

# A Very Rare Cursor

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July 2017

Most slide rule enthusiasts are aware of the digit registering cursor, a cursor with a -6 to +6 scale and pointer to help users keep track of the decimal point during multiple calculating operations. Despite their somewhat dubious benefit, several manufacturers maintained models with this cursor, or offered it as an optional extra. Faber-Castell made such a cursor and marketed a few models, under various guises, from about 1899 to 1947.

Similarly, most of us are aware of 'electro' slide rules with their signature log-log, dynamo/motor and volt scales. Faber's first electro model, the 368, was around for only about 6 years from c1905 to c1911. It was superseded by the 378, sporting a different scale layout, which lasted under a different name until about 1942. The 368 was unique in that the log-log scales were positioned on the edge of the slide rule, and these were indexed using a bespoke cursor with a hooked chisel index.

The 368 itself is quite rare but it seems Faber offered an option of a digit registering version of its hook index cursor, of which I was completely unaware until I came across this French example. The particular configuration of this example, indexing the log-log scales on the top edge, was only available from about 1905 to 1908 – a very rare cursor indeed!

