

Author Message **Bigger Birdie**
PDA Member



Joined: Nov 01, 2003

Posts: 7652

Location: Just trucking about

▢ Posted: Tue Oct 26, 2010 5:57 pm Post subject: Pro Nav PNN-300



I've been using TomTom SatNav's in various forms for nearly five years now, and with the aid of a bridge height map and a bit of common sense they've served me well.

During this time various supposedly "truck specific" SatNav's have come on to the market, with routing intended to favour larger vehicles by avoiding as far as possible smaller roads and low bridges.

Anecdotal evidence has suggested they've not always been entirely successful, and I've never felt that they were any improvement over what I had. Is my opinion to be changed?

Pro Nav have generously provided me with an example of their new PNN-300 to road test. With a five inch touch screen it's the same size as the TomTom XL I normally use, and the Navteq maps include bridge heights, steep gradients and crosswinds.

After two days in the West Midlands it has so far failed to send me towards a bridge I couldn't get under, or down a road that the lorry wouldn't fit down, so it's not a bad start. Further updates will follow, as tomorrow I plan to read the instructions 😊 and explore the features a bit further.

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It's about learning to dance in the rain.

Virtus Propter Se.



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[Back to top](#)



Elmo

Joined: Nov 14, 2009

Posts: 657

Location: Colchester

▢ Posted: Wed Oct 27, 2010 12:39 am Post subject:



Is that the model that includes London lorry ban information? When I read about it I thought

that was a good idea because with everything else you have to think about in the city - finding delivery entrances, red routes, etc anything that helps you is, I think, most welcome. In particular for less experienced drivers like me.



Bigger Birdie

PDA Member



Joined: Nov 01, 2003

Posts: 7652

Location: Just trucking about

▢ Posted: Thu Nov 04, 2010 5:30 am Post subject:



Well after a week's work the ProNav is proving to be a useful bit of kit, although not completely infallible.

The map display is easy to follow, and there is also the option of using "Guide" mode, which simply gives instructions via voice and screen.

The directions given verbally are clear, delivered in reasonable time and quite detailed, even including road names and numbers which I've not seen done before.

Programming the device can be done by street, postcode or finding a location on the map. The keyboard for this is arranged in alphabetical rather than the QWERTY format which I'd prefer, but you'd soon get used to it. Once you've picked your street, there is the opportunity look for Points Of Interest (POI) nearby, or just navigate straight there. POI's include truck stops, filling stations, and a host of other more common ones such as places of worship, post offices and zoos.

When looking for a location, the device prompts a place name very quickly as you type, but is much slower prompting when you come to enter a road name. The actual time taken to plot a route doesn't seem to be any longer than anything else I've used, although if you're off of the road, in a customer's yard for example, the ProNav is unable to find its way until you get back out onto the highway. Not a huge problem as the route is calculated promptly once you're on the move, so long as you know whether left or right out of the gate is what you need.

More later....

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PDA Member



Joined: Nov 01, 2003

Posts: 7652

Location: Just trucking about

▢ Posted: Sun Nov 07, 2010 8:58 am Post subject:



After two weeks with the Pro Nav, I'm more than mildly impressed.

It's a useful device, packed with a lot of features that will help drivers.

The navigation is easily as accurate as anything else on the market, with prompt and easy to follow instructions, and generally sensible route choices.

With a truckstop database and the London lorry ban included, as well as the bridge heights, there is a wealth of information there, not all of which can be found in one location elsewhere. It's this ease of planning that is the PNN300's strongest point.

Like all navigation aids, it's only a guide and attention needs to be paid to what the signs and road markings are telling you. And along with all SatNav's, it's not brilliant in the sticks, simply because there's insufficient electronic map data for the really little roads.

For what's included, and the simple way it's accessible in use, I think the Pro Nav is a good little bit of kit.

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[Back to top](#)

