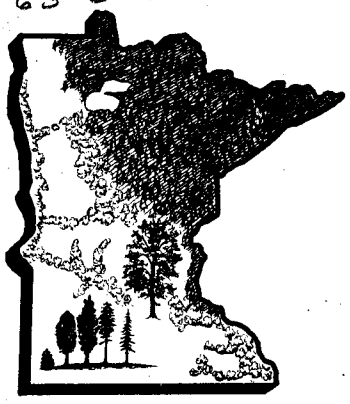

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SLOTTED CLIP BOARD FOR VIEWING AERIAL PHOTOS

Gene Avery (1)

This note describes a clip board that facilitates stereoscopic study of the entire overlap zone of nine- by nine-inch aerial photographs.

Foresters performing occasional work in aerial photo interpretation generally use pocket-type lens stereoscopes for viewing conventional contact prints. Such stereoscopes are satisfactory for most work, but the field of view is limited by the individual's interpupillary distance to a strip about two inches wide, as measured along the line of flight.

Adjacent photos normally overlap 55 to 65 percent of the print width (five to six inches), so only one end of the overlap area can be viewed at a time. By flipping the aligned prints into reverse position with the opposite photo on top, the interpreter can study the other end of the overlap. However, a strip about one inch wide in the mid-portion of the overlap will still be hidden from view, and this zone can be seen only by curling one of the prints upward or by trimming off the ends of one or both prints.

When it is desired to make photo measurements (e.g., as tree heights) in the hidden zone, curling the prints upward is unsatisfactory because parallax devices must lie flat on corresponding left and right images. To avoid trimming the photo ends in such instances, a simple slotted clip board can be devised for bending the photographs downward out of the way of the interpreter. With this innovation, the two prints can be moved together until corresponding images are separated by the required distance for an unobstructed view (see illustration).

The base of the clip board is a 12- by 14-inch wooden frame with a minimum height of two inches. Two pieces of plywood or hardboard, each about 6-1/2 by 13 inches, are affixed to overhang the base enough to provide for fastening the photos with ordinary spring clips. A slot width of one and one-half to two inches allows for bending double-weight prints over a radius wide enough so that permanent folds and emulsion cracks are avoided. The total length of the board (approximately 15 inches) is determined by the photo-image separation requirements of the individual and the average overlap of the prints. The spring clips provide a means of varying the separation of the photographs to accommodate the usual variations in the amount of overlap.

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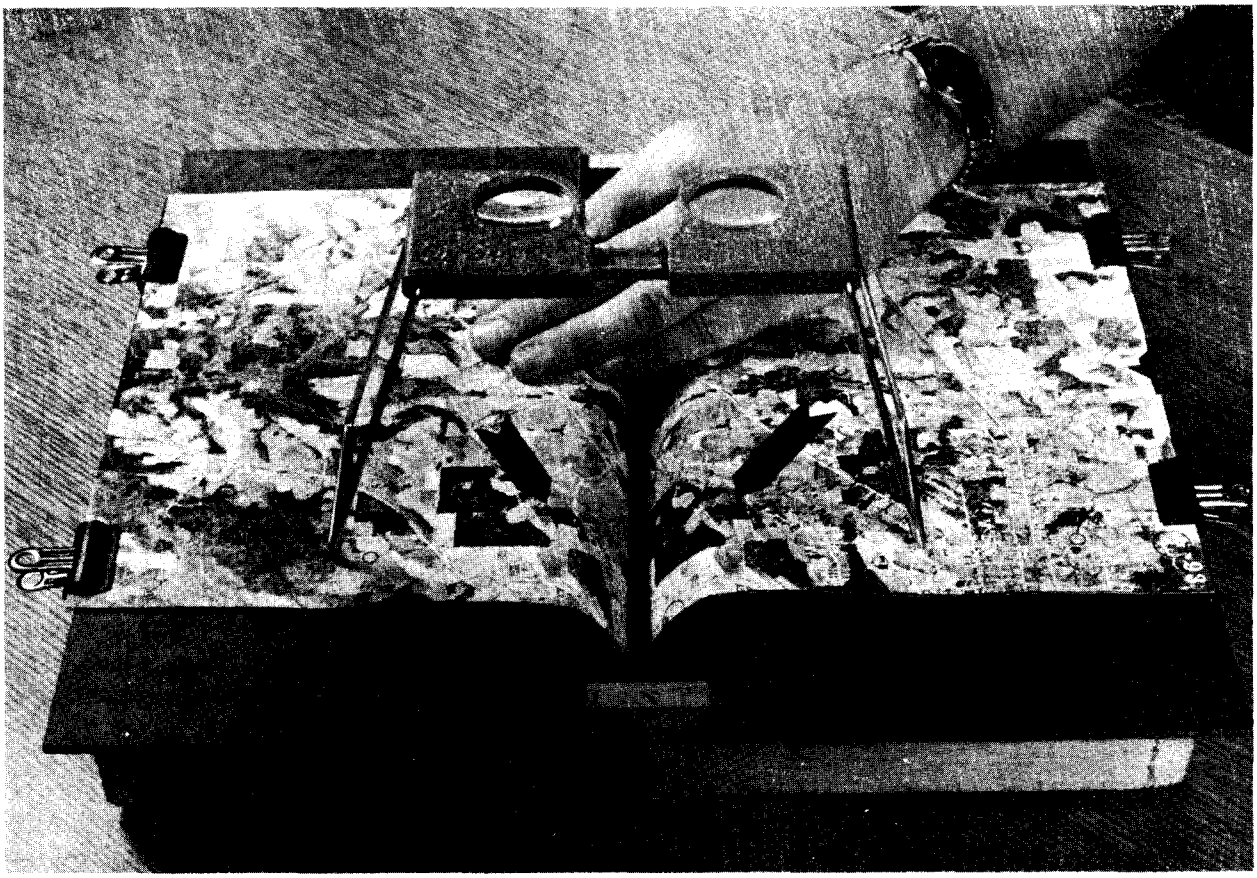
For viewing photo enlargements, the dimensions given must be increased proportionately, except that the slot width should be maintained at about two inches. The time and cost involved in making a slotted clip board are negligible, and its advantages will be readily apparent to the practiced interpreter.



Slotted clip board simplifies stereoscopic study of central overlap zone (indicated by arrows).

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