

## Re: Questions about maps / software

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- *From:* LUC <lesrandoactifs;-@xxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 12 Jan 2007 18:34:26 +0100
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Len Philpot a écrit :

I'm new to GPS in general, having just received my new GPSMAP 76S two days ago. I'm coming up to speed, but would like clarification on how map handling and such is done. I've watched this newsgroup for a while and have perused gpsinformation.net (which is a tremendous resource) as well as a few other sites, but am still a bit unclear. Just slow, I guess... :-)

Here's what I've been able to gather (correct me if I'm wrong) --

You buy MapSource from Garmin as well as a CD of maps (topo, highway, POI, whatever). Once loaded on your PC, you can select the various parts (segments?) of the overall map that you want (a mapset), which is then loaded onto your GPSR. Right? I'm sure the software does much more, but...

My questions --

Are there alternative programs to MapSource that do basically the same thing? Not that I know anything about it, just curious if there's any competition. I've seen a few that handle waypoints, track, etc., but not specifically maps.

Likewise, are there any alternative (free?) maps available? I found [garminmapsearch.awardspace.com](http://garminmapsearch.awardspace.com) which looks to me as such but at the moment the site seem unresponsive.

I'm specifically interested in topo charts and on Garmin's site, United States TOPO looks like what I want. However, in the MapSource Viewer box it's broken into Alaska/East/West/Hawaii. Is that just for the online viewer, or would I have to buy both East and West to get the whole lower 48 states? Actually, TX, LA, AR & MS (and maybe OK) would cover it for me.

I guess I've become somewhat spoiled by the amount of quality freeware/OSS available in recent years that I was taken a bit aback at the prospect of spending the cost of the unit again just to get some maps.

Re: Questions about maps / software

Thanks for the help.

see TrackMaker

<http://www.trackmaker-mania.blogspot.com>

and TrackMaker courses [http://trackmaker.lesrandoactifs.org/cours\\_gps\\_sommaire.html](http://trackmaker.lesrandoactifs.org/cours_gps_sommaire.html)

English translation available online

Luc

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Le site <http://www.lesrandoactifs.org>

Le forum <http://www.forum.lesrandoactifs.org>

Le blog <http://www.lesrandoactifs.blogspot.com>

Les cours GPS <http://www.trackmaker-mania.blogspot.com>

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