

Re: Celestron Sky Scout

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- *From:* "Roger Hamlett" <rogerspamignored@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 06 Jun 2006 09:47:36 GMT
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"plawler" <plawler@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1149559733.585687.156790@xx>

Roger Hamlett wrote:

Hm. There are off the shelf standard GPS's now available for under \$250, which include magnetic sensor, barometer, CF interface, and full colour displays. I'm afraid the price of this sort of unit, has plummeted, and while \$400, would have looked a 'good' price only perhaps 18 months ago, it now looks very high.

I still think you are not appreciating what this unit does. It is not just an "off the shelf" standard GPS. If you compare it to the talking trip GPS units (e.g., Magellan, Garmin, TomTomGo, etc.) you will find most of those priced between \$400-800.

This doesn't contain a road database, but it does contain a star database... and it has to do direction and tilt as well as GPS, so you can point it at a star, and it will identify that star, or you can ask for an object and it will guide you to the object. Clearly more sophisticated than the \$250 GPS unit.

Not true.

I understand exactly what the unit does, and exactly the electronics involved (I design this sort of thing). The '\$250 GPS', has significantly more complexity in it, the unit I was looking at (one of a number on the market now), has three axis accelerometer, which is perfectly capable of giving the tilt measurement, one axis on the magnetic sensor (the Sky scout does not need/use two axes on the magnetics), and adds a barometric interface, which the Sky scout does not have. The code needed for the sky navigation, is not as complex as you seem to think. The memory size, and processing power being quoted for the Sky scout, is significantly less than for the unit I was looking at. 'Simple' GPS's, do not have so much complexity in them, but are now well under \$100...

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You may feel it it too high a price for you, and that's fine, but it is certainly not too expensive for what it does, or out of line with other similar products (especially when there really aren't any).

I'm afraid it is. The comparison that makes most sense, is to 'aviation' GPS's, which also command a similar 'premier' price, for a relatively small marketplace. However on these, the database comprises a large amount of this cost, since there are significant 'risks' associated with faults in this, and the manufacturers try to avoid this potentially hitting them, by buying in an approved database from a third party. Even the car systems often do this. The same is not true for the Sky scout.

Best Wishes

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