



Go anywhere

Alex Kidman looks at the latest GPS devices to quickly get you from A to B.

GPS devices are becoming cheap commodities. Prices have tumbled, features such as Bluetooth that were once premium niceties have become commonplace and it's rare to see a car without either an in-dash unit or a telltale rubber sucker mark on its windscreen. Premium models now tend to offer lifetime traffic subscriptions, extra points of interest (POIs) or more direct smartphone integration, while cheaper units simply get on with being satellite navigation systems.

_ HOW WE TESTED

Each unit was assessed on how easy it was to mount on the windscreen of a sedan. It was then given tasks involving both short (<50km) and lengthy (>1,500km) drives throughout Australia, and tested on how long it took to calculate routes, which routes it chose and how well it adjusted if the driver went off course. Interfaces were evaluated based on ease of use. While drivers should never adjust a GPS while the car is in motion, being able to easily tell your navigator what you want changed is important, as is the ability to quickly glance at the map and assess current speed and any important upcoming traffic choices. Any additional features offered by each unit were also assessed.



_ REVIEWS

NAVMAN EZY40

STREET PRICE \$249 / **CONTACT** NAVMAN / **PHONE** 1300 628 626 / **WEB** www.navman.com.au

The EZY40 sits in Navman's budget range and offers an interface awash with big, friendly icons. The 4.3in resistive touchscreen works well enough with such large icons and Navman's basic map interface gives clear instructions on a map that's easy to read at just a glance, with drop-down selections for speed, distance to travel and estimated time of arrival. In our tests, the Navman EZY40 sorted out our longer routes with aplomb and was the only unit in our long rerouting test to suggest two alternate routes in the time it took all the others to sort out just one. Traffic rules were well displayed, including school zones that only operate during



school hours, a step many other GPS units omit. If you want budget sensibilities in a unit that's easy to use and stow away

when you're done, the Navman EZY40 is the pick of the GPS crop. **PC User says:** An excellent budget GPS.

KOGAN EZINAV G6 GPS

RRP \$229 / **CONTACT** KOGAN / **PHONE** 1300 304 292 / **WEB** www.kogan.com.au



harder to stow away when you've finished using it. The G6 uses Sygic's Live Drive map service (also available in a form for iPhone), which is quaintly American, something you'll become aware of the first time it offers to route you. New Zealand maps are also provided, as is FM voice transmission, Bluetooth and MP3/movie playback. The Kogan EziNav G6's large screen is a little tough to see clearly in bright light and spoken street names were often garbled. Rerouting was good, as was the observance of local speed zones.

PC User says: Excellent value for money, as long as you want a GPS this large.

Kogan's mantra has long been about providing a budget price over everything and in the past, that's led to some truly awful GPS units. The EziNav G6 has

the largest screen of any of our test group at a massive 6in. That makes it easy to see, but something of a challenge on some dashboards and a bit