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SMARTERTRACK IN YOUR HAND

Latest Windows 8.1 Tablet for on board navigation

With a price tag of under £200, the new Lenovo MiiX 2 tablet is ideal for running our advanced SmarterTrack navigation software bringing full function, touch screen navigation to the palm of your hand with a reliable 8" portable solution. Wirelessly connect to your boat's NMEA system using our NMEA to wifi servers and take advantage of AIS overlays and instrument displays. Find out more inside...



DIGITAL UPDATE JUNE 2014

In this issue

- Lenovo MiiX 2 tablet – The Yachtsman's choice?
- Bonjour NavLink – French, German and Dutch charts added to our NavLink UK iPad app
- Aqua Adapt PCs now shipping for on board navigation, communication and entertainment
- AIS compatibility with Lowrance, B&G and Simrad products



NEW LENOVO MIIX 2 TABLET IS GREAT FOR BOATERS...

With a price tag of around £160/\$260, the Lenovo Miix 2 is a full featured Windows 8.1 tablet (not a cut down RT version) and it might be one of the best buys for a boater. As its operating system is regular Windows 8.1, standard marine PC software runs as it would on a notebook or dedicated PC but you get the benefit of portability, a built in GPS and all the other features this amazing device offers.

KEY FEATURES

- Bright 1280 x 800 pixel 8" display (can be portrait or landscape orientated – good for sailing N-S or E-W!)
- Built in GPS, BlueTooth 4, WiFi (You can use a Bluetooth mouse rather than touch screen if you prefer)
- 32GB internal storage
- Intel Z3740 processor
- Mini USB port for external devices (our USB-NMEA adaptor and USB AIS products are now plug and play with an OTG USB cable)
- Long life battery – we were navigating for a good day's sailing and with a standard USB connection you can easily recharge from anywhere

We bought a Miix to test our SmarterTrack software on a mobile platform. SmarterTrack is a sophisticated, Navionic's based PC chart plotter system which offers real time navigation, NMEA interfaces, tracking, waypoints, routes, weather overlays, AIS and much more. It costs £250/\$399 and has a unique feature in that you can copy Navionic's charts on cartridge format to the PC's hard drive and licence them to SmarterTrack at no extra charge. That means you can use the same Navionic's cartridge in your Simrad, Lowrance, Raymarine etc plotter to save on duplicated cartography costs.

Setup was pretty straightforward but not without a few headaches if you want to use the internal GPS. First install SmarterTrack via a USB thumb drive or email link. Second, install and save the Navionic's charting data from the microSD card to the tablet and thirdly get the internal GPS to work...

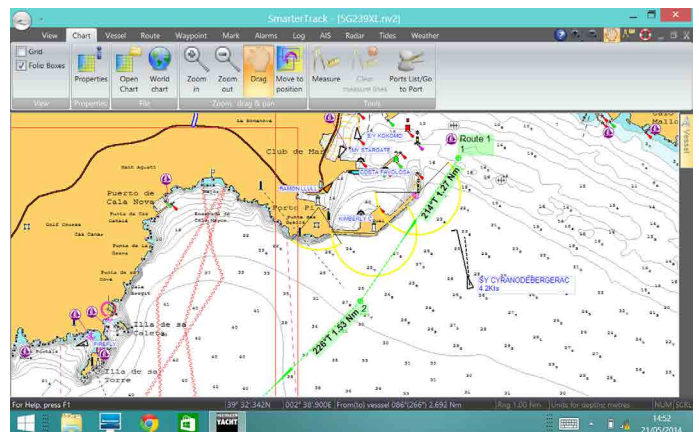
We reckon many users will be using the tablet as part of their boat's integrated navigation system so there's a good argument for fitting a



Digital Yacht NMEA to wifi device so you can use a wifi link to the boats GPS, instrument and navigation data. Our WLN10, iAIS, NavLink and iNavHub products can all support this protocol and it's the best solution – saving on battery life for the tablet and ensuring you've good accurate GPS data even when below decks as you're not reliant on the tablet's internal GPS. SmarterTrack supports this TCP/IP wifi feed too.

However, we appreciate there's a market for a totally portable solution and you may want to use the internal GPS so we've published how to do this on line at <http://digitalyacht.net/2014/05/19/tempting-tablet-for-boating-lenovo-miix-2-smartertrack/>

So for about £450/\$660 we now have a portable 8" high resolution (compare 1280px x 900px to a traditional plotter!) GPS chart plotter system which is AIS compatible via wifi or USB and can share Navionic's charts with many popular dedicated chart plotters. Looking at the maths, we can see this working – fit a small chart plotter in the cockpit or at the helm and feed NMEA data to a wireless server and use this tablet for the 2nd station.



SmarterTrack supports AIS overlays and routing



AQUA ADAPT PCs NOW SHIPPING

PCs are getting more popular on board and with the introduction of Windows 8.1 with its tiled interface, it makes a great choice for touch screen navigation and finger-tip control. Many boaters use a notebook but they're not designed for the hostile marine environment and also generally can't connect to the boat's DC power source without an adaptor or inverter.

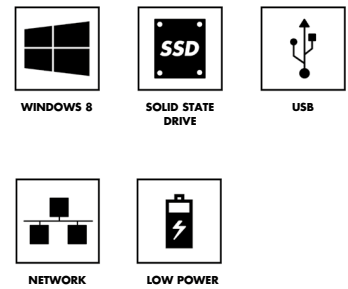
Digital Yacht have introduced a new chunky, mini PC designed specifically for use on board. The Adapt PC connects direct to the boat's battery system and operates from 8-19V DC. It's completely electronic with no moving parts and utilises the latest technology in solid state hard drives. It's also passively cooled so there's no fan to swirl moist air around delicate electronics. Despite its tiny 200 x 110 x 70mm dimensions, it packs in a powerful Intel i3 processor and 8GB RAM as well as a 60GB solid state drive. 128 and 240GB options are also available. With this spec, Adapt is ideal for use with graphics intense 3D navigation programs whilst still only consuming around 25W of power. 802.11 g/b/n Wi-Fi is also built in with dual antennas to improve performance. This can be configured as a Wi-Fi server for remote display apps so a tablet or iPad can act as a PC remote display out in the cockpit.

With Windows 8.1 supporting multi touch features like pinch to zoom, it makes sense to pair the PC with a touchscreen. The Adapt PC has two independent HDMI video outputs allowing two displays to be connected.

Most users want the PC to act as a hub for a navigation system to take advantage of software features like downloadable weather overlays, multi-screen chart displays or route optimisation. Here the Adapt system really scores as two additional external modules have been developed to allow plug 'n play NMEA0183 and NMEA 2000 navigation network integration as well as an Adapt Communication interface for internet access. The Adapt Navigation interface has a NMEA 0183 input and a certified NMEA 2000 connection to hook up direct to boat networks. Also available is the Adapt Communication interface which brings high power Wi-Fi to the Adapt PC for easy internet access whilst afloat. This option allows access to shore side hotspots with ranges up to 5NM depending upon conditions. The Adapt PC can also be set up to share this internet connection with other mobile users on board.

Both these interfaces match the rugged style of the Adapt PC and connect with just a single cable to the main processor.

The Aqua Adapt PC costs \$1495 and the Navigation Interface is \$625. The Communication interface with high gain 36" external antenna is \$825. Please contact us for GBP and EUR pricing.



DIMENSIONS

200mm x 110mm x 70mm
(L x W x H)



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here's a selection of news from our daily blog.

Using iNavX with an Autopilot

Many of our customers regularly use iNavX on their iPads and iPhones to display AIS data from one of our wireless NMEA products. Recently we have received a few requests asking if it is possible to wirelessly drive an Autopilot from the iNavX application.



Tempting tablet for boating – Lenovo Miix 2 + SmarterTrack

With a price tag of around £160/\$260, the Lenovo Miix 2 is a full featured Windows 8.1 tablet (not a cut down RT version) and it might be one of the best buys for a boater. As its operating system is regular Windows 8.1, standard marine PC software runs as it would on a notebook or dedicated PC but you get the benefit of portability, a built in GPS and all the other features this amazing device offers.



NMEA Meeting in Gosport

The National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) as the name suggests is a trade association of nearly 600 companies involved in marine electronics. The NMEA organisation are responsible for a whole series of important specifications and training initiatives that have significantly improved the marine electronics industry.



A Digital Storage Oscilloscope for £50

After many years of faithful service our old service department CRT Oscilloscope finally "went off to the great white laboratory in the sky". Although we have other more modern scopes and test equipment at our office, we wanted a cheap, portable scope for service and field work and in our search came across the Hantek 6022BE a USB based Digital Storage Scope that retails online for £50 (inc VAT).



NavLink UK iPhone and iPad navigation app updated

Now with French, Dutch and German charts available as low cost in app purchase. Back in January we released our low cost NavLink UK charting and navigation app which features real time navigation and full integration with our wireless range of interfaces for GPS and AIS data connectivity – the WLN10, iAIS and iNavHub.



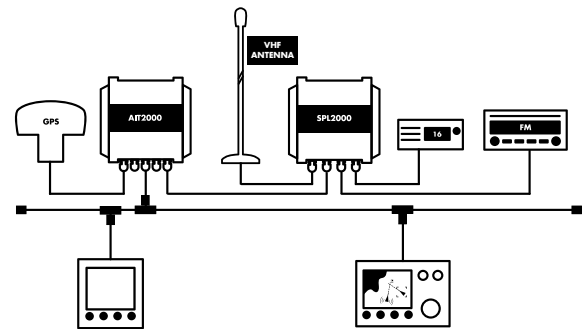
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INTEGRATING DIGITAL YACHT AIS PRODUCTS WITH SIMRAD, B&G AND LOWRANCE

Digital Yacht AIS products make a great partner to Lowrance, Simrad and B&G AIS compatible plotters. We have carried out some tests of our AIS units connected to these latest Navico chart plotters. To help anyone who is installing one of our AIS products to a Navico chart plotter, we have prepared a new Tech Note that explains clearly how to connect these products together via NMEA0183. For a copy of this new Tech Note please click here.

With older Lowrance 5" and 7" plotters we use to recommend the fitting of a small capacitor in the NMEA0183 positive line when connecting our AIS receivers to these units (see Tech Note 0008-2010), but after testing the latest Lowrance units, we can confirm that it is no longer necessary to fit the capacitor and our AIS receiver products will drive all of the latest Navico products.



Typical system

Finally, for customers connecting a Digital Yacht AIS product to a Navico plotter via NMEA2000 (SimNet), there could be an issue with older Navico products not reading some of the Static Data, (Boat name, Call sign, Vessel Type, etc.) of Class B AIS transponders. We are pleased to report that with the latest Navico units and firmware updates that this issue is no longer present.



Digital Yacht AIT2000 the perfect partner for the B&G Zeus plotter

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