

Hiking Navigation

Finishing off with practical ideas for making that hike one, which you will have fond memories of, we will give you a few quick hints on navigation. To be able to find your way out in the bush is a most important part of hiking, and everyone in the hike party should know how to read a map and compass and to take bearings.

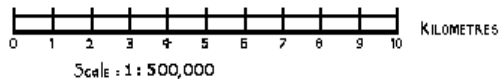
Mapping

There are four main features to map reading:

Scale:

- is the proportion between a distance on a map and the actual distance in the field. The scale will be written or expressed in the form of a ratio, eg. 1: 50,000.

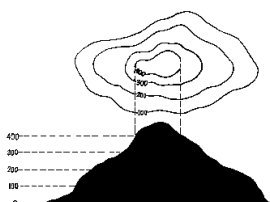
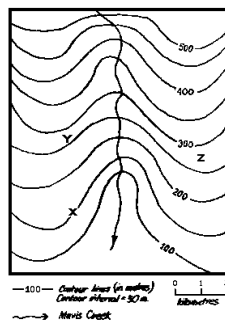
This means 1 centimetre on the map equals, 50,000 cm (or 500 metres) in the field.



Contour Lines

- are thin brown lines that appear on a map that represent vertical height above sea level. The contour interval (that is the vertical height difference between each line) is usually written near the scale. Close contour lines mean a steep slope.

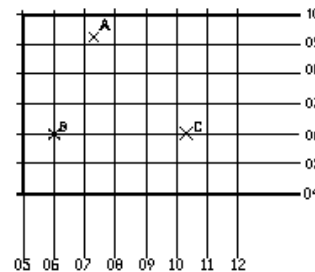
Patterns formed by contour lines on the map represent certain physical features.



Grid references

- are read from grid lines. Grid lines are the straight lines that form boxes over a map. The grid lines are always numbered * A grid reference is given in six figures. The third and sixth numbers are the equivalent to decimal points.

The first three numbers are read from left to right (eastings), and the second and third numbers are read from south to north (northings).



The grid reference A would be given as 073094. The grid reference B would be given as 060060. And the grid reference for C would be given as 104060.

Legend or key

- is situated on the edge of the map usually near the contour interval and scale. The legend is made up of a Group of symbols to show details on a landscape. In many cases these features are easily recognised - buildings, rivers, roads for example, while others like contour lines cannot be seen lying on the ground.

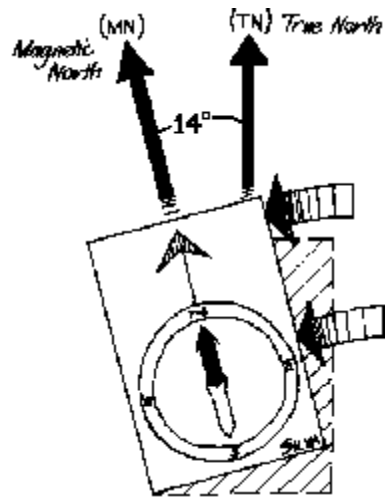
<u>LEGEND</u>	
Contour interval: 100m	
Primary road: 2-lane road	
Secondary road: 1-lane road	
Minor road: Road bridge	
Water: River	
Sea: Tidal flat	
Railway: single track; Station; Railway bridge	
Light rail or tramway	
Railway: single track; Railway bridge	
River: 1-lane road	

Orientating a map by compass

* When orientating a map by compass you must turn the dial on the compass so that the painted arrow lines up with north (N) ' * By placing the edge of the compass on the magnetic north (MN) arrow on the side of the map, you can put the map into perspective with real surrounding features.

* You can do this by spinning the compass around until the rotating metal arrow's red end is pointing to N also.

You have now orientated your map



Orientating a map by natural features

* A map is 'orientated' when it is placed so that its directions on it correspond to the directions of the same features on the ground.

Turn the map so that north on the map fits north in the landscape, and that terrain features shown on the map, such as roads, rivers, etc. Are lined up with natural features.

