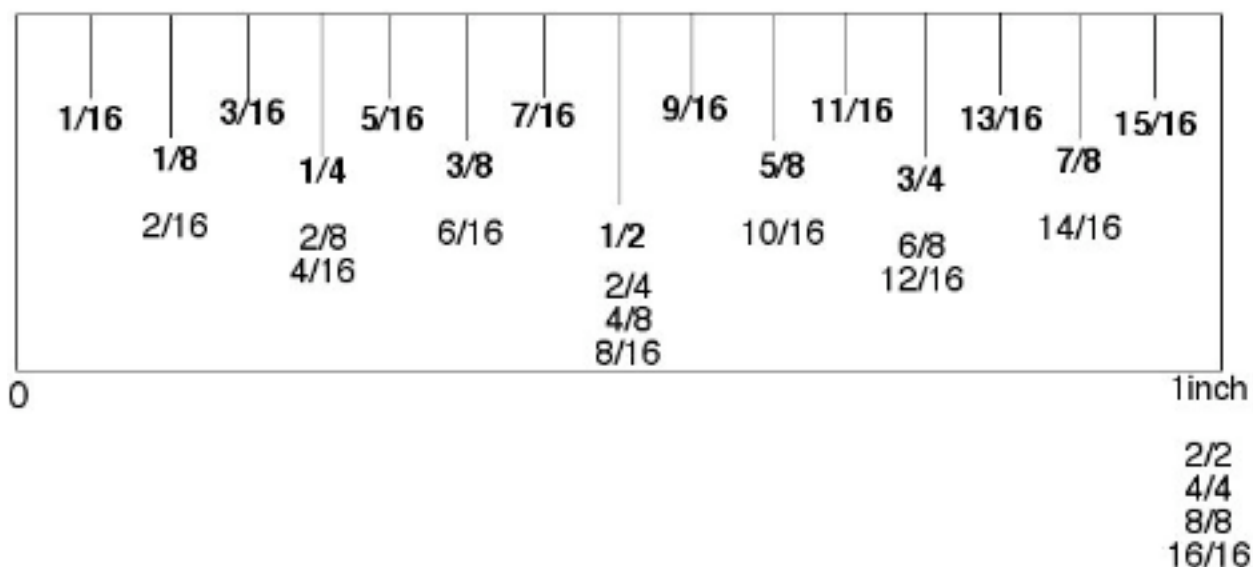


Walking the Line with Fractions

This is a simple method to add and subtract fractions with easy denominators of 2, 4, 8, and 16. Use a ruler! You can also use this technique to estimate addition and subtraction of fractions with other denominators. The picture below gives the fraction equivalents for each mark on a ruler between the whole inches. The longest mark is whole inches, the second longest is $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and so on.

Ruler - Fractions of an inch



1.) $2\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{3}{4} =$ Use the US customary measurements side of a ruler

and draw a line that is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Label the line with its length. Extend the line by

$3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Measure the total length of the resulting line. This is your answer: $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

2.) $4 - 1\frac{5}{8} =$ Draw and label a line 4 inches long. Using a colored

pencil, start at the right end of the line and measure back $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Draw and label this

segment. Measure the leftover line. This is your answer: $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

Always use a simplified fraction in your answer. Now try walking the line with these problems. Draw and label a line for each problem to show your work.

1.) $5\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{3}{8} =$

2.) $2\frac{1}{4} + 4\frac{3}{8} =$

3.) $2\frac{1}{8} + 6\frac{1}{2} =$

4.) $4 - 2\frac{3}{8} =$

5.) $5\frac{3}{8} - 3\frac{1}{2} =$