

**THE PLANE TABLE AND
ITS USE IN SURVEYING.
[NEW YORK-1908]**

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The Plane Table and Its Use in Surveying, [New York-1908] by W. H. Lovell

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W. H. LOVELL

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Plane Table and Telescopic Alidade. (U. S. Geological Survey System.)

THE PLANE TABLE

AND

ITS USE IN SURVEYING

BY

W. H. LOVELL

Topographer U. S. Geological Survey

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SYMBOLS

	Triangulation point.
	Plane-table station.
	Church.
	School house.
	Factory.
	House or shop.
	Barn or shed.
	Monument.
	Windmill.
	Signal.
	Cemetery.
	Fence Corner.
	Fir Tree.
	Deciduous Tree.
	Dead Tree.
	Hill tops and locations generally.

THE PLANE TABLE

AND

Its Use In Surveying

INTRODUCTION.

The plane table, one of the oldest of surveying instruments, is, in its simplest form, merely a board for holding the paper or other material upon which a map is drawn with the aid of a rule or straight edge.

Although the plane table has been known and used in Europe to a greater or less extent for more than three centuries, at the present day, in spite of its obvious advantages as regards speed, economy, convenience and adaptability for surveying purposes, its use is limited mainly to government surveys in the mapping of large areas of country.

Although a useful and serviceable instrument for railroad and land surveyors, it has never come into general use by them in the United States.

Why this is so, is hard to explain, unless perhaps because of lack of knowledge of the instrument and its methods, as little has been written on the subject. Of late years it is gradually becoming better known. All recent text-books on surveying give some space to a description of its use and some instruction is given on the subject in many of the colleges and technical schools throughout the United States.

The plane table is used extensively in European countries as Germany, Austria, and Italy, etc. on government surveys and in the topographical survey of India by the British government.

In the United States it has been used for many years by both the Coast and Geological Surveys, and with the increasing demand for the mapping of parks, preserves, municipalities and various tracts of land for public or private purposes there is reason to believe it will gradually come more and more into use as surveyors learn to appreciate the advantages of the instrument.