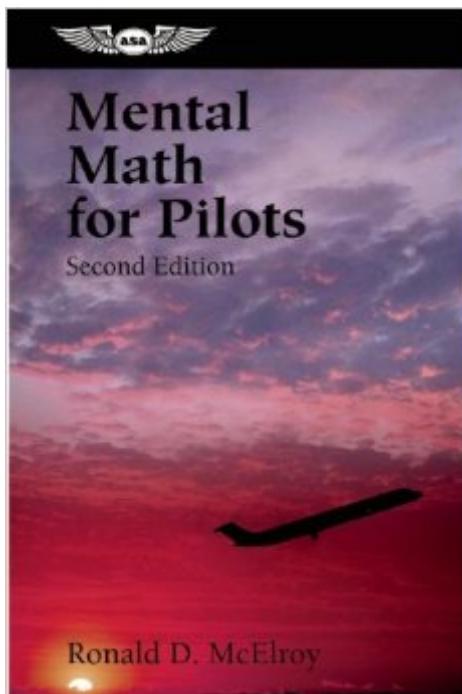


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# Mental Math For Pilots: A Study Guide (Professional Aviation Series)



## Synopsis

Being able to easily perform math calculations in your head is a skill that every pilot strives for. If (like many!) you struggle a bit with this process, or, if you are simply looking for a way to improve your math skills in the cockpit, then 'Mental Math for Pilots' is a must read! Whether you are gearing up for that coveted pilot interview, preparing for a checkride or proficiency check, or simply want to improve your inflight calculations performance, author Ron McElroy offers numerous invaluable tips and tricks to help you in all areas of cockpit calculations. Sharpen your math skills for the interview as well as for the cockpit, with these instructions for figuring math problems in your head without paper or electronic calculator.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For its price, I found this little booklet not helpful. The first 5 pages are essentially advertising for a consulting firm (the author's employer) that prepares pilots for airline interviews. The final 5 pages again are mostly advertising for that same company's products. A 14-page appendix contains a review of how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide (at the level of teaching you that  $3 + 4 = 7$ ). Another 10-page appendix contains addition, subtraction, multiplication and division tables. In the remainder of the book (55 - very small - pages), I found exactly one useful rule: how to meet a crossing restriction. There are one or two other rules that in years of corporate flying I have never found useful (such as how to calculate your hydroplaning speed - interesting in concept, but

practically not very useful). If your math is below high school level, this book may be useful to you. Otherwise, I wouldn't recommend this book. If you are planning to prepare for an interview, I would recommend you save the money you would have spent on this book and buy "Everything explained for the professional pilot" instead; and if you are interviewing for a job in a turbine-powered aircraft, "The turbine pilot's flight manual" - both those books are MUCH more helpful.

This book is too short for too much money. "Pilot's rules of thumb" has all of the same information AND MORE for LESS money. Pilot's rules of thumb: Rules of thumb, easy aviation math, handy formulas, quick tips. The typeface is very large making the "book" a pamphlet - a very expensive pamphlet. I have been flying jets at the airlines for over 10 years now and there are really only a handful of basic formulas you need and spending the time to go through the entire book would be a waste of your interview preparation time...even though you could thoroughly go through the entire book, cover-to-cover, in an afternoon.

Mental Math for Pilots fills a very specific niche in aviation knowledge. If it were not for the very specific math questions asked during a Major Airline interview knowledge test, the book would be almost useless. Almost every technique taught in the book is beyond what you would ever need to know or have time to figure out in the flight deck. It is the perfect book for those in the academic world that do not spend their working life in the cockpit. Furthermore, for the price of the book, the content is very limited. Explanations of problems are lacking and often times leave you wondering how the author came up with the answer from what is written. The author will give a problem and the answer, yet leave out the explanation of how to arrive at that answer.

A good basic reference with some practice problems to get comfortable using the formulas provided. Great size to keep in your flight kit as a reference. I would recommend this to the pilot that is just starting out for basic concepts and rules of thumb. The USAF puts out a reference that goes into more detail (and you can get online for free) that I found more helpful in my flying as an airline pilot.

This book was recommended to me as part of an airline prep course. It does have a lot of useful equations for both GA and airline pilots, but I never find myself using them. All the basics are contained in here (VDP, TOD, etc.) but I already knew those and I've forgotten many of the other equations from this book due to lack of use. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone unless you really had

a passion for math and calculating non-essential things in flight.

I was quite disappointed with this book. I had expected this book to be an excellent source of techniques, easier than those I've learned so far in training, but it turned out differently; I found those I've learned from my instructors (and from several websites and forums) much easier to use during flight than those elaborated in this booklet. I'm sorry to say that I did not get my money's worth out of this tiny booklet.

OK reference book. For pro pilots it's a good review but probably nothing you didn't know at one time. It's not a big book either, you could read it in an hour or two. And there is too much basic 2nd/3rd grade math: How to add, subtract, multiply, etc. that was unnecessary. But if you forgot how to figure a descent rate, VDP, TAS or ground speed, then it's a good review.

Aside from having the merit to exist (not many books are available on the subject), I have found a lot of pages of self promotion at the beginning, and a whole bunch of pages towards the end giving the answers for some exercises, plus arithmetic tables... as objective as I try to be, I can say that the useful part could fit in a booklet with half the number of pages. Still, many topics do not exactly reflect what I was expecting for a pilots book. For example writing on 2 pages to explain how to convert minutes into tenths seems not so relevant. I was hoping for performance-based rules of thumb with some innovation. I believe it can be a useful tool for the beginner or student pilot. Past CPL level, most tricks shown here have been seen.

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