

E-6B©

The E-6B was more created than invented by Phillip Dalton in the early 1930s. It was initially called "The Dalton Dead reckoning Computer" . The exact derivation of E6B is not known but the E-6B has become the generic name for a vast number of similar devices which include a circular slide rule and a sliding wind angle ground speed plotter. The Dalton E-6B was developed from a large shipboard device for handheld use aboard aircraft. My first E-6B, which is still in the family, is from WWII and made of solid brass with enameled engraving. A quality piece. Plastic E-6Bs became common later in the war. Aluminum and cardboard came later as the E-6B became obsolete with the advent of electronic E-6Bs.

With practice the E-6B can be operated with one hand on both sides once the forecast wind has been plotted. The E6B is a circular slide rule that has numerous markings for changing from different forms of measurement. The numerical scales allow relatively rapid solution of proportional problems. The best use of the E6B can be achieved only when you fully understand how proportions work. There are two time scales on the inner circles with distance, and measures on the outside.