

College Joe on the Slide Rule, A Compendium for Engineers, Wade, 1942

This is an interesting little 25 page book. It appears to be basically a type of 'cheat sheet' or 'reminder manual' not only for slide rule operation, but also for some types of mathematical problem solving. From the Foreword, "A knowledge of the fundamentals is taken for granted; the elementary section is brief and the argument reduced to a minimum;... for rules of any special type not mentioned here-in, the exercise of a little natural sagacity is all that will be required." In other words, "If you don't have the right background and enough ability to figure things out, this book's not for you." And I think that's right. The book is aimed at engineering students and is intended to remind them of things they've already been taught; it's not itself a teaching manual.

The book contains no theory; it focuses on slide rule use and mathematical application. There are no exercises or problem sets, merely examples and reminders of how to operate the rule to accomplish various tasks, and suggestions about how to approach new problems.

No specific rules or manufacturers are recommended. The scale set used to solve problems is that one would encounter on most log log polyphase rules.

The small book contains no index, although its "Table of Contents" is essentially an index, listing topics in alphabetical order rather than page order.