

## Re: Looking for a good GPS add on for my PDA

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*Date:* 08/01/04

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Hi John:

Doesn't the ipaq 4150 have a USB port and not a serial port? There are GPSs with a USB connection but both the GPS and PDA are designed as USB "slave" devices to a computer which acts as the "master" device. In other words, you might not be able to connect a GPS with a serial connection (since the PDA has a USB port) and you might not be able to connect a GPS with a USB connection (since they are both acting as "slaves"). USB to serial adapters need to be driven by a USB "master" so they are not much help.

A possible solution is one of the GPS devices that attach to the PDA. With these, there are issues you need to look at.

The first is how it is attached. For example, will you need a "sleeve" with a CF slot. The second is power consumption. If the attached device uses the PDA power, then you may have a problem operating the GPS-PDA combo for more than short periods since when hiking. (With a standalone GPS you can let it run and turn on the PDA when you need to look at the map.)

You will also need to decide on software. For the past 5 years I have found the combination of TOPO! and OziCE to be excellent for hiking. I can extract 1:25000 topo maps from TOPO!, calibrate them in Ozi, and run them on OziCE. However, TOPO! does have a PocketPC add-on program (doesn't run on my older version of CE 2.11).

Dale DePriest has a lot of information on GPS for PDAs at:

<http://www.gpsinformation.org/dale/PocketPC/wince.htm>

Also, check out Joe, Jack, and Dale's web site at:

<http://gpsinformation.net/>

Info about OziCE and its use with GPS devices integral with a PDA is at:

[www.ozieplorer.com](http://www.ozieplorer.com)

My idea of the ideal PDA for hiking is something that:

1. Has a serial port so you can connect to a standalone GPS
2. Uses standard AA batteries so you can pop in new batteries when the PDA runs down.
3. Has a screen you can read in daylight.
4. Runs the latest version of PocketPC OS so you can run the latest PDA GPS-map software.

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It seems that #1 and #4 are mutually exclusive (only USB seems to be available on the latest PDAs). #2 will probably never happen which means you are stuck with product-specific extra batteries at \$50+ each. As a result, I just stick with my 5-year old PDA.

Tom DeVille

"John" <cadman@netacs.net.x> wrote in message  
news:410a2eb6\$1\_6@corp.newsgroups.com...  
> *I'm*