







Selecting Chart Plotters

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Author	Message
<p>Summer Wind</p> <p>Joined: 14 Jan 2005 Posts: 9</p>	<p>Posted: 25 Jan 2005 08:14 am Post subject: Chart Plotter</p> <p> quote  edit  ip</p> <hr/> <p>I have just bought a 32 😊 which has several instruments but no chartplotter. I have considered running my laptop, but the power to it might be a problem. 🤔 Inverters and all that. Any thoughts on this please. I was wondering if any members have fitted chartplotters and which models are worth a look at. Also how they have performed during service. I have looked at Raymarine, Navman etc, but still not sure. As there are instruments at the helm i do not have a lot of room to fit a large unit. Thank you 😊</p>




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<p>Playtime</p> <p>Joined: 20 Nov 2004 Posts: 22</p>	<p>Posted: 26 Jan 2005 09:28 am Post subject:</p> <p> quote  edit  ip</p> <hr/> <p>I run a laptop with Maptech charts (true copies of Admiralty charts) and would not consider a chartplotter now. I use an 8 year old Siemens 133MHz machine that is built like a brick and has never faltered.</p> <p>Power is not a problem, assuming you have reasonable main batteries. I use a 150W inverter plugged into the cigar lighter socket. If you are really keen you could hard wire it (through a switch) but I use the inverter elsewhere occasionally. On long passages, you can 'standby' or 'hibernate' the machine between plots. It draws around 4 amps - less than the fridge!</p> <p>One advantage of a laptop is that you can prepare passage plans/routes at home (on your desktop machine if you want) and then load them onto the laptop when required. You can also upload waypoints and routes from the laptop to the GPS and let the GPS drive the autohelm (if you have it interfaced).</p> <p>The 'big screen' and general versatility of the laptop are where it really scores. You can write your log, load your digital photos, watch DVDs, play games and even use the internet (with a mobile phone).</p> <p>Finally, if you already have a laptop, it is much cheaper to buy an inverter (£45) and Maptech (£99) than it is to buy a chartplotter!</p> <p>PS Always keep paper charts to hand though - PCs (and chartplotters) can fail (although mine hasn't yet in 5000 miles of sailing)!</p> <hr/> <p>Roger Playtime (B38 Ocean)</p>
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<p>loblolly</p> <p>Joined: 05 Jan 2005 Posts: 10</p>	<p>Posted: 26 Jan 2005 08:17 pm Post subject: Chartplotter</p> <p> quote  edit  ip</p> <hr/> <p>I have used a Furuno 1850 chart plotter for five years and have been very pleased with it. It has a good size colour screen which re-acts very quickly when you zoom in or out. I changed boats about 18 months ago and bought the B40. I removed the 1850 from the previous boat intending to fit it into the B40. Imagine my surprise when the 40 came fitted with the identical chartplotter. I now have a Furuno 1850 complete with all the fittings and ariel (but without charts) for sale for £600. (Half the new price). If you decide to go the plotter route and want to see the 1850 working then let me know.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>John Loblolly, Hamble.</p>
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loblolly
Joined: 05 Jan 2005
Posts: 10

Posted: 26 Jan 2005 08:20 pm Post subject: Chartplotter

P.S. I am away till 16th Feb so will not be able to respond to any replies till then,

Regards
John,
Loblolly

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Summer Wind
Joined: 14 Jan 2005
Posts: 9

Posted: 26 Jan 2005 09:26 pm Post subject:

Thank you for the replies. I have a 55AH (starting only) and a 140 AH battery which should be good enough. I do have a laptop so it could be the way to go. I quite like the idea of planning the routes at home. 😊 you are right it does appear cheaper. The Garmin 152 GPS is interfaced with the DSC radio, and i think the auto pilot, but I have been told it has three outputs. Rather than overload the 152 GPS i have a handheld Garmin 12 which i could use.???? I assum this will give me real time navigation?

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Playtime
Joined: 20 Nov 2004
Posts: 22

Posted: 27 Jan 2005 09:35 am Post subject:

Battery should be fine but on a long (e.g. cross channel) passage you can hibernate the PC between plots (unless you are motoring).

I would use the fixed GPS with a flying lead at the chart table to connect to the laptop. You will then always have the hand-held (with a suitable cable) as a back-up if the fixed set fails. One thing I forgot to mention, ideally you need a laptop with a serial port. Most of the new ones have USB but no serial port. If you haven't got a serial port you will have to purchase a USB to serial converter (around £20) but these can be a bit of a fiddle. An alternative is to buy an older laptop with a serial port (£200 or so).

You will need to think about interfacing. As far as I can recall, you can output on NMEA to several other equipments (where it will be an input). However, you can only have one input. For your set up, I would suggest you can output from the GPS to the DSC, autohelm and laptop (but check your handbook for any loading restrictions) and the only input to the GPS would be the output from the laptop. This should give you everything you need.

Good luck

Roger
Playtime (B38 Ocean)

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Another Fantasy
Joined: 07 Dec 2004
Posts: 8

Posted: 27 Jan 2005 10:15 am Post subject: CHARTPLOTTERS

I have a Raymarine RL72CRC combined radar and chartplotter which is superb, if not a bit complicated to use until you understand it! I'd certainly recommend it without hesitation, but if you're considering Raymarine then the new E series stuff looks good as well.

Have fun spending your money!!

Ian Culley/Another Fantasy

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Éternité
BOA Committee

Joined: 24 Oct 2004
Posts: 25

Posted: 31 Jan 2005 10:34 am Post subject: Lap top or chart plotter?

I have used an 'old' lap top for some time and do agree with Playtime's comments. The lap top with the same software works very well and is very clear and in colour. I use a

Laptop Car Adaptor from Maplin, £19.95

- Works with most notebook computers

- Stabilized output, low ripple and low interference
- Adjustable output voltage (15,16,18,19,20, 22 and 24Vdc)
- Output 3.5A max (2.9A on 22 & 24Vdc)
- High efficiency and low energy consumption
- Power LED monitor
- Includes 5 interchangeable power plugs
- 10A fuse for overload protection

However my GPS does not interface to the software making the advantages of planning described by Playtime less of an advantage as I have to manually enter the Waypoints, no real problem.

So, why have I now purchased a chart plotter? At the LBS, Raymarine were selling off the RL70CRC Plus, normal price £2,299.99, for £800. I purchased one at the show via Hudson Marine who are at Mercury, where we keep Ad Infinitum. It will interface to my RL72 radar and therefore provide radar as well as charts on deck as well as below. You can sync and overlay chart and radar, it has MARPA as standard and it's colour (not below), daylight view, has a built in GPS and it was the boat show!

I am meeting Hudson, Friday Feb 5th to discuss fitting. We have depth/speed combined, wind and autohelm on deck so one has to move. Autohelm I think. Will report.

Geoff Cutts

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Summer Wind

Posted: 31 Jan 2005 07:09 pm Post subject:



Joined: 14 Jan 2005
Posts: 9

Thank you for all your comments. I am swaying towards the laptop idea. Have been in touch with maptech and they have been very helpful regarding moving from one chart to another without falling off. Especially useful if you doing long trips around the coast. I like the idea of loading all the charts to hard drive, no wasted power keeping the disc going. They also do a USB plug in GPS which works very well with their charts. Must try to find a dealer to see it all working



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Playtime

Posted: 01 Feb 2005 12:57 pm Post subject:



Joined: 20 Nov 2004
Posts: 22

The USB GPS will work fine as a simple position indicating unit (I know, I've got one) but you will not be linking to the main GPS (for uploading waypoints/routes) and hence to the autohelm.

One of the main benefits I find from the laptop arrangement is preparing all your routes at home, uploading them to the main (fixed) GPS before the cruise and then letting the GPS 'drive' the autohelm (except cross-channel!). To do this you will need to interface to the main GPS.

If you only want a simple, stand alone planning and position indicating system, a USB GPS linked direct to the laptop will be good.

If you would like to see Maptech working on my set-up, I'm berthed in Haslar and will be there this weekend (probably Sunday am).

Roger

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Summer Wind

Posted: 02 Feb 2005 09:27 pm Post subject:



Joined: 14 Jan 2005
Posts: 9

Roger
Had'nt thought about the USB GPS not connecting to the Auto Pilot. Thanks for that. I would like to see your setup but i am not in portsmouth until tuesday. (Shift work) 😞

Ian

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ALTANO

Joined: 02 Dec 2004
Posts: 4

Posted: 31 May 2005 01:38 pm Post subject: Chart plotter



Having used a laptop as my main tool of work for the last ten years I decided to install a Raymarine C70 on my B32, as the proper tool for the job. I now have the aerial wired into it and the DSC on the radio and do not rely on a handheld GPS for distress signals. I probably bought too early because the next generation look even better! but one can always say that about buying any technology kit.
I am really pleased with it and when one has an inexperienced crew on board having it right in front of your nose is great...

andy

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