

634-6100 (60-205) Osteometric Board

Introduction: Bones: we all have them. In fact, every fish, amphibian, reptile, mammal, and bird has them. Identifying and studying bones is an integral part of forensics, taxonomy, paleontology, and anatomy. For example, while a femur (thigh bone) fulfills the same purpose in many animals, there are great differences between the femur of a human, a giraffe, and a *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. There are even differences in femurs from two individual humans. For example, by studying a femur, it is possible to determine the height, ethnicity, approximate age, and nutritional state of the individual. This is extremely important in the fields of forensics and anthropology. Often, scientists find only a few bones from an individual animal, and must recreate the entire creature by extrapolating what they know. Some paleontologists have become so adept at this that they can guess at the behavior of a dinosaur by studying a few bone fragments!

Operation: The first step in studying bones is measurement. A surprising amount of information can be determined by accurate measurement of a few bones, such as the overall size of the individual. Usually, this is done with a set of calipers.

However, in human anatomy there are some bones which are too long to be measured with calipers. These include: the femur and humerus, which form the upper part of the leg and arms. Other bones which may be long are the ulna and radius, which make up the forearm. The tibia and fibula from the leg may fall into this category, as may the sternum (breast bone).

Using your osteometric board is very simple. Extend the right bracket to the outermost position. Place the bone you wish to examine right up against the left bracket. Slide the right bracket until the bone is neatly pinned between the two. The scale will indicate the length of the bone.

Our scale reads up to 60 centimeters. The average human male femur is about 50 centimeters. This means that your osteometric board can accommodate bones from all but the tallest humans.

Warranty and Parts:

We replace all defective or missing parts free of charge. Additional replacement parts may be ordered toll-free. We accept MasterCard, Visa, checks and School P.O.s. All products warranted to be free from defect for 90 days. Does not apply to accident, misuse or normal wear and tear. Intended for children 13 years of age and up. This item is not a toy. It may contain small parts that can be choking hazards. Adult supervision is required.