

Instructions courtesy of: Benjamin L. Schwartz

Lawrence Printer's Proportional Rule, 1946, Peru Indiana. This is a nine inch wooden ruler for printer's proportional dimensioning. Four scales; two each on slide and stock, identical pairs of INCHES and PICAS log scales Model 10-N. Signed by owner: JEMoss. Estimated date, 1940s or 1950s. This rule would let a printer answer questions like this:

*If I expand this black and white line cut
from 2 1/2" to 4 1/2", how big will I have to
make the 39 pica bold face title under it?
(A pica is 1/6 of an inch.)*

The scales are logarithmic, so the rule can be used as a general purpose calculator, but of course that is not its purpose. There is no hairline, although it is mounted on a wood stock with a groove where a cursor might fit. I do not know if there ever was one; I suspect not