

The Slide Rule for Students of Science & Engineering, Ward & Blakey 1955, 2nd Edition revised 1961

This book is one in the General Technical Series offered by the English Universities Press and aimed principally at students interested in the certification process of the City and Guilds of London Institute. Other subjects in the Series include Radio, Gas Fitting, Surveying, Building Craft Science, etc. This particular volume was used at Sandhurst Military Academy and Welbeck College and is cited as being particularly suited to the technical branches of the Army. In the Preface, the authors note that although there are many excellent slide rule books available, "...either they are written primarily for the engineer, and hence over-detailed for the schoolboy, or else they are of the "popular" type and do not cater adequately for the trigonometrical needs of maturer students. This book, though small in content will, the authors hope, fill those needs."

The logarithmic basis for the slide rule is briefly shown in Chapter 1 and the focus thereafter is almost completely on the use of numerical exercises to demonstrate and practice elementary slide rule operations (there is one rather fun exercise in the "Solution of Triangles" section showing how to calculate the bearing and time-to-intercept of a destroyer chasing an enemy vessel). The next-to-last chapter is entitled, "General Theory of Slide Rule Scales and Errors in Their Use" and provides a discussion of the development and use of scale equations.

No specific slide rules or manufacturers are recommended or discussed. The scale set employed in the text is that of a simple Mannheim rule, plus the log-log scales. Neither Inverted or Folded scales are discussed.

The book has no appendices nor an index.