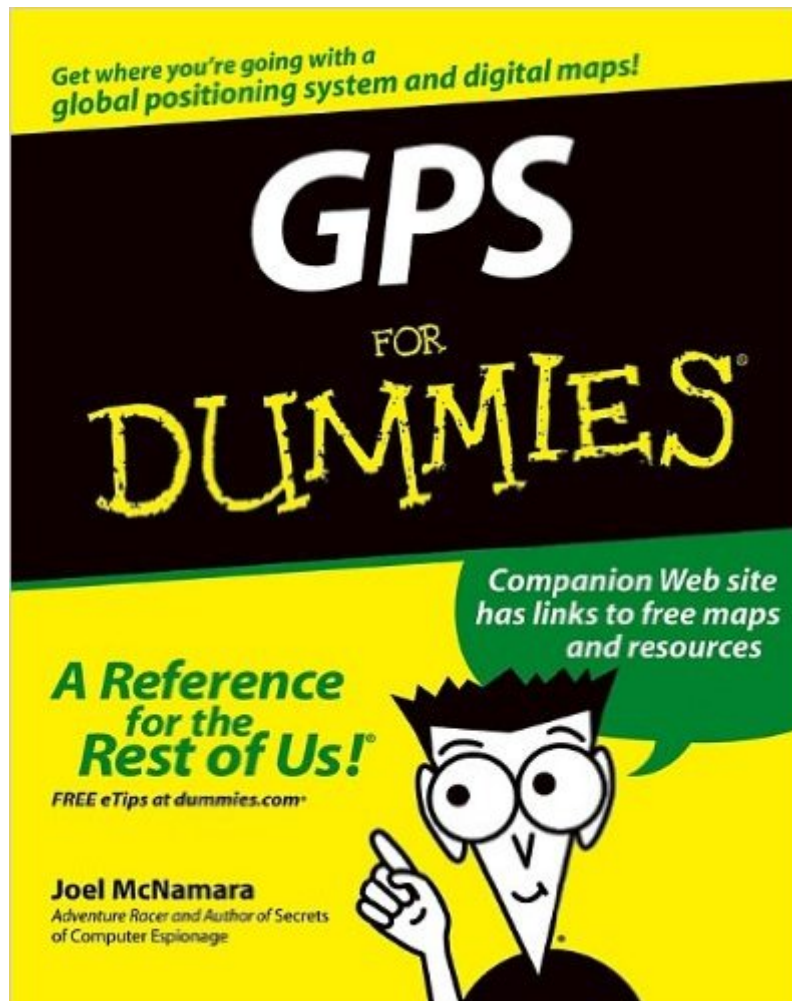


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# GPS For Dummies (For Dummies (Lifestyles Paperback))



## Synopsis

GPS For Dummies gives new meaning to finding yourself. In fact, with a GPS (global positioning system) receiver, you can determine precisely where you are anywhere on this planet. If you're planning on buying a GPS receiver or if you have one and want to get your money's worth, this guide tells you what you need to know, including: Basic GPS principles and concepts such as waypoints, routes, tracks, and coordinate systems Recommended features for GPS receivers to be used in various types of activities, including hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, geocaching, hunting, ATVing, mapping, and more How to do digital mapping on your computer, including software packages you can use to work with aerial photos, topographic maps, and road maps The main providers of digital map data for the U.S. and their Web sites The scoop on geocaching—a high-tech treasure hunt Written by Joel McNamara, avid outdoorsman, adventure racer, search and rescue team member, and author of *Secrets of Computer Espionage*, *GPS for Dummies* is ideal for both ordinary travelers and exotic explorers. It covers a world of GPS info such as: Choosing features for a GPS receiver, including the screen, an alarm, built-in maps, an electric compass, an altimeter, antennas, interface modes, and more Systems for traveling on the main roads and systems for exploring off the beaten path Using GPS with a PDA (personal digital assistant) Computer requirements for different mapping choices Topographic map software from Maptech, DeLorme, and National Geographic that's for off-road use Using Web-hosted mapping services, including street maps, topographic maps, aerial photos, and U.S. government-produced maps Incorporating GPS receivers into outdoor workouts, with tips for specific sports including cycling, golf, rowing, and more A companion Web site has links to all kinds of free maps and resources. So explore on your computer and then explore for real! With *GPS for Dummies*, you'll find yourself having adventures!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book because I had recently purchased a GPS and was frustrated by the techno speak in the manual. I was looking for something to help me through the jargon. Only about 1/3 of the book is specifically about your GPS. A small section is about cartography and the rest deals with "digital mapping" (more jargon for computer software dealing with maps). All of the information is at least loosely tied to a GPS. There is no glossary section but the author does embed many clarifications of technical terms that are helpful for dummies like me. The GPS sections are an improvement over my manual but still only partially successful. Priorities in choosing and mastering a GPS are miniscule. The cartography portion has information that is both interesting and helpful and does not bog the reader down with irrelevant information. These two topics are discussed in the first seven chapters. The book then turned to digital mapping and I almost gave up on the book. I had no interest in mapping and I wasn't totally satisfied with the previous sections. Luckily I continued on. The mapping chapters are almost exclusively about mapping software (and little utility programs that help). The software information includes commercial, shareware and freeware programs. It discusses programs for the beginner on up to some heady stuff. You may want to take up the subject as a hobby even if you never were interested before. If I had the time I would be tempted to just play with this stuff because it is so cool. If you buy the book, I would first just skim this "software" portion of the book when you go through it the first time. I think there are 14 chapters. It is amazing what is available but also sometimes redundant.

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