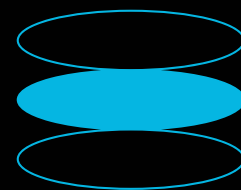




LAND NAVIGATION CHEAT SHEET

Essentials for outdoor enthusiasts



Compass Basics

Components:

- Baseplate
- Magnetic Needle (Red = North)
- Rotating Bezel
- Direction of Travel Arrow
- Index Line
- Declination Adjustment

A compass is your primary tool for orienting yourself and navigating in the wilderness. Understanding its components is crucial for accurate use.

Keep the compass away from metal objects, including belt buckles and electronic devices, as these can interfere with the magnetic needle.

Holding the Compass:

1. Level with body.
2. Keep away from metal.

Map Essentials

Key Elements:

- Title
- Legend
- Scale
- Grid (UTM or Lat/Long)
- Declination Diagram
- Contour Lines

A map provides a 2D representation of the terrain. Understanding its key elements is crucial for planning routes and identifying landmarks. Pay attention to contour lines to understand the elevation changes in the terrain.

Always check the declination diagram to adjust your compass reading for the local magnetic declination.

Understanding Scale:

1:24,000 (1 inch = 2000 ft)

1:50,000 (1 cm = 0.5 km)

1:100,000 (1 cm = 1 km)

Measuring Distance

Tools:

- Ruler
- Compass (Baseplate)
- Ranger Beads

Accurate distance measurement is key to navigation. Use the map scale in conjunction with a ruler or the compass baseplate to determine distances on the map. Combine with pace counting in the field to improve precision.

Methods:

- Map Scale
- Pace Counting
- Time/Speed Estimation

Ranger beads can be used to track distance travelled (e.g. each bead represents 100m).

Navigation Skills

Techniques:

- Orienting the Map
- Taking a Bearing
- Following a Bearing
- Back-Azimuths
- Triangulation

These techniques are fundamental to successful land navigation. Orient the map to align with the terrain. Taking a bearing will get you pointed in the right direction, and accurately following that bearing is essential for staying on course.

When following a bearing, always account for obstacles and terrain features.

Key considerations:

- Declination
- Terrain
- Obstacles

Pro Tips & Reminders

- **Always** double-check your bearings and distances.
- **Plan** alternate routes in case of obstacles or unexpected terrain.
- **Use** terrain association whenever possible to confirm your location.
- **Stay** aware of your surroundings and observe landmarks.
- **Track** your progress on the map regularly.
- **Know** your pace count over different terrains.
- **Inform** someone of your route and expected return time.
- **Carry** extra supplies (food, water, first aid, shelter).
- **Practice** your skills regularly to maintain proficiency.

Summary

This cheat sheet summarizes essential land navigation skills for preppers and outdoor enthusiasts. Mastery of these skills requires practice and familiarity with your equipment. Remember to always prioritize safety and be prepared for unexpected challenges in the wilderness.