

How to make Your Own Sundial

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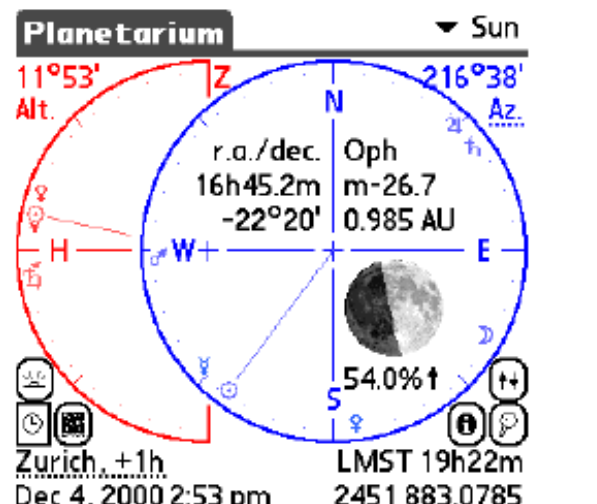
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Sometimes it is very difficult to take an accurate measurement during Fengshui audit using a magnetic luopan. This is due to electrical and structure interference on the compass inside the luopan.

Therefore, this article is to describe the easy way of taking a unit facing with the help of the sun.

What you need:

1. A place that has sunlight and can be used to determine the facing. For example, a sidewall outside the house at 90° of the door where is there sunlight.
2. Triangle that can be use to cast shadow
3. Circular plate with degree (e.g. Luopan)
4. Software that tell you the degree of the sun that a particular moment in time. (e.g. Planetarium Software running on Palm <http://planetarium.en.softonic.com/palm>)

Triangle	Luopan
	
Software	
 <p>Planetarium Sun</p> <p>Alt. 11°53' Az. 216°38'</p> <p>r.a./dec. Oph ♄ ♃</p> <p>16h45.2m m-26.7</p> <p>-22°20' 0.985 AU</p> <p>54.0% ↑</p> <p>Zurich, +1h LMST 19h22m</p> <p>Dec 4, 2000 2:53 pm 2451 883.0785</p>	

Triangle

The triangle can be constructed by using mathematical geometry set.



Stick a block of wood at the bottom of the triangle so that it can stand on it's own.



How to take the measurement

1. Place the Luopan where there is sunlight and you can determine the facing. For example, put the Luopan on the floor against the wall.
2. Use the Planetarium Software and set it to Sun

The screenshot shows the Planetarium software interface. It features a circular dial with various astronomical data. Annotations include:

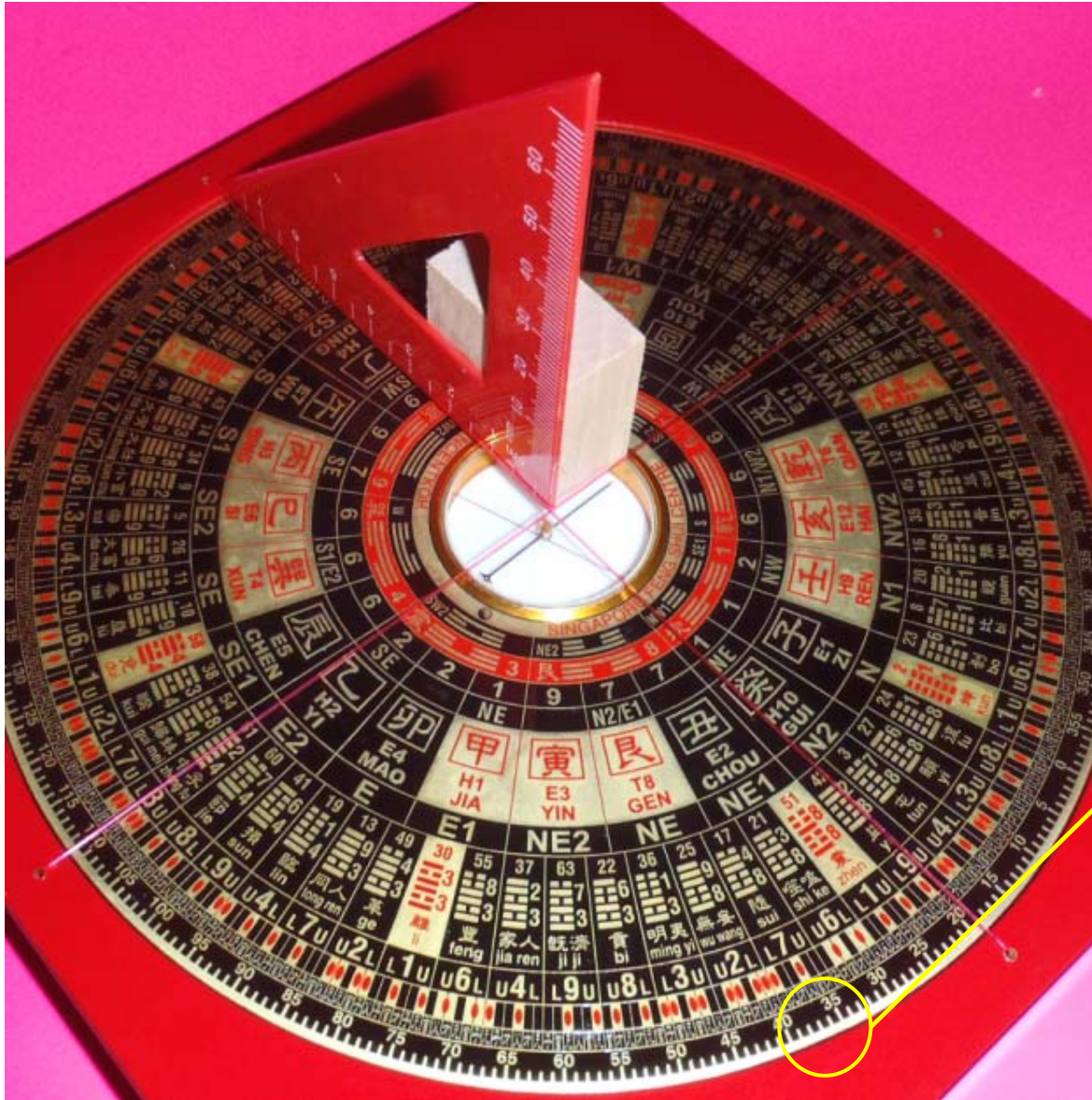
- A box on the left pointing to a clock icon: "This button will pick up the current time from your palm".
- A box on the left pointing to location and time settings: "Set your location and current local time correctly".
- A box on the right pointing to the Sun's azimuth: "The current degree of the Sun (azimuth)".

The software interface displays the following data:

Alt.	r.a./dec.	Oph	Az.
11°53'	16h45.2m	m-26.7	216°38'
	-22°20'	0.985 AU	

Other visible data includes: Zurich, +1h; Dec 4, 2000 2:53 pm; LMST 19h22m; 2451 883.0785; 54.0%↑

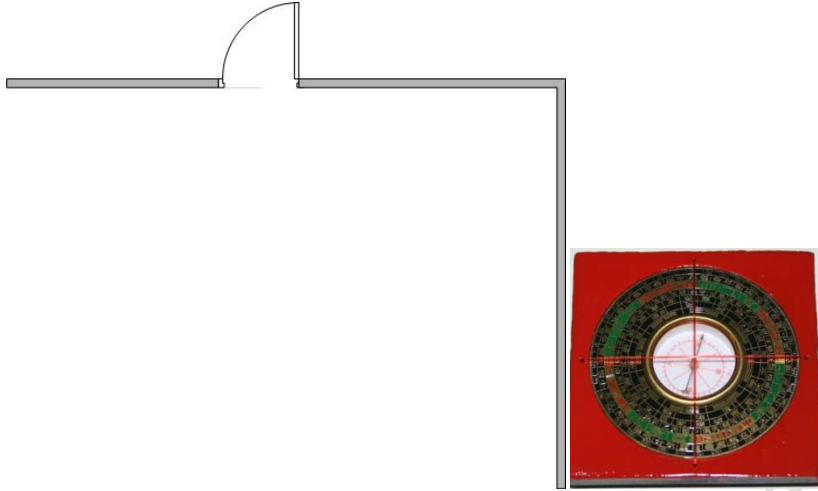
3. Set the location and the current time correctly. The software will tell you the current degree of the sun (see above).
4. From the above example, currently the sun is at 216° . That's mean the shadow of the sun is at $216 - 180 = 36^\circ$
5. Using the luopan with the triangle on top at the middle, rotate the luopan ring until the shadow of the triangle is casting at 36° as indicated on luopan ring



6. Now you can determine the facing of your unit.

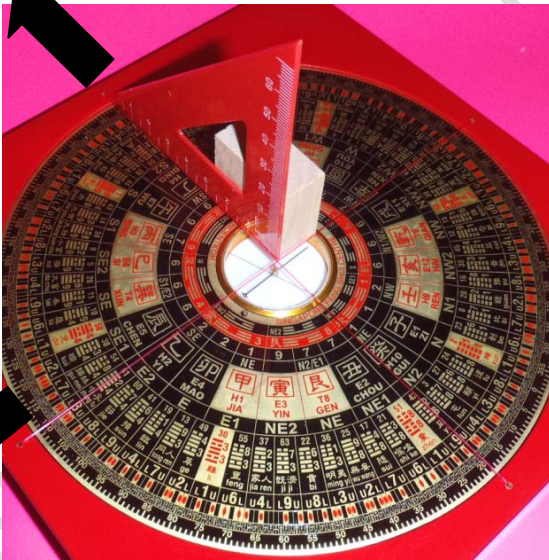
Example:

1. To determine the facing of the door
2. There is sunlight appear on the right hand side of the unit.
3. Place the luopan against the wall on the right



4. Use the software to determine the sun degree and shadow

Door Facing



Wall

5. After finding the shadow, the Door Facing can be easily determined.

Software Information

Planetarium Software (<http://planetarium.en.softonic.com/palm>)

- The software can be run on Windows Mobile, Symbian and Iphone with the StyleTap platform.
- Download StyleTap from <http://www.styletap.com/>

Other Software

- iPhone: MrSun from Amber Digital (Free) (Require iPhone OS 3.1.3),
- iPhone: Sun Position from Mathias Uhlig (\$0.99)
- Internet: Online Sun Position: <http://sunposition.info/sunposition/spc/locations.php>
- PC Software: Satellite Antenna Alignment with Sun Azimuth
<http://www.softpedia.com/progDownload/Satellite-Antenna-Alignment-Download-20853.html>

Satellite Antenna Alignment with Sun Azimuth

- Setup the Latitude and Longitude of where you are. You can get the information from the Internet (e.g. Online Sun Position).
- For example, Singapore is 1.17 N, 103.51 E

Site Location

Site Latitude: "N" North; "S" South
1 ° deg 17 ' min 0 " sec N

Site Longitude: "E" East; "W" West
103 ° deg 51 ' min 0 " sec E

Site	°	'	"	°	'	"
Singapore	1	17	0	103	51	0

Singapore

Antenna Look Angles Sun's Azimuth Offset Antenna Obstacles Report

Date 28 May 2010 Time 09:20:25
Time Zone +8 Real Time

Date	Time	Azimuth °	Elevation °
28/05/2010	10:08	61.336 °	43.140 °
28/05/2010	10:09	61.229 °	43.359 °
28/05/2010	10:10	61.120 °	43.578 °
28/05/2010	10:11	61.010 °	43.797 °
28/05/2010	10:12	60.899 °	44.015 °
28/05/2010	10:13	60.786 °	44.233 °
28/05/2010	10:14	60.672 °	44.451 °
28/05/2010	10:15	60.557 °	44.669 °
28/05/2010	10:16	60.440 °	44.887 °
28/05/2010	10:17	60.322 °	45.104 °
28/05/2010	10:18	60.202 °	45.321 °
28/05/2010	10:19	60.082 °	45.537 °
28/05/2010	10:20	59.959 °	45.754 °
28/05/2010	10:21	59.836 °	45.970 °
28/05/2010	10:22	59.710 °	46.186 °
28/05/2010	10:23	59.584 °	46.402 °
28/05/2010	10:24	59.456 °	46.617 °
28/05/2010	10:25	59.326 °	46.832 °
28/05/2010	10:26	59.195 °	47.047 °
28/05/2010	10:27	59.062 °	47.261 °
28/05/2010	10:28	58.927 °	47.475 °

Satellite 2,0°E - Ast

- Click on Sun's Azimuth
- Select the Date, Time & Time Zone
- The Sun Position (Azimuth) is listed by minutes (e.g. 10.14 on 28/May is at 60.672°)