

LOGARITHMS - Interpreting the Squishy Scale

The evenly spaced numbers in the colored strip along the middle of each slat **begins with 0** and goes all the way to **1.0** in ten equal parts. This acts more like a ruler, with its predictable segments. What you read from these numbers is the logarithm of the numbers on the squishy scale above and below the strip.

Whereas it is difficult to multiply two complex numbers with fractions together to find the answer, knowing the logarithm of each number allows you to simply *add* the two logarithms together. When dividing, simply *subtract* one logarithm from the other.

The logarithm **.3** (middle colored strip) lines up with the **2** on each of your slats. The logarithm **.6** (middle colored area) lines up with the **4** on each of your slats. Add **.3 + .6** to get the answer **.9**, which is the logarithm for **8**, the answer to **$2 \times 4 = 8$** . You will see that indeed **.9** in the middle colored area does line up with **8** on your slats.

To divide **8 by 4 = 2**, simply *subtract* **.9 - .6 = .3** . The logarithm of **2** is **.3** .

