

## Re: GPS watch (like Garmin ForeRunner) and tree cover

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On Wed, 17 Nov 2004 14:58:04 GMT, SR <sallyjr@juno.com> wrote:

- > *I have a Garmin Etrex Vista. This is a hand-held GPS, not one of the*
- > *new wristband ones. I tried to use this to measure my distance while*
- > *biking. It works fine on open roads, but not under long stretches of*
- > *tree cover. I have similar difficulties while hiking in the woods –*
- > *generally, whenever I am in the shadow of a tree, the GPS receiver*
- > *cannot get a reading from the satellites. Once I move out from the*
- > *shadows, it takes from one to several seconds for it to locate the*
- > *satellites and get a reading.*
- >
- > *I have carried the Vista in my hand while jogging in wooded areas, and*
- > *it has worked just fine. The paths I jog on, however, are wide enough*
- > *that they are generally not shadowed.*

Thanks. To give you an idea, I run on a sidewalk along a four lane road, the road is not all shadowed, but there are shadowy areas.

- > *You may not have a problem if you are running straight paths with*
- > *occasional trees – the unit will take a reading every x seconds (with*
- > *the Vista, you can set the time interval for readings), and will*
- > *interpolate the distance traveled from those data points.*

Thanks, that's exactly why I mentioned that I run on the straight path.

- > *One problem I've had: I run in the very early morning, and find it*
- > *difficult to read the screen while running in semidarkness, even with*
- > *the backlight. I believe the numbers displayed on the wrist-style*
- > *receivers are much larger, probably for just this reason.*

Thanks, that's actually quite important for me, especially going into winter. I have enough lighting on that particular road, not in all places, but in enough places.

Is the forerunner sold at places like Walmart? I could then buy it and try it, and return if I do not like it.

sci.geo.satellite-nav: Re: GPS watch (like Garmin ForeRunner) and tree cover

- > *Another problem: The point on the receiver which communicates with*
- > *satellites needs a clear view of the sky. I've found that even my*
- > *clothing can interfere with the signal, e.g., if I try to clip it to*
- > *my belt or hang it around my neck, my shirt or jacket can cover it up*
- > *enough to be a problem. I don't know if you would need to pay more*
- > *attention to your forearm position while running in order to maintain*
- > *the signal.*

A good issue. Don't know the answer to this one, maybe I should buy one and try it. What concerns me is that right now, the trees are bare, so I may have good reception, but 6 months later the device will stop working.

- > *A suggestion: find out the store's return policy, in case it doesn't*
- > *do what you want. I got mine from REI, which does not have a time*
- > *limit on returns.*

A good idea.

- > *If you get one, I hope you will post here to say whether you are*
- > *satisfied – I've been thinking I'd like to get one of the wristband*
- > *models myself!*

I will keep everyone informed.

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Running Log: <http://iqor.chudov.com/weightloss/exercise.txt>