

PS VALUE GUIDE NAVIGATION SOFTWARE

SOFTWARE	★ MAPTECH CHART NAVIGATOR PRO V1.1 / COASTAL EXPLORER*	💰 FUGAWI MARINE ENC V4.0	✔️ MAXSEA 12	✔️ RAYTECH VNS 6.0
COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS	Windows 2000 or XP, DVD-ROM, 512KB RAM	Windows 2000, XP, or NT4	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	Confusing	Easy	Good
LICENSED COMPUTERS	Two copies per person, one active at a time	Two	One	Two
COST	\$400 / \$500	\$200	\$500-\$5,500	\$700
USER'S MANUAL	Good	Print Poor, HTML version Good	Fair	Poor
FREE DEMO DISK AVAILABLE	No / 10 days	10 days	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, Magellan, Lowrance, Silva/Brunton, Furuno, Raymarine, Suunto X9 and X9i GPS wristwatches	Furuno, MLR (some), Magellan, NavNet & Northstar	All Raymarine chartplotter formats/cartridges
SUPPORTS AIS	Yes	Yes	\$250-500 extra	No
READS & WRITES GPX FORMATS	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
RASTER CHART FORMATS	BSB 4, PCX, GeoTIFF, SoftChart (NOS & GEO)	BSB 1-4, SoftChart, mp, GIF, JPG, PNG, PCX, TIF, USGS DRG, ECW, SoftMap topo, GeoGrid, GeoTiff, TIFF+TFW	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	S-57, Fugawi vector maps	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	No	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	Poor	Fair
STABILITY	Good	Fair	Excellent	Good
TECH SUPPORT	Good	Fair	Excellent	Fair

✔️ Recommended ★ Best Choice 💰 Budget Buy

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

Raytech RNS Version 6.0 is Recommended for those who run Raymarine SeaTalk^{hs} network. Maptech Chart Navigator Pro remains our Best Choice for Windows users, Fugawi ENC 4.0 is our Budget Buy, and Maxsea 12 is our Recommended software for those running a Furuno NavNet network.