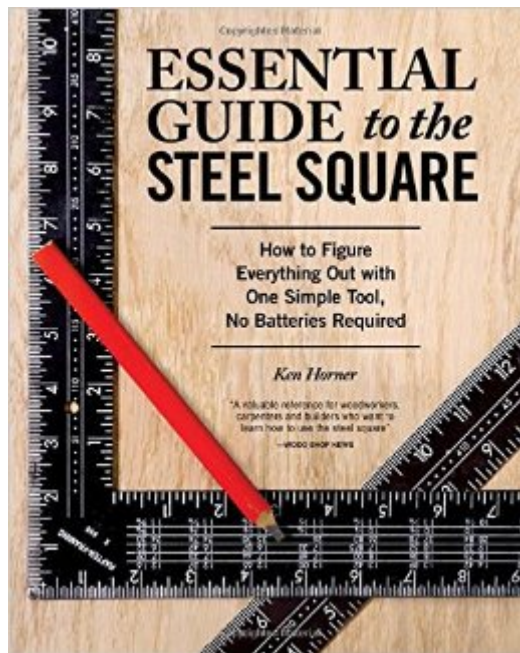


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# Essential Guide To The Steel Square: How To Figure Everything Out With One Simple Tool, No Batteries Required



## Synopsis

For centuries, the steel square has been a mainstay in the toolbox of skilled craftsmen. In the hands of someone who knows how to use it, this simple tool can quickly solve many common construction problems involving angles, arcs, circles, and squares. With the help of the Essential Guide to the Steel Square, anyone can unlock the helpful secrets of this valuable, time-honored tool. Packed with hundreds of clear illustrations and diagrams, skill-building exercises, and simple rules of thumb, this handy reference will show any curious carpenter, woodworker, or serious do-it-yourselfer how indispensable the steel square can be in building stairs, roofs, rafters, and practically anything else. No batteries are required your steel square can solve many problems that your smart phone cant!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Over the years, when I have looked at a "framing square", I have been put in mind of going to the beach and seeing a guy wearing a tiny, lime green Speedo. The connection may not seem apparent at first, but as to the inadequately clothed male, I shake my head and think, "There are 11 men in America who might qualify to look right in that miniscule patch of lycra or spandex . . . unfortunately, he is not one of them." When I have looked at a framing square with all the numbers, hash marks, dots, and seemingly inscrutable sets of fractions, I shake my head and think, "There are only 11 craftsmen in America who qualify to actually make total sense and proper use of that instrument . . . unfortunately, I'll never be one of them." I'm sure I will never be qualified to wear a

Speedo. I am even more certain I will never be qualified to fully understand or use a framing square. Further, I anticipate the company of folk ever to have been so qualified in terms of the framing square has never been large in number. Sadly, that number is growing ever smaller as digital tools, hand-held computers, and software capable of near-instant-calculations continue to crop up in the construction trades and woodworkers' shops. Before the framing square slips into antique and woodworking memorabilia emporia, take the time to read and enjoy Ken Horner's Essential Guide to the Steel Square. An intention to use a square (whether it be a try square, combination square, speed square, or otherwise) for anything other than marking lines or simply checking your woodcuts for "square", is not a necessary prerequisite for reading and enjoying this book. This book is part history lesson, part instruction manual, part puzzle solver, and all terrific. It's value is to be measured by much more than the sum of its parts. Whether you want to know how to estimate board feet, lay out stairs, compute complex compound angles for roofing rafters, draw a circle, find the radius of an arc, compute the dimensions of an elliptical hole through a pitched roof necessary to accept a round pipe, or even measure the height of that big red oak in the backyard, you will learn how to do it all in simple step-by-step instructions. Not interested or in need of such eye-opening information for actual application? Then just read, or at least thoroughly browse, the book for pure joy, entertainment, and appreciation. If you need the information, you will be hard pressed to find a better, clearer, more easily applicable resource. If you don't need the information (that's me) read the book and you will find yourself sharing the secrets of the square with friends just for kicks. Nope, don't know Ken Horner; don't get anything else out of this review than the excitement of passing along good news.

More than you'd ever think you'd need to know about the basics to advanced uses and functions of the seemingly simple framing square. Want to have some fun? Read the book then go into your local DIY center and ask the duty expert in the tool section if there is an instruction manual that comes with the framing square? You will likely get a blank stare and comments about how simple the thing is to use. Then ask him/her if they can explain how to determine the major and minor axis of an ellipse using the framing square, or simply how to determine brace length, or calculate board feet using the square? This book shows in simple, easy to follow and understand detail all that and much more. I even asked a professional framer if he knew what all the various scales were for, he didn't. He then bought the book for himself.

I always wondered how to use all the different tables and numbers on the square now i know.great

book well worth the money,ken horner is a genius in writing this book,highly recommend this to framers and anyone who does any kind of construction work

Incredibly useful book. It provides a thorough examination of the workings of most of the commonly-encountered squares, and focuses most of the how-to on the rafter square and speed square. The rafter square in particular is an essential tool for any line of work, and is usually very affordable. I am a professional draftsman at a metalworking shop, and I use one for measuring and laying out everything from cones to stairs. At home, I do woodworking and several other hobby/trade activities, and it serves just as well there. With each how-to section, the book briefly covers the math behind the same task. In most cases, if you can read a rafter square, the square does the math for you, but it is important to know why. Armed with a rafter square and some trigonometry, there isn't much you can't do. There isn't much to complain about with this book. The history was interesting, though perhaps a bit more detailed than it needed to be. The book does cover some metalworking uses of the rafter square, but as the text indicates, a book to cover everything that can be done with the tool would be a daunting undertaking to say the least. Perhaps it is a good thing that the author held some back. If you really belong in your field, you should be able to fill in the gaps. If you're going to own a square or two (you should), you should get this book, even if you already know a lot about squares. Every tradesman/professional/hobbyist needs their own library, and this should be on one of the shelves.

40+ years ago, when I started as an Apprentice Carpenter, the "Old Guys" could do miraculous things mathematically on a common steel framing squares. At the time I learned a lot of the "tricks" by using them daily. As time has marched on calculators and smart phone apps took over and the framing square methods were abandoned. Well, this book lets you once again layout with the mathematical needs of a "true carpenter". Great book!

Essential Guide to The STEEL SQUARE is very well written and illustrated. The book is a good source of information for anyone trying to learn how to use the STEEL SQUARE, it is written in a way that both apprentice and Journeyman can get a lot of use out of it. One of the better STEEL SQUARE books I own.

The steel square is the best layout tool ever invented and it will amaze you to learn the things that you can do with it. The only way it could be improved on is if they could put a GPS unit in it.

This book is answering a lot of mysterys of the steel square. Most of the numbers on the square ment nothing to me before I read this book. It does things that I had't even thought of.

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