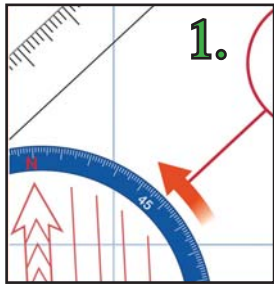


How to take a compass bearing



1) Make an estimate
Have a guess at the direction in which you will be walking and set the compass to this estimate (roughly North-East or 45 degrees in the example shown).

2) Position the compass

Place the long edge of the compass along the path that you need to follow.

3) Turn the dial

Turn the dial so the orientating arrow is pointing up the map parallel with the grid lines. You should end up with a figure roughly what you estimated in step one.

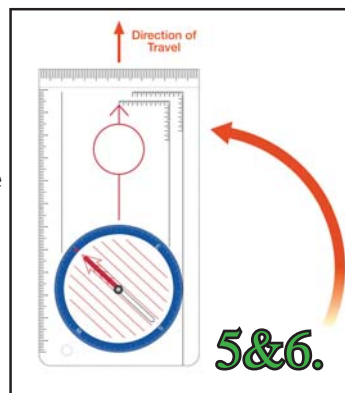
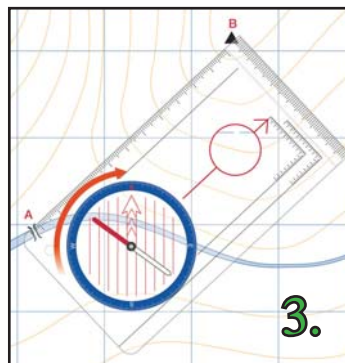
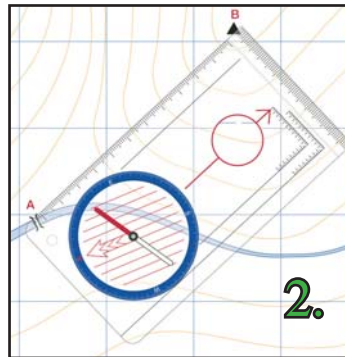
4) Add the magnetic variation if appropriate

5) Align the needle

Take the compass off the map and line up the magnetic needle and the orientating arrow by holding the compass flat and turning yourself round on the spot.

6) Follow the direction of travel arrow

The 'direction of travel' arrow will point in the direction you need to walk in.



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Relocation strategies

Once you realise you are not sure where you are there are a few steps to go through. So stop.

1) Look around for features.

Don't look at the map yet, take a look around you to see if there are features that you will be probably be able to see on the map. Are you on a path? what is close to you, what is in the middle distance and what can you see in the distance.

2) Where were you when you last knew where you were?

How long ago was that? What direction have you been walking in since then? How far might you have walked in that time? What have you passed since and when?

3) Put all that together with what you can see on the map.

It is a good idea to start with where you last knew where you were and work forwards following your route recalling what you passed. All being well you should be able to identify your position with ease using the features you identified in step 1. Pay particular attention to scale.

What if that doesn't work?

If you are getting nowhere you may wish to consider one of the following courses of action

1) Move around a bit to see if you can see more helpful features. Don't go far but moving a short distance will often reveal new features.

2) Back tracking to a place that you knew where you were.

Learning how to relocate is more about looking around you rather than looking at the map. When lost, inexperienced navigators tend to start studying the map intently looking for clues.

Look around first, look at the map second.

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