

PIKES PEAK PILOT CENTER NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S NEW

Aviation Gift Ideas

New technologies and price drops may change "Out of the question" to "In the bag"

GPS Handheld Units ... The technological advances and falling prices in this market is nothing short of incredible. I read dozens of extensive reviews on the latest aviation GPS units and selected three consistently impressive devices. If you seriously consider buying a GPS, I recommend you read *GPS ROUND-UP* by Keith Connes, available at pilotportal.com. When it comes to purchasing, comparison shopping will certainly payoff. I found good prices at ebay.com, pilotportal.com, and easternavionics.com.

Lowrance 100 Airmap - \$300 to \$600



This is a feature-packed little "powerhouse". Easy, intuitive, point-and-click operation. The screen is very sharp and easy to view. It has tremendous flexibility that allows you to put the mapping and nav data where you want it. The regular \$600 version comes with almost every possible accessory, but a \$300 Sport edition may save you a little money, allowing you to buy just the accessories you want.

Garmin GPS Map 195 - \$850



This has the largest display (3.5"Hx2.25"W) of moving map handheld GPSs. It is a more complex and full-featured unit with a lot of useful functions like weight-and-balance calculator and track log. But this also means it will take longer to learn and you will probably need to keep the manual handy. These have been very popular for some time, so used and wholesale units abound. I found dozens on ebay for under \$500.

Garmin GPS ColorMap 295 - \$1,350



"It's better to spend more than you planned, than less than you should," wrote one owner. Apparently a high-quality, color display makes a world of difference. This is, of course, a top-of-the-line unit, well made, reliable and powerful. The 295 won every review, hands down. There are a few (very few) selling on ebay for about \$1000.

Headsets ... Panther C.A.T. Headset - \$490



This system is an interesting, and apparently good, addition to aircraft headset design. It uses custom earplugs that contain a microphone on one side and a speaker on the other. Voice audio is transmitted cranially by a microphone in

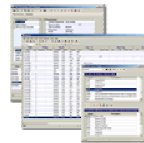
the earplug. Transmission quality was rated as excellent in every review I read. Benefits of this design: your intercom will not cut in and out depending on your proximity to the boom mic; no hot, sweaty earphones; no headband and ear cup pressure points; and no interference with eye or sunglasses. Weight: 1 oz. Noise Reduction Rating: 31dB - 46dB

Noisebuster ANR Headphones - \$33



Note: This is not a pilot headset with mic, but simply active noise reduction headphones. Perfect for making jet flights in greater comfort. These provide excellent sound quality (great for listening to music on long flights) at 20-20,000Hz, are light-weight, and foldable. The ANR circuit is most effective against steady, low-frequency (20-1500Hz) sounds, such as that produced by jets and turboprop planes. Noise in this range is the most damaging to hearing and causes fatigue and interference with conversation and music. In the 150-300Hz range, the Noisebuster reduces noise levels 15dB. The ANR noise reduction is user-selectable so one can vary the amount of ANR needed. Requires two AAA batteries that last approx. 100 hours.

New ... FlightLevel Logbook Software - \$88



Most complete, customizable and intuitive digital logbook available. Easy, Internet Explorer-style interface, flight entry screen looks just like the paper logbook; tracking for unlimited numbers of pilots and aircraft; totally customizable data fields; customizable airport and aircraft databases; instant summaries for job applications, insurance forms, and FAA 8710 forms. Download a free demo version and try it. (pilotportal.com)

Pilot Center Gift Cards - \$250, \$500, \$1000



Let them decide what they want - flight time, aircraft rental, books, headset, apparel, accessories - a Pilot Center Gift Card makes a perfect present.

Solos & Certificates

Private

Matthew Rocco - Sep 24
Andy Clark - Nov 16
Ken Louie - Nov 17
Shaun Brown - Nov 18
Miguel Perez - Nov 21

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