

## Orienteering mapping - a one page outline (detailed explanations to follow)

Find an area that is suitable for a sprint or forest event.

Get any required permissions.

Collect base material. This could include:

- existing topo maps
- air photos or orthophotos
- magnetic declination information
- Lidar or Digital Elevation Model data
- survey control marker coordinates

Load mapping software onto your computer.

Open Orienteering Mapper is free.

It has Windows, Mac and Android versions.

Open a new map file, choosing the scale and an appropriate symbol set.

Enter values in the georeferencing dialog box.

Generate a base map from Lidar or DEM data if available, with programs such as OCAD, karttapullautin or QGIS.

Import template files such as air photos, orthophotos and existing maps.

These templates need to be rotated, scaled and moved to the correct position.

Draw as much as you can by tracing from the templates.

Install the Android version of Open Orienteering Mapper on a tablet or smartphone. Copy the map file and template files into the OOM folder on your device. Other recommended tools are a stylus and a Bluetooth GPS receiver. Now you can go to the field. Edit and draw features that were not clear in the base maps.

Back at home, copy the revised map and template files to your computer for final drawing.

## OBSTACLES TO BECOMING A MAPPER

Requires specialized knowledge.

Cost of software - check the OCAD website for pricing of the different versions

Software phobia.

Cost of hardware -  
A computer, tablet and GPS receiver

It requires a lot of time.

Safety concerns about working alone in city parks or remote areas.

## HOW TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES

Attend a mapping clinic.  
Go digging on the internet.

Use free programs eg. Open Orienteering Mapper, QGIS and karttapullautin.

It will take some time to become familiar with a new program. But you won't break your computer while learning.

Chances are that you already have a computer.  
Maybe you have an Android tablet or phone.  
A Bluetooth GPS receiver costs about the same as a pair of training shoes.

Start with a simple map.  
Encourage other orienteers to help.  
Use the most effective field survey techniques (smartphone and GPS).

Let someone know where you are working.  
Use a cell phone for check-ins if coverage is available.  
Work with a friend.  
Carry bear spray in wilderness areas.