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Subject: My mother had one of these

Posted by [Dean Kukral](#) on Thu, 05 May 2005 02:09:01 GMT

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Her father used to build fences, and during THE WAR she worked for him part-time because the men were all off fighting (I was very young). This tool is to check the plumbnity of a fence post. If the post was not plumb, the offset ball would rotate a bit. She used to take me along, and I would happily watch for hours as they put up fences. The divisions are for when the plumbnity of a larger machine was being checked (they were not needed for fence posts, of course). Then, one needed to know exactly how much correction was needed. While it is only divided into three degree increments, verniers were used to get accuracy to one fourth of a degree. It is amazing what you can find on the internet, isn't it!

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