ALRO Circular Slide Rules

The full company name was "*All-Round*" but it is better known as: **ALRO**. This Dutch maker started producing their striking "flagship" metal cased **circular** slide rules in **1936**. A unique selling point of these models was that the case doubled up as a handy desk stand. In **1953** ALRO briefly started producing all plastic linear slide rules. However, the plastic chosen (Perspex™) proved too brittle. So three years after starting production ALRO abandoned the manufacture of linear slide rules. In **1960** ALRO stopped all slide rule production and reinvented themselves as a major supplier of plastic credit cards and laminated slide charts.

In **2020** the *Dutch Circle for Historical Calculating Instruments* (KRING) published "THE ALRO CATALOGUE" by Otto van Poelje (ISBN/EAN: 978-90-81-550-024). In it every known calculating disc, slide rule and slide chart is meticulously catalogued and photographed. Order it from: http://www.rekeninstrumenten.nl/ALRO/ .

This "quick-reference" list, based in part on the ALRO catalogue, features just the pre-1960 **circular** slide rules the company is famous for.

Model #/name	Type	Size (cm)	Comments	ALRO Cat. #
10 R	Rietz	Ø 6	Duplex + other versions made for *T.K.F.* & *Van Kranenburg*	AC-1.45a/b
100 R	Rietz	Ø 13	More precise than **200 R** as C & D scales nearer outer rim	AC-1.04
101 Commercial	Business Long-Scale	Ø 6	Single long-scale design but length unknown	AC-1.50
1010 Commercial	Business Long-Scale	Ø 13 Ø 16	Single long-scale of 150 cm Single long-scale of 200 cm	AC-1.17/18 AC-1.37
200 R	Rietz	Ø 13	Commonest model with many variations & coloured finishes	AC-1.05a/b/c
300 D	Darmstadt	Ø 13	Versions with (? later) & without a P scale	AC-1.08a/b
400 D	Darmstadt	Ø 13 Ø 16	Successor to **300 D** without a ST scale but with CI & P in lid Duplex but same scale layout	AC-1.09 no number
50 Ng	Printing & Conversion	Ø 6	Duplex for printing with cm-cicero conversion & also version made for *Gravura*	AC-1.47
50 Nmmi	Basic & Conversion	Ø 6	Duplex for metric-based units with mm to inch conversion	AC-1.46a
50 Nvm	Basic & Conversion	Ø 6	Duplex for imperial-based units with feet to metre conversion	AC-1.46b
500 N	Basic	Ø 13 Ø 16	Just C & D scale layout leaves room for 3rd party advertising	AC-1.11 no number
600 E	Electro	Ø 13	Rare circular design for a classic Electro type	AC-1.19

Model #/name	Type	Size (cm)	Comments	ALRO Cat. #
700 H Philips Emission	Radio Electronics	Ø 13	Specially designed for high-frequency radio calculations	AC-1.26
746 De Muiderkring	Radio Electronics	Ø 6 Ø 13	Specially designed for high-frequency radio calculations	no number AC-1.27
Afd. Nomographie	Leaf Springs	Ø 16	Four disc design but no cursor	AC-1.38
AL-RO	Basic Retail	Ø 13	Early "pre-production" with *CJD* monogram	AC-1.01
ALRO-PATENT	Basic Retail	Ø 13	Early "pre-production" & synonymous with **Ha**	AC-1.02
Azimuth	Astro Navigation	Ø 13	Duplex with no cursor	AC-1.31
B0B3	Reinforced Concrete	Ø 13	Probable forerunner to later **Beton** but with scale for extra strong cement	no number
Beton	Reinforced Concrete	Ø 13	Later version of **B0B3** without scale for extra strong cement	AC-1.22
Chem	Chemical	Ø 13	Stoichiometry/ratio of mass calculations	AC-1.23
CYCLOOP	Medical	Ø 10	Duplex & made for *KIPP* for determining O^2 saturation levels in blood	AC-1.48
DECIBEL	Radio Electronics	Ø 6 Ø 8 Ø 12	Duplex & made for *Philips Telecommunications* Duplex & made for *PTT* Duplex & made for *PTT*	AC-1.44 AC-1.43 AC-1.42
DISCABOIS	Forestry	Ø 13	Patented design + clips in lid to hold note pages	AC-1.24
ElA 4	Electro	Ø 13	Probable forerunner to later **600 E**	AC-1.19
GoA	Sea/Air Navigation	Ø 13	Double-length trig scales for high-precision work	AC-1.10
Ha	Basic Retail	Ø 13	Synonymous with the **ALRO PATENT** prototype	AC-1.02
Ha Tex	Business & Textile	Ø 13	Textile calculations with pre-decimal UK £sd currency & imperial yards	AC-1.14/15/16
Ha.A2	Basic Retail	Ø 13	Probable forerunner to later **500 N** but in larger font	AC-1.12
Ha.C	Basic Retail	Ø 13	Version of type **Ha** especially for fixed brokerage fees	no number
Ha.P	Basic Retail	Ø 13	Version of type **Ha** especially for very small percentages	no number
Ha.V	Basic Retail	Ø 13	Version of type **Ha** especially for rapid calculations	AC-1.13
Ha.Q	Basic Retail	Ø 13	Version of type **Ha** especially for powers and roots	no number

Model #/name	Type	Size (cm)	Comments	ALRO Cat. #
Klinische Rekencirkel	Medical	Ø 16	Duplex for metabolic-related & blood ph/gasses	AC-1.39
KLM CONVAIR 240	Aviation	Ø 13	Load adjuster made for Dutch airline *KLM* who had the first fleet in Europe of US-made Convair 240 planes	no number
KLM SYST ALRO	Sea/Air Navigation	Ø 16	Larger version of **GoA** with double-length trig scales for high-precision work but made for Dutch airline *KLM*	AC-1.35
MILITAIRE REKENSCHIJF	Military Terrain Analysis	Ø 13	Made for Dutch Army with & without belt pouch + metal cased army barracks or classroom/study version	AC-1.32/33
MILITARY CALCULATOR	Military Terrain Analysis	Ø 13	Made for foreign armies with & without belt pouch + metal cased army barracks or classroom/study version	no numbers
Ned. Octr. Aangevr.	Rietz	Ø 13	Early "pre-production" with *CJD* monogram	AC-1.03
Piret	Machining	Ø 13	For metal wire drawing/extrusion	AC-1.25
REKENSCHIJF	Basic	Ø 70	Demonstration (wall hanging) for teaching	AC-1.52
Roulette	Gambling	Ø 13	Adapted **200 R** with gauge marks as pay-out odds for six popular types of bets placed on the numbers part of a French style roulette table	no number
SHELL VISCOKLOK	Petroleum	Ø 19	With two radial cursors for oil viscosity calculations	AC-1.40
SIKORSKY S-51	Aviation	Ø 13	Prototype load adjuster probably made for Dutch Navy for US-made Sikorsky S-51 type helicopter	no number
Truck Tyre Performance	Commercial Transport	Ø 13	For determining large/heavy goods vehicle (HGV) tyre sizes	AC-1.20
Van Leer	Optics	Ø 14	For optical ray traces	AC-1.36
Vonderlingenplaat	Agriculture	Ø 13	For chemical crop spraying by farmers & market gardeners	AC-1.21
WeM	Rietz	Ø 13	Probable forerunner to later **200 R**	no number
WeR 4	Rietz	Ø 13	Made for *NEKEF* with paper trig scales in lid	AC-1.06
WeR2 5	Rietz	Ø 13	Version of **WeR 4** with scale labelling in red with paper trig scales in lid & probable forerunner to later **100 R**	AC-1.07