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Garmin oregon 450 handheld gps navigator

From the GPS map navigation that you likely use on your phone to more advanced uses in science and the military, GPS has become an important tool for a lot of people. But what makes it work, and why is it so uncannily accurate? Learn more with this explainer: Satellites: The Basic GPS Tool If you've ever used an app on your phone to get real-time navigation instructions or even to find the nearest sushi restaurant to your current location, chances are very high that GPS is responsible for the results. From GPS map tracking to information on your current location, the information you receive comes to you thanks to a network of satellites that make up the global positioning system (GPS). Though these satellites were originally put in orbit to support the U.S. military, they're open for other organizations to use now. There are only about 30 satellites orbiting the earth that contribute to this system, which is pretty impressive if you think about how much ground they have to cover. How the Positioning Information Travels From Space to Earth Those 30-plus satellites up there in orbit around the earth are strategically placed to map out the entire planet. No matter where you are on earth, there's likely more than one GPS satellite that covers your current position. Let's say you're standing in the middle of downtown Manhattan with a smartphone in your hand. You want to find out how to get from your current location to the Brooklyn Bridge, so you open up a map navigation app and search for your destination, and let the app determine your current location. What happens next is surprisingly simple: the phone, which acts as a radio wave receiver, looks for a signal from the nearest GPS satellites. Based on the information the app receives from this transmission, it can determine where you are and tell you how long it'll take to get where you want to go. Satellite to Receiver Communication That simplistic explanation doesn't tell the whole story, of course. To get more in depth, there's a third part of the equation that plays a vital role in allowing satellites to determine their current location above the earth. This third part is a network of ground stations that broadcast location information up to the satellites orbiting the earth. That information, in turn, allows the receiver you use to communicate with a few nearby satellites and determine your exact location. Advanced GPS Science Of course, the science behind GPS gets much more complicated than that. Factors such as gravitational differences between the earth's surface and its outer atmosphere mean that clocks on GPS satellites run at a different speed than clocks on earth. Scientists use advanced scientific theories such as General and Special Relativities to deal with this. What is GPS Used For? Other than basic navigation, how is GPS used? There are a lot of different ways to use GPS, from recreational activities like geocaching to earthquake and volcano monitoring. GPS can even help provide early warning for tsunamis, making it an important safety tool as well. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET The Garmin Oregon 450 is a compact full-mapping handheld GPS with touchscreen control of its sophisticated functionality. This Garmin portable GPS is the latest iteration in the Oregon lineup; it adds significant memory capacity and doubles the maximum number storable waypoints. The 450 features a high-sensitivity GPS sensor, built-in base map, 3-axis tilt-compensated electronic compass, altimeter, microSD™, and the ability to transfer data wirelessly with similarly capable Garmin handhelds. Garmin Oregon 450A couple earlier Oregon models are still available from Garmin, the hardware in each of these handheld GPS units is the same. Only the onboard cartography varies. The Oregon 300 features a world base map, while each variant of the 400 adds specialized mapping. The 400t is preloaded with U.S. topographic maps, 400i has U.S. inland lakes, and the 400c packs U.S. BlueChart cartography. The new Oregon 550 adds a 3.2 megapixel camera to the device. The Oregon is a small unit overall and measures just 4.5-inches tall, 2.3-inches wide, and 1.4-inches thick. With a pair of AA batteries installed it weighed only 7.0 ounces on my scale. A single on/off pushbutton is molded into the case side. The 450 is packaged with a USB data cable, carabiner-style belt clip, owner's manual, and quick start guide. For our test only, Garmin also shipped a 4GB microSD™ card packed with local marine charts. The addition of the BlueChart g2 cartography is what really turns this trail-bred handheld into a top-notch marine navigation device. Operation The Garmin Oregon 450 is easiest to operate when holding with one hand and activating onscreen prompts and commands with your free hand. Pages are selected by pressing the icon. This unit has a side mounted on/off switch that also brings up a brightness menu with a quick press when the unit is turned on. All other actions are accomplished using the touch screen interface. Six page icons are displayed at one time on the main menu page, several more page icons can be shown by pressing the next page arrow field. Pages I found most useful were Map, Where To, Compass, Mark Waypoint, Waypoint Manager, and Trip Computer. Since our test unit was equipped with optional BlueCharts the Map page showed very detailed marine charts. The Where To page offers the user a long list of places to go that includes waypoints, tracks, navids, marine services, and more. The compass page features user selectable data boxes and a large compass rose. Waypoints and Routes Lots of chart detail is shown when optional BlueChart cartography is onboard. Data boxes are user adjustable. From the Map page you can simply touch the screen to create a destination for navigation. Doing so however does not save the destination as a waypoint. To create and save a waypoint you'd need to go the Main Menu page and select Mark Waypoint. Then choose to save the point or save and go directly to the edit waypoint menu. From here you can change the name, position, symbol, or add a comment. Routes are built and saved easily from the Route Planner page. I built a short route by touching the screen on the map page and adding more points in sequence the same way. It took just a few seconds to build a usable route. You can also select route waypoints from the waypoint list or a variety of other sources. The 450 has 850 MB of built-in memory and will store up to 2000 waypoints and 200 routes. By adding an optional microSD™ card the information storage capacity is increased significantly. Display Screen The majority of the Garmin Oregon 450 front face is filled with a 3.0-inch color TFT display screen. The screen is 1.5-inches wide and 2.5-inches tall, it boasts a very high 240 x 400 pixel resolution. There are no pushbuttons on the face of this unit, almost all operations are controlled with the touch fields you'll find onscreen when you turn it on. A single quick press of the on/off switch located on the side of the unit brings up the screen brightness menu. From here you can use the plus/minus fields displayed onscreen to adjust the screen backlight level. I viewed the Garmin Oregon 450 display screen outside in bright sunlight and found it very readable. It dimmed very little when I donned my polarized sunglasses but does darken when tilted at certain angles. I am rating the Oregon touch screen a good for daylight viewing and excellent for low light and nighttime use. Odds and Ends To activate the unit's man overboard function requires the user to go to the main menu, find the MOB icon, and then select it. From there it was best to choose the compass page for navigation data back to the MOB waypoint. Certainly not the best MOB function we've seen in a handheld GPS unit. The compass page offers easy to follow navigation data. Bearing pointer is shown, will also display course deviation indicator. The Oregon 450 shares a special feature with a few of its cousins, including the Colorado, Dakota, and the new 78-series. It can wirelessly share data like waypoints, tracks, and routes with another compatible Garmin handheld GPS. Because of the touchscreen interface changing up data boxes to show different source data is very easy. Simply touch the box you want to change, then choose the data source from a menu list. Screen redraws on our test unit were fairly slow, it took several seconds to complete the redraw of all onscreen details when ranging the chart in or out quickly. The basic map showed up fast after a range change but the rest of the fine details took some time to display. The sealed AA battery compartment is accessed by flipping a latch that facilitates removal of the case back. To get to the microSD™ card slot you'll need to remove the batteries. A mini USB data port is located on the bottom of the unit and protected from weather by form-fitted rubber flap. This Garmin portable GPS is rated waterproof to IPX7 standards, meaning it can be submerged to a depth of 1 meter for 30 minutes without suffering any damage. The unit carries a 1-year warranty. The Garmin Oregon 450 passed both our dunk test and drop test with no problem, but does not float. Final Thoughts With the optional BlueChart cartography installed the Garmin Oregon 450 makes a potent touch screen portable marine navigator. However, without these marine specific charts installed I'd opt for another model like the Garmin Colorado 400c or Garmin 78sc when boating applications will be the primary use. Buy this Garmin handheld GPS here.

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