

Architectural Scale Rulers

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Design & Documentation



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An architectural scale ruler has six engraved scales on a triangular profile, converting drawing dimensions to real sizes at common ratios like 1:50 and 1:100. Every design student needs one to read and draw scaled plans.

Key Features

- Triangular profiles with 6 scales
- Common ratios: 1:20, 1:50, 1:100, 1:125
- White, black or coloured plastic
- Precision laser-etched graduations
- Lengths 300 mm standard

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Read and draw scaled plans and elevations
- Measure real sizes from drawings
- Convert between scales for models
- Produce accurate scaled sketches

Safe Operation

1. Select the scale that matches the drawing
2. Align the zero with the start of the line
3. Read off at the correct graduation
4. Check the scale against a known dimension
5. Use the same scale for all measurements

SAFETY NOTES

- Keep the ruler edges sharp and clean
- Do not use scales for cutting straightedges
- Store flat in a pencil case
- Protect from heat that warps plastic
- Keep graduations legible

Maintenance & Consumables

- Wipe the ruler clean
- Check for nicked edges
- Store flat to avoid warping
- Replace worn rulers
- Keep extras at drawing stations

Specification & Buying Notes

A quality triangular scale with etched graduations and the common ratios suits school design work. Coloured versions are easier to read; white plastic brightens drawings.