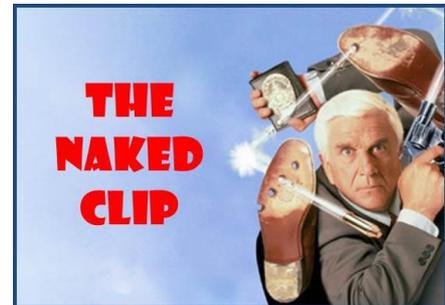


POUCH CLIPS V – *the naked clip* David G Rance

Despite discovering a shocking new category, pouch clips, rule clips and now clip rules remain rare and mostly American.

Yet another update - why?

Mainly fate - pouch clips have become my “15 minutes of fame¹”. How could anyone (especially me) have foreseen when the original article was published in 2006 that the topic would end up a 5-part pentalogy! Carrying on the film analogy first muted in the “Rocky” *Pouch Clips IV* episode, this update is dedicated to the 1988 spoof film comedy starring Leslie Nielsen as police lieutenant: “Frank Drebin”. This time, alongside some new sightings, I introduce yet another new category: **the Clip Rule!**



Previously unseen Pickett's

The metal alloy (first magnesium and later aluminium) slide rules from the Illinois based maker Pickett & Eckel (P&E) have always been a bit different and some of their pouches highly innovative. Their patented “pull-out” pouch tab has featured in earlier updates. But besides being probably the biggest “fan” of the pouch clip, I can now show that the company also came up with some unique pouch designs with a clip.

Alongside their standard production models P&E also made slide rules to order. One of their special commissions was the 5-inch (scale length) model 700 for the U.S. Air Force – the “*Aerial Photo Slide Rule Type A-2*”. This modestly sized pocket Duplex photo interpreter’s slide rule² carried a complement of 17 scales. The Rietz-like set of scales (L,A,DF/CF,CIF,T,S,C/D,DI,K) on the “back³” includes some powerful folded scales but all the scales on the “front” are for solving problems in aerial low and high altitude (100-250,000 feet) photography. The special scales and gauge marks were designed by A.H. Katz for planning and carrying out Air Force missions using aerial photographs. As the range of some scales is large, all the values are unconventionally printed perpendicular to the stock. Quirkily this means it is designed so that it has to be used vertically!

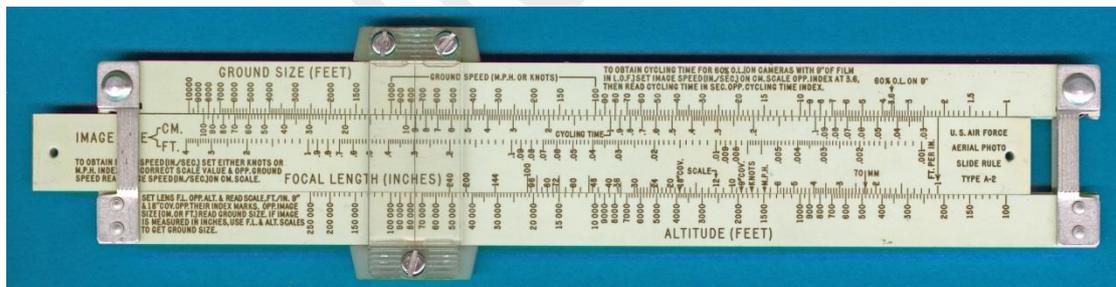


Fig. 1: “Front” of the aluminium pocket model 700 for the U.S. Air Force

Dating P&E rules can be tricky but the vertical grooves in the stamped metal end braces or posts of the 700 means it must date from 1959. A production year, unusually for P&E rules, confirmed by the “59” stamped above the *Pickett* company logo on the “back”.

The light-brown stitched saddle leather pouch that came with the 700 was probably part of the special commission as it is not found with other models. The front of the pouch has the familiar covered clip and “pull-out” tab but the back of the pouch incorporates a cut-out clear plastic oblong window. The window reveals a table of various conversion equivalents printed on a white plastic strip stitched into the inside of the pouch.

¹ Andy Warhol (1928-1987) once famously said: “... everyone will be famous for 15 minutes.”

² The type “A-1” was the 10-inch bigger brother version: the P&E 520.

³ The special 31-page instruction booklet refers to what would normally be considered the front, as the back of the rule.

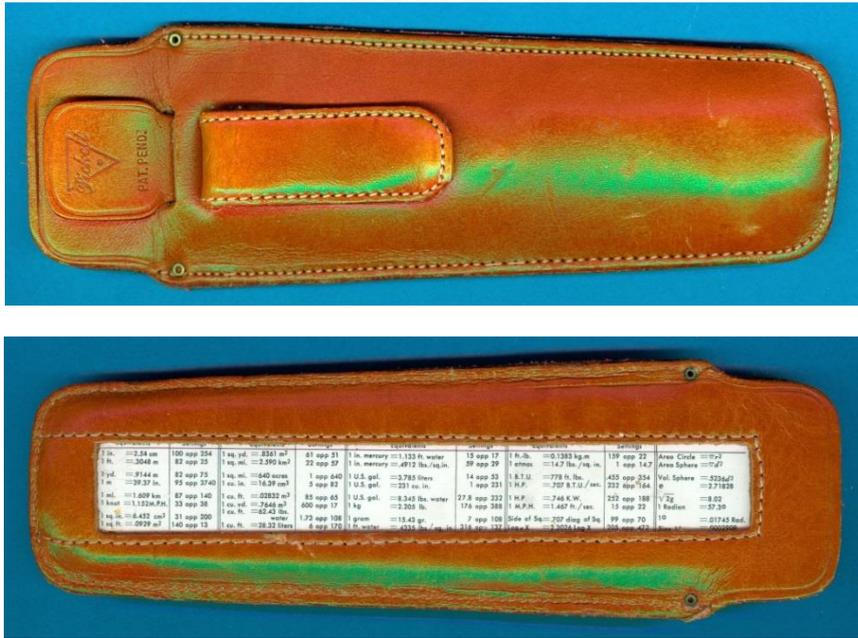


Fig. 2: Front and back of the pouch with clip for the model 700

Another P&E pouch design with a clip was even more bizarre. It is also made from light-brown stitched saddle leather and carries the familiar company logo. Unconventionally, however, on both sides of the slide rule sleeve there are pen or pencil holders.

I suspect the pouch was not directly associated with a particular model but was a special order option. The style of the triangulated company logo at the top dates the pouch to the 1950s. The overall pouch dimensions are: 6½ x 3½ inches. As the sleeve for the slide rule is made for P&E 1-inch wide models, it was clearly intended for use with the “00” pocket sized series such as the model 200, etc. The later and extra wide pocket Vector Log-Log Duplex models, such as the P&E N4P, would not have fitted. One such combined slide rule and pen pouch (with a broken slide rule) was sold on eBay® in March 2013 for 78.50 USD.



Fig. 3: Combined pouch & clip

Other American sightings

Although showing a conventionally covered pouch clip, an example from the New York based slide rule maker and reseller Lafayette⁴ has not been part of earlier updates.



Fig. 4: Lafayette embossed stitched dark-brown leather pouch with clip

⁴ Full name: Lafayette Radio Electronics Corporation.

The 6-inch pouch shown came with a Japanese made plastic pocket Log Log Duplex slide rule – the Lafayette model F-681 Deci Log.

Several new variations of pouch clips featured in earlier updates have also been sighted.



Fig. 5: **DIETZGEN embossed stitched dark-brown leather pouch with clip**

This 6-inch pouch came with an aluminium pocket Darmstadt slide rule – the DIETZGEN model 1779 (probably made by German maker Ecobra). The pouch clip example published in an earlier update had a shiny metal clip and was probably part of the OEM orders DIETZGEN made with another German maker: Faber-Castell.



Fig. 6: **POST embossed stitched dark-brown leather pouch with clip**

This 4-inch pouch came with a Japanese made bamboo lilliput Mannheim slide rule – the POST model 1441. The pouch clip example published in an earlier update was an open ended sheath whereas here the pouch has a flap with a press stud and snap fastener to close off the sheath.

New European sighting

As shown by earlier updates, probably the only European maker to match the keenness of the American makers/resellers for pouch clips was the German maker Faber-Castell (F-C). The company recognised that it was a marketing incentive if their export models came with a pouch clip. However, a previously unknown covered metal “fat clip” has been spotted since the last update.

As shown by the extra embossing of the model number, this dark-brown zipped imitation leather pouch is specifically for an F-C 12½cm plastic pocket Darmstadt 67/54Rb slide rule. The “Rb” suffix to the model number signifying this extra wide pocket Darmstadt from 1967 has an Addiator on the back. The metal slide adder⁵ obviously added considerable weight to the basic 67/54 model so this is probably why F-C chose to make the pouch with a heavy-duty “fat clip”. It is not shown but embossed on the back of the pouch is: “*HENDERSON, LINDSAY & MICHAELS, Inc.*” A firm of Management Consultants (no longer operating) from South Carolina and again confirming the American penchant for pouch clips.



Fig. 7: **6½-inch embossed pouch with a “fat clip”**

⁵ A version of the “Addiator Universal” supplied by the German company: *Addiator GmbH*.

New category: the Clip Rule

An unexpected hit from an eBay® search alerted me to a new category – the stainless steel pocket Clip Rule. Ironically it could be described as a modern-day carpenter or engineer’s rule. But instead of being a Coggeshall type slide rule, it is a rule for getting into tight spaces and is particularly useful for setting or checking depths – e.g. as in drilling/machining or cutting rebates. Metric and imperial versions exist with corresponding conversion factors on the back of the rule. But on both versions the clip for this new category is not part of a pouch but sits exposed or “naked” on top of the rule.



Resellers of the thin 6 x ½ inch pocket Clip Rule can be found around the world. However, today one of the main manufacturers of the “naked clip” is the Quebec based: *Johnson Level & Tool Mfg. Co. Inc.*

Rule Clips or Clip Rules – that’s it now?

As shown by the latest discoveries, pouch clips of any variety are worth looking out for.

So will this be the last update? Frank Driben has to have the last word on that: “*This is not goodbye. It's just I won't ever see you again*”⁶.



Fig. 8: Johnson Clip Rule in original packing

Acknowledgement and References

After some encouraging “prodding”, Peter Hopp convinced me it was time for another update of my unusual and quirkily worrying interest in the world of pouch clips!

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⁶ One of Frank’s best quotes from his 3rd film: “*Naked Gun 33½: The Final Insult*”.