

## Using the Weems Parallel Plotter

This plotter will measure courses and bearings on any chart and contains special scales for measuring distances in Nautical Miles on National Ocean Survey, Coast & Harbor Charts produced at scales of 1:80,000, 1:40,000 and 1:20,000 which covers the majority of these charts. For convenience, an inch scale and short scales for measuring yards on 1:20,000 and 1:40,000 charts are also included.

The roller enables the user to obtain parallel motion by simply rolling the Plotter across the chart, eliminating the awkward movement of walking parallel rules across the chart to a compass rose or the necessity of carefully aligning a protractor in a North and South position. As it is unnecessary to use the printed compass rose on the chart, this plotter is very convenient for use on a small plotting table.

To measure the course between two points, place the plotter on the chart with the straight edge along the course to be measured. Then simply roll the plotter (generally only a few inches) to a position where the center point of the compass rose will be on any meridian (for predominately North and South courses) and read the course at the point on the compass rose that lies on the meridian. Both the course and its reciprocal are shown.

For predominately East and West courses it will sometimes be a shorter distance to roll the plotter until the center point of one of the quarter circle compass roses on the plotter is located on a Parallel of Latitude and read the course or its reciprocal on the parallel.

To lay down a known course or bearing towards or away from a point on the chart, you simply reverse the above process. Lay the plotter on the chart with both the center point of the compass rose and the desired bearing on the meridian. Roll the plotter until the straight edge passes through the bearing point and draw a line along the straight edge. The quarter circle compass roses on the ends of the plotter can be used for this same purpose when used with a Parallel of Latitude.

To measure distances, check the scale of the chart you are using and choose the appropriate scale on the plotter. With "0" on the plotter placed on the starting point, read distances in nautical miles and tenths of miles on the chart. (NOTE: The series of charts for which this plotter is designed are on a mercator projection; therefore, theoretically a constant scale cannot be used to measure distance. For all practical purposes, however, on a large scale chart of this type covering a small area the constant scales on the plotter will be correct.)

**Weems & Plath®**

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