

Even though we rely more and more on computers for solving problems, a hand-held calculator is convenient for solving most problems in this class. My recommendations:

- HP 49 G+ (in *RPN* mode with *software key* setting)
- TI 89 Titanium, with added *Equation Writer*

The HP have been traditionally used for engineering applications in the RPN (Reverse Polish Notation) mode. The HP 49G+ includes unit-handling abilities, single and multiple equation solvers, and an equation writer. You can use it in either RPN or Algebraic modes. I prefer the RPN mode. Also, the function menus can be used in *dropdown* style, or in *software key* style. I prefer the latter.

There are still many HP 48 G/G+/GX circulating out there. They are, however, 13 year-old technology. You wouldn't be caught using *Windows 3.5* or an *386 IBM PC*, so, keep the HP 48's as the relics they are. Also, the HP 49G, that came out in 1999, has a sticky keyboard and the screen tends to burn after 2 years. So, if you like HP's, get a 49G+, or, if you're willing to put up with a smaller memory, smaller screen, no SD card, and no USB connection, go for an HP 48G II (which is a lesser version of the HP 49G+).

There are also many TI 89's still circulating around, however, their memory capacity is minimal compared to the *Titanium*, and do not include all the *Apps* that the *Titanium* has. The *Titanium* does not have an equation writer, however, you can download an equation writer at the TI web site.