A Manual for the Slide Rule, Machovina, 1950

The Preface states that the book can be used, "... as a text for a short course or as a guide for those learning to work the slide rule by themselves...". Since the author provides guidance to "engineering students" (p.13) as to which type of slide rule might best serve them, depending upon which branch if engineering they're pursuing, one would conclude that the intended audience is college freshman. A background in high school algebra and trigonometry is assumed, although an explanation of logarithms is provided.

For a book of this relatively small size (64 pages, not counting the problem sheets at the end) a substantial amount of theory in logarithms and their application to slide rule construction and use is included. There are no applied exercises or examples in the text. Only purely numerical examples are used in the tutorial chapters. The approximately 250 problems included in the problem set at the end of the book are either simple mensuration or purely numeric in nature. No answers are provided.

No specific manufacturers or rules are recommended. The author does point out K&E registered trademarks such as "Polyphase Duplex" and "Log Log Duplex" but also indicates that the terms are used in common vernacular to refer to comparable rules by any manufacturer, and that he will follow that practice in the book. The scale set employed in teaching includes those scales usually found on most North American-produced Mannheim or log log duplex rules. The existence of vector rules is indicated by no examples are given.

There are no addenda or appendices. There is also no index, but since the Table of Contents is so well-organized and exhaustive, this presents little problem. Indeed, the Table of Contents, with its 105 separate entries, is larger than the index in some books!