



Make Your Own Compass

Materials:

Cork (or other small floating material, such as a milk jug cap or the bottom of a foam cup)

Dish, 9–12" in diameter, filled with 1" of water

Magnet

Needle (or a straightened paper clip)

Procedure:

1. Turn the needle into a magnet by stroking the magnet in one direction along the needle 10–20 times.
2. Place the cork or other floating device in the center of the dish of water. This “float on water” technique creates a nearly frictionless bearing.
3. Center the “magnetic” needle on the float. It very slowly will point north. You have created a compass!