

How to Use a Triple-Beam Balance



by John Erickson

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Balance Setup

- Move all three sliders so that they read 'zero'.
- Make sure that there is nothing on the pan and that it is clean.
- Check to see if the balance reads zero.

Balance reads zero – click here



Balance doesn't read zero – click here



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Show the parts of a balance



Balance Setup

- Your balance isn't reading zero so you need to turn the thumbscrew to adjust the balance until it reads zero



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Show the parts of a balance



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Balance Setup

- **Your balance is ready to measure.
Place object to be weighed on the pan.
Make sure that no part of the object is
supported by the table.**



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Show the parts of a balance



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Moving Sliders

- Move the sliders, beginning with the largest. When moving a slider causes the balance to tip, move the slider back to the previous position.
- Move the next slider until it tips the balance. Place is in the previous position.
- Move the final slider until the balance reads zero.



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Show the parts of a balance



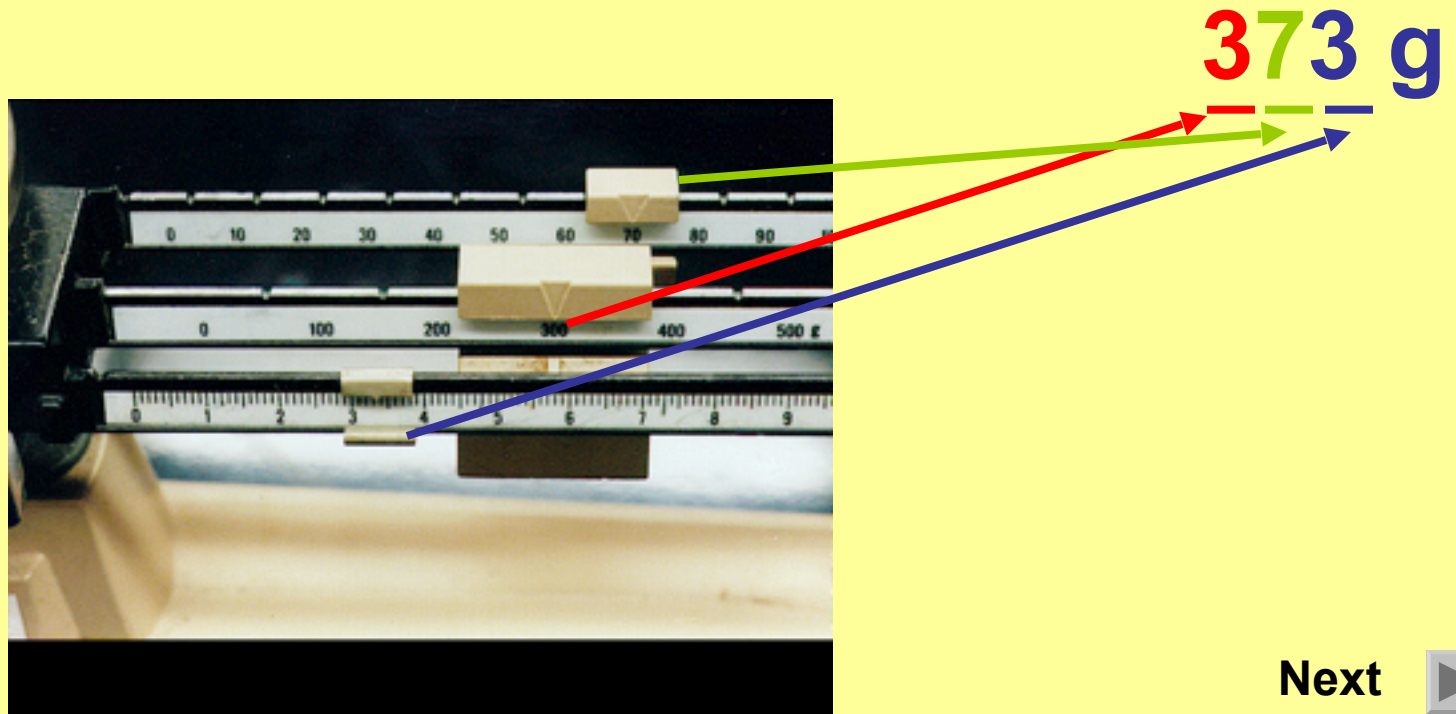
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Reading Sliders

- Read each of the sliders and add their weights together.

The sliders indicate the mass is:



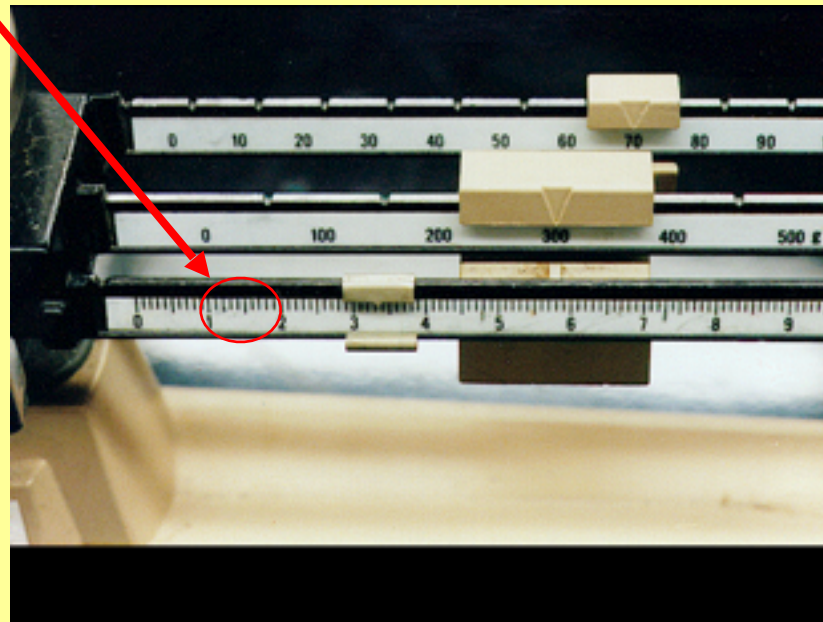
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Reading Sliders

- **When you read the last slider, notice that the smaller lines represent tenths.**



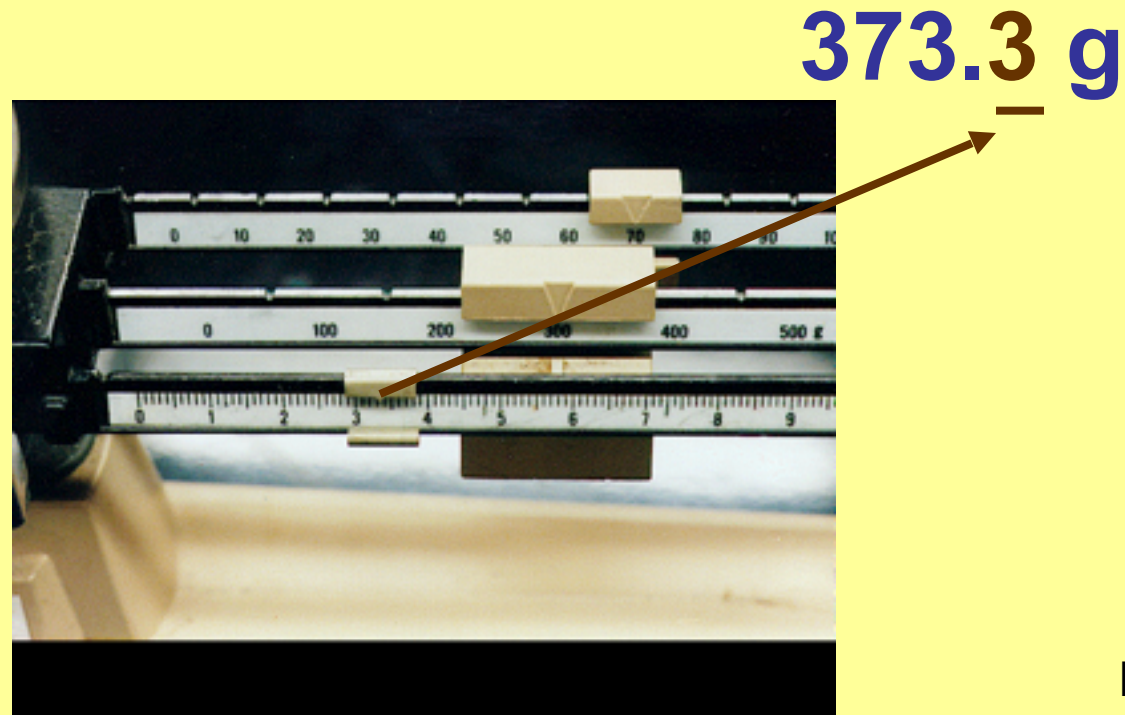
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Reading Sliders

- This measurement is past the third line following the 3 on small slider. This indicates a mass of:



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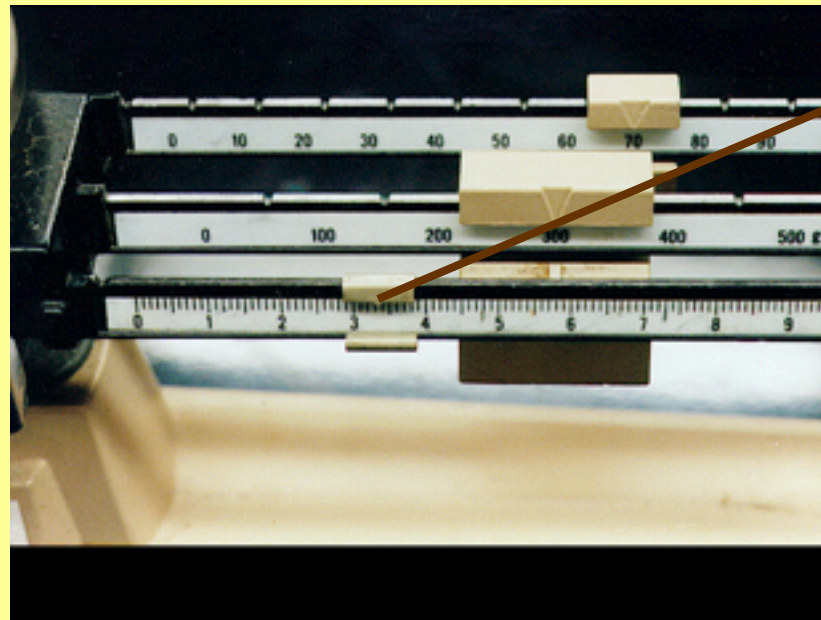
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Reading Sliders

- To maximize the number of digits in the measurement we estimate the last number. Since the slider is actually about halfway between 3.3 and 3.4, we record 3.35

373.35 g



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Parts of a Balance



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