# Basic Detail Report



## 00040058

**Title** Gunter Scale Rule

Date early 20th century

**Medium** Boxwood

### Dimensions

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Overall: 45 x 610 mm, 0.38 kg
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#### Name

Scale rule

### History

The invention by Edmund Gunter of this scale rule follows naturally from the publication of John Napier's work 'Mirifici Logarithmorum canonis descrptio' in 1614 in which he described his invention of logarithms. Gunter's 'line of numbers' was a line divided logarithmically into unequally spaced intervals from 1 to 10. Each division represented the logarithm of the number inscribed and was proportional to it. Gunter first envisaged his scale as part of the scale inscribed on a cross-staff. However, once augmented by other trigonometric scaled (sines, tangents, chords) a scale of inches and a 'meridian' line for use with charts drawn on Mercator's projection, it was produced as a separate instrument.