



WAYWISERS

A waywiser is a type of wheel that measures the distance between two points. The wheel has a circumference of one yard. The wheel is marked in inches. It has a fixed ridge at 0⁰. The ridge trips a clicking device on the handle each time the wheel completes one full turn. Each click marks one yard traveled. The total number of clicks between two points equals the rough distance in yards.

Waywisers have had several names over time, including *perambulator*, *clickwheel*, and *trundle wheel*. The British refined the waywiser and gave it its current name. Runners use a type of waywiser called a pedometer. Automobiles have a type waywiser called an odometer.

Today, the most common waywiser is called a “trundle wheel.” Law enforcement officers, street maintenance personnel, and utilities workers use them to measure short distances over smooth surfaces at accident sites, and during water main repairs or the laying of cable and power lines.