

ELEKTRO SLIDE RULES

Before the advent of affordable scientific electronic calculators in the 1970s, slide rules were widely used in science and engineering. Models with scales to aid calculations in a certain discipline were available and those used in electrical and/or electronic engineering are often called 'Elektro' slide rules. The article describes a slide rule design marketed as the 'Wiring Slide Rule (Trotter's Patent)' patented by A P Trotter (in 1890, patent number 1302). An 1891 review notes that it was 'designed to be used in selecting conductors for electric lighting'. Evidence is presented that suggests it to be the first known Elektro rule that went into production ca. 1891, although to date, real examples have not been reported. (Any information on such examples would be very welcome.)

For further information on Elektro slide rules, see the paper hosted on Rod Lovett's website, 'Elektro Slide Rules: Their Use and Scales' by Robert Adams BE.

<http://sliderules.lovett.com/cookie/dev/extendeddisplayarticle.cgi?match=robertadamsbexxxproceedingsofthe13thinternationalmeetingofsliderulecollectors,september,2007pg154.1.jpg>