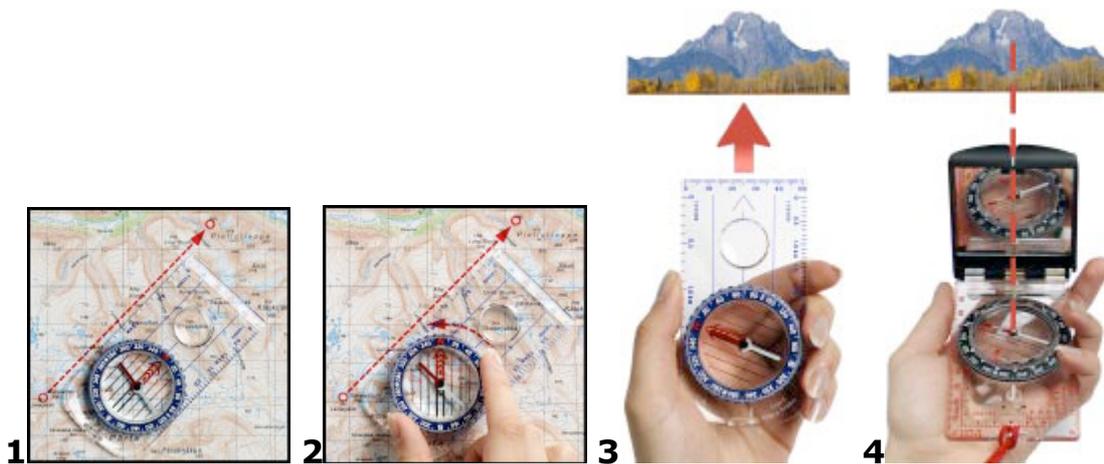


How To Use A Compass

All BGMA instructors are experienced in using many different makes and models of compasses ranging from basic orienteering models such as the Silva Ranger to the latest GPS units. During our Mountain Training course or the ML refresher weekend we encourage learners to use the well-equipped Silva Expedition compass.

With kind permission from Silva, BGMA endorses the following instructions to using a compass and taking a basic bearing.



1. Place compass on map with edge along desired line of travel. Make sure Direction of Travel arrow points towards your destination.
2. Rotate capsule until "N" on graduation ring point towards North on the map. Check compass housing North/South lines are parallel to map meridians.
3. Hold compass horizontally in front of you. Turn yourself until red end of the needle points towards "N" on the compass graduation ring. (Red end of needle will now be aligned to red North arrow in bottom of the compass capsule). Direction of Travel arrow now points precisely to your destination. Look up, sight on a landmark and walk to it. Repeat this procedure until you reach your destination.
4. When using a sighting compass with a mirror, hold compass as per picture so that you can check direction by looking at compass housing in the mirror while sighting in correct direction of travel.

How To Use A Compass

Magnetic Declination and How to Compensate For It

The difference, between Geographic North (North/South map meridians) and Magnetic North (towards which red end of the compass needle points), is called declination. The amount and direction of declination is shown on the map. For ex. 20 degrees. For Easterly declination, adjust as follows:



With the declination scale inside the capsule (Field 7, Ranger 3 etc.) turn yourself until red end of the compass needle points to 20 degrees. on the "E. decl." scale – now the direction of travel arrow points in the correct direction.



With compasses that have a declination adjuster, (Voyager 9020, 8010 and 8040 etc) you simply hold the graduation ring and turn the compass capsule until the red end of the North arrow points towards 20 degrees. on the Eastern side of the declination scale. When this is done the compass will automatically adjust the bearing. Remember though, to use the North/South lines on the graduation ring as map North reference lines when taking the bearing on the map.

NB!

- Always check the functionality of the compass before using it in the field.
- Never expose compasses to extreme temperatures (above + 60°C or below -40°C), or to magnetic fields such as knives, radio speakers, magnets etc. Such exposure can cause permanent damage to them.