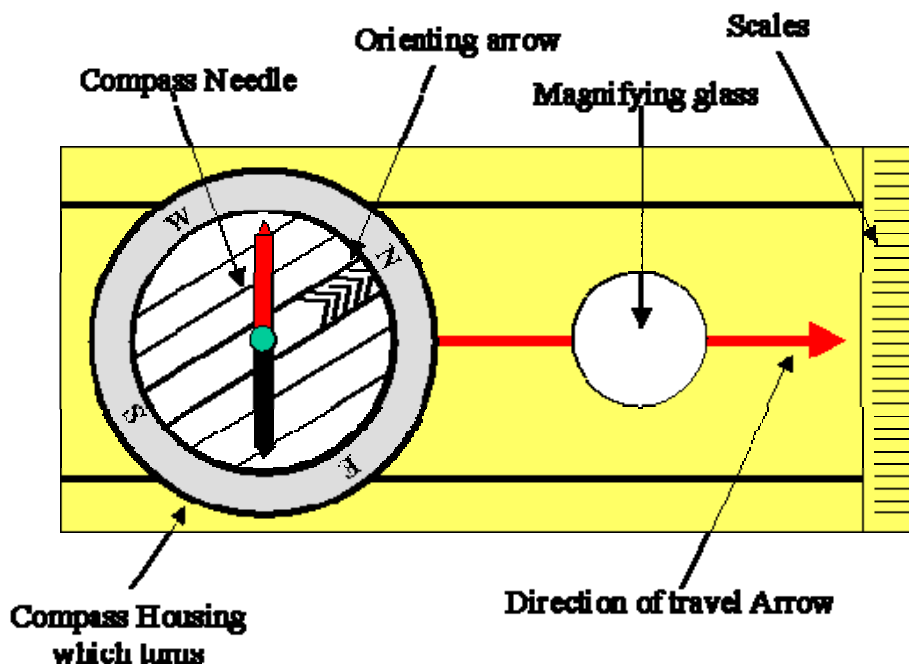


Parts of a Compass



There are several kinds of compasses, however I will only show the parts on one type. The type shown has a base plate and this is most suitable for orienteering work of the type used on Chasetrek.

Compass Needle. This always points to the magnetic North Pole.

Compass Housing. This can be turned from the base of the unit. On the housing will be marked the letters N, S, E and W for North, South, East and West. Also but not shown

on the drawing will be numbers. This is a scale from 0 to 360 and represents the degrees around a circle.

Orienting Arrow. This is really part of the housing and turns with the housing. Along with the lines of the base of the compass they enable you to 'set' a map, but more of that later.

Magnifying glass. Hope you know how to use that.

Direction of travel arrow. If you set a bearing, then once aligned this arrow says which way to walk.

Scales. In the above picture the scales are shown on the front of the compass, however there are often more scales down the sides and these enable you to take measurements from maps of the distance between two points. As you will see when we get to using a map and compass together, we can measure the distance between two places on the map and using the scale, work out how far between those points.

How to take a bearing and use it.

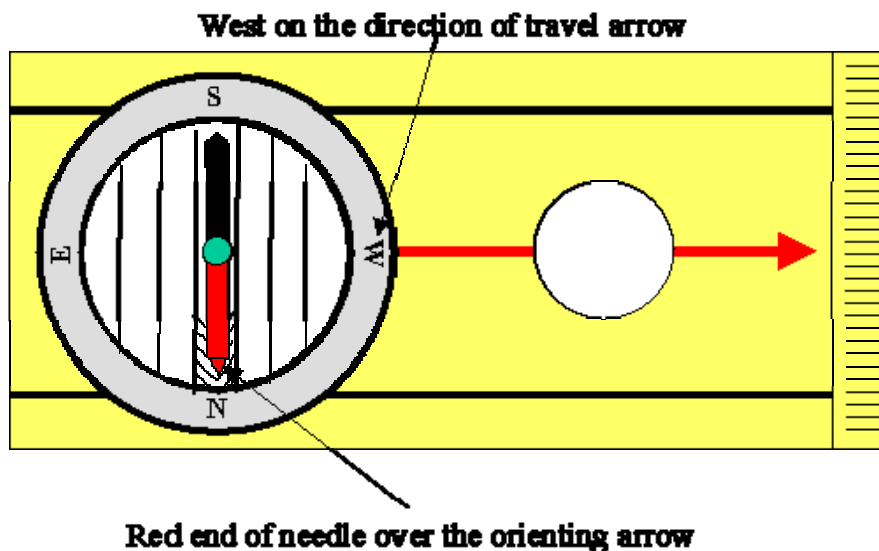
The first question should be why do I want to use a compass? What can it do for me?

Having understood that the compass needle always points in the same direction, we can use this to help us travel to any point which we can see. (later on, we will use the compass with a map, which is a bit more useful). We could use this technique when the land is not flat and we would therefore lose sight of the end object when we go down the valleys.

1. Firstly always hold the compass flat, otherwise the needle will touch the bottom or top of the housing and then it won't always point to the North. Seems silly to mention this, but you would be surprised at how many people when they are first using a compass don't do it.
2. Point the compass base (**direction of travel arrow**) to the object you wish to go to.
3. Keeping the compass pointing in the correct direction and flat turn the **housing** until the **orienting arrow** is underneath the **RED** end of the **Needle**
4. Look at the number on the compass housing where it touches the direction of travel arrow. Remember the number, which is the bearing to your destination. You need to remember the number since you could knock the compass housing while traveling which would then mean the compass you set up so beautifully is now pointing to the wrong place!

- Following the **direction of travel arrow**, keeping the RED end of the needle over the **orienting arrow**. If you look at the compass say every 50 - 100 meters, it should get you to your target. Don't watch your compass all the while, if you don't want to fall over an obstacle.

How to set a bearing (or go in a particular direction)



Suppose you want to go West from your present position. Looking at the compass housing we can see the 'W' symbol.

- We now turn the compass **housing** until the 'W' is over the top of the **direction arrow**.
- Turn the compass base (keeping it flat) until the **RED** end of the **needle** is over the top of the orienting arrow.
- As above, keeping the compass flat, follow the **direction arrow**.