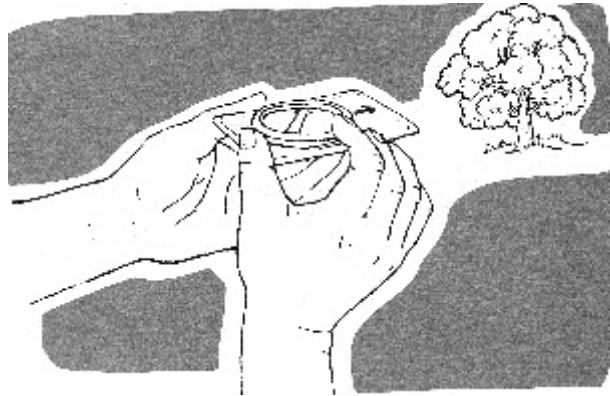




## Identifying the direction of an object using a Silva compass

OK, say you are creating an orienteering map, or need to know what direction something is.

- Face the object you want to know the direction of.
- Point the direction of travel arrow to the object.
- Turn the housing around until the red portion of the needle and orienting arrow are aligned.
- Read the number lined up with the direction of travel arrow – this is the direction of the object.



## Some helpful hints

- Any metal object on your clothing can alter the reading of your compass (belt buckles, metal buttons, etc...).
- When sighting with your compass, look for an object in the distance on the line of sight and walk toward it, occasionally checking your compass direction. Don't walk looking at your compass – you will not walk in a straight line.
- If there is an object in your way, take several steps to the side, continue forward pacing until you are beyond the object, and then take the same number of side steps back to your original position, rechecking your direction. Now continue counting your paces forward.
- Practice by placing tent stakes randomly in a large area. Create cards that have three-degree listings – each 120° apart (60°, 180°, 300°). Beginning at a stake, walk 20 feet between each listing, reorienting after each one. You should return to the stake you started from. Don't cheat! – This practice hones your compass skills.
- Learn the length of your pace. A 2-foot step is ideal, but be natural and be able to adjust. [Ed: A "pace" is two steps, and the length of your pace is the distance covered in two steps.]
- There is a special type of pacing called **Scout's Pace**: this is where you walk a certain number of paces (say 20), and then jog the same number. It is a very useful way to cover long distances without getting overly tired.