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A Matter of Scale: Floor Scale, Counting Scale, Balance Scales by [Edward Pan](#)

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The terms "floor scale," "balance scale," and "counting scale" are not mutually exclusive. A floor scale can be a counting scale. Or it might be a balance scale. A Floor scale and balance scales serve the same function. Although, technically, balances measure mass while scales measure weight, the end result achieved is the same. Counting scales have a different function. They are intended to count small or lightweight pieces quickly, by weighing them en masse.

What is a Floor Scale

A floor scale is a very common tool in the industrial sector where reliability and durability are crucial. Such an instrument is essential to keeping accurate records of loads.

A floor scale can be used in different applications, such as warehouse shipping and receiving platform scales, pallet weighing, or livestock weighing, to name just a few. The main purpose of this type of scale is to weigh objects that are large and heavy. It should be designed for long life and for ease of use in challenging environments.

And a Counting Scale?

A Counting scale are used for counting large quantities of small or lightweight pieces. When these items are being packaged for market, accurate inventory control and accurate billing depend on accurate counting scale systems.

With such a system, a precision reference scale is attached to a platform scale. Then an empty container is placed on the platform of a digital quantity scale and the tare key is pressed to cancel out its weight. Next, a specific quantity of the product to be counted "5, 10 or 20 pieces" are placed on the reference balance scale and the key for the corresponding number is pressed. Count and weight data are transferred to the platform scale. As pieces to be counted are added to the container on the platform scale, the readout will continually show the quantity until the target count is reached.

The system is easily reprogrammed to count different products simply by repeating the procedure above with each new item. A good counting scale gives an extremely high degree of weighing and counting accuracy even when individual pieces weigh as little as 0.002 gram.

Balances

Balance scales are the oldest form of mass measuring instrument. In their traditional form, they consist of a pivoted horizontal beam of equal length arms, with a weighing pan suspended from each arm (which is the origin of the plural term "scales"). An unknown mass is placed in one pan, and standard masses are added to the other pan until the beam is as close to equilibrium as possible. In precision balance scales, a slider mass is moved along a graduated scale. Balance scales work by comparing weights.

Whether it's a floor scale, counting scale, balance scales or some combination of the three, accuracy of measurement is the primary goal.

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