

The category of GPS receivers generates many of the technical service phone calls that we take on a daily basis. With so many GPS options, it is easy to get confused. Here is an easy way to breakdown the units, along with a few questions to ask yourself to help determine which GPS is right for you.

First you must determine the type of accuracy you would like your GPS receiver to have. There are units available with or without WAAS (Wide Area Augmentation System). WAAS basically means that when the GPS unit is fixing your position it is using a known point on the ground to measure against. WAAS increases the accuracy of the GPS unit. GPS units that are WAAS enabled will be able to reach accuracies of up to +/-3 meters. The accuracy listed by the GPS manufacturer is always the best case scenario. Units that are not WAAS enabled can hope to achieve an accuracy of +/-15 meters. Almost all of the GPS units the Ben Meadows Company offers are WAAS enabled. In fact, we only offer two that are not. The Garmin 12, our part number 100576 and the Garmin 12XL, our part number 100449 are the only two that do not have this feature.

The next question to ask yourself is: What do you realistically see yourself doing with this unit?

It is best to determine early on if you are thinking that in the future you would like to add maps to this unit for use in the field and potentially in the car. There are a number of good plotter units with no capability to add maps. They either have a limited base map preloaded in them or they will only store waypoints. These units are fine for many customers. However, many customers call a year or two after their GPS purchase asking if they can add more memory to a GPS unit. There are two types of expandable memory available. Some units have a fixed amount of internal memory. There are also GPS units that accept a memory card and then the memory is infinitely expandable. All of the Garmin units that have available memory for map expansion have a fixed amount of memory available. The Brunton units have both types of memory: there is 8MB of fixed and both of their units will accept memory cards. The Magellan units that have the ability to expand memory have an either/or system. Some of the units will only accept memory cards, or they only have fixed memory. *See Table*

Now that the first two questions have been answered we can move on the last two. The next question we seem to be taking quite a bit lately: Do you want to be able to take an area calculation directly on the screen?

If your answer is yes, you would like be able to see the acres you walked on the screen you would need to choose from the following units. *See Table*

The last question to ask yourself about is the extras—the bells and whistles and how many that you feel that you need. There are options that have color screens, there are options that have a barometer and an altimeter and there are options that have a compass. Depending on the work or play that you are using the GPS unit for, some, all or none of these maybe very options for you. The color screens are nice since they are able to very clearly differentiate between the different boundary types. This is especially nice when there are very subtle changes that on the grayscale screen maybe difficult to see. The barometer is a great feature that allows you to watch for changing weather patterns. The altimeter is makes it easy to mark your elevation as well as latitude and longitude. The elevation reading just gives you an extra point to help locate yourself while you are in the field. Finally, the compass feature is nice since it will be working even when you are standing still. To see the different units where these options are available, *See Table*.

Selecting a GPS Unit

Document Number: 1040

Page: 3 of 4

GPS Unit	Part Number	WAAS	Type of Memory	Amt of Memory	Area Calculation	Color Screen	Barometer	Altimeter	Compass*	External Antenna Hookup	Batt. Life
Garmin V Deluxe	95301	Yes	Fixed	19 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	25 hrs
Garmin GPS 76	95147	Yes	Fixed	1 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	16 hrs
Garmin GPSMAP 76	95148	Yes	Fixed	8 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	16 hrs
Garmin GPSMAP 76S	95149	Yes	Fixed	24 MB	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	16 hrs
Garmin GPSMAP 76C	124739	Yes	Fixed	115 MB	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	30 hrs
Garmin GPSMAP 76CS	124740	Yes	Fixed	115 MB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20 hrs
Garmin Rino 110	91923	Yes	Fixed	1 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	15 hrs
Garmin Rino 120	91924	Yes	Fixed	8 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	15 hrs
Garmin Rino 130	124731	Yes	Fixed	24 MB	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	14 hrs
Garmin Rino 520	139532	Yes	Fixed	56 MB	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	16 hrs
Garmin Rino 530	139533	Yes	Fixed	56 MB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	16 hrs
Garmin eTrex	100688	Yes	No	NA	No	No	No	No	No	No	22 hrs
Garmin eTrex Summit	100693	Yes	No	NA	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	22 hrs
Garmin eTrex Venture	100726	Yes	Fixed	1 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	20 hrs
Garmin eTrex Legend	100727	Yes	Fixed	8 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	18 hrs
Garmin eTrex Vista	100725	Yes	Fixed	24 MB	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	12 hrs
Garmin eTrex Legend C	124861	Yes	Fixed	24 MB	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	36 hrs
Garmin eTrex Vista C	124862	Yes	Fixed	24 MB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	20 hrs
Garmin GPS 60	133521	Yes	Fixed	1 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	28 hrs
Garmin GPSMAP 60	133522	Yes	Fixed	24 MB	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	28 hrs
Garmin GPSMAP 60C	124728	Yes	Fixed	56 MB	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	30 hrs

Selecting a GPS Unit

Document Number: 1040

Page: 4 of 4

Garmin GPSMAP 60CS	124729	Yes	Fixed	56 MB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20 hrs
Garmin GPS 72	95423	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	16 hrs
Garmin GPS 12	100576	No	No	NA	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	24 hrs
Garmin GPS 12XL	100449	No	No	NA	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	24 hrs
Garmin Geko 101	106150	No	No	NA	No	No	No	No	No	No	12 hrs
Garmin Geko 201	106151	Yes	No	NA	No	No	No	No	No	No	12 hrs
Garmin Geko 301	124727	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9 hrs
Garmin iQue 3600	106149	Yes	Fixed, Expandable	32 MB, infinite	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	8 hrs
Garmin iQue 3200	124985	Yes	Fixed, Expandable	32 MB, infinite	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	8 hrs
Magellan eXplorist 100	124776	Yes	No	NA	No	No	No	No	No	No	18 hrs
Magellan eXplorist 200	124777	Yes	No	NA	No	No	No	No	No	No	18 hrs
Magellan eXplorist 210	139529	Yes	Fixed	22 MB	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	18 hrs
Magellan eXplorist 300	124778	Yes	No	NA	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18 hrs
Magellan eXplorist 400	124986	Yes	Fixed, Expandable	6 MB, infinite	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	17 hrs
Magellan eXplorist 500	124987	Yes	Fixed, Expandable	6 MB, infinite	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	17 hrs
Magellan eXplorist 600	124988	Yes	Fixed, Expandable	6 MB, infinite	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3-axis*	17 hrs
Magellan eXplorist XL	139529	Yes	Fixed, Expandable	30 MB, infinite	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	19 hrs
Brunton Atlas GPS	111449	Yes	Fixed, Expandable	8 MB, infinite	No	No	No	No	No	No	16 hrs
Brunton Atlas MNS GPS	124903	Yes	Fixed, Expandable	8 MB, infinite	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12 hrs

*Compasses with a yes are 2-axis compasses and must be held flat. 3-axis compasses can be held in any orientation where you can still see the screen.