



DECLINATION
Red lines indicate the magnetic declination, in degrees. Declination, which is also called compass variation, is the angle between true north and the direction in which the magnetic compass points. It is considered east (E) or west (W) depending upon whether the compass points east or west of true north.

ANNUAL CHANGE
Blue lines indicate the estimated rate of change of declination, eastward (E) or westward (W), in minutes per year. To apply change, add algebraically, considering both east declination and eastward change as positive and both west declination and westward change as negative.

Unpublished base by U.S. Geological Survey, 1985

NOTE
This is one of five magnetic charts showing the declination, inclination, horizontal intensity, vertical intensity, and total intensity of the Earth's magnetic field, at mean sea level, in the United States at the beginning of 1985. They are based on regional spherical harmonic models that were derived from several tens of thousands of measurements from land, marine, and aerial surveys, from values synthesized from the International Geomagnetic Reference Field, and from data from magnetic observatories (●) and repeat stations (■). The models for the conterminous United States and Alaska are of maximum degree and order 4 and those for Hawaii are of maximum degree and order 2.

This map supersedes Map I-1283, Magnetic Declination in the United States—Epoch 1980.0, published by the U.S. Geological Survey, 1980.

THE MAGNETIC FIELD IN THE UNITED STATES, 1985
DECLINATION CHART

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