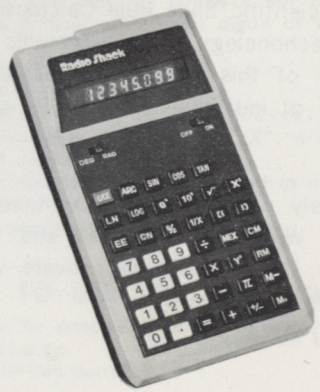




# ELECTRONIC-CALCULATOR




EC-281

**OWNER'S  
MANUAL**

PLEASE READ BEFORE  
USING THIS EQUIPMENT

**REALISTIC®**

CUSTOM MANUFACTURED FOR RADIO SHACK  A DIVISION OF TANDY CORPORATION

CAT. NO.  
85-641



## INTRODUCTION

The Radio Shack Model EC-281 Scientific Slide Rule Calculator incorporates the very latest in solid-state technology. The electronic "brain" which makes possible the 41 functions of this remarkable instrument is a tiny silicon chip containing thousands of individual transistors and many other electronic components.

The model EC-281 is a completely portable AC/DC unit with an easy-to-read electro-fluorescent display. With more features and functions than many far more costly machines, the EC-281 will provide you with many years of painless, carefree problem solving.

**NOTE: Limits of accuracy are stated on page 30.**





## EC-281 OPERATING FEATURES

Your calculator is equipped with a recently developed electronic device, the MOS/LSI CF599 chip. This special chip affords a wide variety of features as listed below:

- Number entry in floating point or scientific notation.
- 9 digit output with 5 digits of the mantissa displayed, 2 digits for the exponent, and 1 digit for the sign of the mantissa and 1 digit for the exponent.
- 8 digit display and sign for numbers not requiring scientific notation, or for the display of the 5 most significant digits of a number that is in scientific notation.
- Basic Arithmetic (+, -,  $\times$ ,  $\div$ )
- Percent (add-on and discount)
- Scientific functions:  $\sin$ ,  $\cos$ ,  $\tan$ ,  $\sin^{-1}$ ,  $\cos^{-1}$ ,  $\tan^{-1}$ ,  $\ln X$ ,  $e^x$   $\log 10$ , and  $10^x$ .
- Convenience functions:  $\sqrt{X}$ ,  $1/X$ ,  $Y^x$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $+/-$
- Two levels of parentheses.
- Trigonometric functions are performed in degrees or radians.
- $\pi$  key to display the value of  $\pi$ .
- Trailing zero suppression.

## PREPARING TO USE THE CALCULATOR

The EC-281 can be used with either of three types of power.

1. Standard Batteries.
2. Rechargeable Ni-Cad Batteries.
3. A. C. Power.



## **Battery Installation**

To install Batteries, remove the Battery Compartment Cover from the back by pressing in the direction of the arrow.

Install 4 size AA penlight cells—be sure to observe proper polarity as indicated inside the compartment. Replace the Battery Compartment Cover.

## **AC Operation**

If you'd rather save the cost of Batteries, obtain an optional AC Adapter for your Calculator.

Use only Radio Shack's 14-854.

Plug one end into a source of 120 volts, 60 Hz AC power, connect the other end to the jack on the rear of the calculator.

**NOTE:** For Battery operation, we urge you to consider using rechargeable Ni-Cads. With the AC Adapter/Charger, you can use these batteries hundreds and hundreds of times. To fully recharge Ni-Cads, leave the AC Adapter/Charger connected overnight. Typically, when you get them, Ni-Cads will be in a discharged condition — so you must charge them overnight before using the Calculator.

If you don't use Ni-Cads, we recommend that you use heavy duty type batteries — such as Radio Shack's 23-582, or 23-552 for extra-long life.

## **CAUTION**

If you are using the AC Adapter/Charger (and are not charging Ni-Cads) remove the Batteries. Operation from AC power, with batteries still installed, may cause the batteries to swell and erupt. Also, never leave Ni-Cads on charge for more than 24 hours.

Never leave weak or dead batteries in your Calculator. If you don't intend to use the Calculator for a few weeks or months, remove the Batteries.

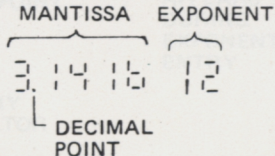


## BATTERY REPLACEMENT

When the display becomes dim or if the Calculator begins operating abnormally, it is time to replace the batteries or recharge Ni-Cads. Always use quality, sealed 1.5 volt AA penlight cells such as Radio Shack Alkaline or Triple Life ENERCELL. These batteries provide longer operating times than the conventional cells, and they incorporate specially developed seals to provide greater leakage protection.

## DISPLAY DESCRIPTION

Your EC-281 calculator has a bright green electro-fluorescent display with 9 character positions. The leftmost character position is reserved for the minus sign (—) and a special ERROR signal (E). The next five positions are reserved for the number being entered into or out of the calculator. The remaining three character positions are reserved for very small or very large numbers. If a number appears in the last two of these positions, it is called the exponent and the preceding number is called the mantissa. For example, the display 3.1416 12 is equivalent to  $3.1416 \times 10^{12}$ . The character space between the mantissa and exponent shows a minus sign (—) when the exponent is negative.





## DISPLAY METHODS

The method used by the EC-281 to display very small and very large numbers with the assistance of an exponent is called scientific notation. Simply defined, scientific notation is a convenient means for expressing very small or very large numbers as multiples of 10 to a specified power. For example 5000 is expressed as  $5 \times 10^3$  in scientific notation. Similarly, 28321 is  $2.8321 \times 10^4$  in scientific notation. Numbers less than one have a negative exponent when expressed in scientific notation. For example, 0.07 is equivalent to  $7.0 \times 10^{-2}$ .

It's easy to enter numbers expressed in scientific notation into your calculator. To enter  $3.4 \times 10^{17}$ , for example, press the following keys:  $\boxed{3} \boxed{\cdot} \boxed{4} \boxed{EE} \boxed{1} \boxed{7}$ . If the number is less than one, it has a negative exponent which is so indicated by pressing the  $\boxed{+/-}$  key after the exponent is entered. For example,  $2.18 \times 10^{-5}$  is entered as follows:  $\boxed{2} \boxed{\cdot} \boxed{1} \boxed{8} \boxed{EE} \boxed{5} \boxed{+/-}$ . An error condition is indicated by the letter E in the leftmost display position. Typical errors are improper keystroke sequences and illegal operations such as division by zero. When memory register is in use, a segment " , " in the leftmost character position glows.

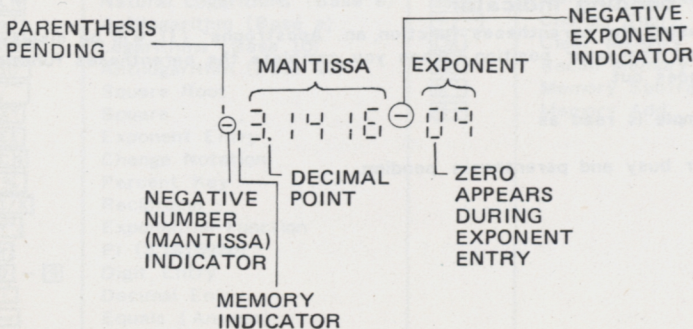


## SPECIAL DISPLAY INDICATORS

The display of your EC-281 incorporates several status indicators. These include negative mantissa and exponent, error and memory busy. Each of the indicators is explained below.

### Negative Mantissa and Exponent Indicator

A minus sign (—) in the first (leftmost) display position indicates a negative mantissa. A minus sign in the seventh display position indicates a negative exponent.





### **Error Indicator**

An error condition is indicated by the letter E in the leftmost display position. Typical errors are improper keystroke sequences and illegal operations such as division by zero.

### **Memory Busy Indicator**

When the memory is in use, a slash mark ( / ) in the leftmost character position glows. (This will remind you that the memory register is in use.)

### **parentheses pending Indicator**

When you are using the parentheses function, an "Apostrophe" ( ' ) will be displayed in the left most character position. When you complete the parentheses function, this indicator goes out.

The display sample is read as

—3.1416×10<sup>-9</sup>

Memory register busy and parenthesis pending.

## Description of Keys:

Key	Use	Key	Use
$\boxed{C/CE}$	Clear, Clear Entry	$\boxed{\div}$	Divide
$\boxed{ARC}$	Inverse Trig	$\boxed{\times}$	Multiply
$\boxed{SIN}$	Sin (Trig)	$\boxed{-}$	Subtract
$\boxed{COS}$	Cos (Trig)	$\boxed{+}$	Add
$\boxed{TAN}$	Tan (Trig)	$\boxed{(( ) )}$	Brackets/Parenthesis
$\boxed{LN}$	Natural Logarithms (Base e)	$\boxed{MEX}$	Memory Exchange
$\boxed{e^x}$	Antilogarithm (Base e)	$\boxed{+/-}$	Change Sign
$\boxed{LOG}$	Logarithms (Base 10)	$\boxed{CM}$	Clear Memory
$\boxed{10^x}$	Antilogarithm (Base 10)	$\boxed{RM}$	Recall Memory
$\boxed{\sqrt{\quad}}$	Square Root	$\boxed{M-}$	Memory Subtract
$\boxed{X^2}$	Square	$\boxed{M+}$	Memory Add
$\boxed{EE}$	Exponent Entry		
$\boxed{CN}$	Change Notation		
$\boxed{\%}$	Percent Key		
$\boxed{1/X}$	Reciprocal		
$\boxed{Y^x}$	Exponential Function		
$\boxed{\pi}$	Pi (3.1415926)		
$\boxed{0} - \boxed{9}$	Digit Entry		
$\boxed{\cdot}$	Decimal Entry		
$\boxed{=}$	Equals (Answer)		



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPERATION

The EC-281 calculator has 41 keys, The following explanation will help you understand the operation and uses of each key.

### DIGIT ENTRY KEYS

**[0]** - - - **[9]** : Pressing any digit key enters that digit and causes it to appear in the display. To enter the number 32, press **[3]** first, then **[2]**.

### DECIMAL POINT ENTRY

**[.]** : Pressing the **[.]** key places the decimal point in your entries.

### EXPONENT ENTRY KEY

**[EE]** : Pressing the **[EE]** key instructs the calculator that the following number entry is an exponent of 10 (scientific notation).

### PI KEY

**[ $\pi$ ]** : Pressing the **[ $\pi$ ]** key enters the 8-digit value of  $\pi$  (3.1415926) into the display. This key, following a number entry, clears the number entered and causes immediate entry of  $\pi$ , and vice versa.



## ARITHMETIC FUNCTION KEYS

$\oplus$  ADD,  $\ominus$  SUBTRACT,  $\otimes$  MULTIPLY,  $\div$  DIVIDE: Pressing any of these four keys selects the next operation to be performed by the calculator and causes the previously selected operation to be executed. During calculations, intermediate results are automatically displayed after these keys are pressed.

## ANSWER KEY

$\equiv$  : Pressing the  $\equiv$  key causes your answer to appear in the display and establishes a constant, then terminates the calculation. The answer can be retained as the first number for your next calculation. The  $\equiv$  can be used inside parentheses to execute arithmetic functions, and the answer used in a scientific function.

## OPEN BRACKET AND PARENTHESIS KEY

$\left[ \right]$  : Pressing the  $\left[ \right]$  key once enters the open parenthesis. Pressing it twice enters the open bracket and open parenthesis in sequence. Pressing this key actually causes storage of the intermediate result and prior function into a separate "submemory", and conditions the calculator to solve sub-problems within parentheses.

## CLOSE PARENTHESIS AND BRACKET KEY

$\right] \right]$  : Pressing the  $\right] \right]$  key once enters the close parenthesis. Pressing it twice enters the close parenthesis and close bracket in sequence. Pressing this key actually causes execution of a prior function, display of the result of the sub-problem within parentheses, and recall of the previous intermediate result and prior function stored in the submemories at the time the  $\left[ \right]$  key was pressed.



## CLEAR KEY

**C/CE** : Pressing the **C/CE** key clears the display of erroneous entries, cancels overflow conditions, or clears the calculator of stored numbers and functions. See CLEAR OPERATIONS later on for a complete description.

## CHANGE SIGN KEY

**+/-** : Pressing the **+/-** key changes the sign of the displayed number. To enter a negative number, first enter the number and then press the **+/-** key. Pressing the **+/-** key after the **EE** key changes the sign of the exponent.

## BASIC OPERATION

The EC-281 uses algebraic logic. This means your calculator works the same way you think. Entries are made the same way you would write an algebraic equation. Notice that the display shows each new numerical entry as you press the number entry keys.

### Problem:

Addition  $4 + 5 = 9$

### Problem:

Subtraction  $9 - 6 = 3$

**Keyboard Entry**

4  
⊕ 5  
=

**Display**

4.  
5.  
9.

**Problem:**

Multiplication  $2 \times 7 = 14$

**Keyboard Entry**

2  
⊗ 7  
=

**Display**

2.  
7.  
14.

**Keyboard Entry**

9  
= 6  
=

**Display**

9.  
6.  
3.

**Problem:**

Division  $48 \div 4 = 12$

**Keyboard Entry**

48  
÷ 4  
=

**Display**

48.  
4.  
12.

**Mixed Calculations**

The following example shows how the calculator is used to solve complex mathematical problems with a minimum of key pressings. The example also illustrates how the arithmetic function keys execute preceding operations and cause intermediate results to be displayed.

**Problem:**  $\frac{(4+6)8-7}{8} = 9.125$



Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
4	4.	
$\oplus$ 6	6.	
$\otimes$	10.	(4+6) executed
8	8.	
$\square$	80.	(4+6) 8 executed
7	7.	
$\div$	73.	(4+6) 8—7 executed
8	8.	
$\equiv$	9.125	Final result

## CONSTANT OPERATIONS

The automatic constant is another time-saving feature. This feature enables you to add, subtract, multiply, or divide each number in a series by the same (constant) number, repeatedly without re-entering the number for each new calculation. The number entered after the last arithmetic function key pressed is always saved as the constant (addend, subtrahend, multiplier or divisor).



Problem:  $4+3=7$        $8+3=11$



Keyboard Entry

Display

Comments

4	4.	
$\boxed{+}$ 3	3.	Constant addend=3
$\boxed{=}$	7.	
8	8.	
$\boxed{=}$	11.	

## CALCULATIONS USING PARENTHESES KEYS

**NOTE:** In the following example, parentheses and brackets are entered in the same sequence as the problem is written.

Problem:  $[(2 \times 3) + (3 \div 4)] \div [(3 + 5) \times (7 - 9)] = -0.421875$

Keyboard Entry

Display

Comments

$\boxed{[}$ $\boxed{[}$ 2	12.	
$\boxed{\times}$ 3	13.	
$\boxed{)]}$ $\boxed{+}$ $\boxed{[}$	10.	$(2 \times 3)$ executed, addition operation established

3	3.	
$\boxed{\div}$ 4	4.	
$\boxed{)}$	0.75	(3 $\div$ 4) executed
$\boxed{)}$ $\boxed{\div}$ $\boxed{(($ $\boxed{(($	0.	(2 $\times$ 3) + (3 $\div$ 4) executed, division operation established
3	3.	
$\boxed{+}$ 5	5.	
$\boxed{)}$ $\boxed{\times}$ $\boxed{(($	0.	(3+5) executed, multiplication operation established
7	7.	
$\boxed{-}$ 9	9.	
$\boxed{)}$	└ 2.	(7-9) executed
$\boxed{)}$	- 16.	(3+5) $\times$ (7-9) executed
$\boxed{=}$	- 0.421875	

## CLEAR OPERATIONS

There are two clear keys and they perform the following functions:  $\boxed{C/CE}$  clear entry/clear calculator and  $\boxed{CM}$  clear memory register.

1. Clear Entry (Enter Correction): A single depressing of the  $\boxed{C/CE}$  key after entry of a number clears the displayed number but does not affect the stored constants or the operation in progress.



**Example:**  $12 + 43 = 55$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
12	12.	
$\boxed{+}$ 46	46.	Error, wrong number entered
$\boxed{C/CE}$	0.	Clear entry
43	43.	
$\boxed{=}$	55.	

2. Clear Calculator (Except Memory): A double depression of the  $\boxed{C/CE}$  key clears any operation in progress and clears the calculator except memory registers.

**Example:**  $4 + 5$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
4	4.	
$\boxed{+}$ 5	5.	
$\boxed{C/CE}$	0.	Entry cleared
$\boxed{C/CE}$	0.	Calculator cleared



**NOTE:** Pressing **C/CE** key once after an arithmetic function key, answer key,  $\pi$  key or exchange key clears the calculator.

3. Clear Memory: Pressing **CM** clears memory register.

## CHANGE SIGN OPERATION

Pressing the **+/-** key changes the sign of the number in the display.

**Problem:**  $\frac{4^2(-3)}{6} = -8$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
4	4.	
<b>X<sup>2</sup></b>	16.	
<b>X</b>	16.	
3	3.	
<b>+/-</b>	-3.	Negative indicator glows
<b>÷</b>	-48.	
6	6.	
<b>=</b>	-8.	





## CONSTANT $\pi$ KEY

The value of  $\pi$  may be entered into the display at any time by pressing the  $\pi$  key. The display will be 3.1415926.

**Problem:** Area of circle: Find area (A) of a circle 6 feet in diameter (D).

Formula  $A = \frac{\pi D^2}{4}$        $A = 28.274332 \text{ ft}^2$

**Keyboard Entry**

**Display**

**Comments**

$\pi$

3.1415926

X

3.1415926

6

6.

Diameter (D)

X<sup>2</sup>

36.

D<sup>2</sup>

$\div$  4

4.

=

28.274332

Area (A) in square feet

## EXPONENT ENTRY KEY

Numbers may be entered into the EC-281 in scientific notation, that is, expressed as a base number (mantissa) multiplied by 10 raised to an exponent:  $X \cdot 10^Y$ , where X is the base number and Y is the exponent. For example, 123 can be expressed as  $1.23 \times 10^2$ . The base number is 1.23 and the exponent is 2. The procedure for entering numbers in scientific notation is described in the example below:



Number	Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
$-3.14 \times 10^{-9}$	3.14	3.14	
	$\boxed{+/-}$	-3.14	
	$\boxed{EE}$	-3.14 00	
	9	-3.14 09	
	$\boxed{+/-}$	-3.14 -09	

## TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS

Pressing the  $\boxed{SIN}$ ,  $\boxed{COS}$  or  $\boxed{TAN}$  key will cause the calculator to compute and display the appropriate trigonometric function for the value of the angle that was displayed initially. The inverse (ARC) trigonometric function of a displayed number will be computed and displayed when the  $\boxed{ARC}$  key is pressed followed by the  $\boxed{SIN}$ ,  $\boxed{COS}$ ,  $\boxed{TAN}$  key. Trig functions can be calculated for degrees or radians (depending on setting of DEG/RAD switch).

**Problem:**  $\sin 30^\circ = 0.5$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
30	30	Set DEG/RAD switch to DEG
$\boxed{SIN}$	0.5	



**Problem:**  $\text{arcSIN } 0.2 = 11.5369^\circ$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
0.2	0.2	Set DEG/RAD switch to DEG
<b>ARC</b> <b>SIN</b>	11.5369	

**DEG/RAD SWITCH:** The position of the DEG/RAD switch determines whether the trigonometric functions are to be computed with angles in degrees or radians.

**Problem:**  $\text{Sin } 63^\circ = 0.891006$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
63	63.	Set DEG/RAD switch to "DEG"
<b>SIN</b>	0.891006	

**Problem:**  $\text{Tan } 2 \text{ radians} = -2.18504$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
2	2.	Set DEG/RAD switch to "RAD"
<b>TAN</b>	- 2.18504	



## SQUARE ROOT

Pressing  $\sqrt{\square}$  causes the square root of the number in the display to be computed and displayed.

**Problem:**  $\sqrt{64} = 8$

**Keyboard Entry**

64



**Display**

64.

8.

## SQUARE

Pressing  $\square X^2$  causes the square of the number in the display to be computed and displayed.

**Problem:**  $12.4^2 = 153.76$

**Keyboard Entry**

12.4



**Display**

12.4

153.76

## RECIPROCAL

Pressing the  $\square 1/X$  key causes the reciprocal of the number being displayed to be computed and displayed.





Problem:  $\frac{1}{40} = 0.025$

**Keyboard Entry**

40

**1/X**

**Display**

40.

0.025

## COMMON LOGARITHMS FUNCTION (Log)

Pressing the **LOG** key causes the common logarithm of the displayed number to be computed and displayed.

Problem:  $\log 10^{1000} = 3$

**Keyboard Entry**

1000

**LOG**

**Display**

1000.

3.

## NATURAL LOGARITHMS FUNCTION (Ln)

Pressing the **LN** key causes the natural logarithm of the displayed number to be computed and displayed.

Problem:  $\text{Ln}(32^3) = 3 \text{ Ln } 32 = 10.397209$



Keyboard Entry	Display
32	32.
$\boxed{\text{LN}}$	3.4657364
$\boxed{\text{X}}$ 3	3.
$\boxed{=}$	10.397209

## ANTILOGARITHMS FUNCTIONS $\boxed{e^x}$ , $\boxed{10^x}$

Pressing the  $\boxed{e^x}$  or  $\boxed{10^x}$  keys as desired causes the antilogarithms of the displayed number of the base e or base 10 to be computed and displayed.

**Problem:**  $10^3 = 1000$

Keyboard Entry	Display
3	3.
$\boxed{10^x}$	1000.

**Problem:**  $e^{-3} = 0.0497871$

Keyboard Entry	Display
3	3.
$\boxed{+/-}$	-3.
$\boxed{e^x}$	0.0497871



## EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION ( $Y^X$ )

The exponential function raises  $Y$  (first number entered) to the power  $X$  (second number entered) for real values of  $X$ . The function is completed by entering  $X$  and pressing the  $\boxed{=}$  key.

**Problem:**  $2^4 = 16$

Keyboard Entry	Display
2	2.
$\boxed{Y^X}$	3.0102—01 (common log of 2)
4	4.
$\boxed{=}$	16.

The  $Y^X$  function can be chained with other operations by use of parentheses as follows:

**Problem:**  $3 \times (4^{2.5}) = 96$

Keyboard Entry	Display
3 $\boxed{\times}$ $\boxed{($	' 0.
4	' 4.



$\boxed{Y^x}$	' 0.6020601
2.5	' 2.5
$\boxed{=}$ $\boxed{)}\}$	32.
$\boxed{=}$	96.

## CHANGE NOTATION KEY (CN):

Pressing the  $\boxed{CN}$  key will convert the displayed number to scientific notation. For example, the displayed number 45638; when you press the  $\boxed{CN}$  key, the displayed number will be 4.5638 04. In scientific notation 45638 is the same as  $4.5638 \times 10^4$ . The function also works backwards. Thus if you are in the scientific notation mode, and want to see the full number displayed, accurate to eight places, press this key.

## PERCENT KEY $\boxed{\%}$

The EC-281 is equipped with a fully active percent function  $\boxed{\%}$  key. It will figure discounts, add-ons, mark-ups and totals. Percent is operational after a sequence of "A"  $\times$  "B", where "A" is any number and "B" is in percent. The  $\boxed{\%}$  key performs the operation and displays the result. For discount or add-on, use A  $\boxed{-}$  B  $\boxed{\%}$   $\boxed{=}$  or A  $\boxed{+}$  B  $\boxed{\%}$   $\boxed{=}$ . Go through the following examples.





**Example:**  $200 \times 15\%$

**Keyboard Entry**

**C/CE**

200 **×** 15

**%**

**Display**

0.

15.

30.

**Example:** An article selling for \$ 4.95 is on sale at 25% discount. What is the new selling price? (4.95 - 25% of 4.95)

**Keyboard Entry**

**C/CE**

4.95 **-**

25 **%** **=**

**Display**

0.

4.95

3.7125

**Example:** An article is purchased for \$ 12.95 not including 5% sales tax. What is the total cost to buyer? (12.95+5% of 12.95)

**Keyboard Entry**

**C/CE**

12.95 **+**

5 **%** **=**

**Display**

0.

12.95

13.5975



## MEMORY ADD, MEMORY SUBTRACT, RECALL MEMORY AND CLEAR MEMORY KEYS

**M+** **M-** **RM** **CM** : The EC-281 incorporates a completely addressable Memory Bank to enable you to solve complex problems beyond those normally solved on standard four function calculators. The following examples explain the use of the Memory and the meaning of the Memory Address Keys.

Example: 
$$\frac{(25 \times 3) - (5 \times 5)}{5 \times 2} = 5$$

**Keyboard Entry**                      **Display**

	<b>C/CE</b>	0.
	<b>CM</b>	0.
25	<b>×</b> 3 <b>=</b>	75.
	<b>M+</b>	,75.
5	<b>×</b> 5 <b>=</b>	,25.
	<b>M-</b>	,25.
	<b>RM</b>	,50.
	<b>÷</b> 5 <b>÷</b> 2	,2.
	<b>=</b>	,5.



## MEMORY EXCHANGE KEY

**MEX** : Pressing the **MEX** key changes the displayed number to the number in the memory register, and vice versa.

**Example:** 
$$\frac{(12 \times 3) - (15 \div 3)}{2} = 15.5$$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
<b>C/CE</b> <b>CM</b> 12 <b>×</b> 3 <b>=</b> <b>M+</b>	,36.	Product stored in Memory
15 <b>÷</b> 3 <b>=</b> <b>M-</b>	,5.	Second Product Subtracted from Memory
<b>MEX</b>	,31.	Exchange the displayed number with the stored number
<b>÷</b> 2 <b>=</b>	,15.5	

## ERROR CONDITIONS:

### A. Result Errors

A calculation can be performed which produces an intermediate or final result outside the permissible range of the Calculator. These errors are referred to as overflow if the magnitude of the result is greater than  $9.9999999 \times 10^{99}$  or underflow if the magnitude of the result is smaller than  $1 \times 10^{-99}$ . When this occurs, an error symbol "E" appears in the display.



## B. Input Argument Errors

Specific functions cannot be executed over the full range of numbers which may be entered from the keyboard or developed as intermediate results during calculation. The following table provides a summary of the permitted range of arguments for each of the functions performed by the EC-281 calculator.

$+, -, \times, \div$	$1 \times 10^{-99} \leq  X  \leq 9.9999999 \times 10^{99}$
$1/X$	$1 \times 10^{-99} \leq  X  \leq 9.9999999 \times 10^{99}; X \neq 0$
$\sqrt{X}$	$0 \leq X \leq 9.9999999 \times 10^{99}$
$\ln X$	$0 < X \leq 9.9999999 \times 10^{99}$
$e^x$	$ X  < 100 \ln 10 \quad ( X  < 230.25)$
$\sin X$	$1 \times 10^{-99} \leq  X  \leq 9.9999999 \times 10^{99}$
$\cos X$	$1 \times 10^{-99} \leq  X  \leq 9.9999999 \times 10^{99}$
$\tan X$	$X \neq 90^\circ, 270^\circ, 450^\circ \text{ etc}$
$\sin^{-1} X$	$ X  \leq 1$
$\cos^{-1} X$	$ X  \leq 1$
$\tan^{-1} X$	$0 \leq  X  \leq 9.9999999 \times 10^{99}$
$Y^x$	$X < \frac{100 \times \ln 10}{\ln Y} \quad 0 < Y \leq 9.9999999 \times 10^{99}$





## ACCURACY

There are two sources of error in calculations done by the EC-281. The first is truncation errors, which occur when the mantissa of a result is rounded to eight digits. The second is algorithmic errors, which are caused by the limited precision of the constants and algorithms used in the complex function calculations. For some functions the accuracy becomes less for certain ranges of the input argument. All functions are accurate within two counts in the eighth digit of mantissa. The value of the exponent (or the location of the decimal) can be considered exact.

## SAMPLE PROBLEMS

The Radio Shack EC-281 scientific Slide Rule calculator is a versatile problem solving tool. Several practical examples were chosen from different fields of interest to familiarize you with your calculator. We recommend that you gain familiarity with your calculator by working the sample problems.

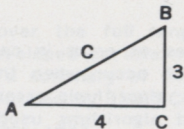


# MATHEMATICS

## Pythagorean Theorem

$$C = \sqrt{(3^2 + 4^2)}$$

$$C = 5$$



### Keyboard Entry

### Display

3

3.

$X^2$

9.

+

9.

4

4.

$X^2$

16.

=  $\sqrt{\quad}$

5.

## Law of Cosines:

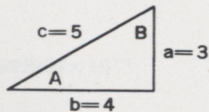
**Problem:** Given three sides of illustrated triangle, find angle A.

**Formula:**  $a^2 = c^2 + b^2 - 2bc \cos A$

$$A = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{c^2 + b^2 - a^2}{2bc} \right)$$

$$A = 36.8699^\circ$$

Set DEG/RAD switch to DEG.





Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
2	2.	
$\otimes$	2.	
5	5.	c
$\otimes$	10.	2c
4	4.	b
$\equiv$	40.	2bc
$M+$	,40.	Memory indicator illuminated
5	,5.	
$X^2$	,25.	$c^2$
$\oplus$	,25.	
4	,4.	
$X^2$	,16.	$b^2$
$\ominus$	,41.	
3	,3.	
$X^2$ $\div$	,32.	$c^2 + b^2 - a^2$
$RM$	,40.	
$\equiv$	,0.8	$c^2 + b^2 - a^2/2bc$
$ARC$ $COS$	,36.8699	

## ELECTRONICS

**Problem:** Three resistors of 5 ohms, 20 ohms and 10 ohms are connected in parallel.  
What is the equivalent resistance ?

**Formula:** 
$$R_e = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3}}$$

$$R_e = 2.8571428 \text{ ohms}$$

Keyboard Entry	Display	Comments
5	5.	R1
$\boxed{1/X}$	0.2	1/R1
$\boxed{+}$	0.2	
20	20.	R2
$\boxed{1/X}$	0.05	1/R2
$\boxed{+}$	0.25	1/R1 + 1/R2
10	10.	R3
$\boxed{1/X}$	0.1	1/R3
$\boxed{=}$	0.35	1/R1 + 1/R2 + 1/R3
$\boxed{1/X}$	2.8571428	$R_e$





## CHEMISTRY

**Problem:** 20ml of 0.5N HCl is diluted with water to 100ml and the resulting solution is titrated with 8ml 0.5N NaOH. Find the PH value.

Un-neutralized HCl  $20 - 8 = 12$  (ml)

Solution  $100 + 8 = 108$  (ml)

$$PH = -\log(H^+)$$

$$(H^+) = \frac{V \times N}{V_0}, \quad V = 12\text{ml}, \quad N = 0.5, \quad V_0 = 108\text{ml}$$

$$PH = 1.2553$$

### Keyboard Entry

12  $\times$  0.5  $\div$

108  $=$

$\log$

$+/-$

### Display

6.

5.555—02

—1.2552725

1.2552725

### Comments

(H<sup>+</sup>)

PH



## PHYSICS

**Problem:** Find the torque of a loop of wire carrying 3 Amps in a magnetic field of 0.5 weber/m<sup>2</sup>.

$$B = 0.5 \text{ weber/m}^2$$

$$\phi = 30^\circ$$

$$r = 1.75 \text{ m}$$

$$I = 3 \text{ Amps}$$

$$A \text{ (area of loop)} = \pi r^2$$

Torque  $T = IAB \sin \phi$

**Note:** Set DEG/RAD switch to DEG.

**Keyboard Entry**

**Display**

CM 1.75  $\times^2$   $\times$   $\pi$   $\times$  9.6211273

3  $\times$  .5 =  $M+$  ,14.43169

30  $\sin$   $\times$   $RM$  = ,7.215845

## SURVEYING

In determining the height of a large object, it is seldom practical to measure directly, often it may even be impossible to reach the base of the object.

AB is 75 feet

$\alpha$  is  $48.5^\circ$

$\beta$  is  $72.3^\circ$

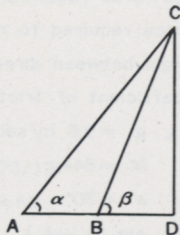
$h = BC \sin \beta$

In triangle ABC, angle  $C = \beta - \alpha$

$\therefore$  by the law of sines  $\frac{BC}{AB} = \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin (\beta - \alpha)}$

$\therefore h = AB \frac{\sin \alpha \sin \beta}{\sin (\beta - \alpha)}$

**Note:** Set DEG/RAD switch to DEG.



### Keyboard Entry

### Display

48.5

,0.

72.3

,0.952662

,0.748956

72.3  48.5

,0.403545

,1.768085

75

,132.60637



## MECHANICS

**Problem:** Find the force required to pull an object up an inclined plane.

$F$  = force required to move mass  $M$  up the plane whose inclination is  $\alpha$ .

$\beta$  = angle between direction of force and the plane.

$\mu$  = coefficient of friction =  $\tan \phi$

$W = Mg, g = 9.8 \text{ m/sec}^2 \quad \beta = 10^\circ$

$M = 64\text{kg} \quad \mu = 0.5$

$\alpha = 30^\circ$

$$F = Mg \frac{\sin(\alpha + \phi)}{\cos(\beta - \phi)}$$

**Note:** Set DEG/RAD switch to DEG.

Keyboard Entry	Display
.5 [ARC] [TAN] [MEX]	,10.
10 [-] [RM] [=]	-16.565
[COS]	,0.958497
[MEX] [+] 30 [=] [SIN]	,0.834511
[÷] [RM] [X]	,8.7064—01
64 [X] 9.8 [=]	,546.06877





## BUSINESS

**Problem:** What will be monthly payment on a \$ 150,000 loan, borrowed for 5 years at an interest of  $12\frac{3}{4}\%$  per year?

$$M = P \frac{i(1+i)^n}{(1+i)^n - 1}$$

Where M = monthly payment

P = principal

i = monthly interest rate =  $.1275/12$

n = number of periods =  $12 \times 5 = 60$

**Keyboard Entry**

**Display**

CM .1275  $\div$  12  $\div$  1 =

1.010625

Y<sup>x</sup> 60 =

1.88539

M+ - 1 = 1/X X RM

1.88539

X .1275  $\div$  12 X

2.2625-02

150000 =

3393.8038




## RADIO SHACK LIMITED WARRANTY

This equipment is warranted against defects for 1 year from date of purchase. Within this period, we will repair it without charge for parts and labor. Simply **bring your sales slip** as proof of purchase date to any Radio Shack store. Warranty does not cover transportation costs. Nor does it cover equipment subjected to misuse or accidental damage.

This Warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

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