

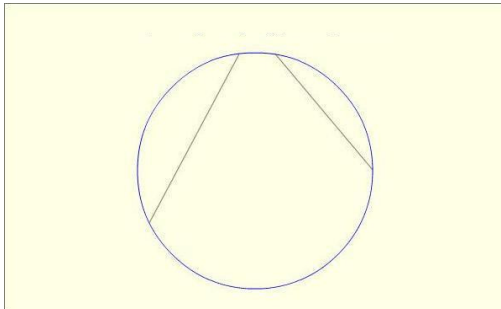
HOW TO LOCATE THE EXACT CENTER OF A CIRCLE USING A COMPASS

By LJ

How many times have you wished you could find the center of a circle? Sure you could eyeball it and come pretty close, but here is a method which will give you the exact center point. This is more accurate than the first method since it does not require eyeing and measuring the center of each line.

This will come in handy for drilling crush plugs and other parts that need to be precise.

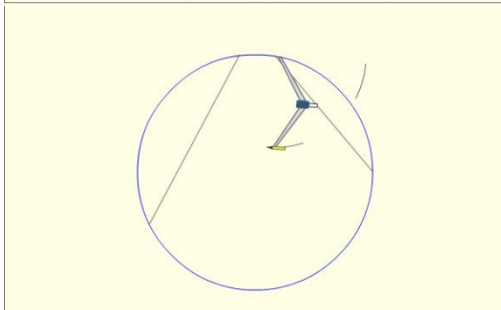
Center a Circle Without Measuring



This circle represents the object which we'll be using to locate the center.

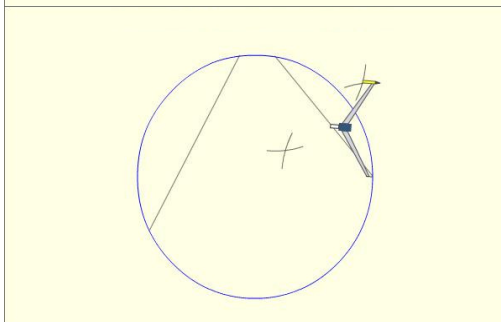
The first step is to draw a line across the circle. The angle doesn't matter. Your line must touch the boundary. It's OK to cross it if you'd like.

The next step is to draw a second line across the circle. It must not be parallel to the first line

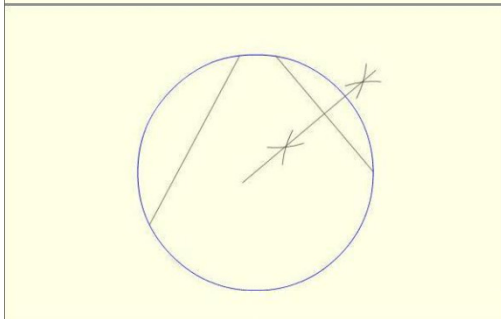


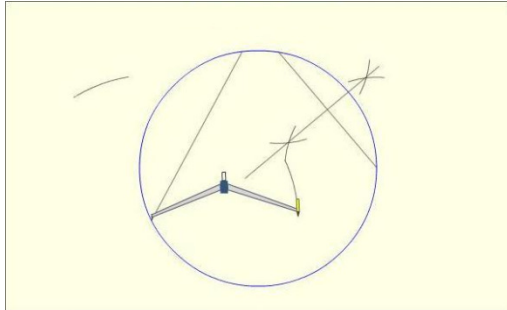
Open the compass so that it extends slightly more than half the length of that chord.

Take your compass and place it **at each point** where the chord meets the circle and draw an arc (or full circle if it suits you.)

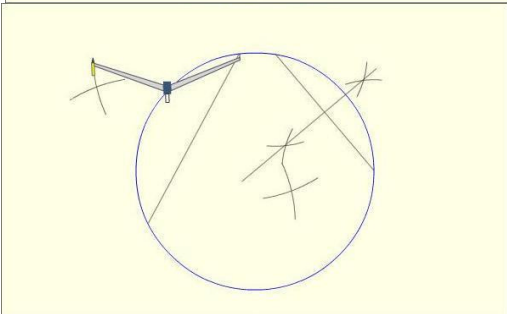


Take your straightedge and draw a line through the center of the intersections of the arcs. This line is perpendicular to and centered on the chord without measuring.

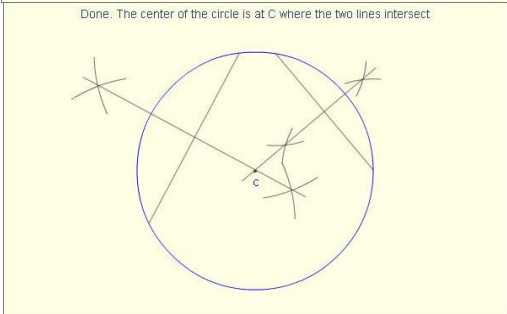




Repeat the process for the other chord.



Done. The center of the circle is at C where the two lines intersect



The point where both lines cross will be the exact center of the circle!