

## DESSERT ISLE UNIT ANALYSIS

*Stranded Standards for Coconauts*

*Mr. Merrick*

On the fabled *Dessert Isle*, shipwrecked scientist pirates standardized measurement using whatever they had: coconuts, bananas, ropes, hammocks, and drumbeats. These **Dessert Units** are *made up but internally consistent*. Your job is to apply unit analysis to convert between Dessert Units and familiar SI/US units, and to chain conversions through density, energy, power, and time. Keep the **Master Table** and the **Data Box** open while you work.

MASTER TABLE

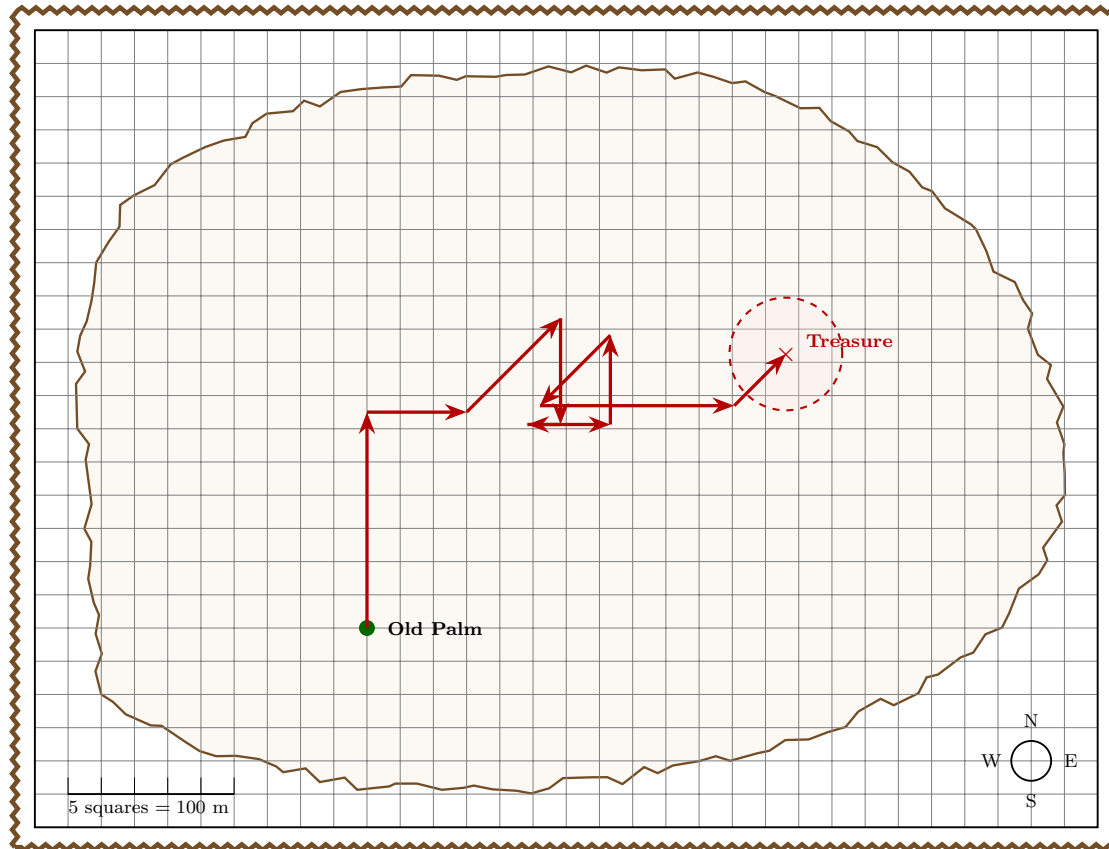
Quantity	Dessert Unit (symbol)	Equivalence (exact unless noted)
<i>Length</i>		
Banana (ba)	1 ba	= 0.20 m
Palm (pl)	1 pl	= 0.50 m
Coconut rope (crp)	1 crp	= 2.00 m
Island mile (imi)	1 imi	= 800 m
<i>Area</i>		
Hammock (hmk)	1 hmk	= 2.0 m <sup>2</sup>
Sandpatch (spd)	1 spd	= 1.5 m <sup>2</sup>
Leaf-mat (lmt)	1 lmt	= 0.50 m <sup>2</sup>
<i>Volume</i>		
Coconut shell (csh)	1 csh	= 0.60 L
Gourd (grd)	1 grd	= 2.4 L = 4 csh
Island barrel (ibr)	1 ibr	= 25 L ≈ 6.58 US gal
<i>Mass</i>		
Coconut (cn)	1 cn	= 1.40 kg
Mango (mgo)	1 mgo	= 0.35 kg = 350 g
Crab (crb)	1 crb	= 0.12 kg
Stone (stn)	1 stn	= 2.50 kg
<i>Time</i>		
Drumbeat (db)	1 db	= 0.75 s
Sunset (sst)	1 sst	= 12 min = 720 s
Nap (np)	1 np	= 20 min
Tide (td)	1 td	= 5 h = 300 min
<i>Derived / Reference</i>		
Scurry (scy)	1 scy	= (1 pl)/(1 db) = $\frac{0.50 \text{ m}}{0.75 \text{ s}}$ = 0.667 m/s
Firechip (fch)	1 fch	= 1.00 MJ = 10 <sup>6</sup> J
Torch (trc)	1 trc	= 50 W = 50 J/s
Coco-milk density	$\rho_{\text{cmlk}}$	= 1050 kg/m <sup>3</sup> (use when cited)
Dry wood energy (ref)	$e_{\text{wood}}$	≈ 16 MJ/kg (use when cited)

### Dessert Isle Data Box: Quick Equivalences

1 L = 1000 mL = 1000 cm<sup>3</sup>; 1 m<sup>3</sup> = 1000 L  
 1 in = 2.54 cm; 1 ft = 0.3048 m; 1 mi = 1609 m  
 1 US gal = 3.785 L; 1 lb = 0.4536 kg  
 1 kWh = 3.6 × 10<sup>6</sup> J; 1 BTU ≈ 1055.06 J

This page intentionally left blank.

Captain Pi-rate Gaussbeard has left movement instructions. Convert each instruction to *squares*. Mark the treasure with an ✕.



1. From the **Old Palm**, walk **260 pl** straight **north**.

$$260 \text{ pl} \times \frac{0.50 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ pl}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{6.5 \text{ squares (N)}}$$

2. Then go **300 ba** east.

$$300 \text{ ba} \times \frac{0.20 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ ba}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{3.0 \text{ squares (E)}}$$

3. Next, head **40 crp** toward the **northeast** at  $45^\circ$ .

$$40 \text{ crp} \times \frac{2.00 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ crp}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{4.0 \text{ squares @ } 45^\circ \text{ (NE)}}$$

4. Travel **0.08 imi** south.

$$0.08 \text{ imi} \times \frac{800 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ imi}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{3.2 \text{ squares (S)}}$$

5. Go **100 ba** west.

$$100 \text{ ba} \times \frac{0.20 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ ba}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{1.0 \text{ squares (W)}}$$

6. Move **east** at **25 crp/min** for **60 s**.

$$\frac{25 \text{ crp}}{1 \text{ min}} \times \frac{2.00 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ crp}} \times \frac{1 \text{ min}}{60 \text{ s}} \times 60 \text{ s} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{2.5 \text{ squares (E)}}$$

7. Go **north** for **0.08 sst** at **1.4 scy**.

$$0.08 \text{ sst} \times \frac{720 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ sst}} \times 1.4 \text{ scy} \times \frac{0.667 \text{ m/s}}{1 \text{ scy}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{2.688 \text{ squares (N)}}$$

8. Head **30 crp** toward the **southwest** at  $45^\circ$ .

$$30 \text{ crp} \times \frac{2.00 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ crp}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{3.0 \text{ squares @ } 45^\circ \text{ (SW)}}$$

9. For **180 db** at **1.3 scy**, move **east**.

$$180 \text{ db} \times \frac{0.75 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ db}} \times 1.3 \text{ scy} \times \frac{0.667 \text{ m/s}}{1 \text{ scy}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} \approx \mathbf{5.85 \text{ squares (E)}}$$

10. Finally, advance **22 crp** toward the **northeast** at  $45^\circ$ .

$$22 \text{ crp} \times \frac{2.00 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ crp}} \times \frac{1 \text{ square}}{20 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{2.2 \text{ squares @ } 45^\circ \text{ (NE)}}$$

This page intentionally left blank.

## Practice — Dessert Isle Conversions

Use only the Master Table and the Data Box. Show unit cancellation at every step.

1. **Banana highway.** The beach loop is 1.75 imi. Express its length in palms (pl) and in bananas (ba).

**Solution.**

$$1.75 \text{ imi} \times \frac{800 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ imi}} = 1400 \text{ m.}$$

$$1400 \text{ m} \times \frac{1 \text{ pl}}{0.50 \text{ m}} = 2800 \text{ pl}, \quad 1400 \text{ m} \times \frac{1 \text{ ba}}{0.20 \text{ m}} = 7000 \text{ ba.}$$

2. **Hammock zoning with conversion.** A rectangular lot is 18 pl by 35 ba. Compute its area in  $\text{m}^2$ , hmk, and  $\text{ft}^2$ .

**Solution.**

$$18 \text{ pl} \times \frac{0.50 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ pl}} = 9.0 \text{ m}, \quad 35 \text{ ba} \times \frac{0.20 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ ba}} = 7.0 \text{ m.}$$

$$A = 9.0 \text{ m} \times 7.0 \text{ m} = 63.0 \text{ m}^2.$$

$$63.0 \text{ m}^2 \times \frac{1 \text{ hmk}}{2.0 \text{ m}^2} = 31.5 \text{ hmk}, \quad 63.0 \text{ m}^2 \times \frac{10.764 \text{ ft}^2}{1 \text{ m}^2} = 6.78 \times 10^2 \text{ ft}^2.$$

3. **Coco-milk mass from volume.** A keg holds 12 grd of coco-milk. Using  $\rho_{\text{cmlk}}$ , find the mass in kg and in mangos (mgo).

**Solution.**

$$12 \text{ grd} \times \frac{2.4 \text{ L}}{1 \text{ grd}} = 28.8 \text{ L} \times \frac{1 \text{ m}^3}{1000 \text{ L}} = 2.88 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^3.$$

$$m = \rho V = \left( 1050 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \right) \left( 2.88 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^3 \right) = 30.2 \text{ kg.}$$

$$30.2 \text{ kg} \times \frac{1 \text{ mgo}}{0.35 \text{ kg}} = 86.3 \text{ mgo.}$$

4. **Flow over a tide.** A still produces 4.2 ibr every tide. Report the average flow in L/s and in US gal/min.

**Solution.**

$$4.2 \text{ ibr} \times \frac{25 \text{ L}}{1 \text{ ibr}} = 105 \text{ L per td.} \quad 1 \text{ td} \times \frac{5 \text{ h}}{1 \text{ td}} \times \frac{3600 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ h}} = 18,000 \text{ s.}$$

$$\frac{105 \text{ L}}{18,000 \text{ s}} = 5.83 \times 10^{-3} \text{ L/s.}$$

$$105 \text{ L} \times \frac{1 \text{ US gal}}{3.785 \text{ L}} = 27.7 \text{ US gal per td} \Rightarrow \frac{27.7 \text{ US gal}}{300 \text{ min}} = 9.23 \times 10^{-2} \text{ US gal/min.}$$

5. **Pace to mph.** A runner holds 2.0 scy for one sunset (sst). Give the distance in meters and the average speed in mph.

**Solution.**

$$2.0 \text{ scy} \times \frac{2}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{scy}} = \frac{4}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}. \quad 1 \text{ sst} \times \frac{12 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ sst}} \times \frac{60 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ min}} = 720 \text{ s}.$$

$$d = \left( \frac{4}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\cancel{\text{s}}} \right) (720 \cancel{\text{s}}) = 960 \text{ m}. \quad \frac{4}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \times \frac{2.237 \text{ mph}}{1 \cancel{\text{m/s}}} = 2.98 \text{ mph}.$$

6. **Fire to light (energy chain).** The beacon runs at 3.5 trc for 1.5 td. How many firechips (fch), kWh, and BTU is that?

**Solution.**

$$3.5 \text{ trc} \times \frac{50 \text{ J/s}}{1 \text{ trc}} = 175 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{s}}. \quad 1.5 \text{ td} \times \frac{5 \text{ h}}{1 \text{ td}} \times \frac{3600 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ h}} = 27,000 \text{ s}.$$

$$E = \left( 175 \frac{\text{J}}{\cancel{\text{s}}} \right) (27,000 \cancel{\text{s}}) = 4.73 \times 10^6 \text{ J}.$$

$$4.73 \times 10^6 \text{ J} \times \frac{1 \text{ fch}}{10^6 \cancel{\text{J}}} = 4.73 \text{ fch}, \quad 4.73 \times 10^6 \text{ J} \times \frac{1 \text{ kWh}}{3.6 \times 10^6 \cancel{\text{J}}} = 1.31 \text{ kWh}, \quad 4.73 \times 10^6 \text{ J} \times \frac{1 \text{ BTU}}{1055.06 \cancel{\text{J}}} = 4.48 \times 10^3 \text{ BTU}.$$

7. **Wood-to-heat estimate.** If dry wood has  $e_{\text{wood}} \approx 16 \text{ MJ/kg}$ , how many kilograms of wood are equivalent to 18 fch? Also report in pounds.

**Solution.**

$$18 \text{ fch} \times \frac{1.00 \text{ MJ}}{1 \text{ fch}} = 18 \text{ MJ} \times \frac{1 \text{ kg}}{16 \cancel{\text{MJ}}} = 1.125 \text{ kg}. \quad 1.125 \text{ kg} \times \frac{2.20462 \text{ lb}}{1 \cancel{\text{kg}}} = 2.48 \text{ lb}.$$

8. **Raft volume.** A rectangular raft is 40 pl long, 60 ba wide, and 12 ba thick. Find its total volume in cubic meters and in liters.

**Solution.**

$$40 \text{ pl} \times \frac{0.50 \text{ m}}{1 \cancel{\text{pl}}} = 20 \text{ m}, \quad 60 \text{ ba} \times \frac{0.20 \text{ m}}{1 \cancel{\text{ba}}} = 12 \text{ m}, \quad 12 \text{ ba} \times \frac{0.20 \text{ m}}{1 \cancel{\text{ba}}} = 2.4 \text{ m}.$$

$$V = 20 \text{ m} \times 12 \text{ m} \times 2.4 \text{ m} = 576 \text{ m}^3.$$

$$576 \text{ m}^3 \times \frac{1000 \text{ L}}{1 \cancel{\text{m}^3}} = 5.76 \times 10^5 \text{ L}.$$

9. **Market basket (mixed units).** A trader brings 18 crb, 12 mgo, and 6 cn. Find the total mass in kg and in stones (stn).

**Solution.**

$$18 \text{ crb} \times \frac{0.12 \text{ kg}}{1 \cancel{\text{crb}}} = 2.16 \text{ kg}, \quad 12 \text{ mgo} \times \frac{0.35 \text{ kg}}{1 \cancel{\text{mgo}}} = 4.20 \text{ kg}, \quad 6 \text{ cn} \times \frac{1.40 \text{ kg}}{1 \cancel{\text{cn}}} = 8.40 \text{ kg}.$$

$$m_{\text{total}} = 2.16 + 4.20 + 8.40 = 14.76 \text{ kg}, \quad 14.76 \text{ kg} \times \frac{1 \text{ stn}}{2.50 \cancel{\text{kg}}} = 5.90 \text{ stn}.$$

10. **Lagoon in bananas (two ways).** A lagoon is labelled 0.62 imi. Compute its length in bananas (ba) using (i) direct conversion, and (ii) via meters then bananas.

**Solution.**

$$(i) \quad 0.62 \text{ imi} \times \frac{800 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ imi}} \times \frac{1 \text{ ba}}{0.20 \text{ m}} = 2480 \text{ ba.}$$

$$(ii) \quad 0.62 \text{ imi} \times \frac{800 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ imi}} = 496 \text{ m}, \quad 496 \text{ m} \times \frac{1 \text{ ba}}{0.20 \text{ m}} = 2480 \text{ ba.}$$

11. **From barrels to pace.** A drip system delivers 0.85 ibr per nap. How many csh per minute is that? Then, if each person drinks 3 csh per sunset, how many people can you serve continuously?

**Solution.**

$$0.85 \text{ ibr} \times \frac{25 \text{ L}}{1 \text{ ibr}} = 21.25 \text{ L per np}, \quad 1 \text{ np} = 20 \text{ min.}$$

$$\frac{21.25 \text{ L}}{20 \text{ min}} \times \frac{1 \text{ csh}}{0.60 \text{ L}} = 1.77 \text{ csh/min.}$$

$$1.77 \frac{\text{csh}}{\text{min}} \times 12 \text{ min per sst} = 21.2 \text{ csh/sst}, \quad 21.2 \text{ csh} \times \frac{1 \text{ person}}{3 \text{ csh}} \approx 7 \text{ people.}$$

12. **Cart cruise.** A cart moves at 2.5 scy for one tide. How far does it travel in meters and in island miles (imi)?

**Solution.**

$$1 \text{ scy} = \frac{1 \text{ pl}}{1 \text{ db}} = \frac{0.50 \text{ m}}{0.75 \text{ s}} = \frac{2}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}.$$

$$v = 2.5 \text{ scy} \times \frac{2}{3} \frac{\text{m/s}}{\text{scy}} = \frac{5}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}. \quad t = 1 \text{ td} \times \frac{5 \text{ h}}{1 \text{ td}} \times \frac{3600 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ h}} = 18,000 \text{ s.}$$

$$d = v t = \left( \frac{5}{3} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \right) (18,000 \text{ s}) = 30,000 \text{ m.}$$

$$30,000 \text{ m} \times \frac{1 \text{ imi}}{800 \text{ m}} = \mathbf{37.5 \text{ imi.}} \quad (\text{Also } 30,000 \text{ m in meters.})$$