When cleaning your slide rule

The face of your slide rule may be cleaned by wiping it with a slightly damp, clean cloth. Be very careful to keep all moisture away from any wood surface.

To clean the underside of the indicator glass, place a slightly moistened piece of paper on the face of the rule and gently rub the indicator over it.

If the slide occasionally sticks... grasp the edges of the rule with the left hand as shown in Figure 1... press the top and bottom rails of the rule together... move the slide back and forth a few times with the right hand. Repeat this procedure on the left end of the rule by grasping the edges with the right hand. Caution: Do not squeeze the top and bottom rails together unless the slide supports the applied pressure.

Never abuse your slide rule

It is truly a precision instrument; respect it as such. Protect it from extremes in heat, humidity, and handling. No thinking person would keep a five-cent camera on top of a radiator or in a damp basement and expect it to perform properly. Give your slide rule as much consideration. Don’t throw it into a drawer or hang it on a desk, even when it is in its case.
If the slide is too tight... First, pull the slide to the right and to the left until you determine the position at which it is the tightest. Leave the slide at this tightest position and loosen the screw in the end-plate at the end of the rule from which the slide projects... as shown in Fig. 2 above. This will usually relieve the internal pressure and it is only necessary to retighten the screw. If the sticking persists, however, it indicates that the internal pressure is not sufficient to automatically reposition the upper bar of the rule when the screw is loosened... and the operation should be repeated with the thumb exerting a slight upward pressure on the extended slide when the screw is retightened... as shown in Fig. 3 seen immediately below.

If the slide is too loose... Loosen the screw in one end-plate, and reposition it while the rule is squeezed gently between the thumb and forefinger... as shown in Fig. 4, at left. Then do the same thing at the other end of the slide rule. Do not loosen the screws in both end-plates at the same time.
Slightly loosen the screws in both end-plates. Set the slide so that the index graduation (the number "1") on the C scale is exactly over the index graduation (the number "1") of the D scale. Now, holding the rule firmly so that the slide will not move, tap the end of the upper bar of the rule in the direction required to bring the index graduation of the CF and DF scales exactly in line... as shown in Fig. 5 above. Then tighten the screws in the end-plates alternately about a quarter turn at a time. Tighten all screws tightly to avoid recurrence of the misalignment.

If the upper and lower SCALES are not aligned...

If the indicator is out of alignment...

To check the alignment of your indicator, set the hair-line exactly on the index graduation (the number "1") of the C and D scales. At this one setting, the hair-lines of the indicator should coincide with the index graduation of every scale on both sides of the rule. If this test shows misalignment, loosen the four screws holding the indicator glass on the side of the rule where misalignment occurs, lightly press the edges of the indicator frame until alignment is obtained; then re-tighten screws while holding glass in its proper position... as shown in Fig. 6 below. Misalignment of indicator hair-lines on both sides of the rule at the same time rarely occurs. It can happen when a broken indicator glass is replaced. If it does, be sure to obtain alignment on one side of the rule before attempting to align the indicator on the other side; in other words, never attempt any adjustment with all eight indicator-glass screws loose at the same time.