

With metric-sized paper, the ratio of length to width equals $\sqrt{2}$.

The Metric System:
"For All Time, For All People"

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by

The Logic of Metric-Sized Paper

In 1795, during its great revolution, France adopted the metric system, the first country to do so. To standardize weights and measures internationally, 17 countries — including the United States — ratified the Convention of the Meter in 1875. In 1960, the system of units that the Meter Convention established was renamed the International System of Units (abbreviated as SI).

Contrary to customary usage, the United States has adopted metric units as its fundamental basis of measurement since 1893. The United States officially defines non-metric units in terms of metric standards. The National Institute of Standards and Technology, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, has the responsibility to interpret SI units for the United States.

The U.S. Metric Association (USMA), whose newsletter is entitled *Metric Today*, is a national not-for-profit organization. Founded in 1916, the USMA advocates U.S. conversion to the metric system. To help maintain professional metrication standards, the USMA conducts the Certified Metrication Specialist program designed for individuals to provide documentary evidence of their expertise in SI.

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Converting to the metric system would help the United States progress towards modernity. Seeking consistency with the forward-looking nature of the metric system, the author composed this booklet using the OCR-A BT font, which he believes provides a contemporary look evoking the era of space exploration and computer technology.