

GPS Navigation

Hi. You're back with Carl and Aaron, the GPS guys. I'm Carl. Aaron is back on button-pushing duty off camera over here. So in this section we're gonna talk about how you can use your GPS receiver for navigation. We'll show you how to get back to your pickup truck that you left somewhere, no matter how many ridges you've gone over and how foggy it's gotten since the time that you left it. We'll share some tips that we found that really work pretty good for us and give you some options that you can try out to find out what works best for you. There's more than one way to skin a cat.

Okay. If you have a GPS receiver that has an S in its name, for example the GPS map 76CSX, that indicates that that GPS receiver has an electronic compass in it. In one of the previous sections we described how to turn on the electronic compass and how to calibrate that, so if you have a receiver that has that function you might want to start that before you begin navigation. For the GPS receivers that do not have an electronic compass, one of the things that you have to remember while navigating is that the compass that shows up on the compass page relies on a change in GPS positions to know which way to point. So the compass in that situation really only works when you're moving. If you stop, that compass is going to go slack and will be unreliable. So the bottom line is if you don't have an electronic compass you have to keep moving in order for that compass to point in the right direction.

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Okay. So how do we actually navigate to a waypoint? We're going to select a waypoint from the list of waypoints that we've already collected and then show you the technique that you can use to navigate to that. So Aaron has pressed the find button and the enter button, and that brings up our list of waypoints here that we've already collected. He's got the helispot selected and he's gonna press enter, and that will bring us to the waypoint page for that helispot. At this point, you'll probably notice that right down in this little right-hand corner there's a button that says go to, and when Aaron selects that and presses the enter key, that is gonna take us into a navigation session. You'll notice that right here, this is our current location, here is the helispot that we're navigating to, and between those two is a kind of a pink or a purplish line that shows up. That's gonna be the course or the veering that we want to take from our current location up to that helispot. Why don't you go ahead and press the page key again, Aaron, and take us up to the compass page and see how that looks. The compass page if we were outdoors would have a big bright-red arrow that would show up right on the compass face and we'd point the direction that we should travel in order to get from our current location up to where the helispot is. One of the things that you notice here is on our compass page we have four fields. Those fields can be changed or customized to suit your needs. The ones that we have now are the destination, our speed, our distance to the destination, and our time to destination, but those can be modified as you wish. If you want to do that, the method for getting there is to press on the menu key, and there is an option there called change data fields. That first destination field is highlighted. If Aaron

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presses enter you get a whole list of items there that you can select from, but there again, how you set those up is really a matter of personal preference.

There are no particular items that you have to set for navigation. Just whatever makes sense for you.

While we're on the compass page, I want to mention that the compass page will display in two separate modes, and each of those modes works slightly differently. Currently we're in a mode called the bearing mode, and if our red arrow was here it would be pointing directly to where our destination was. That's called the bearing mode. If I can get Aaron to press on the menu key and select the course pointer, what you're gonna end up with here is this compass face that has these dotted lines, and when the arrow is there, if we were outdoors and that arrow was there, that arrow would drift off of your course indicating that you had drifted off to the left of your course or off to the right of your course, and that's a much more awkward mode for navigating, and so we typically really don't recommend that people use that course mode. The bearing mode is really the way to go for navigation. So I think we'll have Aaron get us set back up on the bearing pointer again.

Alright! Once you're in this navigation mode you can just start to follow that red arrow as it points towards your destination. You may have to meander around obstacles that are in your way, if there's a big cliff or a lake or something like that. The great thing about bearing mode is that red arrow always points the direction

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to where you want to go, so just stick with the red arrow and you can't go wrong. As you begin to approach your final destination, you'll get a little pop-up message at the bottom of your screen that says approaching destination, and you'll get a little beep tone that indicates that. At that point, you'll know that you're really getting close and you can start to look around for what your feature is that you're actually trying to find. When you get really close, you're gonna find that the compass needle starts to point this way and then that way and then forward and then backwards. At that point you know that you are so close that your GPS receiver can't even really dissolve the difference between those locations, and so that should be the point that you're seeking. If your target is very small, like a piece of rebar sticking out of the ground or a stake or some sort of fairly insignificant feature, you'll probably have to hunt for that quite a bit. Obviously if it's a big thing it should be pretty obvious like your vehicle.

Once your navigation session is over and you've gotten to where you want to go, you can clear that navigation session by pressing the menu button, and there is an item, the second item down, called stop navigation. That will release that waypoint as a navigation target, and you're just sort of back into standard GPS movements again.

Alright! One other page that can be used for navigation, and we did touch on that previously, I'm just gonna have Aaron back up to the map page. Some people prefer the map page, I prefer the compass page, but either one works

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Okay. Once again, the view here instead of having a compass needle with a red arrow, you get your current location, your destination, and you have a line that gets drawn between, so the trick there is just to follow that line to your destination and it works the same way. It's really just a matter of personal preference.

Okay. So in summary, we've given you several different options for navigating with your GPS. It's always a good idea to try both of them out and see which one works best for you. Remember, once you get to within a few yards of your location, that's really the time to take your eyes off the receiver and start looking around for that feature that you're looking for, and of course it's always good just to not get fixated by your receiver anyway and pay attention to your surroundings so that you're not stumbling over rocks or walking into trees, things like that. If for some reason you're not finding a feature that you're supposed to be finding when your receiver says you're there, it might be a good idea to double check the datum that you were using when you hand-entered those coordinates that were on that cocktail napkin that we used as an example a few sessions ago. If that datum was wrong, you could be off by a couple hundred meters or so, so that's always a fallback iff you're not finding your feature.

Having said that, let's go ahead and wrap up this presentation on using the Garmin GPS.