Dietzgen Catalog Matrix

by Bruce Babcock, Ph.D. As published in the Journal of the Oughtred Society, 1996, Vol 5, No 2.

Dietzgen Catalog Matrix

Bruce Babcock, Ph.D.

This matrix of Dietzgen slide rules, catalogs and price lists was compiled from a pool of 38 separate documents to provide a quick and simple reference regarding Dietzgen slide rules from 1887 to 1972. As you can see from the list, 154 different model numbers and variations were identified. A close look at the list will show that there are actually less than 154 different model numbers because some numbers were reused. For example No. 1764 was assigned to the five inch Mack Improved Slide rule from 1902 to 1911 and was assigned again to the ten inch Maniplex Mannheim rule from 1949 to 1952.

Some rules such as the first listing for number 1772A do not include a description because the rule was only located in a price list and not in a catalog. It was assumed that the description of the 1772A which appeared from 1919 to 1928 certainly did not apply to the rule offered in 1972.

In some instances model numbers continued to appear in price lists for several years after they last appeared in a catalog. Example of this are numbers 1768, 1768L, 1769 and 1770 all of which were listed in a catalog for

the last time in 1921. However they continued to be listed in the price lists for ten more years.

In many of the catalogs a slide rule would be given a suffix after the model number when it was supplied with a leather case. This matrix does not include these numbers. There is some room for confusion here. In many catalogs the letter L was used when the rule was supplied with a case. However, in the example of the 1768 and 1768L mentioned above the 1768 is a five inch rule and the 1768L is a eight inch rule, both of which are supplied in leather cases. When the information for the matrix was taken from a price list with no description available, as was the case with some of the rules in the 1972 price list it was difficult to know whether or not a new number indicated a new rule or a rule with a case or other accessory.

The information for 1905 did not come from a catalog but from an advertisement in the back of the book, *Mannheim and Multiplex Slide Rules* by L. W. Rosenthal. This book was copyrighted by Eugene Dietzgen Co. in 1905.

The Dietzgen company issued some spe-

cial catalogs that included only a few slide rules. Examples of this include the catalog 39A which was an Essential Drawing Instruments and Materials catalog published in 1939, catalog 30A which was a Drawing Instruments and Materials catalog published in 1930 and the Surveying Equipment Catalog 77S that was published in 1959. Consequently, the breaks in the lines of some rules at 1930, 1939 and 1959 do not necessarily mean that those slide rules were not offered that year.

The numbers across the bottom of the matrix indicate the number of slide rules in each catalog. These totals clearly show that the volume of rules in each catalog reached an all-time high in the years 1910 to 1912 and then abruptly dropped to only a third of that number and never reached even half of that volume again except in the 1928 price list which included 30 slide rules.

The numbers on the right hand side indicate how many listings were found for each model number. These numbers show that number 1794, the Fuller cylindrical slide rule had the most listings at 20 and that approximately 20 slide rules, or variations of slide rules, appeared in only one listing.

This list is not complete. The following are some of the omissions of which we are aware:

- We have not seen a copy of the third edition of the catalog which may or may not include slide rules.
- We were unable to locate a copy of the fifth edition of the Dietzgen catalog that was published sometime between 1898 and 1902.
- At least one slide rule was located in a collection that was not found in the catalogs that were available. This is a 1742 Maniphase Multiplex Style M Decimal Trig rule.

This matrix is the result of a joint effort on the part of Roger Shepherd and me. We received valuable assistance from Henry Aldinger, William Bell, Bobby Feazel, Melvin Larson, Bob Otnes and Bruce Reichelt.

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MODEL NO. 1 B1725L	H DESCRIPTION	9 9 0 INDICATOR		1 2 2 2 2 2 9 0 0 1 1 6	2 2 2 2 3 6 7 8 8 0	3 3 3 3 3 3 1 1 6 8 9 9		4 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 7 7 LIST- 9 9 2 5 5 6 7 9 9 7 2 INGS
2 N1725 3 N1725	10 VECTOR TYPE LOG LOG 10 VECTOR TYPE LOG LOG MICROGLIDE	FRAMED FULL VIS			2 3			1 1 5 2 1 3
4 1731 5 N1731	10 MANIPHASE LOG LOG TRIG 10 MANIPHASE TRIG TYPE LOG LOG	FULL VISION FRAMED FULL VIS			4 5			7 4 5 5
6 1732 7 N1732	10 MANIPHASE LOG LOG DECIMAL TRIG 10 MANIPHASE DECIMAL TRIG LOG LOG	FULL VISION FRAMED FULL VIS			6 7			7 6 5 7
8 N1733 9 1734 10 B1734L	10 DECIMAL TRIG TYPE LOG LOG 10 DECIMAL TRIG LOG LOG MICROGLIDE	FRAMED FULL VIS			8 9 10			6 8 1 9 1 10
11 1735 12 1736	10 MANIPHASE LOG LOG VECTOR	FULL VISION FRAMED FULL VIS			11 12			7 11 1 12
13 1737 14 1738 15 1738P	10 DECIMAL TRIG TYPE LOG LOG (METAL) 8 PHILLIPS	"FULL VISION" FRAMELESS			13 14 15			1 13 6 14
16 1739L 17 1740P	10 CLEAR-SCALE LOG LOG (PLASTIC) 10 PHILLIPS	FRAMELESS			15 16 17			8 15 3 16 8 17
18 1741 19 1742	10 MANIPHASE MULTIPLEX DEC TRIG				18 19			8 17 1 18 0 19
20 1742P 21 1743 22 1744	20 PHILLIPS 10 MANIPHASE-MULTIPLEX TRIG 10 POLYMATH	FRAMELESS FULL VISION			20 21 21			8 20 12 21
23 1744 23 1744 24 1745		FULL VISION			22 23 24			4 22 9 23 0 24
25 1746 26 1748P	10 MANIPHASE MULTIPLEX 8 MANIPHASE	FULL VISION FRAMELESS			25 26			7 25
27 1749 28 1750P 29 1751	10 MANIPHASE DEC. TRIG TYPE (METAL) 10 MANIPHASE 10 INDUSTRIAL	FULL VISION			27 28			6 27 10 28
30 1751 31 1752P	10 INDUSTRIAL 20 MANIPHASE	FULL VISION FRAMELESS FRAMELESS			29 30 31			8 29 4 30
32 1755P 33 1756	5 MANNHEIM 10 COMMERCE	FRAMELESS			32 33			8 31 7 32 2 33
34 1756-20 35 1757 36 1758P	0 20 COMMERCE DESK MODEL 10 PRIMA-TRIG (PLASTIC) 8 MANNHEIM	FRANCI 500			34 35			2 34 5 35
37 1759A 38 1759B	8 PHILLIPS 10 PHILLIPS	FRAMELESS FRAMELESS FRAMELESS			36 37 38			8 36 8 37 8 38
39 1759C 40 1760A	20 PHILLIPS 5 MULTIPLEX W/ DIETZGEN ADJUSTMENT	FRAMELESS GLASS			39 40			8 39 7 40
41 1760AL 42 1760B 43 1760BL	10 MULTIPLEX W/ DIETZGEN ADJUSTMENT	GLASS GLASS GLASS			41 42			2 41 7 42
44 1760C 45 1760P	20 MULTIPLEX W/ DIETZGEN ADJUSTMENT	GLASS GLASS FRAMELESS			43 44 45			2 43 2 44 10 45
46 1761 47 1761-20		FRAMELESS FRAMELESS			46 47			7 46 6 47
48 1761A 49 1761AL 50 1761B	8 MULTIPLEX (NO CUBE SCALE)	GLASS GLASS GLASS			48 49			2 48
51 1761BL 52 1761C	. 16 MULTIPLEX (NO CUBE SCALE)	GLASS GLASS			50 51 52			7 50 2 51
53 1762A 54 1762AL	5 MULTIPLEX W/ MACK ADJUSTMENT 8 MULTIPLEX W/ MACK ADJUSTMENT	GLASS GLASS			53 54			2 52 4 53 3 54
55 1762B 56 1762BL 57 1762C	16 MULTIPLEX W/ MACK ADJUSTMENT	GLASS GLASS			55 56			4 55 3 56
58 1762P 59 1763A		GLASS FRAMELESS GLASS			57 58 59			8 58
60 1763AL 61 1763B	8 MULTIPLEX W/ RECIPROCAL SCALE 10 MULTIPLEX W/ RECIPROCAL SCALE	GLASS GLASS			60 61			4 59 3 60 4 61
62 1763BL 63 1763C 64 1763P	20 MULTIPLEX W/ RECIPROCAL SCALE	GLASS GLASS			62 63			3 62 4 63
65 1764 66 1764	10 MONARCH 5 MACK IMPROVED 10 MANIPLEX MANNHEIM	FRAMELESS GLASS			64 65 66			3 64 6 65
67 1764A 68 1764L	5 POCKET SLIDE RULE, METAL 8 MACK IMPROVED	FRAMELESS GLASS			67 68			2 66 1 67 3 68
69 1764M 70 1765	10 MACK IMPROVED	UNBREAKABLE GLASS			70 S			2 69 6 70
71 1765F 72 1765L 73 1765P	5 POCKET SLIDE RULE, CELLULOID 16 MACK IMPROVED 5 POCKET SLIDE RULE, BOXWOOD	GLASS			71 72 73			10 71 3 72
74 1765P 75 1766	10 BASIK (PLASTIC) 10 SCHOLAR				74 75			4 73 7 74 1 1 75
76 1766P 77 1766PN	10 MANNHEIM 10 BEGINNERS'	FRAMELESS			76 77			0 76

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MODEL NO. 78 1766PN	T H	DESCRIPTION SCHOLAR, WHITE WOOD	INDICATOR FRAMELESS	9 9 7 8	0		0 0 4 5	0		1 2				2 2		78	2 6		2 2 8	3 0	3 3			3	3 4 9 1		6	1	4 4 8 9	4 5 9 2				5 5 7 9	5		7 LIST- 2 INGS
79 1767 80 1767 81 1767H	10 20	NATIONAL (PLASTIC) MACK IMPROVED APPRENTICE	GLASS			4										79 80 81																				#	5 79 6 80 1 81
82 1767P 83 N1767	10	NATIONAL	NONBREAKABLE FRAMELESS			+		1								82 83 84												#							$\exists \exists$	=	6 82 1 83
84 1768 85 1768 86 1768L	5 5	MANNHEIM DIETZGEN IMPROVED MANNHEIM	GLASS FRAMELESS													85 86																			\pm	=	10 84 2 85 10 86
87 1768L 88 1768P 89 1769	10 10	DIETZGEN IMPROVED RELIANCE MANNHEIM	GLASS NONBREAKABLE FRAMELESS													87 88 89																			\pm	-	2 87 5 88 10 89
90 1769 91 1769L 92 1769P	16	DIETZGEN IMPROVED DIETZGEN IMPROVED FEDERAL (CELLULOID ON CHERRY)	GLASS GLASS NONBREAKABLE			+										90 91 92													=						#	=	2 90 2 91 3 92
93 1770 94 1770 95 1770	5	MANNHEIM STANDARD ADJUSTABLE DIETZGEN IMPROVED	FRAMELESS GLASS GLASS				+									93 94 95																			\blacksquare	=	10 93 2 94 2 95
96 1770P 97 1770T 98 1771	10	UNION LANGSNER INDUSTRIAL STANDARD ADJUSTABLE	FRAMELESS FRAMELESS GLASS													96 97 98																			\mp	#	5 96 2 97 2 98
99 1771 100 1771 101 1771A	5 5	REDIRULE (PLASTIC) REDI-RULE (PLASTIC) ECONOMY (IVORINE)	PLASTIC GLASS													99 100 101												+							#	二	2 99 14 100 2 101
102 1771B 103 1772 104 1772A	10	ECONOMY (HARDWOOD) STANDARD ADJUSTABLE	GLASS GLASS										-			102 103 104						-						1							$\exists \exists$		2 102 2 103 1 104
105 1772A 106 1772A 107 1772B	5	UNION POCKET UNION UNION POCKET	FRAMELESS GLASS FRAMELESS		=			1								105 106 107										#		#							井	#	9 105 2 106 10 107
108 1772B 109 1772P 110 1773	10 10	UNION PHILLIPS LOG-LOG (PLASTIC)	GLASS FRAMELESS UNBREAKABLE													108 109 110												1									2 108 2 109 8 110
111 1773A 112 1773B 113 1774F	5 10	SCHOLAR (CARDBOARD) SCHOLAR (CARDBOARD) CELLULOID POCKET SLIDE RULE	METAL METAL													111 112 113							\blacksquare												\equiv	=	4 111 4 112 1 113
114 1774M 115 1775P 116 1776	5 5	SCHOLAR (CARDBOARD) REDIRULE (PLASTIC)	METAL					1								114 115 116										=											1 114 2 115
117 1776 118 1777 119 1778	5 10	UNION UNION REDILOG (PLASTIC)	GLASS GLASS													117 118 119		#					\perp													\equiv	2 116 4 117 4 118 2 119
120 1778 121 1778A 122 1778B	10 10	COLLEGE (PAPER SCALES) HAZEN-WILLIAMS UNIVERSAL	AMBRO GLASS GLASS			#					1					120 121 122		+				\pm	$\exists \exists$													\equiv	2 120 2 121
123 1779 124 1779 125 1780	5 5	POCKET LOG (MAGNESIUM) FABER FABER	GLASS GLASS													123 124 125		+																			2 122 7 123 2 124
126 1780P 127 1781	10 10	SCHOLAR (CARDBOARD) FABER SELF ADJUSTING	METAL GLASS													126 127						=									1						3 125 2 126 3 127
128 1782 129 1783 130 1783A	10 10	FABER W/O LATERAL LINES FABER W/ DIGIT INDICATOR FABER ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL	GLASS GLASS GLASS										=			128 129 130																				#	3 128 3 129 2 130
131 1784 132 1785 133 1786A	10 7 DIA	FABER W/ DIGIT INDICATOR COLLEGE SEXTON'S OMNIMETER	GLASS GLASS						1						1	131 132 133																					3 131 1 132 3 133
136 1786D	7 DIA 6 DIA	SEXTON'S OMNIMETER SEXTON'S OMNIMETER SEXTON'S OMNIMETER										+				134 135 136																				\pm	3 134 3 135 3 136
137 1787 138 1792 139 1793	24 10	ENGINEER'S ENGINEER'S SLIDE RULE MACK IMPROVED	NONE NONE GLASS													137 138 139																					15 137 5 138 1 139
140 1793K 141 1793L 142 1794	20	OTIS KING OTIS KING MACK IMPROVED	GLASS													140 141 142																					2 140 2 141 1 142
	10 2 3/8D	FULLER COLLEGE HALDEN CALCULEX	GLASS													143 144 145																					21 143 3 144 20 145
147 1796 148 1796	2 3/8	ROTORULE THATCHER CHARPENTIER CALCULATOR														146 147 148																					4 146 1 147 16 148
150 1797 1/2 151 1797A	2 DIA 8.25 D															149 150 151																					18 149 17 150 10 151
153 1797M	4 DIA	BINARY MIDGET ROTA-RULE														152 153 154																					13 152 16 153 10 154
		NUMBER OF RULES IN	EACH CATALOG	3	0	9	14 1	7 32	2 55	55	18	17	17	18 17	17		17	17 3	31 22	3	18 2	23 18	21	20	6 2	4 17	17	14	14 14	19 2	0 20	19	18	18 3	16	16	