Slide Rule Simplified, C. O. Harris, 1959

The text was originally published in 1943, It is intended principally for beginning students of the slide rule with little mathematical background and will be most useful in self-study, rather than classroom use.   Since it is clearly intended for those with so little math background (an appendix is used to explain the concepts of negative numbers and the number line) its language and approach would most likely make it more appropriate for students in the trades or commerce, rather than those in science or engineering.

There are good expositions of both how and why the slide rule works. Most chapters include a section entitled, "Basis of the Process", which explains the theory behind the particular operation discussed in that chapter (i.e., multiplication, square roots, trig functions, etc.). Those not interested in this material can skip it without interfering with their ability to learn 'how' to use the rule. Examples within and at the end of chapters are a combination of purely numerical and applied word problems. None of the applied problems are highly technical in nature.

The scale set used is that of a Mannheim rule with CI and K scales. No specific rules or manufacturers are discussed or recommended. Illustrations in the text are line drawings, not photographs of identifiable rules.

The book contains a well-constructed eight page index.

Steve K. Seale. 2013