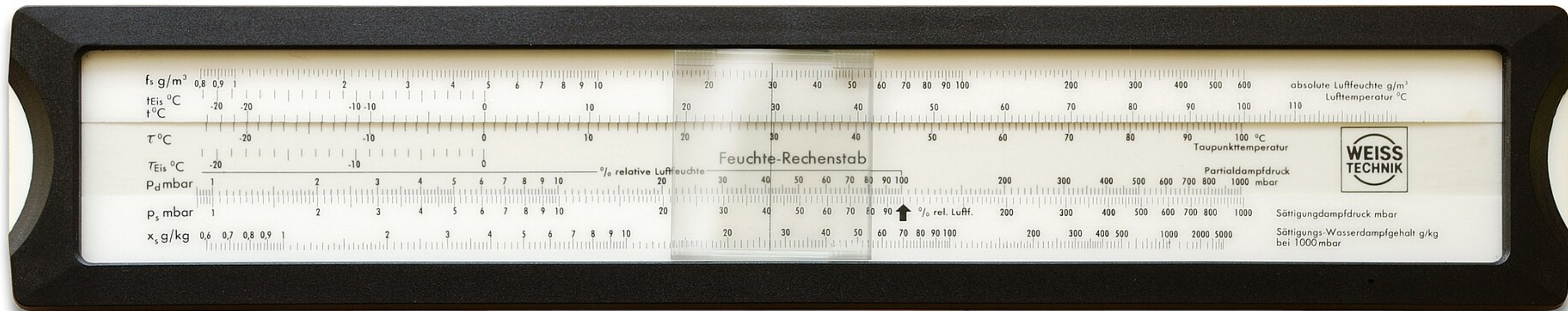


How to Use a Slide Rule

A sample deck for the voiceover demo

Rice Business 2026

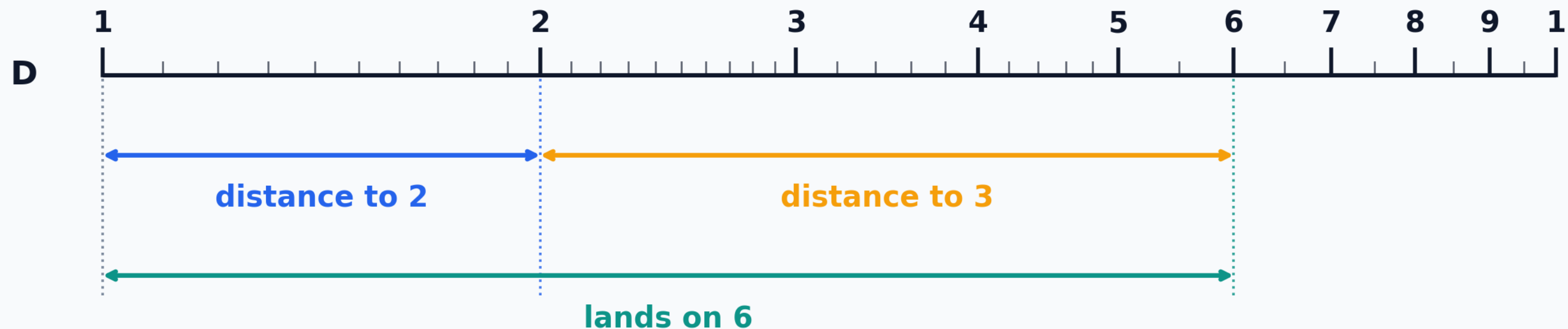
Three Parts and a Hairline



The outer **body** is fixed. The **slide** moves within it. The **cursor** is the glass window with a hairline, and it carries a reading from one scale to another. This particular rule computes humidity, but every slide rule is these same three parts.

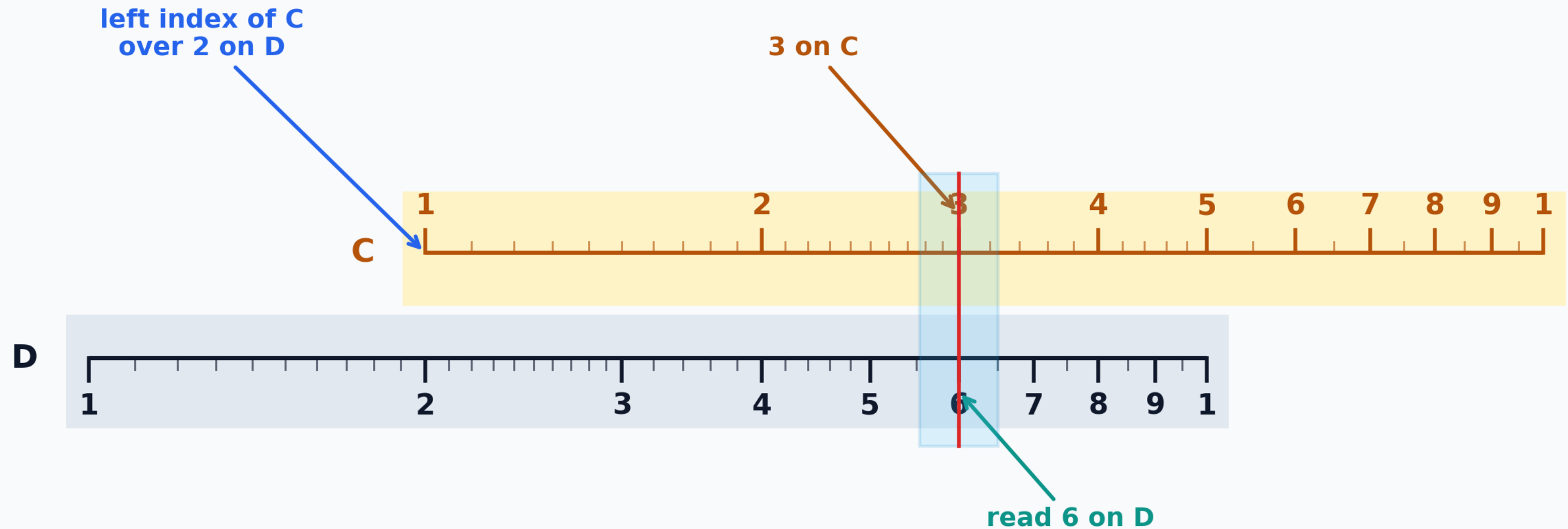
Why It Works

$$\log 2 + \log 3 = \log 6$$



The scale is spaced by logarithm, so the gap from 1 to 2 is the length that represents doubling. Lay the length for 3 on the end of the length for 2 and you have travelled $\log 2$ plus $\log 3$ — which is $\log 6$. Adding lengths multiplies numbers.

Multiplying 2 x 3

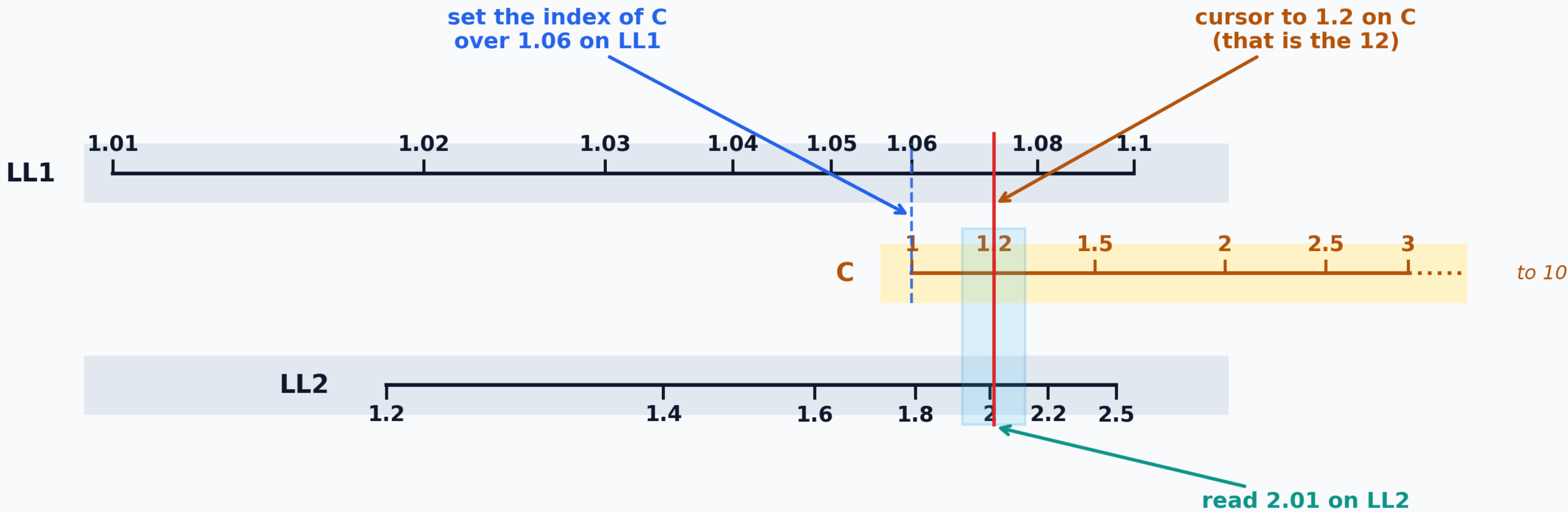


Both ends of each scale are labelled 1 — the left index and the right index. That is not a misprint: the scale covers one decade and then starts over.

Compound Interest

\$1,000 at 6%, left for twelve years. The LL scales raise a number to a power in one setting.

$$1.06^{12} = 2.01$$



Your money doubles — \$2,012. The Rule of 72, read off the scale.

What You Actually Get

3 Significant figures

10 in Standard length

1622 Oughtred's first

Three figures sounds meagre until you notice it is about what most engineering answers deserve. Slide rules sized the Empire State Building, the Boeing 747, and the Saturn V, and astronauts carried them to the Moon as backup.

What Killed It

The HP-35 pocket calculator, 1972. Ten digits, no estimating, no hairline. Within about four years the slide rule industry was finished.