40-ton Slow Pinnace

by Loren K. Wiseman

The 40-ton slow pinnace is a development of the conventional 40-ton pinnace, manufactured by a variety of companies in numerous configurations.

The slow pinnace derives its name from the fact that it incorporates a smaller maneuver drive in order to carry more passengers and/or cargo. The trade-off design is cheaper and easier to maintain than the ordinary pinnace, which makes it popular with less technologically advanced systems throughout charted space.

Practically any shipyard can undertake modifications to the basic pinnace and the individual variants are almost without number. This publication deals with six representative types.

The deck plans presented in this booklet are numbered rather than labeled, to allow referees to change the coding and show the plans to their players without giving away any secrets (such as the locations of the emergency exits).

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The most common use for the 40-ton slow pinnace is as a surface interface craft for a starport or other installation. It is too large to serve as a small craft for any spacecraft much below 1,000 tons. The standard configuration incorporates a two-seat flight deck with positions for a pilot and a flight engineer, a fresher for use by the crew and any passengers, an airlock, standard avionics and flight control packages, fuel tanks, a passenger section (with 16 adequate seats), a cargo section (with 12 tons of cargo space and a rear loading hatch), and a 2g maneuver drive.

The engineering stations (13) are not normally manned while in flight – the flight engineer monitors their operation from the FE station in the cockpit.

The standard configuration is intended for short jaunts lasting less than 8-12 hours. On-board life support is good for considerably longer than that, but no provision is made for extra crew or the long-term comfort of the crew or passengers.

In most variants, the cockpit and engineering sections are identical, and their descriptions are not repeated unless something changes significantly.

Emergency exit panels are located on the pinnace's dorsal and ventral surfaces, every two meters - these are explained in more detail in the engineering section.

Variable Geometry Wings: The slow pinnace is equipped with variable geometry "swing wings," which allow for greater efficiency in atmospheric maneuvers.

Cockpit

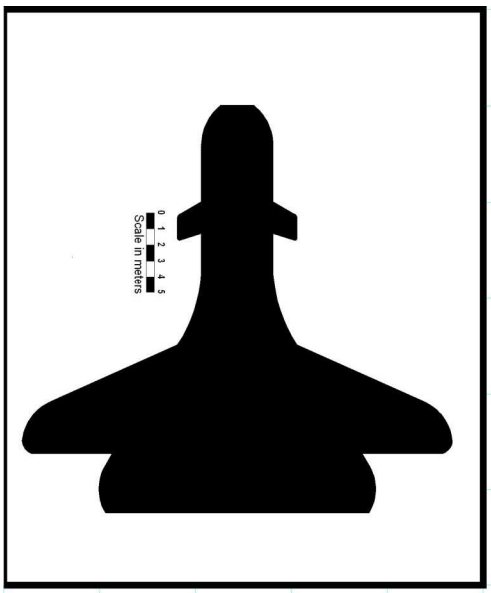
The cockpit consists of the area forward of the airlock and fresher, and is separated from the remainder of the vessel by a pressure tight sliding door that can be locked for security purposes.

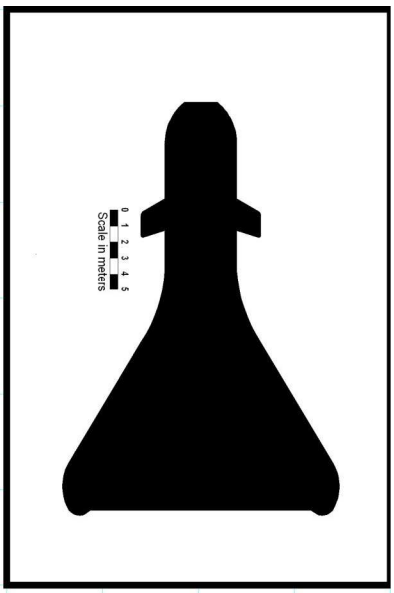
1. Avionics: A standard avionics package is fitted to all models (passive and active sensors, commo, and navigation systems).

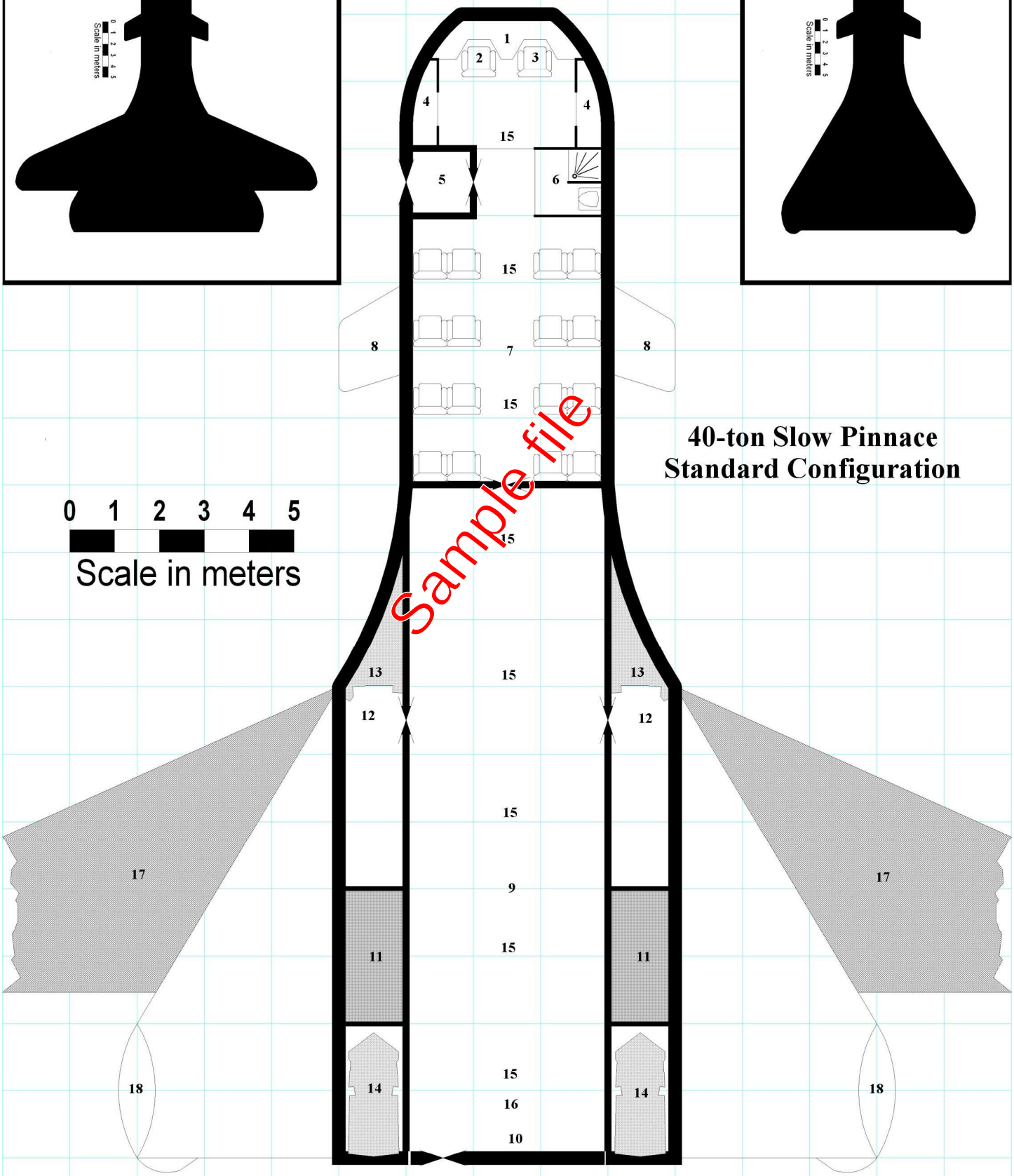
2. Pilot's Station: The pilot occupies this station during flight.

3. Flight Engineer's Station (FE): The flight engineer monitors all systems from this station during flight.

4. Supply Lockers (P/S): The two supply lockers in the cockpit contain standard







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Standard Configuration

0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in meters