

"Have you ever bought a piece of technology, got it home, opened the box, looked at the manual and then panicked?? I have, lots of times, recently I was given a GPS for my birthday, the manual although it covered the basics, confused me as I either couldn't find the same pages on the GPS as described in the manual or it didn't cover the questions I had.

Thoughtful as ever, my husband bought me 'Getting to Grips with GPS' by Peter Judd and Simon Brown. This is just about the best manual I have ever encountered, although it's not really a manual, it's a book that covers everything you need to know about a GPS and digital maps.

Each section is laid out with easy to follow descriptions and images of the GPS pages as you work through setting up and getting started right through to putting the system to use in the field. At the end of each section there is a small test to 'check your learning' I found this invaluable as although the information is easy to follow, and I had used my GPS through each section, it was surprising how I had, in some cases missed small vital bits of information.

At the end of the book is a glossary that clears up any misunderstanding about technical terminology used, not only in the book, but elsewhere. This book de-mystified GPS for me, within a day I was out in the field using my GPS with confidence.

My next task was to set up a route on my Memory Map and then load the route onto my GPS, following detailed instructions within the book and using the online Memory Map manual, it was so easy I felt that I must have done something wrong. I set off on a route that I knew very well, to test my new found skills and to see if I had in fact, set up the route and waypoints correctly. I needn't have worried.

After reading this book, I have a great deal of knowledge about satellite systems, how they work and just how many may be flying overhead at any one time! If you are thinking of getting a GPS read this book first, it provides suggestions on where to buy, and what to buy for your specific requirements. A well written, well explained, cannot do without (and in my case, well read) book.
Heather Babb – Suffolk – March 2008"