

Re: Looking for Notebook GPS with both USB and Serial outputs

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2004-12/2214.html>

From: Jack Erbes (*jackerbes_at_adelphia.net*)

Date: 12/22/04

Date: Wed, 22 Dec 2004 16:49:07 -0500

Beaver wrote:

> *Thank you for reading,*

>

> *Is there such a GPS with both USB and serial connectors ?*

>

> *My notebook uses USB but my ham radio requires a serial connector, all in NMEA format.*

For the most versatility with different software packages, I would simply look for a GPS with that will output non-proprietary NMEA sentences.

Many GPS receivers are intended to communicate with a software package provided by the GPS receiver maker. Those may output proprietary sentences that are similar to but different than NMEA sentences. But many of those will also have a NMEA output for use by other equipments.

The NMEA output would normally consist of two contact points or wires called something like NMEA+ and NMEA- or data+ and data-, data transmit and data receive, etc. Connect those to pins 2 and 3 on a DB-9 serial connector, ground pin 5 of the DB-9 connector and use that for a serial input or adapt it to USB as needed.

I have used the NMEA output from a number of GPS receivers (Garmin, Magellan, various Furuno, JVC, and Raymarine, etc.) as an NMEA input for programs run on laptops. I have used DB-9 serial ports, a Belkin F5U109 serial to USB adapter on a USB port, or with a Socket R-I/O PCMCIA serial port card in the PC Card slot.

I don't recall a GPS that I simply could not get to work. I'd expect the NMEA input to work on any one of those ports if they were there and the software could be configured to recognize the port. But I don't think I ever made a point of testing all the ports every time.

RS-232 PCMCIA serial port cards are pretty common on eBay and they

sci.geo.satellite-nav: Re: Looking for Notebook GPS with both USB and Serial outputs

generally sell for quit a bit below retail there. I wouldn't buy one that was missing a removable DB-9 serial dongle unless I found a source for a replacement dongle first because those can be hard to find and/or outrageously overpriced.

Good luck,

Jack

--

Jack Erbes in Ellsworth, Maine, USA - jackerbes at adelphia dot net
(also receiving email at jacker at midmaine.com)