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Trimble Recon GPS XC edition: Customer FAQs

What is the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

The Trimble® Recon® GPS XC edition brings together the Trimble Recon handheld with the highly productive GPS Pathfinder® XC receiver and the Trimble Recon handheld's extended cap. The all-in-one system is ultra-rugged and provides 2 to 5 meter (HRMS) accuracy after postprocessing.

The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition comes with the Windows Mobile® version 6 operating system, for increased security and safety of data. It is compatible with Trimble field software for GIS data collection and maintenance, and features a Trimble Recon handheld with built-in Bluetooth® wireless technology and wireless LAN capability, to connect to a range of peripherals or to a wireless LAN to send or receive data.

What are the key features of the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition provides 2 to 5 meter (HRMS) postprocessed accuracy, in a convenient cable-free solution, and offers the following features and benefits:

- It's the most affordable GPS solution for mobile GIS, so you can deploy more field workers than ever before.
- You'll notice improved productivity in harsh environments. The receiver is designed to track all available GPS satellites, allowing you get the best results without the need to adjust the GPS mask settings.
- The receiver delivers postprocessed differential correction with 2 to 5 m (HRMS) accuracy. Most other CompactFlash GPS cards do not allow you to postprocess your data.
- The Windows Mobile 6 operating system provides a familiar, easy-to-use interface so field crews can be quickly trained to be more productive. 'Persistent storage' in Windows Mobile 6 ensures that your data is protected, even in the event of power loss.
- The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition is an ultra-rugged GPS solution—you don't have to compromise on ruggedness to stay within your budget.
- You can use the latest Trimble Mapping & GIS field and office software, to manage your data collection and maintenance.

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What software versions support the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition is supported by the following field software applications:

- TerraSync™ software version 2.61 or later
- Trimble GPSCorrect™ extension for ESRI ArcPad software version 2.11 or later
- Trimble GPS Analyst™ extension for ESRI ArcGIS software version 2.00 or later
- Trimble GPS Controller software version 2.10 or later
- Applications developed with GPS Pathfinder Tools Software Development Kit (SDK) version 2.10 or later
- Third-party field software that supports NMEA input

For standard differential postprocessing, GPS Pathfinder Office software version 3.10 or later or GPS Analyst extension version 2.00 or later is required, with the latest updates applied.

Can I postprocess data collected with the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

Yes. Data for postprocessing can be collected with TerraSync software version 2.61, GPSCorrect extension version 2.11, GPS Analyst extension version 2.00, or an application developed with GPS Pathfinder Tools SDK version 2.10. It is not possible to postprocess NMEA data.

The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition does not output carrier data, so it is not possible to use carrier postprocessing techniques. For standard differential postprocessing, GPS Pathfinder Office software version 3.10, or GPS Analyst extension version 2.00, with the latest updates applied is required.

What real-time options are available for the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition is not specified to provide real-time differential corrections.

If SBAS is enabled in the field software, the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition will attempt to track EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service) satellites in Europe and in some conditions may receive real-time EGNOS corrections. However the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition will *not* track WAAS (Wide Area Augmentation System) in the United States.

For best SBAS results, the Trimble Recon GPS XB edition receiver is recommended.

What GPS protocols are supported by the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition can output the NMEA and SiRF binary protocols. The receiver outputs NMEA data by default. If you connect to the receiver using Trimble GPS field software, NMEA output is switched off. The GPS Controller software can be used if you need to re-enable NMEA output.

Can I use an external antenna with my Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

Trimble does not offer an external antenna option for the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition. Because it is enclosed in the Trimble Recon extended cap, it is not possible to add an external antenna without compromising the ruggedness of the unit. To avoid damage to the Trimble Recon handheld, the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition should always be used with the extended cap properly installed.

How do I use the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition to ensure best performance?

The patch antenna technology inside the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition is designed to be used with the antenna horizontal to the sky. For best performance, Trimble recommends you hold the field computer horizontally while recording GPS positions.

Can I use other cards without impacting GPS performance?

Yes, other CompactFlash cards, including the Socket Communications Bluetooth CompactFlash card offered by Trimble, and standard wireless LAN and WAN cards, do not have any impact on the accuracy of the GPS card.

How is the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition powered?

The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition is powered by an integrated Nickel Metal Hydride battery-pack in the Trimble Recon handheld that provides 8 hours of battery life in normal use. The battery is internally rechargeable and can be removed and replaced by the user. It takes 12 hours to fully recharge the battery.

If you work in the field for multiple days, you may choose to purchase additional battery modules for your Trimble Recon GPS XC edition.

What connectivity options are available in the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

The Trimble Recon handheld has a number of cabled and cable-free connectivity options available as standard.

- Bluetooth—The Trimble Recon handheld has a built-in Bluetooth radio for connection to Bluetooth capable devices. These include cell phones for connection to the Internet, PCs and other handhelds for transfer of information. The built-in Bluetooth radio has a typical range of 10 meters, and allows up to two simultaneous Bluetooth serial port connections.
- Wireless LAN—The Trimble Recon handheld has built-in wireless LAN (802.11 g) capabilities for connection to a local network or wireless network “hotspot.”
- Serial port—The Trimble Recon handheld has a standard DE9 serial connector for cabled connection to external devices or sensors.
- USB port—The Trimble Recon handheld has a USB slave port for connection to the office computer.
- CompactFlash—The Trimble Recon has two CompactFlash slots available for connecting to a range of peripherals. The Pathfinder XC card uses one of these slots leaving one free slot while you are connected to the receiver.

What is standard out of the box?

The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition ships standard with:

- Trimble Recon handheld
- Extended CF-Cap™
- Trimble GPS Pathfinder XC receiver

- Power supply for charging the battery module
- Getting Started Disc and Getting Started Guide for the Trimble Recon handheld
- Getting Started Guide for the GPS Pathfinder XC receiver
- Assembly guide

Note: *The Trimble Recon GPS XC edition requires some assembly before it is ready to use.*

What optional accessories are available for the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition?

The following optional accessories are available for the Trimble Recon GPS XC edition:

- 12 V vehicle charging cable
- Socket Communications Bluetooth kit
- AA PowerBoot Module™ battery pack

Can I purchase a Trimble GPS Pathfinder XC receiver separately?

Yes, the Trimble GPS Pathfinder XC receiver is available for purchase as a separate accessory. If you already have a Trimble Recon handheld and wish to add on a Trimble GPS Pathfinder XC receiver, you can do so by purchasing the GPS Pathfinder XC kit or each of the parts individually. The GPS Pathfinder XC kit consists of a Trimble GPS Pathfinder XC receiver and the updated Recon Extended CF-Cap. Please contact your local Trimble distributor for further information.

Note: *When using a Trimble Recon handheld, you must also use the updated Extended CF-Cap (PN REC-AEC1001-02) that has increased internal space to accommodate the GPS Pathfinder XC receiver. Any attempt to use the older Extended cap (PN REC-TEC1001-01) will damage the GPS Pathfinder XC receiver, the Trimble Recon handheld, or both.*

Where can I get more information?

Visit the Trimble website at www.trimble.com for further information or contact your local Trimble Reseller.