

## Re: gps receiver with linux

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2004-11/0158.html>

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JiggaHertz wrote:

- > *I am interested in getting started in gps navigation. I am looking for a*
- > *cheap gps receiver that uses NMEA interface to use with my linux*
- > *laptop. I remember reading in the past that those with a serial interface*
- > *are less problems with linux. Is this still true? If anyone has any*
- > *recommendations for a starter gps receiver, I would greatly appreciate it.*

I don't know if your laptop has USB, but for laptop use, I find the USB GPS 'mouse' is the best bet. They're small, inexpensive and are powered by the laptop so you only have a single cord to worry about.

The only downside to these is that they must be used with a computer. You can't take one along when you're hiking.

Below is a site that lists a couple of brands and shows what they look like.. This outfit has them starting at \$92.00... (There may be cheaper places so shop :)

<http://www.gpscity.com/gps/brados/2012.1.3384970736810245415/laptopgps.html>

FWIW, the latest kernels in linux (2.6.x kernels for sure) support USB to serial conversion. I don't know when they included it.. You just plug in to a USB port and it gets assigned as a USBtty device. Unlike Windows, you don't need any special drivers.

I'm running Mandrake Linux 10.0 and it supports plug and play. I just plug in my USB unit.. It's recognized and assigned automatically as USBtty0 I open a modem terminal program, tell it to look at USBtty0, set it to the correct baud rate etc, and I see NEMA strings scrolling by :)

The only downside to Linux and GPS is the lack of good open source software.. There's nothing that even comes close to Delorme Street Atlas or MS Streets and Trips..