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GPS Receivers



We are still waiting for the results of Productopia's surveys regarding GPS receivers. In the meantime, here are some things to think about when buying a new GPS receiver.

Civilians are reaping more of the cold war's technology. This time in the form of GPS receivers (Global Positioning System), which utilize a network of satellites. If you haven't used one yet, you're in for a shock. Imagine a \$200 device, scarcely larger than your computer mouse, that can find you anywhere on planet Earth, accurate within about 15 feet! Perhaps just as amazingly, there is no fee for this service, its free, all you need is the receiver.

The first thing to consider when buying a GPS receiver is the type you would like to have. Decide if you want a portable or a mounted unit. Then decide if you will be using this for aviation, auto, marine, or outdoor use. After that is decided, think about the type of receiver you prefer. The 3 main choices are 12 Parallel Channel, 8 Parallel Channel, or Multiplexing. The former two receivers are faster and more accurate than the latter, but, as you can guess, they also cost more.

When choosing a manufacturer, a few brands stand out from the rest. DeLorme is a well-respected maker of maps; accordingly, they make quality GPS receivers as well. Other notably popular brands are Eagle, Garmin, Lowrance, and Magellan. These are respected names in the field with a reputation for making well- designed, dependable GPS receivers.

When deciding what extras you would like for your GPS receiver, be careful to stick to the features that you will actually need. Consider whether such costly features as a color screen are really necessary to you. If your GPS receiver will be used in your automobile, then options such as a fish finder or a waterproof design will not be necessary. Think of what situations you are likely to encounter as well as your personal preferences, and try to buy accordingly.