Avionics West, Inc.
QUALITY IN AVIATION ELECTRONICS

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Battery Life in the GPS/MAP 295

The only shortcoming of the GPS/MAP 295 (or so we thought) was the short battery life. After all, Garmin said in all of it's data that the average battery life was 2.5 hours. This short life started me on a quest to find the longest lasting battery available (keeping in mind that price was an issue). In the long run I found out two things. The Garmin COLOR 295 last just about as long on AA batteries as any other portable GPS, in spite of the super COLOR screen! Why is this you may ask? Read my "Update" on the GPS/MAP 295 and get my opinion. With well over five hours of battery life, the COLOR 295 is now on top of the food chain!

The other thing I discovered during my test was there is very little difference between the most expensive battery and the cheapest as far as life. Take a look at the chart below and you will see what I mean. I didn't have the chance to evaluate the rechargeable Ni-MH batteries due to the fact my small town doesn't have them available. I've ordered some and will have this data in the near future.

My test was not completed in a "Lab" environment but the results should be close to the same. Each test was completed under the following conditions. Temperature of the batteries was 72F as was the room temperature where the 295 was placed. The batteries were purchased new the day of testing. The batteries were placed in the GPS/MAP 295, turned on and left on until the 295 shut-down. The GPS/MAP 295 was allowed on to lock on to the satellites just as in real world. The display was set to full bright. The GPS/MAP 295 holds (six) AA batteries.

The highest capacity Ni-MH battery I could find was made by Kodak or at least that was the name on the battery. I found several Ni-MH batteries rated at 1,300ma but Kodak stated their output was a massive 1,600ma.

Battery Brand	Cost of Each Battery	Battery Exp. Date	Hours of Service
Ever Ready "Industrial"	45 Cents	Jan. 2002	**5Hrs 16Min**
Kirkland (Costco)	23 Cents	Mar. 2004	**5Hrs 36 Min**
Toshiba (Supplied with 295)	??	Jan. 2004	**6Hrs 11Min**
Long Drugs Brand	65 Cents	No Date	**6Hrs 12Min**
Duracell Copper Top	47 Cents	Mar. 2003	**6Hrs 39Min**
Kodak Ni-MH	$6.95	**None**	**4Hrs 46Min**
Yuasa Delta	$3.99	**None**	**3Hrs 58Min**

While each battery sells for $6.95 each, Kodak states normal life 500 cycles or more. Based on recharging the battery 500 times; the cost would then run you One Cent. This does not include power consumption required to charge the batteries. Something to think about.

If you purchase the Yuasa Delta for $3.99 and get 500 cycles out of it; the battery cost **Less than One Cent** per Charge! Avionics West now sells the Kodak and Yuasa Delta at lower prices than I purchased these batteries them prior.

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