



The thumb compass

Orienteer right in **3** simple steps!

- 1** Orientate the map so that the compass needle and north lines are parallel.
- 2** Place the tip of the compass where you are and let it point to the next orienteering point. You can then refine the orientation of the map by turning your whole body – even your feet!
- 3** Orientate yourself towards your next orienteering point and continue to steer yourself with the tip of the compass where you are, always pointing towards your next point.

Advance planning – the key to success!

Make use of the skill of reading the map in advance – keep ahead when thinking and use what is known as advance planning – this way you will know what is coming in the terrain. When the feature is reached in the terrain move the tip of the compass to this point and at the same time read the map for the next section of the leg etc.

The advantage of working with the tip of the compass placed where you are – in comparison to keeping the whole compass beside the line – is that with the tip in the right place you can easily find where you are and straight forward on the map is also straight forward in the terrain – if the map is correctly orientated of course! If you have the tip of the compass where you are, you won't be covering up other alternative route choices to the left either (or to the right if you have a right hand compass).

For those of you who use the technique of placing the compass alongside the leg, just pull the compass back so that the tip is where you are and work in the way we just described. This is a simple way to improve your contact with the map, your advance planning and even your orienteering technique.



" Here I am, at number three. I will run down into the reentrant and pick up the path..."

Important!

- * The compass should lie flat on the map at all times and the tip should always be in the right place at the same time as it points – straight ahead – to the point you are heading towards. The compasses back edge – where there is also a small arrow – should always come out from the centre of your body.
- * When you change direction you have to turn the map, so that you get a better feel and in this way make it possible to maintain "tip-where-you-are-contact". In this way you can maintain your safety and will know where you are and especially where you are going at all times.

Tips!

- * In order to get the right angle of the compass hand take the map in both hands, like a steering wheel. Then take away one hand and at once you have the compass hand with the tip of the compass pointing straight ahead! Holding the map with two hands and steering yourself is also excellent with short, highly accurate compass direction.
- * As soon as you change line feature, for example a path, a stream or a ridge, orientate the map first with the help of the ground and then check with the compass needle. If the needle and north lines are not lined up, then things are not as you expected. This is quick and easy to check if you always have the tip of the compass where you are. With this technique you can always have an eye on the direction of streams, paths, hills, gullies, marshes and much more.