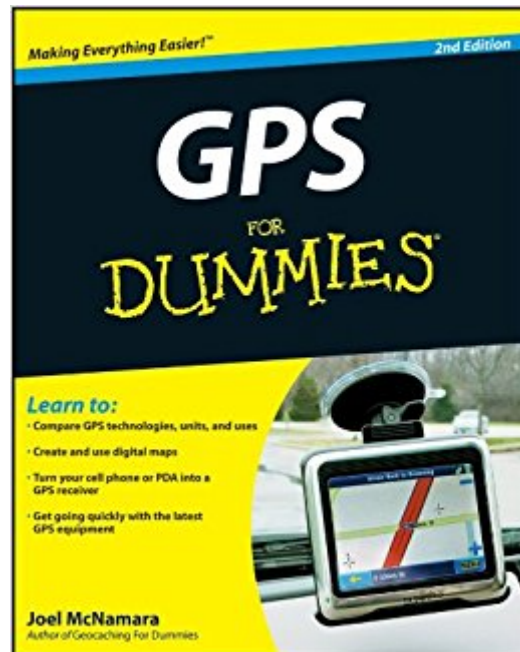




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GPS For Dummies



Synopsis

Need directions? Are you good at getting lost? Then GPS is just the technology you've dreamed of, and GPS For Dummies is what you need to help you make the most of it. If you have a GPS unit or plan to buy one, GPS For Dummies, 2nd Edition helps you compare GPS technologies, units, and uses. You'll find out how to create and use digital maps and learn about waypoints, tracks, coordinate systems, and other key points to using GPS technology. Get more from your GPS device by learning to use Web-hosted mapping services and even how to turn your cell phone or PDA into a GPS receiver. You'll also discover:

- Up-to-date information on the capabilities of popular handheld and automotive Global Positioning Systems
- How to read a map and how to get more from the free maps available online
- The capabilities and limitations of GPS technology, and how satellites and radio systems make GPS work
- How to interface your GPS receiver with your computer and what digital mapping software can offer
- Why a cell phone with GPS capability isn't the same as a GPS unit
- What can affect your GPS reading and how accurate it will be
- How to use Street Atlas USA, TopoFusion, Google Earth, and other tools
- Fun things to do with GPS, such as exploring topographical maps, aerial imagery, and the sport of geocaching

Most GPS receivers do much more than their owners realize. With GPS For Dummies, 2nd Edition in hand, you'll venture forth with confidence!

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Customer Reviews

May have been a first class book, but the kindle edition is outdated and urgently needs updating. While much of the stuff in the book is useful, some links are hopelessly useless, and for 2012 a lot of GPS stuff has improved a lot since the book was written. It is also very US-centric, and that needs clarifying. For example, the book is not clear that the WAAS is ONLY available for the US and nearby areas, so much of the accuracy claims are irrelevant for most of the world. However, for newcomers it does provide an electronic option and is written in an easy to read style. Like many electronic books it suffers from a poor ability to move/ flick quickly back and forth over more than a few pages to recheck material or come back to reread areas to recheck how to do stuff. A hard copy book does make that easier. But overall, a lot of interesting information that is, useful. There are other books around on GPS usage, so this is just average.

Very Informative. Not exactly what I needed help with but still got a lot out of it.

I still haven't bought a GPS, but now I know what I'm looking for. This book is great for educating you before you spend \$200 to \$500 just to find out the unit you bought doesn't have to options you need. The author doesn't mention "hunting" which is what I want the unit for, but substitute "hiking" and "back-country" and you get the idea. The book includes helpful tips like buying a unit you can operate with gloves on or be able to read in bright sunlight. I would recommend it to anyone thinking about buying a handheld GPS or one for the car, whether it be for yourself or a gift for someone else.

I bought this book because I had recently purchased a GPS and was frustrated by the techno speak in the manual. I was looking for something to help me through the jargon. Only about 1/3 of the book is specifically about your GPS. A small section is about cartography and the rest deals with "digital mapping" (more jargon for computer software dealing with maps). All of the information is at least loosely tied to a GPS. There is no glossary section but the author does embed many clarifications of technical terms that are helpful for dummies like me. The GPS sections are an improvement over my manual but still only partially successful. Priorities in choosing and mastering a GPS are miniscule.

The cartography portion has information that is both interesting and helpful and does not bog the reader down with irrelevant information. These two topics are discussed in the first seven chapters. The book then turned to digital mapping and I almost gave up on the book. I had no interest in mapping and I wasn't totally satisfied with the previous sections. Luckily I continued on. The mapping chapters are almost exclusively about mapping software (and little utility programs that help). The software information includes commercial, shareware and freeware programs. It discusses programs for the beginner on up to some heady stuff. You may want to take up the subject as a hobby even if you never were interested before. If I had the time I would be tempted to just play with this stuff because it is so cool. If you buy the book, I would first just skim this "software" portion of the book when you go through it the first time. I think there are 14 chapters. It is amazing what is available but also sometimes redundant. I would use it only as a reference and study only the sections you need at that moment. Reading it word by word might be wasteful. I do wish that the author had separated the utility software into a separate chapter so that those jewels could be returned to easily. I found them very useful. The book is a mixed bag. The software chapters are the best part. The GPS info is not going to thrill you. The reading is pretty easy for a technical book.

I love the plastic protective covering, that the book came in! This is an in depth book, made simple, for most dummies to understand. A must get book, in today's electronic technology. You don't want to get lost do you? It's always comforting, to know, that you will always know where you are, with a GPS, providing you know how to work one! This book explains that!

I have had a GPS unit for almost a year now with no hope of understanding just what it can do or how to use it due to the arcane nature of the owner's manual. I have no clue as to why the manufacturer's write such poor manuals but they do. In response to my frustrations I decided to try Joel's book as a means of understanding what this small device could do and just how to get it to do what the promotional materials say it does. After reading most of Joel's book I was able to go to work using my GPS unit and understand how to negotiate its features with relative ease. Realistically it isn't perfect but it sure is a great place to start if you are like me, clueless as to how to interpret the gibberish in the owner's manual.

I bought a Garmin handheld and was surprised it didn't have instructions and assumed I was an expert. Since I'm not, I picked up this book and it has been a big help, otherwise I was unable to use the Garmin. Maybe Garmin could provide instructions?

Had a hard time figuring out my hand held gps, after reading GPS for Dummies a light clicked on upstairs no longer in the dark. Feel real confident using it now.

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