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# The Tru-Nord Compensated Compass

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- Gear reviews and tests - Emergency and survival -



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## **Description :**

The Tru-Nord compass was invented by Vern Budlong and has been in production for over 60 years. They are American Made in Brainerd, Minnesota. The company is currently owned and operated by Gayle Satre.

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## The Tru-Nord Compensated Compass

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My sample is the touted Model 100C ...



Features include a case machined from solid brass bar stock, a jeweled movement floating on a polished brass pinnacle, and the top ring sporting the lexan lens is threaded to the case for a watch like seal. The compass dial is also lexan and it features a glow in the dark north pointer. The case bottom and top ring are supplied with a brushed finished (that I found very easy to mirror polish.) The compass is barely over an inch in diameter (read slightly larger than the diameter of a US Quarter Dollar) and 7/16" inch thick (read about as thick as 6 US Quarters or a SAK Soldier) - thus it is very compact and easy to carry. Weight is .5 ounce.

The compass is not dampened, thusly, one must wait for a few seconds for the dial to settle. One quickly learns to tilt the compass slightly to more quickly settle the dial. Not a complaint, merely a minor quirk you learn to tolerate and then to appreciate - especially for those of us who've had liquid dampened compasses bubble up severely.

Tru-Nord compasses are advertised as being water and shock resistant. I dropped mine into a bucket of 56 degree water and left it overnight without damage. I also dropped the compass from heights of 3' to 9' onto hard ground and my small woodpile. Again, no damage.

I checked my 100C's accuracy using a GPS and topo map and it was "spot-on" true north. I also checked the compass in the local hills where sometimes compasses can be finicky due to the mineral deposits - it worked fine, checked again with GPS and a topo map. It should be noted here that each Tru-Nord is individually compensated to show true north for the area in which it will be used - important to note if you're in NY and plan to use the compass on an Idaho deer hunt. Simply stated, you must order the compass for the area in which you intend to use it. If you want your currently owned Tru-Nord compass changed to a new area, all you have to do is mail the compass and \$3 for postage to Tru-Nord at 1504 Erick Lane, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401. Additionally, each Tru-Nord is guaranteed for life and will be repaired or replaced if defective.

Other models are available and can be seen on Tru-Nord's website, here: <http://www.trunord.com/>

In short, the Tru-Nord 100C is a sound investment in a compass that works well. It has modern features, yet a distinct olde time flair...

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