

# Orienteers use a compass to set the map the right way round, then use the map to navigate

Here is a traditional orienteering compass: Orienteers don't use a compass like this today, but it's OK if that's what you've got. It has a red needle and also a bunch of numbers and arrows and twisty things. We just use the red needle; ignore the other decorative stuff.



Here is a modern thumb compass:

Almost every experienced foot orienteer uses a thumbie, usually on our non-dominant hand, freeing our dominant hand for defence against drop bears.

Under the compass, in the same hand, is the map. Each time we look at the map, we also see the compass. Note how the red needle on the compass lines up with the map's blue Magnetic North arrow.



Here is a rather special thumb compass:

Most of the stuff that we never use was left off this little beauty. Almost the only notable feature of this compass is a red needle pointing to Magnetic North. That's because:

**A compass points to Magnetic North. That's all.**



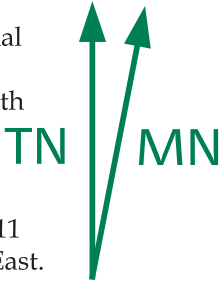
You may have heard about calculating 38 degrees Nor-Nor-East and twisting the twisty thing or something or other.

**Orienteers just don't do that\***

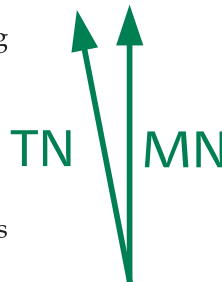
Scouts and soldiers probably do that. Pilots and sailors used to do that. Orienteers don't, because our principal tool is the map.

Magnetic North is different from True North in most of the world. Here in SE Queensland, Mag North is roughly 11 degrees East (right) of True North.

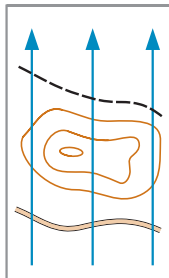
Traditional map: True North is up the page; Magnetic North is 11 degrees East.



Orienteering map: Magnetic North is up the page; True North is 11 degrees West.

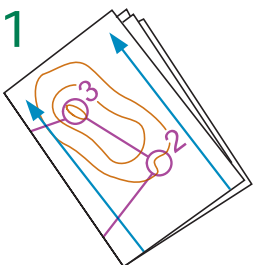


O maps have Magnetic North lines going up the page.

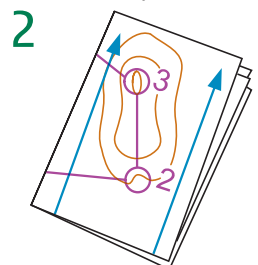


## Setting your map and yourself to the ground

Fold your map to a manageable size with the next leg visible

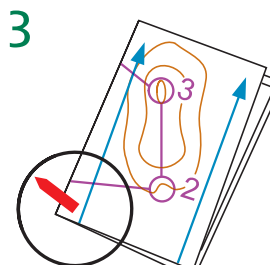


Hold the map comfortably with the leg pointing away from you



YOU ARE HERE

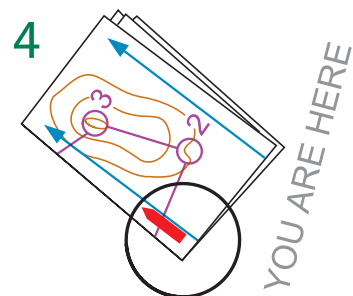
Put the compass on the map so you can see the needle, the Magnetic North lines, and the leg



YOU ARE HERE

### THIS STEP IS CHALLENGING

Turn YOURSELF so that the needle and the Magnetic North lines agree\*\*



**YOU ARE NOW FACING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION**

\*Maybe some do, once in a while, but WE don't, do we?

\*\*Turning the map, the compass, your head, the world or just your upper body don't work. Worth a try though. You have to turn YOURSELF with little bitty footsteps.