

## GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES

### A PRACTICAL TIP FOR CARTOGRAPHERS

by Joseph O. Broz  
Negative Engraver,  
Construction Branch, Aeronautical Division  
U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office

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Cartographers are quite often called upon to construct circles of various diameters upon charts they are preparing, or arcs of circles. While a draftsman's compass serves the purpose for inked circles in many instances, the increased use of scribing techniques, or the cases where a negative engraver is to inscribe a circle on a film negative, have caused the writer to develop a new method involving a very simply constructed tool. This method has been adopted in the Construction Branch of the Aeronautical Division at the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office and might find additional application in other hydrographic offices.

My method involves the use of a "circle template" which can be made easily and quickly by any cartographic draftsman or negative engraver from a piece of heavy plastic material (such as "Quik-etch" for example). This template, illustrated in the accompanying sketch, can be used either with a scribing tool or an inking pen to cut or ink circles of any required diameter. A pin is inserted through the appropriate hole in the template and holds the template in position at the center of the circle to be scribed or inked by the tool or pen held in the notch at the end of the template. If scribing only is involved, better control can be obtained by making the same type of plastic template but with the pin holes made large enough to accommodate the scribing tool point and then using the notch against a pin at the center of the circle.

The template can be constructed of any size, and a set of them could easily provide for the most frequently used circles of small, medium, and large diameters respectively.

