2	90	AK-130 Twin Frag AK-130 Twin HE AK-130 Twin RAP
(4) AK-630	4	10	AK-630 30mm Burst
(8) Decoy Rocket Launcher (10 Tubes)	1	10	Flare Chaff
(2) Decoy Rocket Launcher (2 Tubes)	1	2	Flare Chaff
(2) RBU 6000	1	1	RBU 6000 (ASW) RBU 6000 (Anti-Torp)
(2) SA-N-7 Launcher	13	22	SA-N-7 Gadfly
(2) SS-N-22 Quad Launcher:1980	3	4	SS-N-22 Sunburn (3M80) SS-N-22 (Nuclear)

Versions (H3 – DB2000)

- **956 (1980):** As described.
- **956 (1991):** No differences in outfit.
- **956A (1992):** Substantial modifications:



- Two SA-N-12 launchers (each ROF 12, Capacity 24, weapon SA-N-12 Grizzly) replace two SA-N-7 launchers
- SS-N-22 Quad launchers can now fire the extended-range SS-N-22M (3M82)
- **956 (2000):** As 956A (1992), but new weapon for 533mm TTs: TU-2.
- **956A (2000):** As 956A (1992), but new weapon for 533mm TTs: TU-2.
- **DDG-136 Hangzhou:** The Chinese export version. As 956A (1992), but the 533mm TTs use only the export SET-65E (1967) torpedo – they use none of the Soviet/Russian-service weapons.

Current Service

Russia - Northern Fleet:

956:

- Bezuprechnyy (1983-present)
- Gremyashchy (ex Vieduzczy, 1988-present)
- Rastoropny (1989-present)

956A:

- Bezuderzhny (1991-present)
- Besstrashny (1994-present)

Russia - Baltic Fleet:

956A:

- Bepokoiny (1992-Present)
- Nastoychivy (ex Moskowski Komsomolets, 1993-present)

Russia - Pacific Fleet:

956:

- Osmotritel'nyy (1984-present)
- Boyevoy (1986-present)
- Burny (1988-present)
- Bystry (1989-present)
- Bezboyaznenny (1990-present)



Russia - Laid Up/Decom/Incomplete:

956:

- Otchayanny (1982-mid nineties)
- Otlichnyy (1983-1994 used as hulk)
- Stoyky (1987-mid nineties)
- Okrylenny (1987-mid nineties)
- Sovremenny (1980 in overhaul since 1998)

956A:

- Sobrazitelny (ex Vnushitelnyy, 1997, completed as storage barge)
- Buliny (Incomplete)

China/East China Seas Fleet:

DDG 136 Hangzhou:

- Hangzhou (ex Let Rossiyykomy, ex Vazhny, 1999-present)
- Fu Zhou (ex Alexander Nevsky, ex Vdumchivy, 2000-present)

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