

COMPASS 101

K9 Special Teams

Jeff Isaly
Tim Robinson
Rory Read
Tom Harper
Jorge Carbo



At its worst a compass will indicate at least two directions:

- Magnetic North
- Magnetic South



At its best, a compass is a precision navigation device that, when used with the correct topo map:

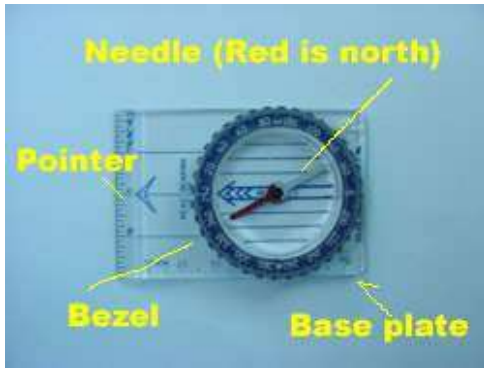
- Can pinpoint your location precisely
- Can help you navigate a straight course
- May have additional features to help you judge distance, slope and more



Features to look for in a compass

- Rotating bezel
- Adjustable declination
- Freeze resistant damping fluid
- Visible with your uncorrected vision
- Functions w/o batteries
- Global needle
- Protective folding cover
- Simple to use-no Swiss Army Knives



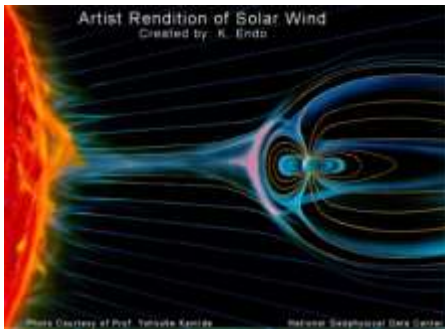




Brands worth considering

- Suunto
- Brunton
- Silva
- Recta

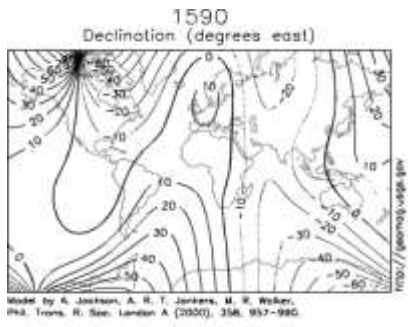


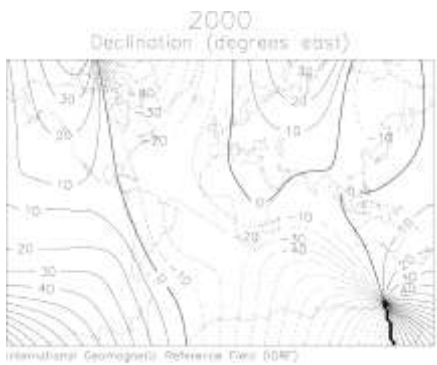


The axis of Earth's magnetic field is offset from the axis of the Earth's rotation by approximately 11 degrees.

So, for most of us, Magnetic North is not Polar North aka True North*



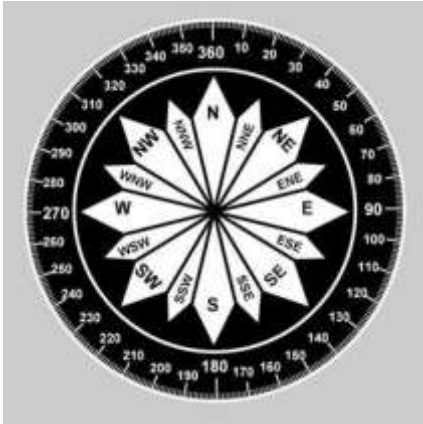




Bearings

What are they and where can I get some?





**The
Compass
Rose**



Bearings

Are points of reference or direction of travel expressed in degrees relative to True North



Bearings

True Bearing = Magnetic Bearing + Magnetic Declination



“Shooting” a Bearing

- Set declination for your location
- Hold compass flat at eye level
- Aim compass at point of interest
- Rotate bezel until needle North is “trapped” in the gates
- Read the value, in degrees, as indicated by the bearing indicator/pointer



Back-Bearing

True Bearing-180 degrees

- Used to reverse direction
- Used to walk grid patterns in search area



Compass dos and don'ts

Stay away from:

- Metallic objects-like cars
- Electronics- Radio antennas in particular
- Solvents-Mosquito repellent, stove fuel, etc.



Exercise

Point to point

- Start: Go to _____ degrees
- Point 1 Go to _____ degrees
- Point 2 go to _____ degrees
- Point 3 go to _____ degrees
- Point 4 go to _____ degrees
- Finish go to _____ degrees