GPS Software & Maps

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SOFTWARE:

There are several GPS Software Packages on the market today.Â Â The most popular are Garmin's MapSource & BaseCamp, Magellan's MapSend, Fugawi, and Ozi Explorer.Â

Both Garmin and Magellan software packages are very basic and good for anyone that is not planning on doing anything other than storing or uploading/downloading routes, waypoints, and track logs.Â Garmin's and Magellan's software comes with a new GPS purchase free.Â As a bonus,Â Garmin's Mapsource is being used as a source for new maps made by outside companies such as the one introducing the "Baja Navigator Map" offered onÂ this site.Â Â There is a Baja MapÂ made for Magellan, but it is not of high enough quality to offer at this time.Â Â If you are new to GPS, these will suffice for a short period of time and then you will want a more sophisticated software package for using different maps.Â

Ozi Explorer offers some very similar features as Fugawi, but there are several reasons we choose Fugawi over Ozi:Â

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Fugawi is easier to learn and use

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Fugawi offers maps of Baja and Mexico already calibrated in Fugawi format (easy toÂ use).

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Fugawi allows scanned maps of your choice

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Fugawi resides in Canada (cheap phone call) while Ozi resides in Australia.Â Ozi only responds to email (sometimes) and not quickly.Â

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The customer service with Fugawi is phenomenal.Â ThereÂ is no automated bull-o-ny, you talk to a real person within 24 hours or immediately, they will walk you through any difficulties with a smile, clear English, and they are also reachable by email with a quick response.Â Fugawi Rules!!Â So, we sell it right here at a discount.Â Check out FUGAWI SOFTWARE.

MAPS:

There are several kinds of GPS maps to choose from:Â paper maps, digital maps for your PC (and now MAC) and maps that can be loaded to your GPS.

Paper Maps: With the Baja GPS Guidebook, you never have to stop and pull outÂ a map.Â We aim to keep you moving as fluidly as possible navigating safely and accurately with just the aid of the GPS.Â However, paper maps are still very valuable.Â They are not only a great back up solution to a broken GPS or being out of batteries, but a great source for scanning and using with a capable GPS Software like Fugawi.Â The Baja Almanac is the most detailed Baja map available atÂ 1:50,000.Â IfÂ you need this kind of detail orÂ want this kind of detail on the trail, this is theÂ most detailedÂ map book you can purchase.Â On the downside, the Almanac can be hard to work with in such a small scale.Â Â Larger scale fold-out maps are nice for getting a visual at a grander scale like the National Geographic Maps North or South or both!

Digital Maps:Â These are mapsÂ on disc or by link that can be downloaded to software on your home computer.Â Fugawi makes several digital maps already calibrated for easy use:Â Baja/Mexico 1:250:000 (more detail), 1:500,000 (you can see more of your trails on one page), and a 1:100,000 Map of America (awesome detailed U.S. map).Â We use these maps and software for all our work and then rode & researched trails and areas for safety issues and permissions.

Upload Maps for GPS:Â It used to be that maps could only be loaded to a GPS from its manufacturer, but not any more.Â There are a few companies making alternative Baja maps to upload to your GPS:Â the most detailed map includes Baja,Â Copper Canyon, and Mainland Mexico called the E32 Map.Â Using a PC or MAC, you can upload this mapÂ using BaseCamp or Mapsource and it works on both PC and MAC computers.Â This map requires at least 700MB of space or a 1GB chipÂ and allows you to upload segments (likeÂ the Baja portion of the map only, whichÂ needs only 50MB of space).Â With the guidebooks, this map can be referenced withÂ high detail to what's ahead confirming the guidebookÂ descriptions.Â Also, there is theÂ Baja Navigator Map.Â This map can ONLY be used with Garmin GPS in conjunction with Mapsource Software.Â This map is both cheaper and has less detail meaning 'less clutter'.Â There are no topo lines like the E32.Â The basic back roads roads and highways are available and serve well for referencing with the Baja GPS Guidebooks.