

Making Your Own Compass

If you don't have a compass of your own, it's easy to make one.

Here's what you'll need:

- A needle or some other wire-like piece of steel, such as a straightened paper clip
- A magnet
- Something small that floats, such as a cork, a round piece of Styrofoam, or the cap of a milk jug
- A large round dish such as a pie plate filled with about one inch of water

1. Rub the magnet along the needle or steel wire 10 to 20 times to magnetize it
2. Place your float in the center of the pan of water
3. Place the magnetized needle horizontally in the center of the float

When the water becomes calm, the needle and the float will turn to point to the north. You have just created a compass!

