

| PS | VALUE GUIDE | NAVIGATION SOFTWARE | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SOFTWARE | ★ MAPTECH CHART NAVIGATOR PRO V1.1 / COASTAL EXPLORER* | NOBELTEC ADMIRAL 9.1 | ✓ MAXSEA 12 | ✓ RAYTECH VNS 6.0 |
| COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS | Windows 2000 or XP, DVD-ROM, 512KB RAM | Windows XP, 2000, 98. Pentium 4 with 512MB RAM (PS recommends Windows XP or 2000 with 1GB RAM or more.) | Windows 2000 w/ SP4, XP, 512+ MB RAM, 1GHz+ (faster for NavNet option), not XP Media Center edition | Windows 2000/XP, Pentium IV with 256MB RAM, monitor resolution of 1024x768 or better |
| INSTALLATION | A few hiccups | Easy | Easy | Good |
| LICENSED COMPUTERS | Two copies per person, one active at a time | 3 installations, key required for instrument access | One | Two |
| COST | \$400 / \$500 | \$1,200 | \$500-\$5,500 (depending on modules purchased) | \$700 |
| USER'S MANUAL | Good | Poor | Fair | Good |
| FREE DEMO DISK AVAILABLE | No / 10-day free demo | No | No 21-day demo to be released | Yes, but no instrument connectivity in demo |
| GPS SUPPORT (Route and Waypoint Transfer) | Furuno, Garmin, Lowrance, Magellan, Northstar, Standard Horizon | Garmin | Furuno, MLR (some), Magellan, NavNet & Northstar | All Raymarine chartplotter formats/ cartridges |
| SUPPORTS AIS | Yes | Yes | \$250-500 extra | No |
| READS & WRITES GPX FORMATS | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| RASTER CHART FORMATS | BSB 4, PCX, GeoTIFF, SoftChart (NOS & GEO) | Passport Charts (Bathy, Raster, World), Nobeltec Nav Photos, BSB 1-4, SoftChart, RasterPlus, Nobeltec Navigation Photos, NDI, , Maptech raster and photo charts (BSB 4 and lower) | BSB, SoftChart, NDI | Maptech BSB (v2.0-4.0), Softchart BSB, NDI BSB, Maptech topo and photo charts |
| VECTOR CHART FORMATS | S-57 / S-57, DNC | Passport World Charts, Passport Deluxe, S-57 | Mapmedia Bathymetric, C-Map CM-93, NT+ & NT MAX, NOAA S-57 | Navionics Silver, Gold, HotMaps, and Platinum on compact flash, C-Map |
| USER PHOTOS | Yes (GEOTIFF)/ No | Yes | Yes | No |
| 3D VIEWING | No | Yes | \$500 extra | Yes |
| RADAR OVERLAYS | No / Yes | Yes | Furuno NavNet only | Raymarine SeaTalk ^{hs} or HSB2 |
| AUTOPILOT SUPPORT | NMEA 0183 & 2000 | NMEA 0183 | NMEA 0183 | NMEA 0183, Raymarine SeaTalk and SeaTalk ^{hs} |
| WEATHER GRIB | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes (limited) |
| FREEHAND DRAWING | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| REDRAW SPEED | Good | Fair | Good | Fair |
| USABILITY | Good | Fair | Fair | Fair |
| STABILITY | Good | Fair | Excellent | Good |
| TECH SUPPORT | Good | Fair | Excellent | Fair |

✓ Recommended ★ Best Choice

* Coastal Explorer is effectively the same software as Chart Navigator Pro, with more limited chart options.