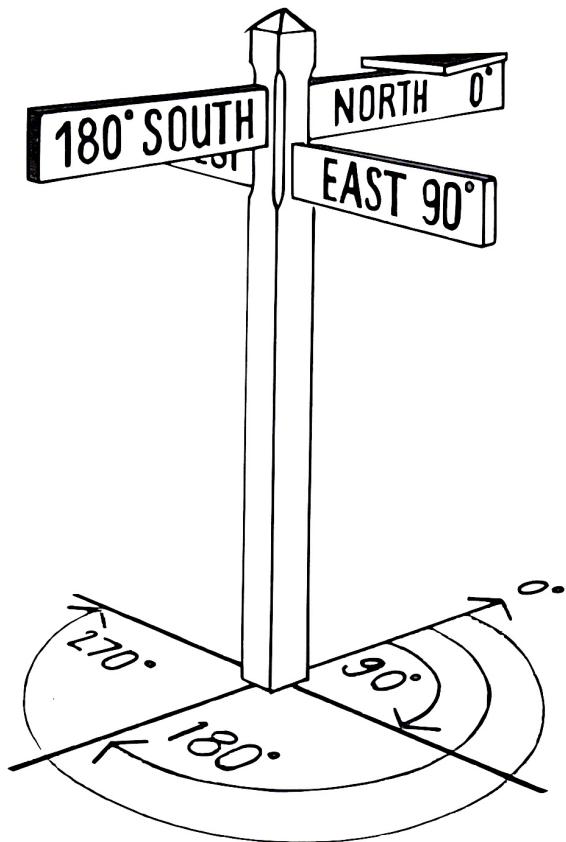


The Compass and Bearings

Imagine the compass needle is a finger-post which points to north, that is, zero degrees (0°). Now direction and bearings can be shown on the same post, like this.

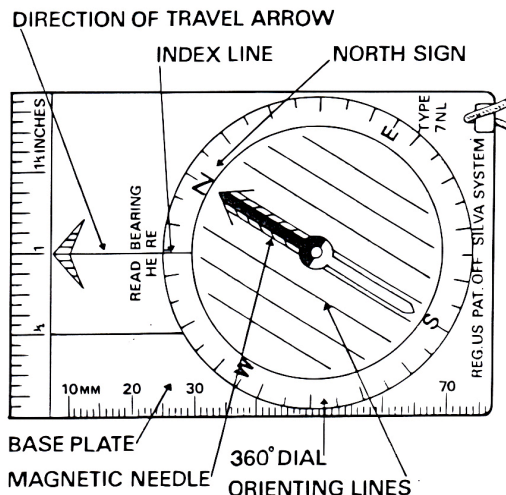


As you will see, we always measure bearings clockwise starting from 0° (north).

Give the bearing figure for the following directions.

South	
Northeast	
Northwest	
East	
Southwest	

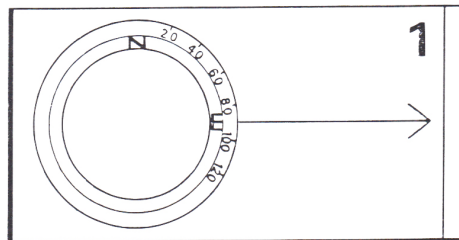
An orienteering compass is really a compass and protractor all in one instrument. It has been especially designed to make finding the way easy and quick. First the names of the various parts of a compass.



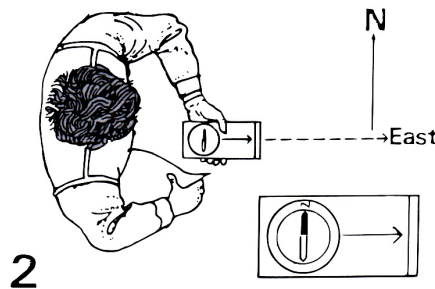
Now, how can it point out any direction? Just two simple steps will do the trick.

1. Set your required bearing on the compass by twisting the dial until the bearing comes opposite the end of the direction of travel arrow and over the index line.

Here we have set a bearing of 90° (east).



2. We hold the compass by the short end close to our chest and then turn ourselves round, without altering our grip on the compass, until the RED end of the needle is inside the orienting arrow and points to "N" on the dial.



We can now look up since both the compass and ourselves will be facing a direct line on a bearing of 90°. Having looked to see where our bearing of 90° is pointing us, we can set off to walk in that direction. All we need to do is pick out some landmark, like a rock, tree, or fence post which is exactly ahead of us.

Finding a Bearing from the Map

So far in our work with bearings we have always been given the bearing figure to set on our compasses.

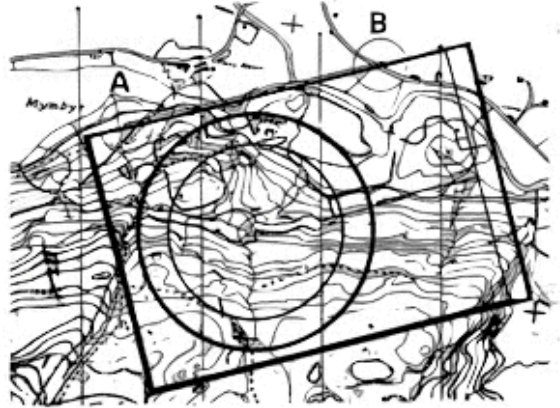
Now we need to graduate one step further and learn how to find bearings for ourselves by using the compass on the map like a protractor.

Again it is a simple and fast operation, this time just three simple steps.

1. Place the compass on the map and join together the start and destination with the long edge of the compass.

Important: Check that the direction of travel arrow points the way we are to go.

STEP 1

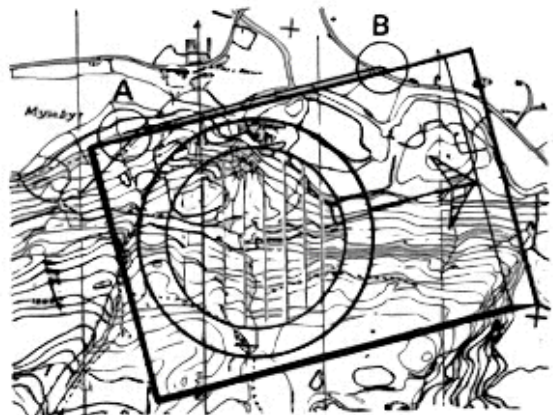


2. Turn the compass dial until the orienting lines are parallel to the meridian lines on the map.

Important: Check that "N" on the dial is towards map north.

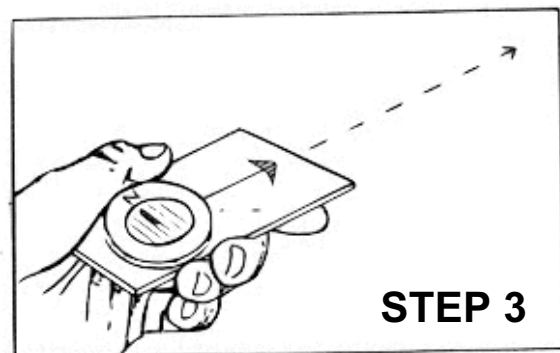
We now have our bearing. It is the number over the index line and opposite the end of the direction of travel arrow.

STEP 2



If we want to walk on this bearing, then we follow the technique we learned earlier on page 1. This just gives a third step to the whole technique of using the compass.

3. Take the compass off the map. Hold it and turn it around until the red end of the magnetic needle is inside the orienting arrow and points to "N" on the dial. Your bearing is now the way that the direction of travel arrow points.



STEP 3