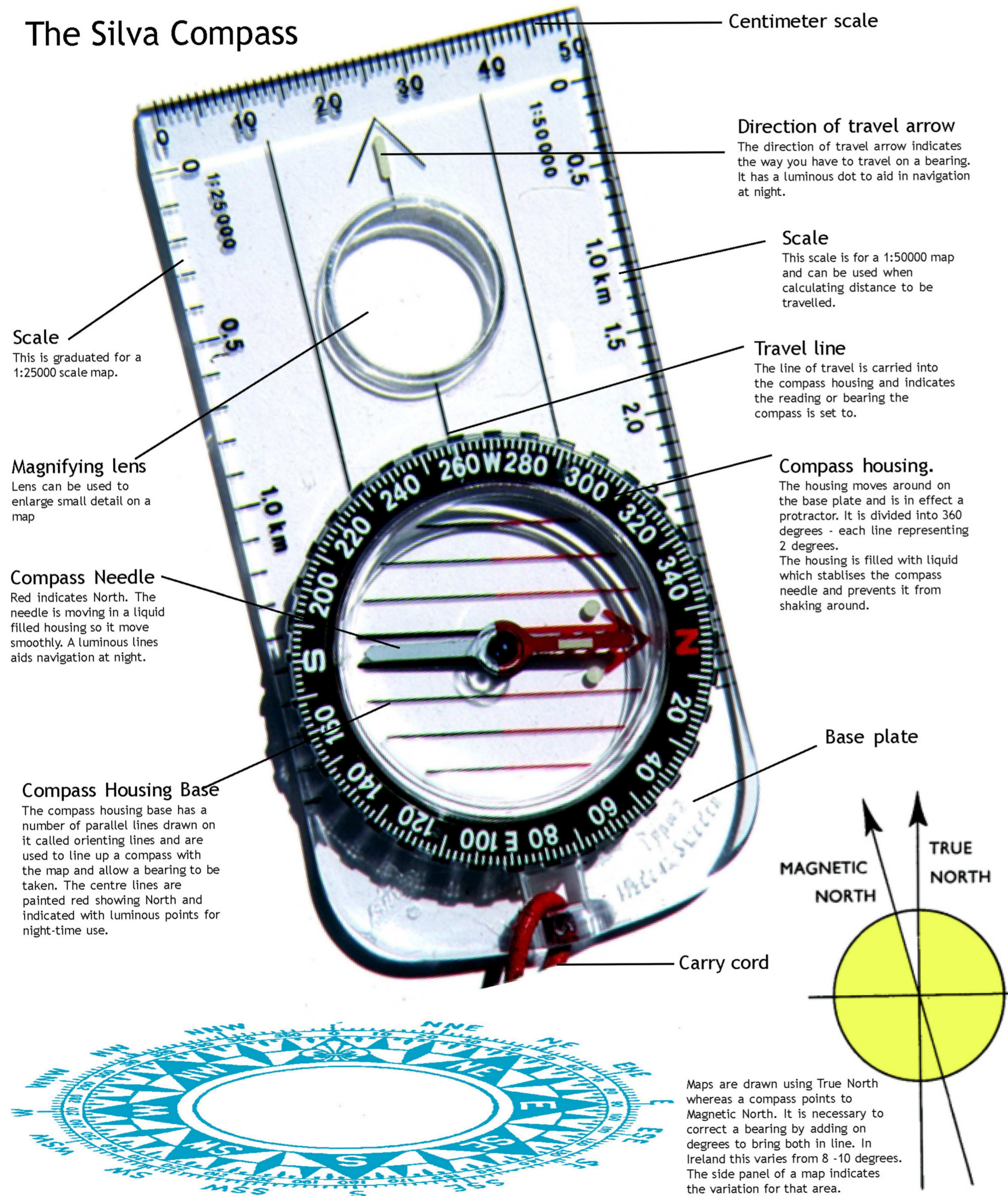


The Compass

The Silva Compass

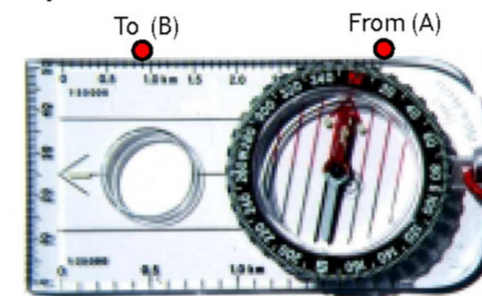


Taking a bearing

A bearing is taken from the map so that you can precisely travel from location to location. There are a number of simple steps involved. Care and attention will ensure that a correct bearing is taken. If you are careless then your bearing could be off by a number of degrees which may seem very small at the beginning but the error will increase in distance when you travel along the bearing resulting in missing your intended target and ultimately leaving you lost in the wilds.

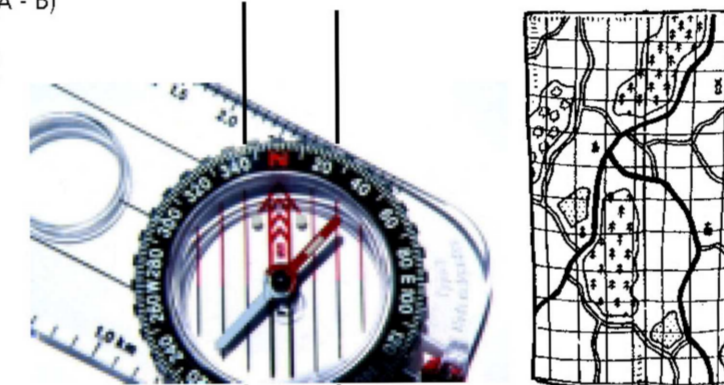
The Silva Compass is the best compass for navigating across open countryside. It is possible to do so with other compasses but they tend to be less precise and are best only a general indicator of direction rather than a precision tool.

Step 1



Start by placing your compass on the map. Place the edge of the compass along the line you wish to travel from A - B. Do this as precisely as possible and if possible each location should be a recognisable feature - fork of a stream or edge of forest. The direction of travel arrow should point in the direction you wish to travel (A - B)

Step 2



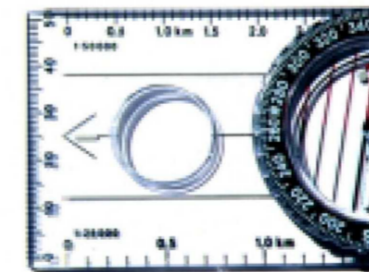
Turn the compass housing until the red arrow on the base plate points to the top of the map. Line up the orienting lines on the base to the grid lines on your map. They should rest on top of or be parallel to the grid lines on the map. Again be precise as possible.

Step 3



Lift the compass from the map and read the bearing indicated on the housing by the direction of travel line. Say this reading to yourself " 260 degrees plus 10 degrees equals 270 degrees" . 10 degrees are added for magnetic variation in Ireland. (This figure can vary so check map to find correct variation for your area.) It is best to confirm in your mind what the final bearing is before you move the compass housing.

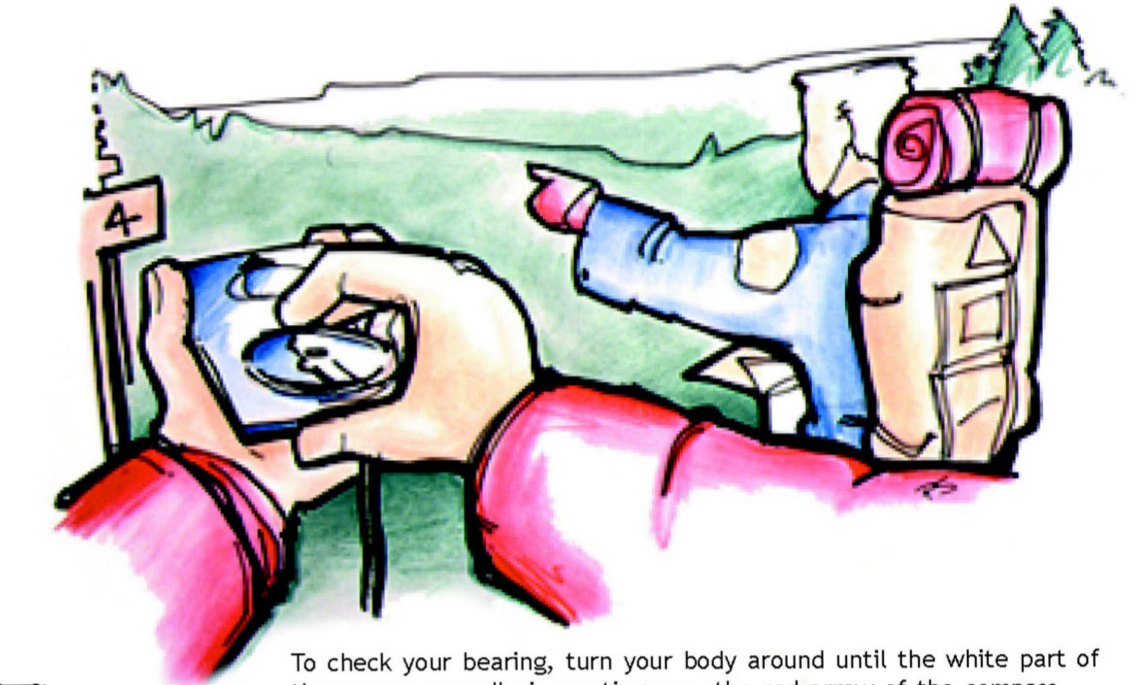
Step 4



Move the compass housing to its new position of 270 degrees. Your bearing is now set and you can start to move to your new location. These steps are repeated on each leg of your journey as you travel from point to point.

Following a bearing

Place your compass in your hand and move your body around until the compass needle lies over the red arrow on the compass base. The direction of travel arrow indicates your location in the distance. It will not always be possible to see your location so you will have to select a number of points along the line of travel. You travel to each of these in turn until you arrive at location. It is not necessary to constantly look at your compass as it will be impossible to keep the needle in position at all times. Travel to your selected points, look at your compass and check bearing and select a new point until you reach your destination. In foggy conditions or at night you can then look at your compass or



To check your bearing, turn your body around until the white part of the compass needle is resting over the red arrow of the compass housing. The direction of travel arrow should point to the place you just travelled from. This is called a back bearing.



Aligning a map

It is not always necessary to take and follow a bearing. In clear conditions good map reading skills and careful observation will allow you to travel with ease. In order to do this you need to align your map with the surrounding countryside so that you know where you are and your relationship to your surroundings. This is done by looking around you and identifying the features you see - a mountain, river, forest edge. Line up these features on your map so that you can identify each on your map and where you are standing in relationship to them. Keep an eye on your surroundings as you travel and pinpoint your location as you travel

Resection

You can also find your exact location on the map by using a method called resection. Locate a feature on your map - a mountain top - river junction etc. making sure there is some distance between them - one to the right and one to the left. Take a bearing off each point by pointing the compass at it and moving the housing until the red arrow rests under the red part of the needle. Read the bearing and take away 10 degrees from this reading. Place compass on the map with the top edge on the mountain top move the whole compass around until the red part of the needle points north and the orienting lines are parallel. Draw a line from mountain top along the edge of the compass towards the back. Repeat for other points. Where the points intersect is your location.

