

Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2005-04/msg00620.html>

- *From:* "Dennis Martin" <d.martin@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 13 Apr 2005 12:02:56 -0400
-

Does the Vista C have "auto touting" capability ? And while I'm at it, would the 24 MB of memory be enough to load a fairly detailed street map of the entire US in it ?

<roybassist@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:1113362570.735568.75850@xx

>

> Dennis Martin wrote:

>> Hello all, I'm looking at purchasing a GPS unit to use mostly while

> riding

>> an ATV, I'd like to be able to store "rides" in different area that

> others

>> have lead the way on so I can go back later and not need a "tour

> guide' . I'd

>> probably use it while travelling in unknown territory in the car

> also.

>

> To get any real value out of it in a car, you'll need to load

> detailed mapping from a CD map product. That will make the amount of

> memory important. Do you want turn-by-turn directions (called auto

> routing), or just your current position shown on a map?

>

>>I've

>> looked online at the Legend, Legend C, Vista, and Vista C.

>

> Apparently you used Garmin's product comparison page. That's a

> good start.

>

>>The Legend only

>> has 8 MB of memory, but I'm not really sure how much memory I'm going

> to

>> need.

>

> If you want to use it in a car, 8 MB won't hold mapping for very much

> area. I would remove this one from consideration.

>

>>Then we have the Vista, basically the same except it has 24 MB of

>> memory, batteries are only good for 12 hours, and it has a built in

>> electronic compass and a barometric altimeter. Don't all GPS units

> have a

Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long

- >> compass and altimeter ?
- >
- > What all GPS units have is a compass display and a readout of GPS
- > elevation. These are not the same as an electronic compass and a
- > barometric altimeter. A compass display only shows direction while you
- > are moving. An electronic compass will show direction when you are
- > standing still. For me, the compass sensor is a convenience. While
- > stopped at a rest stop on a hike, I like being able to select a
- > waypoint that I stored from maps at home and being able to locate it by
- > just pointing the GPS. You can do almost anything with a
- > non-electronic compass that you can do with the compass sensor in a GPS
- > receiver. The built in electronic compass just makes it a bit faster
- > and easier. It also drains the batteries much more quickly than if you
- > don't use it. (This is probably the main reason why the rated
- > battery life is less for models that have an electronic compass.)
- > Fortunately, you can turn it off when you don't need it. GPS
- > elevation is calculated from satellite geometry, just as your
- > horizontal location is, but the error in elevation is much greater. A
- > rule of thumb is that the error in vertical position tends to be about
- > two times the error in horizontal position. A barometric altimeter is
- > supposed to be more accurate, if it's properly calibrated. Mine
- > seems to work well, but some people seem to have trouble getting good
- > results from them.
- >
- >>Then we have the Legend C, color screen, 36 hours
- >> out of the batteries (is this really accurate) ,
- >
- > Probably close, at least in relative terms. The processors in the
- > newer designs seem to be more efficient in terms of power consumption.
- >
- >>a different set of "base
- >> maps" , which I know nothing about.
- >
- > Base maps are all you have if you don't buy a CD and load more
- > detailed maps. All the base map has is major roads and the location of
- > towns. No street detail. Not very useable. Some base maps are better
- > than others, but I don't know how the ones in the units you are
- > looking at compare.
- >
- >>Upgraded to 24 MB of memory. USB
- >> connection, proximity waypoints (what are these ?)
- >
- > Proximity waypoints aren't any different than other waypoints, but
- > you can have the receiver alert you if you get close (in proximity) to
- > one of them. This can be useful for avoiding nasty things you don't
- > want to get too close to (rocks in the water, cliffs, an ex-spouse's
- > house).
- >
- >>Audible alarms (don't
- >> care about these),
- >

Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long

- > More useful than you may think. The alarms are for things like alerting
- > you when you are approaching a destination, not just an alarm clock.
- >
- >>500 less waypoints How many do I need ?)
- >
- > If you download your waypoints to a computer and save them there, I
- > would be surprised if you would ever need more than 500 in your GPS
- > receiver at one time.
- >
- >> a patch antenna
- >> vs. a "built in" antenna (which is better ?)
- >
- > First, this is a case of inconsistency by Garmin in putting together
- > the data for the comparison page. They all have built-in, patch
- > antennas (look at the specifications on the individual page for each
- > unit). That said, the design of the newer patch antennas in the color
- > models has been reported by many users who have experience with both to
- > get much better reception than the patch antennas in the older,
- > greyscale models.
- >
- >
- >> and no electronic compass or
- >> barometric altimeter. Then we have the Vista C (getting a little
- > pricey for
- >> me now) that has the best of all the features (or so it would seem)
- > .
- >
- > More money, more features. Imagine that! ;^) It doesn't sound to me
- > like you would get much benefit from an electronic compass or
- > barometric altimeter. If you want to keep the cost down, you could
- > skip these.
- >
- >>I'm
- >> looking at a price range here from \$102 to \$254, and I'm confused as
- > hell,
- >> what do I really NEED, and what will I kick myself in the butt for
- > later if
- >> I don't get it ?
- >
- > Only you know what you really need. I hope that having some of your
- > questions answered will help you decide. In my opinion, the things you
- > are most likely to kick yourself later for not getting would be auto
- > routing, more memory, and a color screen. Also, the 60C has a
- > quad-helix antenna (as opposed to the patch) and the general consensus
- > seems to be that quad-helix antennas perform better.
- >
- >>Also, I started my search just looking at Garmins because
- >> they seem to be the "big" name out there, but I'm not opposed to
- > another
- >> brand, I've been seeing where people don't particularly care for the
- > fact

Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long

>> that Garmin forces you to use their proprietary software, what are
> your
>> thoughts on this ?
>
> All brands of dedicated GPS receivers force you to use their
> proprietary software. This is not limited to Garmin. About the only
> way to avoid using proprietary software is to use a GPS connected to a
> PDA or laptop that is running map software. I don't think this is
> practical for the use you intend. By all means look at other brands,
> but not for that reason. I've only used Garmins, but Magellan has a
> lot of fans.
>
> Good luck making a decision.
>

• ***Follow-Ups:***

◆ ***Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long***

◇ *From:* Peter

• ***References:***

◆ ***recommendations for a newbie.....long***

◇ *From:* Dennis Martin

◆ ***Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long***

◇ *From:* roybassist@xxxxxxxxxx

- Prev by Date: ***Re: OT: Long/Lat, Southern Spain?***
- Next by Date: ***Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long***
- Previous by thread: ***Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long***
- Next by thread: ***Re: recommendations for a newbie.....long***
- Index(es):
 - ◆ ***Date***
 - ◆ ***Thread***