

Engineer's Slide Rule, Robert W. French, 1941

According to the Preface, the purpose of this book is to serve as a "... self-instruction manual which will enable the beginner to learn how to use the rule with confidence, and which will assist those who have had some experience with the instrument to use it more efficiently." The text is a result of the author's experience in teaching engineers how to use the slide rule and its contents and general approach reflect this.

The theory on which the various slide rule scales are based is discussed in detail but is presented in such a fashion that it may be omitted without interfering with the book's purpose of practical instruction of the slide rule. Problems, examples, and exercises in chapters are purely numerical, not applied in nature.

Discussions in the text are based on slide rules which were most widely used at the time (1941) of publication, although no specific rules or manufacturers are discussed or recommended. Illustrations in the text are line drawings of scales and scale relationships, not photographs of identifiable rules. The scale set used includes A, B, C, D, S, L, T, inverted & folded scales, log-log scales, and vector trig scales. Unusually (and very helpfully) the author includes a 17(!) page chapter on the use of the Vector Slide Rule.

My copy of this text is a spiral-bound book of low quality paper and uses a Courier-like serif font type face, giving the appearance that it was simply reproduced from a typed manuscript. This was a original copy since some of the pages were left uncut. There is no index nor any appendices.