

Consumer Corner

Spending Less On Your GPS Device

(NAPSA)—Having driving directions when you need them most might seem priceless, but that doesn't mean you have to spend a fortune on a GPS device.

About 10 million navigational devices were sold in 2007, according to technology distributor Ingram—and experts say consumers drove down what they spent on many of the gadgets by forgoing some of the bells and whistles they offer.

For instance, a GPS device without voice recognition can direct you from point A to point B as well as one that understands you when you talk, but it can cost lots less. This is nice to know in a tight economy when you don't want to break your budget.

When shopping, look for well-known brands that have stood the test of time. For example, many college students, moms, dads and others not looking to part with much cash have opted for the Magellan RoadMate 1412—one of the most well-known and affordable GPS solutions on the market.

The ultraslim, pocket-sized gadget features a large, wide, 4.3-inch, anti-glare touch screen, along with a simple and intuitive user interface. And in spite of its low price tag, the GPS still boasts a few premier features, including QuickSpell, for fast input with a minimal amount of keystrokes.



You can find basic GPS devices for a lot less than their more flashy counterparts.

The device also comes with a SmartDetour function that helps users avoid construction and traffic. Plus, the unit features 2-D and 3-D map views, as well as a trip computer and planner, which can help you map out direct—and fuel-saving—routes to destinations.

The GPS device will talk to you like most GPS devices, but this one also announces street names and direction of each turn—letting you keep your eyes off the device and on the road.

Finally, when you're traveling away from home, you can use it to access preloaded road maps of the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Canada and Alaska, as well as more than 6 million points of interest.

For more information, visit www.magellangps.com.