

# LEMAN RUSS

## Workhorse of the Imperial Guard

by Jervis Johnson

Although the Land Raider may be the most sophisticated of Imperial Tanks, and the Baneblade the most heavily armed and armoured, it is the Leman Russ which is by far the most important of the armoured vehicles in the Imperial inventory. It has been estimated that if all of the Leman Russ in Imperial service were placed end to end, then they would stretch from the Adeptus Mechanicus Workshops on Mars to the gates of the Imperial Palace on Earth. Whether this piece of statistical sophistry is true or not, it is an appropriate image, for the Leman Russ produced by the Imperium's workshops are one of the most elements in the defence of the Imperium.

Although over 90% of Leman Russ in service are the standard model, or the standard model with very minor local variations, there are dozens of significantly different variants also in service. Some of these are extremely rare. Only one working prototype of the Leman Russ Arachnos variant, which replaced the tracks with eight robotic legs, is known to exist, and other variants are equally as rare. However, some of the more successful variants have become well established over the millennia, and are now a standard part of the inventory of most Imperial Guard armies. Amongst these by far the most popular are a triumvirate of designs, called the Leman Russ Conqueror, Leman Russ Vanquisher, and Leman Russ Exterminator <or it sit Executioner – please check. I'll use Exterminator for now>. This article provides rules and background for the use of each in games of Epic 40K.

### THE LEMAN RUSS VANQUISHER



The Leman Russ Vanquisher is a more sophisticated version of the basic battle tank. The Vanquisher is becoming increasingly rare as the skills and technology required for the construction of the vanquisher battle cannon were lost when the forge world Tigrus was overrun and scoured by Ork Warlord Arrgard the Defiler in M35. Those Vanquishers that remain in service are carefully maintained and only granted to tank crews who have proved themselves in the heart of battle.

Since the loss of Tigrus, the Adeptus Mechanicus has made strenuous efforts to reproduce surviving Vanquisher cannons on selected forge

worlds, those renowned for devotion and favoured by the Machine God with the most skilled munition-adepts. These forge worlds have been granted some success. Although slow and fraught with difficulty, Gryphonne IV and Stygies VIII have both resurrected their own versions of the Vanquisher cannon. Other forge worlds still continue their own work and pray for similar success.

Imperial Guard regiments equipped from Gryphonne IV or Stygies VIII are now starting to field small but increasing numbers of Vanquishers again.

Speed	Range	Firepower	Assault	Armour	Special
as Leman Russ				+Tank Destroyer	



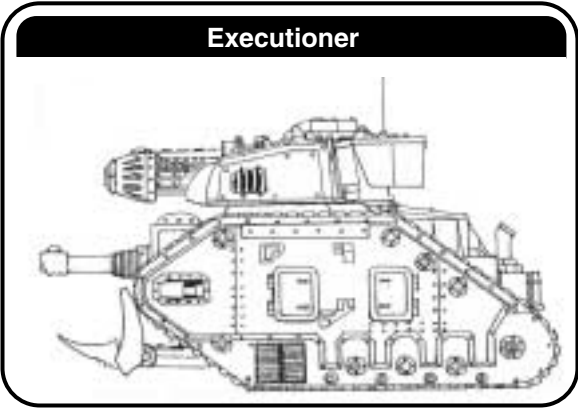
## THE LEMAN RUSS EXECUTIONER

The Executioner is one of the oldest variants of the Leman Russ. Records show that once, during the great Crusade, this vehicle equipped entire Imperial Guard armoured regiments. Now the Executioner is rarely seen. Only one forge world still manufactures the Executioner: Ryza, renowned within the Adeptus Mechanicus for its devout worship of the mystical arts of plasma reactor and magnetic containment field construction.

Ryza's own tech guard regiments are almost exclusively equipped with Executioners.

As with its smaller cousins, the Plasma Destroyer is a temperamental piece of equipment, relying on ancient technologies that can no longer be replicated. Difficulty in containing the vast energies make the Executioner an unreliable but potential devastating weapon of war. Commanders complain that the photonic fuel cell lacks the power to maintain the plasma weapon's efficiency over an extended engagement, and reloading the cell is overly time consuming in the heat of battle.

Imperial Guard tank crews do not favour this vehicle, and many old superstitions surround the blessing of the gun are still observed before battle. Most prefer the tried and tested battle cannon, but those men who do ride to battle as Executioner crews enjoy a reputation for foolhardy (many would say insane) bravery.

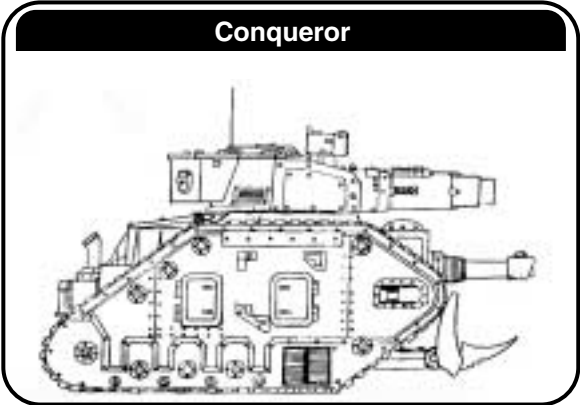


Speed	Range	Firepower	Assault	Armour	Special
as Leman Russ					+Anti-personal

# THE LEMAN RUSS CONQUEROR

The Leman Russ Conqueror variant is built exclusively on the Forge World of Gryphonne IV, using the secret knowledge of the planet's Adeptus Mechanicus munitions adepts. The Conqueror was first used to equip the Tech Guard of Gryphonne IV supporting the War Griffons Titan Legion during the Relief of Castra Septus. The Conquerors kept up with the Titans' advance as two battle groups launched a lightning attack to encircle the besiegers of Castra Septus, trapping them inside a pocket, which was eventually annihilated.

Never as widely produced as the STC Leman Russ or Demolisher, a few Conquerors have found their way into those Imperial Guard armoured regiments equipped from the foundries of Gryphonne IV. It is well liked by its crews, despite lacking heavy hitting power. Its mobility allows it to get out of trouble, find cover or exploit a breakthrough quickly, whilst maintaining a good rate of fire.



Speed	Range	Firepower	Assault	Armour	Special
as Leman Russ					+Fast

## USING THE LEMAN RUSS TANK VARIANTS

Any of the Leman Russ tank variants may be used to replace a standard Leman Russ in an Imperial Guard detachment. They cost the same points as a standard Leman Russ. Different variants may be mixed within the same detachment, but all of the tanks within a Squadron must be of the same type.

