



UPDATING A SATNAV

Mark McLaren 42, public relations officer

Satnavs need their maps updated often to include changes to the road network. You can visit a manufacturer's website to buy maps.

Mark McLaren paid £26 to update his TomTom One with a map of France. Mark told us: 'It was easy to find the map and connect the device to the PC, but I hadn't installed TomTom Home software so I couldn't add maps to the device.'

Then Mark discovered that his 512MB memory card was too small for the new map; he reckons TomTom could be clearer in warning you about data sizes.

Easy updating

If you want the latest maps, here are few tips to ensure a smooth update.

■ You can usually update a satnav in two ways – either by ordering a new map on a memory card from the manufacturer, or by downloading a map to a PC and then installing it on your satnav.

■ If you order from the manufacturer, allow plenty of time for the new map to arrive through the post. The new card will slot into the device without needing to connect it to a PC.

■ If you are downloading, you should back up your current maps in case something goes wrong. The software supplied should help you do this.

■ Your current memory card might be too small for the new map, so check this against the size of the map you want to download.

OUR RESEARCH

When selecting satnavs to test, we consult industry experts, manufacturers, and market intelligence, then check availability on the high street and online. Tested models include top sellers from the most popular brands, products with innovative features, models from some lesser-known brands and widely available Best Buys from previous tests.

Dashboard gadgets to go

Satellite navigation systems to help you reach your destination, plus how to update them

The past year has been a bumper one for satnav sales. UK shoppers parted with nearly £400 million to get the newest models. The latest generation of electrical pathfinders now boasts wide screens, high-resolution three-dimensional maps and a host of extra features. Mobile-phone makers are getting in on the act, too, including satnav technology in their products.

In this report we look at 14 more satnavs and we see how well Nokia's 6110 Navigator phone compares with

stand-alone devices. We also find out how problematic updating maps can be and offer some essential tips on ensuring your update goes smoothly.

A word of warning: in a bid to reduce driver distractions, the government has toughened up rules on using satnavs at the wheel. Under new guidelines, driving while operating a satnav can be deemed dangerous driving if the vehicle is then involved in an accident. Convicted motorists could be jailed for two years or face an unlimited fine.



73% TomTom Go 520 £195

We were impressed with this satnav's hands-free, voice-activation route-planning system. Even using different accents couldn't outfox the voice recognition. The widescreen display is easy to read, and maps zoom to show junctions. Audio prompts are clear, giving two or more instructions in quick succession. It sometimes found the opposite side of the road to our destination, however, and struggled slightly among tightly bunched, tall buildings. It's cheapest at Halfords.

WE LIKE It clearly identified London's congestion charge zone in time for us to avoid it.

Available Widely available **Maps** UK and Ireland
Traffic avoidance Yes (£30 a year)



72% Garmin Nuvi 660FM £300

The Nuvi 660FM is a good alternative to the TomTom (1). It's simple to install using the supplied dashboard bracket, and the touch screen makes finding routes easy. The European maps included are good for holidays, and we like the free, built-in UK traffic avoidance service for the UK. Spoken instructions can be relayed through your car's speakers, and audio prompts reassuringly name the roads if you're lost. One weakness is the loss of the satellite signal among tall buildings. It's exclusive to Halfords.

WE FOUND It has a four-digit Pin to make stolen devices hard to pass on.

Available Halfords **Maps** Europe
Traffic avoidance Yes (free)



72% Sony NV-U82 £180

Sony entered the lucrative satnav market in 2007 and scores with the widescreen NV-U82. Points of interest can be viewed alongside route maps in split-screen. Installation and instructions are simple and clear. In built-up areas the NV-U82 does well, but it failed to spot that we were entering the London congestion charge zone. There's no security Pin, however. It's cheapest at Halfords.

WE FOUND Finding a new destination mid-journey is tricky.

Available Widely available **Maps** UK and Ireland
Traffic avoidance Yes (£20 one-off fee)

WHICH?
BEST BUY



70% TomTom One Europe £180

TomTom One is one of the UK's top-selling models and it's easy to see why when you consider what great value for money it is. The winning combination of price, ease of use and size is hard to beat. What's more, this model is ready for a European trip, unlike many of its costlier competitors, and it includes Pin security protection to deter thieves. It's cheapest at Argos.

WORTH KNOWING A traffic avoidance service is available, but you'll need a mobile phone to use this function.

Available Argos, Currys and PC World
Maps Europe **Traffic avoidance** Yes (£30 a year)

WHICH?
BEST BUY



71% Garmin Nuvi 610T Regional £230

Our second Garmin Best Buy was good at finding city locations, and overall it fared better in built-up urban areas than the Nuvi 660FM (2). It shares much with its sister model, but doesn't have European maps. User-friendly menus and large icons make it easy to change routes to avoid problems. Occasionally, we found it slow to give instructions because the map display was slightly behind the car's position. Widely available at £230.

WE FOUND The 3D-plan view is great for showing the road layout ahead.

Available Argos, Comet, Currys and PC World
Maps UK and Ireland **Traffic avoidance** Yes (free)

WHICH?
BEST BUY



71% Mio DigiWalker C520t £261

This widescreen satnav comes with European maps and traffic avoidance to route you away from traffic jams. Blackspots are skilfully avoided, but it's slow to react after accepting a route change. Small icons can make it hard to pick out some details at a glance. Manually changing a route on the move is distracting (we recommend that you pull over when doing this), as you need to delve into several menus. Extra features include an MP3 player and camera viewer. Available online.

WE LIKE Includes European mapping.

Available Online **Maps** Europe
Traffic avoidance Yes (free)

WHICH?
BEST BUY



68% Snooper S600 Sirius Plus £250

The Snooper brand might not be universally known, but this model sees off many established rivals. Routes are easily changed, and its display is as good as we've seen. Pop-up schematics (see 'Jargon buster', p48) for roundabouts are detailed yet clear. The unit stores up to 110 addresses in its directory, and viewing recent routes makes it easy to access your favourites. But there was some hit-and-miss in pinpointing destinations and it has no traffic-avoidance system. Available online.

WE LIKE If a turning is missed, an alternative is offered quickly.

Available Online **Maps** Europe **Traffic avoidance** No

WHICH?
BEST BUY



68% ViaMichelin Navigation X-970T £123

This ViaMichelin sets itself up as a holiday companion for foodies. It's loaded with information about restaurants in Europe, including detailed menus, all taken from the *Michelin Guide*. It's a well-equipped device that uses traffic avoidance to steer clear of congestion, and free speed camera data is available online. The screen is small, and, despite the pack containing a Bluetooth hands-free kit, it's difficult to make route changes mid-journey. Available online.

WE FOUND With no Pin security, it's easy for a thief to sell on.

Available Online **Maps** Europe **Traffic avoidance** Yes (free)

WHICH?
BEST BUY

The
ViaMichelin
sets itself
up as the
ultimate
holiday
companion





67% Garmin Nuvi 760 £249

WHICH?
BEST BUY

Brilliant route planning in the city is the highlight of this Garmin. It's slim, has a carrying case and a four-digit Pin, and will guide you to within a few metres of your destination. You can choose from a selection of routes to the same destination, and it can be used in the US without extra software. Complex road layouts did cause a few mistakes, but it's quick to re-route. Available online.

WORTH KNOWING The display doesn't include easy-to-read, pop-up schematics (see 'Jargon buster', right).

Available Online Maps Europe
Traffic avoidance Yes (free)

Secure satnav

Having a satnav on display in your car can make you a target for thieves. The Metropolitan Police says that in 2007 more than 16 per cent of reported thefts from cars involved only the satnav, with other valuables ignored. Follow our tips below to avoid being a victim.

- Take satnavs and their mountings with you when you leave the car.
- Wipe away any suction pad marks left on the windscreen or dashboard as thieves will look out for these.
- Avoid leaving the equipment in the glove box – thieves usually check there first.
- Record your home address under another name to stop a thief from simply following the directions and ransacking your house.
- Mark your satnav using special security markers.
- Note down the make, model and serial number and keep the details somewhere safe – not in the car.

Satnav phone

Nokia 6110 Navigator £305

Nokia's Navigator mobile phone has reasonable route plotting, timely spoken directions and detailed maps of the UK and Ireland. But tricky programming, short battery life and a lack of flexibility make the satnav function feel like a bit of an add-on.



Jargon buster

■ BLUETOOTH KIT

By pairing a Bluetooth device like a mobile phone with a compatible satnav device, you will be able to receive traffic updates, make hands-free calls, get text messages read aloud, and download MP3 music files.

■ FM ANTENNA

A wire antenna attached to the windscreen with suckers to collect traffic updates from radio broadcasts.

■ POINT OF INTEREST (POI)

An interesting or useful site that you are approaching, including petrol stations, cashpoints and speed cameras.

■ SCHEMATICS

A schematic is a pop-up window that magnifies the details of junctions or roundabouts so you can see where you should go in more detail. Schematics appear next to the map view showing your overall direction.

MODEL	PRICE (£)	SCREEN SIZE DIAGONAL (mm)	WIDESCREEN	MAPS SUPPLIED	TRAFFIC AVOIDANCE SUBSCRIPTION (£/year)	SPEED CAMERA DATA SUBSCRIPTION (£/year)
1 TOMTOM Go 520	195	110	✓	UK and Ireland	30	35 ^a
2 GARMIN Nuvi 660FM	300	110	✓	Europe	Free	Free ^b
3 SONY NV-U82	180	121	✓	UK and Ireland	20 ^c	Free ^d
4 GARMIN Nuvi 610T Regional	230	110	✓	UK and Ireland	Free	Free ^b
5 MIO DigiWalker C520t with MioMap v.3.3	261	110	✓	Europe	Free	Free ^d
6 TOMTOM One Europe	180	87		Europe	30	35 ^a
7 SNOOPER S600 Syrius Plus	250	110	✓	Europe	n/a	100 ^e
8 VIAMICHELIN Navigation X-970T	123	88		Europe and Canary Islands	Free	Free ^f
9 GARMIN Nuvi 760	249	112	✓	Europe	Free ^g	Free ^b
11 TOMTOM One 3rd Edition	139	87		UK and Ireland	Free ^h	Free
12 NAVMAN S70	200	111	✓	Europe	Free ^j	35
13 NAVMAN S90i	300	111	✓	Europe	Free	35
14 MIO C320	206	109	✓	Europe	Free	Free ^d
15 NAVMAN S30	100	88		Europe	n/a	35
16 CLARION Map 670	230	109	✓	Europe	Free ^k	13 ^m
17 ROAD ANGEL Navigator 9000	430	100	✓	UK and Ireland	69 ⁿ	n/a
18 CLARION Map 770	260	109	✓	Europe	Free ^k	13 ^m
19 MY GUIDE 3100 GO	105	87		Europe	Free ^h	n/a
20 BECKER Traffic Assist 7926	174	88		Europe	Free ^h	Free ^p
21 RAC Sat Nav 200	120	88		UK and Ireland	n/a	Free
22 SONY NV-U92TW	229	122	✓	UK and Ireland	20 ^p	Free ^p

^a Price includes both traffic and camera data subscription ^b Camera data preloaded, with 30-days free access to updates. After 30 days, annual subscription from the internet ^c Requires additional GTM 21 receiver at cost of around £128 ^d Extra receiver needed at cost of around £50 ^e Requires T2 traffic module –

USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better.

Specification

Price For Best Buys we give the cheapest widely available high-street price as we went to press. If we couldn't find them at major high-street retailers, we give the most common online price. Prices for other models are a guide to what you should expect to pay. Go to www.which.co.uk/shopping for the

latest prices.

Widescreen Models have a 16:9 aspect ratio screen.

Traffic avoidance

subscription The annual cost of subscribing to the maker's traffic information.

Speed camera data

subscription The annual cost of updating your satnav with the locations of fixed cameras.

Security features

Some satnav devices have a personal identification number

(Pin) or password.

Test performance

Ease of installation How easy it is to fit the satnav in the car, ready for use.

Portability Smaller satnavs are easier to take with you when you park and are easier to use on foot.

Ease of

programming How easy it is to enter a new destination.

Ease of changing routes How easy it is to make changes.

Audio prompts The clarity, timeliness and

volume of spoken instructions.

Visual prompts The clarity of the display and the ability to keep up with the position of the car.

Accuracy/ speed of re-routing How soon the satnav senses you are off course and re-routes.

Accuracy of route (built-up area) How well the the satnav copes with driving among buildings, which can interfere with GPS signals.

Ability to give two

(or more) directions

Guidance through junctions in quick succession (for example, turn left, then first right).

Score

Ignores price, based on:

Ease of use **50%**

Performance **25%**

Features **20%**

Security **5%**

Contacts

Becker 0871 871 9747

www.beckerstore.com

Clarion 01793 870400

www.clarion.com

Garmin 0808 238 0000

www.garmin.co.uk

Mio 0905 464 0010

www.mio-tech.be

My Guide 020 7660 0329

www.myguidegps.com

Navman 01923 780500

www.navman.com

Nokia 0845 045 5555

www.nokia.co.uk

RAC 0870 572 2722

www.rac.co.uk

Road Angel 01327

855586

www.roadangelgroup.com

Snooper 0870 787 0700

www.snooperuk.com

Sony 0870 511 1999

www.sony.co.uk

TomTom 0845 161 0009

www.tomtom.com

ViaMichelin

020 7365 1878

www.viamichelin.co.uk

SECURITY FEATURES	WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE											SCORE %
	EASE OF INSTALLATION	PORTABILITY	EASE OF PROGRAMMING	EASE OF CHANGING ROUTES	OVERALL EASE OF USE	ACCURACY OF ROUTE	AUDIO PROMPTS	VISUAL PROMPTS	ACCURACY/ SPEED OF RE-ROUTING	ACCURACY OF ROUTE (BUILT-UP AREA)	ABILITY TO GIVE TWO (OR MORE) DIRECTIONS	
Pin	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	73
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None	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	72
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Pin	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	61
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of £30 c One-off life subscription. Additional cradle required at a cost of around £70 d Free camera updates available for one year e One-off lifetime subscription f Free safety camera updates, available by download £50 k No subscription, but SD Card (around £30) required m Actual annual charge is €19 n Price covers both camera and traffic avoidance information p One-off lifetime subscription. Camera data free for 12 months