

The Slide Rule and How to Use It, Charles Hoare, 22nd Impression, 1953

This little text has its origins from shortly after the end of the American Civil War (1868). Despite its many re-printings since that time, it retains a rock-bottom simplicity that makes it an easy-to-understand aid for self-study by machinists, craftsmen, and those in business or commerce. This simplicity might be somewhat offset by a late 19th-early 20th century mode of expression with which contemporary readers (even in 1952 when this edition of the book was published) would likely find a little cumbersome.

In keeping with the author's goal of simplicity, there is no discussion of logarithms or the theory of construction of the slide rule within the body of the text. A 1½ page penultimate chapter in the book does explain very briefly how logarithms are implemented on the rule. Example problems tend to be simple and are provided in the areas of elementary mechanics, commerce, and science/engineering. The solution of problems is given by straightforward instructions on how to manipulate the slide rule; no discussion of the problems themselves is included.

A simple A, B, C, D scale arrangement is used throughout the book but the author recommends a configuration in which the B and C scales are positioned on physically different, but parallel, slides, instead of being located on the same slide. A cardboard example of this type of slide rule is included with the text, and is fully operational. This configuration allows calculations to be performed independently on the A & B scales, and on the C & D scales. The text makes no mention of trig scales or of problems that require trigonometry. No specific manufacturers or rules are mentioned in the text.

The book contains no Index but the Table of Contents serves adequately. There are no useful tables or appendices.