# How to "Read" and Use an Architect's Scale

Next, let's look at the $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1' - 0''$ scale on the left end. Starting at the 0 and reading to the ***right***, each *short* line represents two real-life, or full-size, feet. So, a line drawn from 0 to 6 represents a line 6′ long. (You can see that a line drawn from 0 to 6 on the $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1' - 0''$ scale is half as long as a line drawn from 0 to 6 on the $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1' - 0''$ which should make sense because $\frac{1}{8}''$ is half as long as $\frac{1}{4}''$, right?)
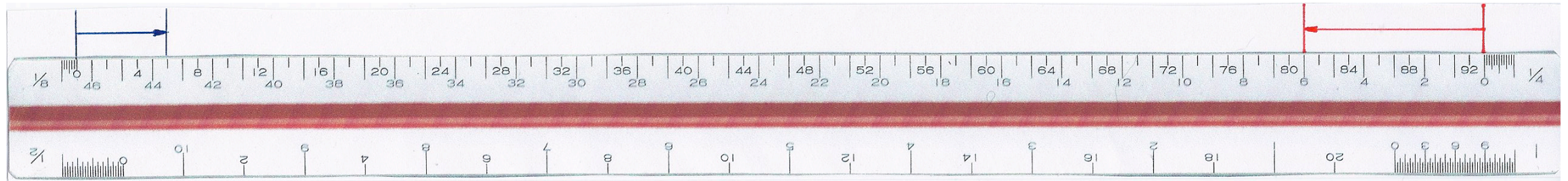
Notice that you can count, by ones, from 0 to 46 on the $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1' - 0''$ scale; and, by twos, from 0 to 92 on the $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1' - 0''$ scale. (Don't confuse the *long* lines that belong to the $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1' - 0''$ with the *short* lines that belong to the $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1' - 0''$ scale; the numbers corresponding to a scale will ascend from zero toward the center.)