
Highlights of the A.J. Boardman Collection of Pickett Slide Rules

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Figure 1. Pickett “Executive Slide Rule”, with Golden End Plates in a Mahogany Case.

At the first part of 2007 I had the opportunity to acquire a special collection of Pickett slide rules that is a snapshot in time of what came from the Pickett production line in the late 1950s. Allan Boardman was an employee of Pickett Industries from 1956 to 1959 and was able to save this wonderful collection of quality control samples. Allan’s own version of his story is in another article in this issue of the Journal. Immediately upon hearing of this collection I knew that I must acquire it to keep it together for posterity.

The slide rules in this collection were all manufactured at Pickett Industries, Inc., in Alhambra, California during 1957 and 1958. Most of these units were randomly taken off of the production assembly line, inspected, and held aside for quality control purposes. All are unused

and in perfect condition, except for some aging due to time. In further correspondence with Allan, I ask if he knew any of the history about the yellow color on Pickett slide rules. He responded that the yellow color was well established before he started work there, and his impression was that the yellow color was just a gimmick to make their rules look different and get attention. The rule above is a Model N4-ES “Executive Rule”. This slide rule was one of a limited run of premium special rules, fitted with ‘gold’ color end plates and screws, with a shell cordovan case, and packaged in a wooden presentation box. The collection consists of 30 slide rules and numerous accessories and instruction manuals. The rules shown here are examples of the varied type of rules in the collection.

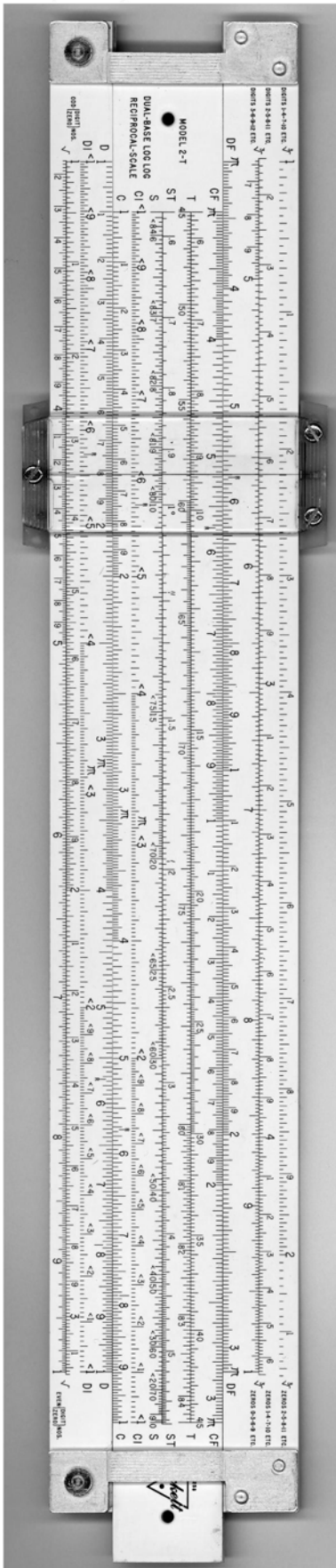


Figure 2. Model 2-T. Dual Base Reciprocal Scale.



Figure 3. Model 3-T. Dual Base Reciprocal Scale.

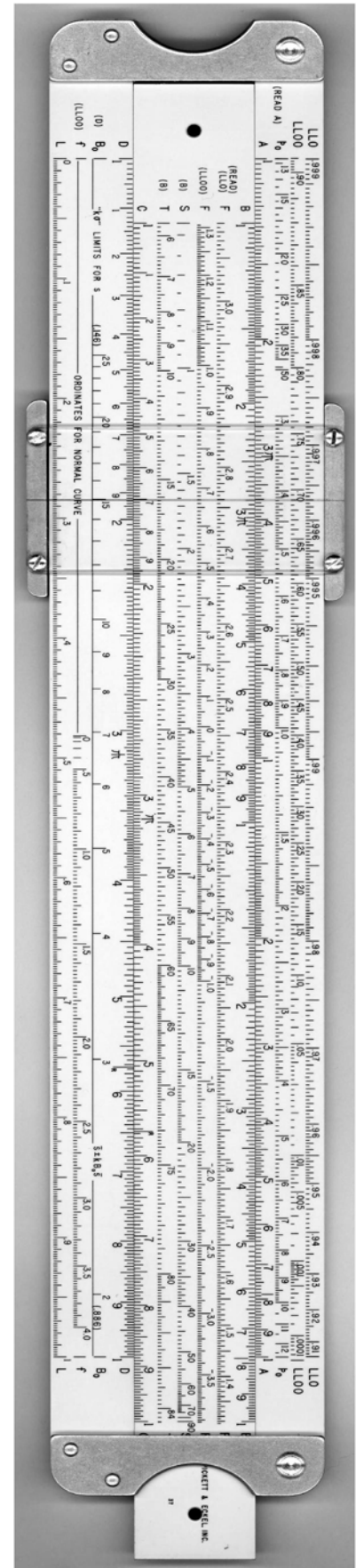


Figure 4. Model 6-T. Statistical Quality Control Rule.

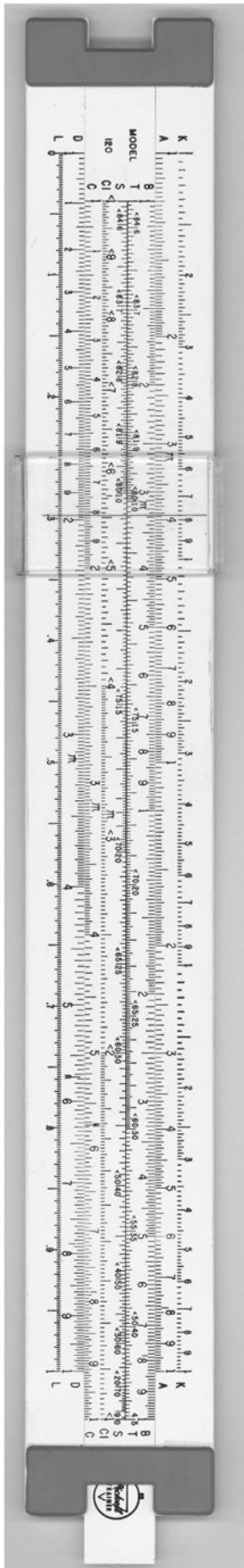


Figure 5. Trainer Plastic.
Base Reciprocal Scale.



Figure 6. Model 510-T. Business
and Finance Rule.

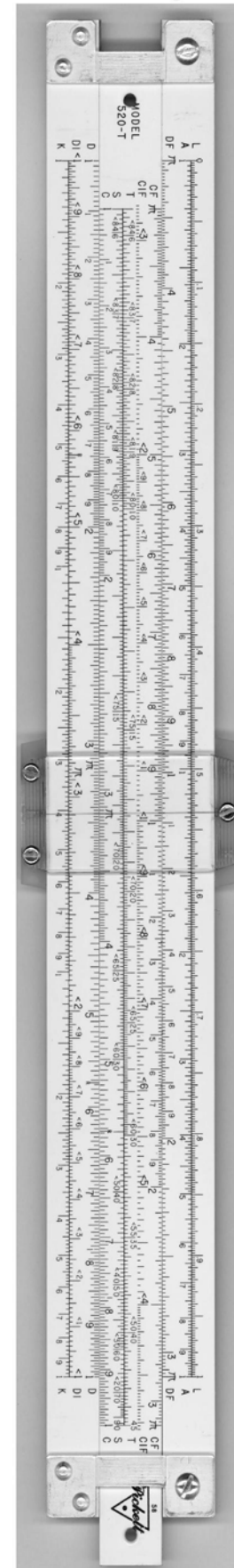


Figure 7. U.S. Air Force Aerial
Photo Slide Rule.

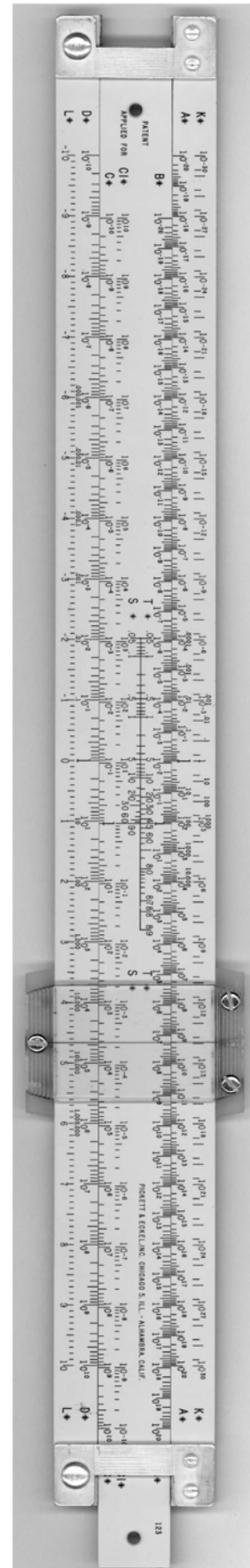
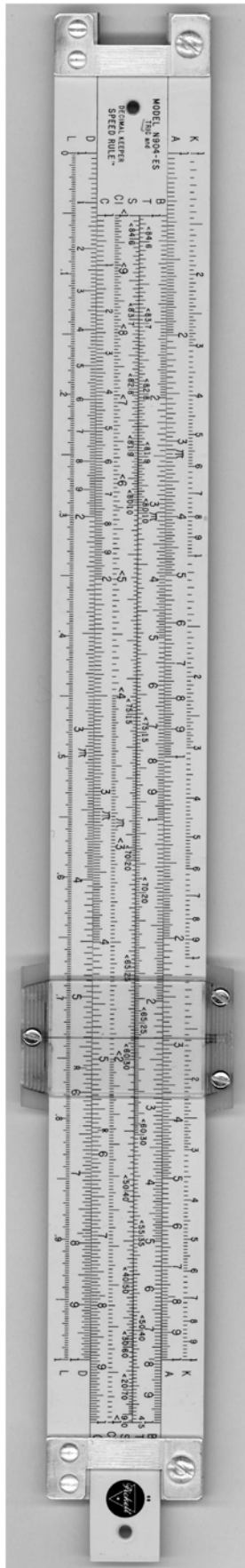


Figure 7. Model N904-ES. Trig and Decimal Keeper Speed Rule.

Calculation would first be done on the back to get the decimal point, then redone on the front for accuracy.

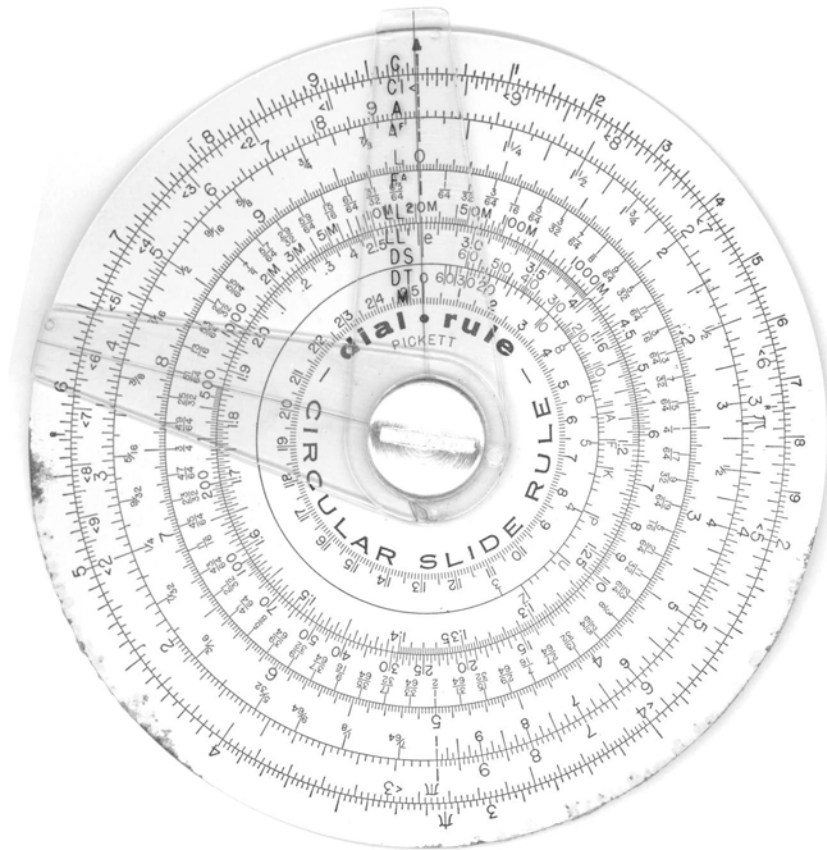


Figure 8. Model 101C – Circular Slide Rule, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in., “ES” Yellow. Has Case and Manual.

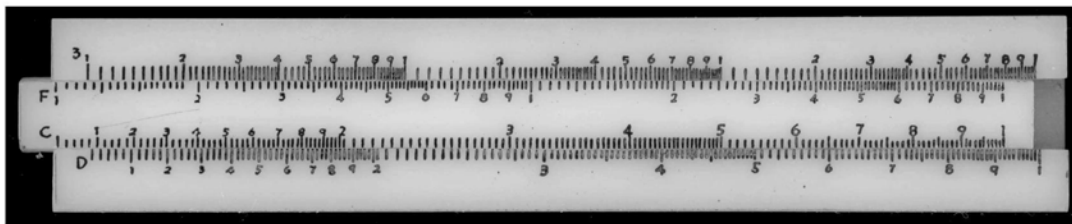


Figure 9. Tie Clip. Possibly not Made by Pickett. Enlarged.

Inventory of Slide Rules in Collection

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|---|--|
| #1 — Model N4-ES “Executive Rule” (complete package) | #15 — Model 600-ES Log Log (with case) |
| #2 — Model N4-ES (complete package) | #16 — Model N600-ES (rule only) |
| #3 — Model 4-ES rule only) | #17 — Model 600-ES (rule only) |
| #4 — Model N4-ES (rule only) | #18 — Model 300 (rule only) |
| #5 — Model 4 ES (rule only) | #19 — Model 300 (rule only) |
| #6 — Model 3-T (rule only) | #20 — Model N600-ES (complete package) |
| #7 — Model 2-T (complete package) | #21 — Model 1006-ES (Not included in Collection) |
| #8 — Model 6-T Statistical Quality Control (rule only) | #22 — Model 1006-ES (complete package) |
| #9 — Model 500-T (rule only) | #23 — Model 120 (case & box) |
| #10 — Model 510-T – Business and Finance Rule (with manual) | #24 — Model 120 (complete package) |
| #11 — Model 800-ES (rule only) | #25 — Model 300 (case) |
| #12 — Model 803-ES (rule only) | #26 — Six inch aluminum scales (not slide rules) |
| #13 — Model 520-T Aerial Photo Rule (with manual) | #27 — Belt Strap |
| #14 — Model N904-ES Decimal Keeper Speed Rule (with manual) | #28 — Slide Rule tie clip |
| | #29 — Model 101C (complete package) |
| | #30 — Model 101C (complete package) |