

Estimating Slope with a Clinometer

A clinometer is an instrument that measures the angle of a slope. It can also be used to measure elevation or height. There are different types of clinometers and they have different scales.

Table 4-4 outlines one method to estimate slope using a clinometer, which is illustrated in Figure 4-8.

Table 4-4. Steps to estimate slope using a clinometer.

| Steps | Directions |
|--------------|---|
| 1 | Stand so you are facing directly up or down the slope. |
| 2 | Hold clinometer vertically. Keep both eyes open. Use one eye to read the scale inside the hole and the other eye to sight on an object that is about the same height above the ground as your eye level height. Align the horizontal band with this object. |
| 3 | Read the appropriate scale in percent or degrees as indicated by the horizontal band. |



Figure 4-8. Estimating slope with a clinometer.

Some compasses have a built-in clinometer; however, when using the clinometer on a compass, the slope is reported in degrees, not percent. Figure 4-9 illustrates a general relationship between percent slope and degree slope. Refer to the compass owner's manual for instructions on estimating slope using the built-in clinometer and conversion information.

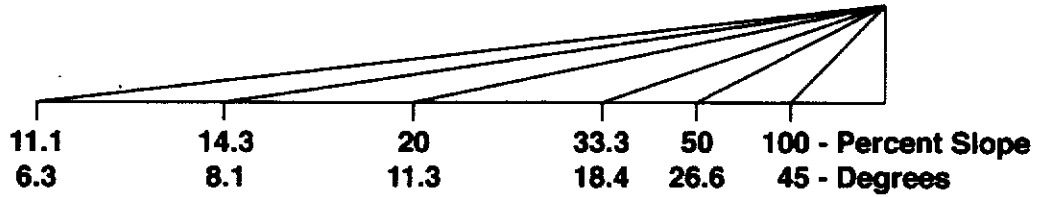


Figure 4-9. General relationship between percent slope and degree slope.