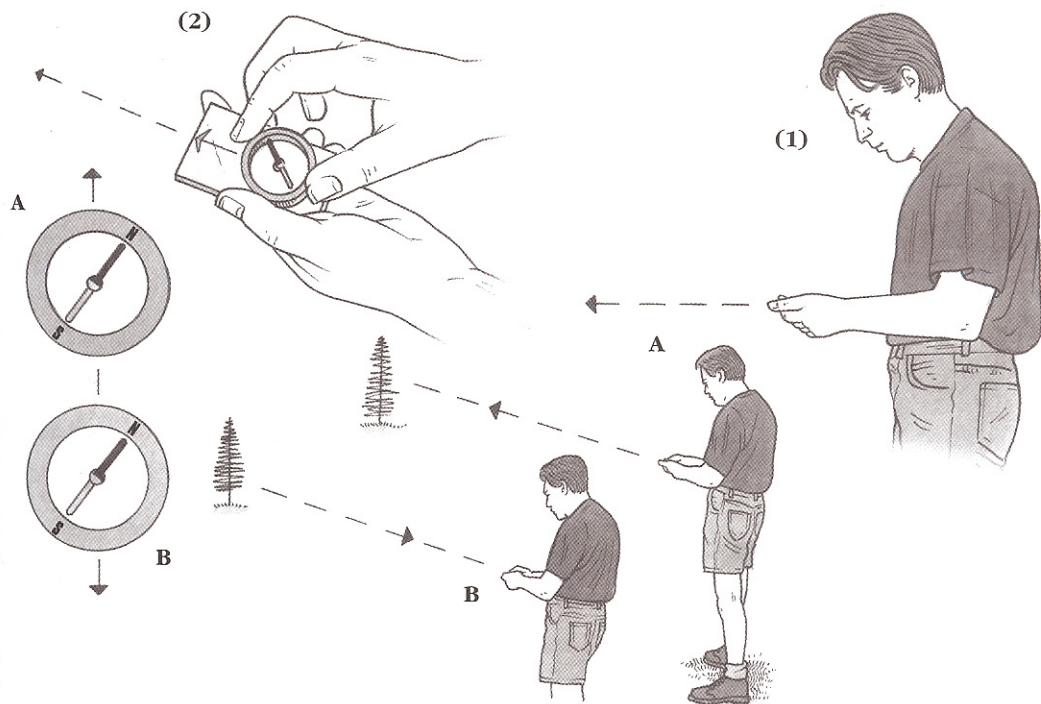


Taking the compass bearing of an object



Hold the compass in front of you, and point the direction of travel arrow directly towards the object whose bearing you want to measure (1). Then, rotate the housing until the orientation arrow is aligned with the compass needle

(2) and read off the bearing. For a direct bearing (A), align the N end of the orienting arrow with the N end of the needle. For a back bearing (B), align the N end of the orienting arrow with the S end of the needle.

COMPASS BEARINGS AND POSITION LINES

A bearing is the angular direction of a point, line or course measured in relation to true, grid or magnetic north, and is usually expressed in degrees.

A direct bearing is measured from your position towards an object; a back bearing is measured from the object to your position. A direct bearing and back bearing of the same object obviously differ by 180° .

For example, in the illustration above, the direct bearing from the man to the tree is

320° , and the back bearing from the tree to the man is 140° ($320^\circ - 140^\circ = 180^\circ$).

FROM MAP TO COMPASS

Taking a bearing from the map, and then following the resulting compass course, is the most commonly used procedure in navigation, and one that you should practise until you are completely comfortable with it.

You can use this method whenever you know your position, and want to head