



Alpine PND-K3msn

Garmin nüvi 500

Magellan Maestro 4350

Cobra NAV ONE 5000

Lowrance XOG Cross-Navigation

NAVIGON 8100T

ALPINE PND-K3MSN

The recently released PND-K3msn (MSRP \$300) by Alpine Electronics of America has many of the features that motorhome owners look for in a portable nav system: preloaded maps of North America, a 4.3-inch high-resolution touch screen with large select buttons, turn-by-turn voice directions, more than 6 million unique points of interest (POI) and built-in Bluetooth for hands-free calls when used with Bluetooth-enabled cell phones. The PND-K3msn also comes with a free three-month subscription to MSN Direct, which delivers current traffic information, gas prices, weather, news headlines and alerts, stock quotes and local events in 134 metropolitan areas.

COBRA NAV ONE 5000

The latest GPS offering from Cobra Electronics features the company's exclusive OptiView ultrabright 5-inch touch screen with large on-screen text and enhanced backlighting for better viewing even in extreme lighting conditions. One of the more unusual features of the NAV ONE 5000 (MSRP \$510) is its built-in database of speed and red-light cameras; the unit monitors the driver's location and provides alerts of cameras up to a mile before reaching them. Other features include more than 7 million POI, turn-by-turn voice guidance with spoken street names and an optional real-time traffic feature with a 15-month traffic service subscription (\$160).

GARMIN NÜVI 500

This year Garmin includes outdoor recreation navigation capabilities in its new nüvi 500 (MSRP \$300), converting this in-vehicle nav unit into a portable personal navigator when needed. Preloaded with road and U.S. topographic maps, the nüvi 500 provides driving, bicycling and walking modes via a usage mode indicator located at the top of the home screen.

For the outdoors, the unit displays shaded digital elevation mapping on the 3.5-inch waterproof touchscreen, and comes standard with a compass page, track log and a removable, re-

chargeable battery for extended outdoor use.

Driving navigation features include a preloaded Historic Route 66 map guide, turn-by-turn directions that speak street names to your destination and millions of POI. If you get lost, use the Where Am I? emergency locator to view your exact latitude and longitude coordinates, the nearest address and intersection, and the closest hospitals, police stations and fuel stations.

RVers might also want to check out Garmin's most recent offering, the nüvi 465T (MSRP \$500) — the first portable GPS unit for long-haul navigation. While the device is designed for use by truckers, RVers will appreciate its road restriction guidance for height, weight, width and length of vehicle; warning information for upcoming conditions such as sharp curves, steep grades and road narrows; and a database of more than 30,000 repair and heavy-duty towing service POI.

LOWRANCE XOG CROSS-NAVIGATION

Not new this year, but still a good contender in the portable nav category is the XOG Road-Trail-Water Crossover Navigator GPS (MSRP \$160), which marries turn-by-turn guidance with rugged, weatherproof outdoor travel functionality. It's preloaded with NAVTEQ street map detail with voice and visual guidance and offers more than 3 million POI. In Outdoor mode, the unit offers support for affordable field and on-water mapping options. Users have plug-and-play options, such as preloaded SD memory cards for different driving maps and fishing cartography. The XOG features a 3.5-inch touch screen, MP3 player and JPEG picture viewer.

MAGELLAN MAESTRO 4350

The new Maestro 4350 (MSRP \$400) is gaining rave reviews for its OneTouch feature and navigation choices. With a 4.3-inch touchscreen display, OneTouch makes it quick and easy to create shortcuts on a dedicated screen to favorite destinations and POI. Before driving, the display shows an overview of a calculated route



Pioneer AVIC-F500BT



TomTom GO 740 LIVE

along with possible alternate routes. Touch an icon and the 4350 displays the estimated time of travel and distance for three different possible routes. For entertainment, OneTouch lets users set a shortcut to the 4350's music player for instant launching. Other features include hands-free calling with Bluetooth-compatible cell phones, FM transmission to hear directions via the car stereo, and sending/receiving text messages. The unit comes with a traffic receiver and three months of traffic service. After that time, the service costs \$60 for an annual subscription.

NAVIGON 8100T

Late last year, NAVIGON launched its top-of-the-line 8100T (MSRP \$600) GPS navigator with 4.8-inch screen and Panorama View 3D, which uses NASA terrain height data to display the road ahead with rolling hills and digital elevations. Features of this portable nav unit include an exit guide that enables users to search upcoming exits for food, gas, lodging, rest areas, auto service or shopping; DirectHelp, which provides instant driving directions to and contact information for nearby hospitals, police stations, roadside assistance and pharmacies; Zagat ratings and reviews of restaurants, attractions and golf courses; 3-D views of actual road signs and lane guidance for highway interchanges and exits; voice destination entry; integrated Bluetooth and free real-time traffic updates for life.

PIONEER AVIC-F500BT

The recently introduced AVIC-F500BT (MSRP \$600) is Pioneer's only portable on-dash GPS. One of the perks of this unit is its large, easy-to-read 5.8-inch touch screen with 800 x 480 pixels and antiglare coating for a sharper and more defined display. The AVIC-F500BT includes an MSN Direct receiver and three months of free service from MSN Direct data subscription for traffic reports, gas prices, movie times and three-day weather forecasts for more than 100 cities in North America. Other features include approximately 12 million POI, voice recognition for making hands-free

OUTDOOR NAVIGATING WITH HANDHELDS

The GPS handheld segment is gaining more sophistication in the way of signal acquisition and retention, internal memory and preloaded topographic maps. Interestingly, some handhelds are going a little more practical, but with improved technology and ease of use.

BUSHNELL BACKTRACK

One new entry in the GPS category is keeping it simple and to the point: to get you from point A to point B and back. Bushnell's BackTrack (MSRP \$70) pairs a digital compass with a high-sensitivity GPS receiver. It actually resembles a compass, and features a blue backlight and a lanyard. The unit does not include maps or turn-by-turn directions; it offers a simple two-button operation and three location modes that guide you back to a marked spot, with directional arrows and distance estimations guiding you along the way. The weather-resistant BackTrack runs on two AAA batteries and is ideal for finding your way back to your campsite.



DELORME EARTHMATE PN-40

Designed for serious outdoors enthusiasts, geocachers and active families, the company's new waterproof 6.7-ounce PN-40 (MSRP \$400) offers a dual-core processor and distinctive capabilities that are tied to the included standard Topo USA 7.0 software. The software features the most up-to-date topographic maps and enables users to view current terrain and land-cover detail, plus updated DeLorme street and road data, which includes everything from interstate highways to remote backroads. Other features include a 1 GB internal memory, a three-axis electronic compass and a barometric altimeter.



MAGELLAN TRITON 400 ADVENTUREPACK

Magellan's new AdventurePack includes National Geographic TOPO! Explorer Deluxe map software to accompany five Triton handheld GPS models, including the 400 (MSRP \$250). The software offers topographic maps on two DVDs, and 25 map credits for downloading. There's also access to National Geographic's online database of trails, U.S. Forest Service roads and other recreational information. The 6.6-ounce waterproof Triton 400 has a 2.2-inch screen and offers 10 hours of battery life from two AA batteries (included). — Sylvia Alarid



GUIDING THE WAY

calls via connected Bluetooth-enabled cell phones and playback of video or compressed audio files stored on external devices such as USB memory or SD cards.

TOMTOM GO 740 LIVE

One of the latest connected portable navigation devices on the market is the TomTom GO 740 LIVE (MSRP \$500). This unit features wireless real-time traffic reports, advanced lane guidance, spoken instruction and street names, voice recognition and hands-free calling for Bluetooth-enabled cell phones. The GPS also comes with one free year of TomTom's LIVE Services, which are delivered over the air via a built-in SIM card and GPRS modem. By using the unit's 4.3-inch touch screen, users have access to countless POI with Local Search powered by Google, Fuel Price Search for 120,000 fuel stations across the country and five-day weather reports. ♦

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ALPINE ELECTRONICS OF AMERICA
(800) 257-4631, www.alpine-usa.com.
Circle 213 on Reader Service Card.

BUSHNELL
(800) 423-3537, www.bushnell.com.
Circle 214 on Reader Service Card.

COBRA ELECTRONICS
(773) 889-3087, www.cobra.com.
Circle 215 on Reader Service Card.

DELORME
(800) 561-5105, www.delorme.com.
Circle 216 on Reader Service Card.

GARMIN
(800) 800-1020, www.garmin.com.
Circle 217 on Reader Service Card.

LOWRANCE
(800) 324-1356, www.lowrance.com.
Circle 218 on Reader Service Card.

MAGELLAN
(800) 707-9971,
www.magellangps.com.
Circle 219 on Reader Service Card.

NAVIGON
(888) 848-0701,
www.navigonusa.com.
Circle 220 on Reader Service Card.

PIONEER ELECTRONICS
www.pioneerelectronics.com.
Circle 221 on Reader Service Card.

TOMTOM
www.tomtom.com.
Circle 222 on Reader Service Card.