

Compass Recommendations for Scouts

An essential navigation tool every Scout should own.

A good scouting **compass** has the following attributes:

- 1) Liquid filled dial of at least 1.5" diameter
- 2) Baseplate for map work.
- 3) Clearly marked bearing numbers on the dial.
- 4) Sighting mirror. Not essential, but highly desirable for sighting accurate bearings.

Silva, Suunto, and Brunton are popular brands of quality **compasses**.

Here is a list of my Top Picks based on price including shipping:

Suunto MC2-G \$68 (my personal favorite)
Silva Ranger 515 \$46
Silva trekker \$27
Suunto MCA-D Mirror \$24 (best bang for the buck)
Suunto MCB Amphibian \$22
Silva Guide 426 \$20

Non-mirror **compasses**. These are ok starter **compasses**, but not ideal:

Silva Polaris (no mirror) \$16
Suunto A-10 (no mirror) \$13

Anything less than \$10 is likely junk and will cause frustration in the field.

Pick a price point and then google the model name to find a shopping link.

Example of a quality **compass:**



Example What Not to Buy:



This is a lensatic compass. AVOID. They do not work well for scouting. Hard to read the bearing #s. Compass needle jiggles all over the place. Lack of base plate make map work awkward. The market is flooded with low quality lensatic compasses. Decent military versions start at \$60, but they are heavy.

In summary, invest in quality compass for your Scout. A quality compass will last a lifetime. He'll thank you when he's in the mountains and his GPS goes blank.

YIS,

Keith Savage