Subject: What was it ?
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Thu, 05 May 2005 01:42:48 GMT
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OK all you sharp tacks out there! Care to take a guess at this one? There is a specific name for this tool although it was somewhat similar to another well known tool.

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!

Subject: An inclinometer?
Posted by wunhuanglo on Thu, 05 May 2005 17:29:53 GMT
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If it's not, is should be.

Subject: And, the winner is...
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Fri, 06 May 2005 00:44:29 GMT
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Mr Lo, or ehm Huang, which ever it is you are.The tool is indeed an Inclinometer. This one caught my eye since it was less resembling of just an improved level which many of the other makers derived their products in design. The inclinometer, also helped lead to other developments with builder’s levels and transits. This tool was made by the Patent Level Company."The Patent Level Company - was located in Bridgeport, Connecticut according to the stamp on the base of the level. To date, however, no other record of the existence of this company has been found. The

patent date - May 8, 1866 - corresponds to the date on which a patent was granted to Andrew. J. Vandergrift of Cincinnati, OH, for an "Improvement in Spirit Levels." "

Subject: Re: And, the winner is...
Posted by Dean Kukral on Fri, 06 May 2005 01:21:39 GMT
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It looked like a quartz ball in the center. How did it work? It is easy to see the markings, but I could see no dial or other indicator.

Subject: Re: And, the winner is...
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Fri, 06 May 2005 01:32:47 GMT
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Dean,It's really a bad picture of the tool thats the problem.Check out this site for some nice info on level's and kin
http://www.antiquetools.com/levels/index.html

Subject: I remember now!
Posted by Dean Kukral on Fri, 06 May 2005 20:37:42 GMT
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My mother's DID used to have fluid in it. That was a long time ago.
