

How to download you tracklog using GPSDump

GPSDump ver. 4.25 is used for this tutorial

This process is to be used for all GPS downloads. I used GARMIN in the examples simply because they seem to have most of the problems when it comes to downloading tracklogs, which you'll see further down in these pages. The potential problems that are explained below don't affect the Flytec and Brauniger units. Flytec and Brauniger units distinguish multiple tracks very nicely, so downloading the correct track is simply a matter of selecting the right one and it's a walk in the park after that. For GARMIN users, the potential problems listed below can easily be avoided if you do two things. First, **CLEAR YOUR TRACKLOG** before you launch! That also includes clearing all your saved logs within your GPS; they screw up the scoring as well. The second thing you need to do is avoid turning the unit back on unless you absolutely have to. If you do turn it on, have the unit in "GPS off" mode. Clearing your tracklog before you launch is the more important thing to do of the two, but doing both helps the scorekeeper tremendously.

STEP 1

Turn on your GPS. As soon as the GPS initializes, try and set the GPS unit to "use with GPS off" mode or whatever mode allows you to have the GPS on without logging tracks. This mode applies to Garmin units, not to Flytec and Brauniger units. Using this mode on the Garmin prevents new track points from being logged on top of your flight track from the task while you're messing with the GPS and downloading your track. Now plug your serial or USB cable into your GPS. Open GPSDump and select the drop down menu under "Logs". Click on the GPS model that applies to you and GPSDump will read your units active log and show it on-screen. If you get an error message while trying to download your track either your GPS unit isn't on or you are trying to download from the wrong COM port. If the GPS is on then go up to the menu bar and click on "Misc – Set COM port" and select a different port. Repeat this until you've found the correct port that enables you to download your track.

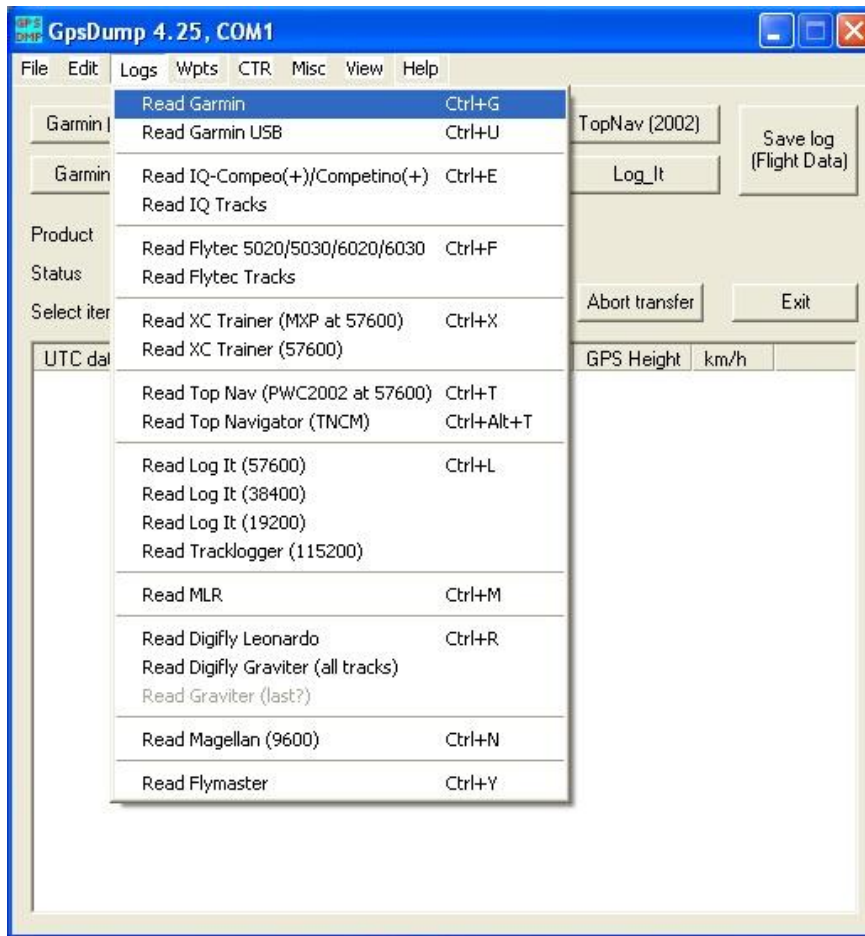
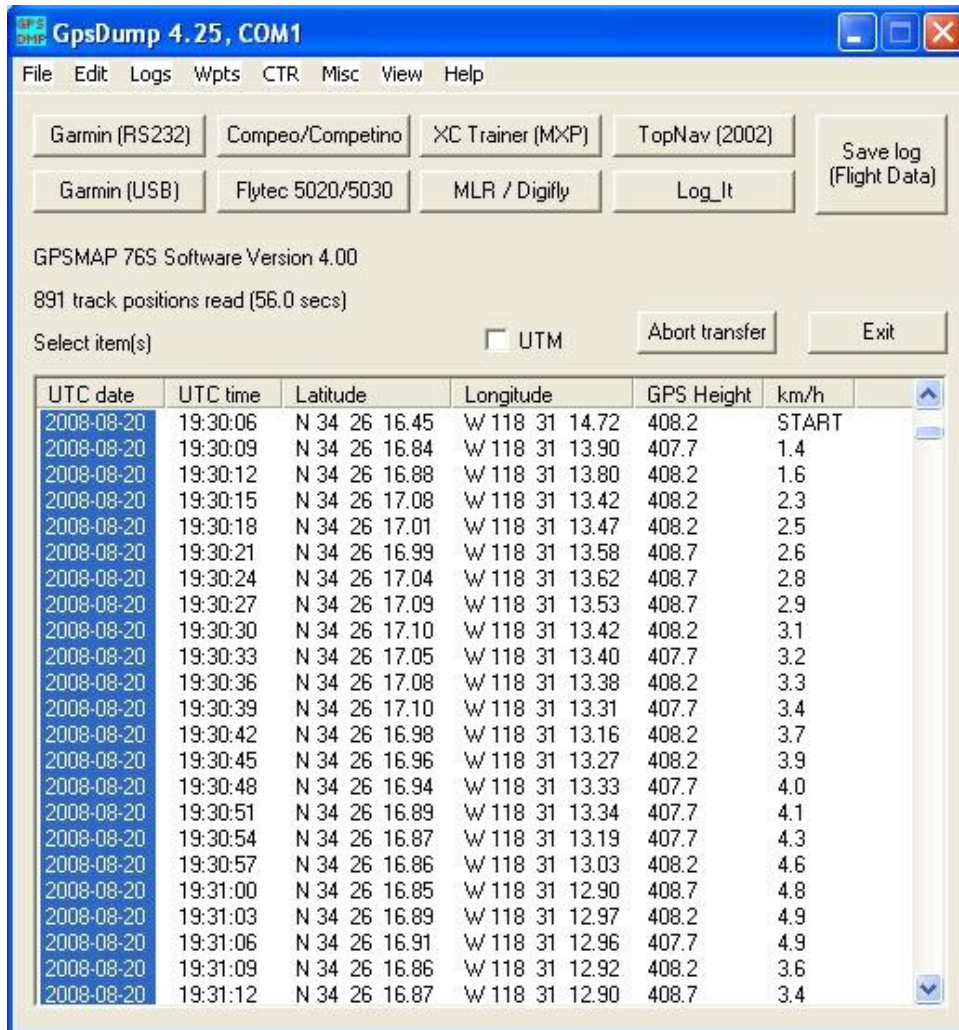


Figure 1

STEP 2

The window should fill up with your track log after it finishes downloading off your GPS. Once your track log is displayed on screen, highlight the entire left hand "UTC date" column. You can do this by clicking on the left hand column and pressing the Ctrl + A keys together, or clicking on the left hand column and pressing the Shift key + down arrow keys to highlight the entire track. After highlighting, scroll down to make sure the entire column is highlighted. If you know approx. what time you launched and landed you can check the "UTC time" column to make sure it's consistent with what you remember your flight time to be. Your flight time in the "UTC time" column will be offset several hours depending on your time zone.



The screenshot shows the GpsDump 4.25, COM1 application window. The window title is "GpsDump 4.25, COM1". The menu bar includes File, Edit, Logs, Wpts, CTR, Misc, View, and Help. Below the menu bar are several device selection buttons: Garmin (RS232), Compeo/Competino, XC Trainer (MXP), TopNav (2002), Garmin (USB), Flytec 5020/5030, MLR / Digify, and Log_It. There is also a "Save log (Flight Data)" button. Below these buttons, it says "GPSPMAP 76S Software Version 4.00" and "891 track positions read (56.0 secs)". There is a "Select item(s)" label, a checkbox for "UTM", and "Abort transfer" and "Exit" buttons. The main area contains a table with the following data:

UTC date	UTC time	Latitude	Longitude	GPS Height	km/h
2008-08-20	19:30:06	N 34 26 16.45	W 118 31 14.72	408.2	START
2008-08-20	19:30:09	N 34 26 16.84	W 118 31 13.90	407.7	1.4
2008-08-20	19:30:12	N 34 26 16.88	W 118 31 13.80	408.2	1.6
2008-08-20	19:30:15	N 34 26 17.08	W 118 31 13.42	408.2	2.3
2008-08-20	19:30:18	N 34 26 17.01	W 118 31 13.47	408.2	2.5
2008-08-20	19:30:21	N 34 26 16.99	W 118 31 13.58	408.7	2.6
2008-08-20	19:30:24	N 34 26 17.04	W 118 31 13.62	408.7	2.8
2008-08-20	19:30:27	N 34 26 17.09	W 118 31 13.53	408.7	2.9
2008-08-20	19:30:30	N 34 26 17.10	W 118 31 13.42	408.2	3.1
2008-08-20	19:30:33	N 34 26 17.05	W 118 31 13.40	407.7	3.2
2008-08-20	19:30:36	N 34 26 17.08	W 118 31 13.38	408.2	3.3
2008-08-20	19:30:39	N 34 26 17.10	W 118 31 13.31	407.7	3.4
2008-08-20	19:30:42	N 34 26 16.98	W 118 31 13.16	408.2	3.7
2008-08-20	19:30:45	N 34 26 16.96	W 118 31 13.27	408.2	3.9
2008-08-20	19:30:48	N 34 26 16.94	W 118 31 13.33	407.7	4.0
2008-08-20	19:30:51	N 34 26 16.89	W 118 31 13.34	407.7	4.1
2008-08-20	19:30:54	N 34 26 16.87	W 118 31 13.19	407.7	4.3
2008-08-20	19:30:57	N 34 26 16.86	W 118 31 13.03	408.2	4.6
2008-08-20	19:31:00	N 34 26 16.85	W 118 31 12.90	408.7	4.8
2008-08-20	19:31:03	N 34 26 16.89	W 118 31 12.97	408.2	4.9
2008-08-20	19:31:06	N 34 26 16.91	W 118 31 12.96	407.7	4.9
2008-08-20	19:31:09	N 34 26 16.86	W 118 31 12.92	408.2	3.6
2008-08-20	19:31:12	N 34 26 16.87	W 118 31 12.90	408.7	3.4

Figure 2

STEP 3

If everything looks good, and the left hand column is still highlighted, click on the “File” drop down menu and select “Save log (FlightLog/.kml)”.

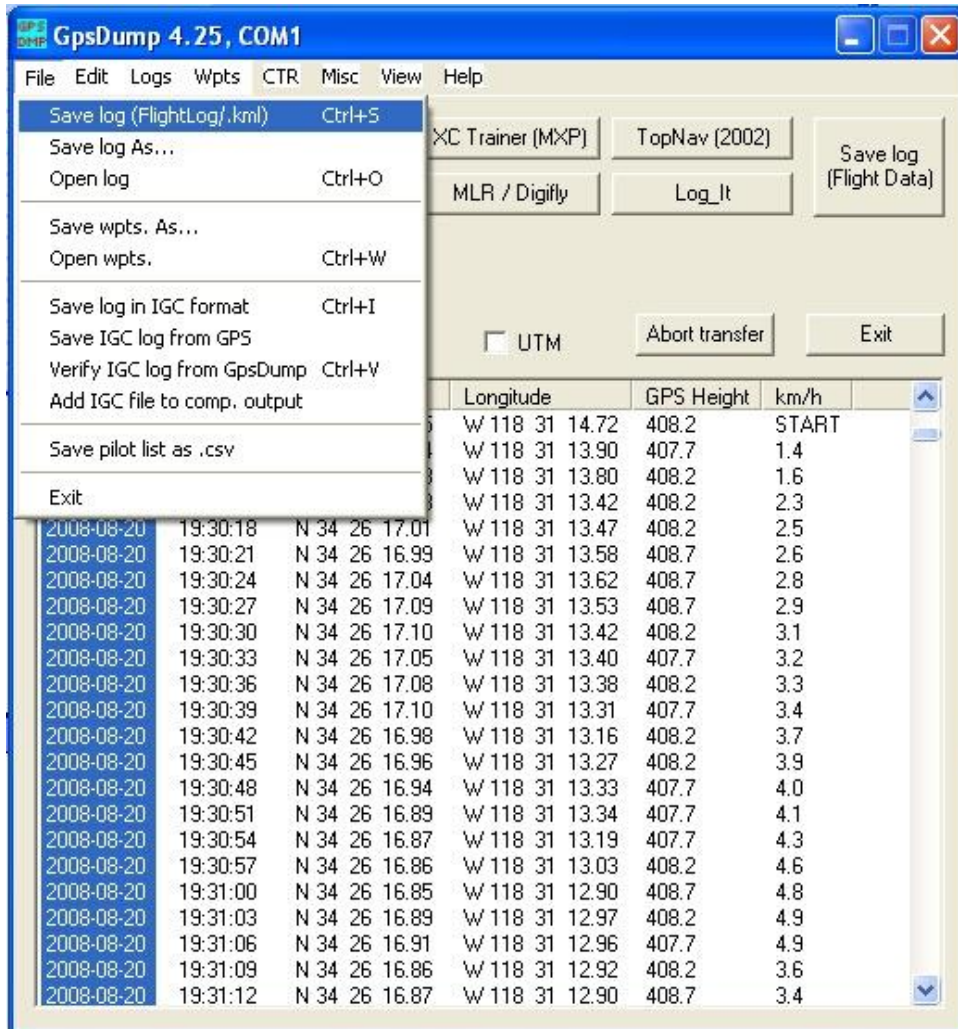


Figure 3

STEP 4 (This step is very important)

If the “Split track” window appears this means that you have more than one log within the logs you’ve highlighted on the GPSDump main window. If this window doesn’t appear then you’ll see a “Flight statistics” window appear instead and you can move on to **STEP 5**. If the “Split track” window does appear, this can happen in one of two typical ways. The first way is when you’ve turned your GPS on and off once or more than once after your flight before you downloaded your track. The second way; and this is usually the case, is that you forget to clear your tracklog from a previous flight and now it’s coupled with the flight you just had. You can’t save them all together and send them to the scorekeeper for scoring because he’ll likely give you a zero for the day just for the hassle. Now your job is to figure out which one of the log/logs in the “Split track” list contains your flight for the task that day. The small “Split track” window asks you to choose which ones you want to save. Log. Each row within the window represents a flight log, and five separate logs are listed showing you the total time and date of each. You will notice that some of the logs have very little time associated with them. Those types of logs are usually caused by momentary loss of GPS satellite reception while flying or it may simply be that you turned your GPS on and off before or after your flight. To keep it simple, here’s what I suggest you do: select all the logs that best represent the time you remember launching and landing. A good rule to follow is selecting logs at least one hour before you remember launching and two hours after you remember landing, and all logs in between those two times. NOTE: don’t forget to factor in the UTC time offset when you select your logs to be saved. In the last row of the Split track window below you’ll see a time of 19:30:36, and the log lasted for six seconds. Since this flight was on the West coast during the summer, my offset was -7 hours. So, the time of 19:30:36 was actually 12:30 p.m.

Now that you’ve highlighted the correct portion of the log, click on the “File” drop down menu and select “Save log (FlightLog/.kml)” once again. If you’ve done everything correct the window, “Flight statistics”, will pop up and you can move on to **STEP 5**. If the “Split track” window appears again, than you’ll have to back up and try it again.

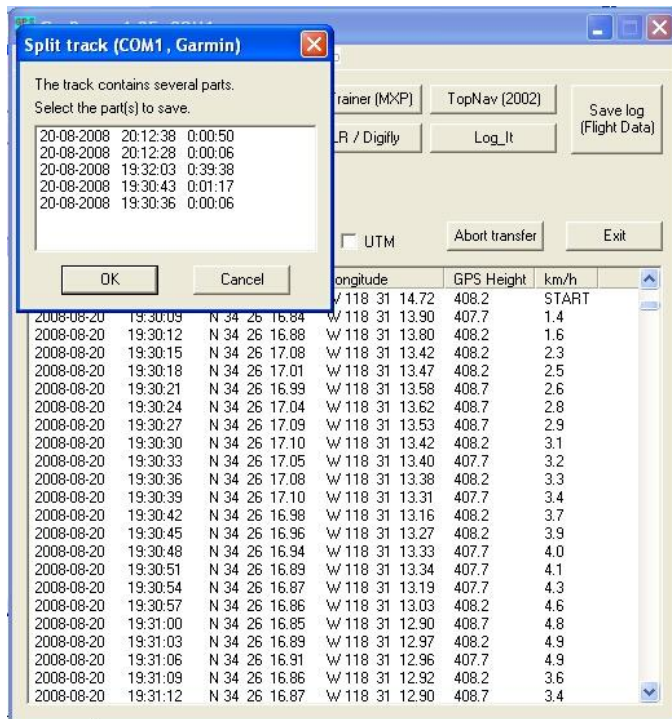


Figure 4

STEP 5

Now that you’ve clicked the “File” drop down menu and selected “Save log (FlightLog/.kml)”, the “Flight

statistics” window pops up and gives you detailed information about your flight. All you have to do now is click the “Save” button and move on to **STEP 6**.

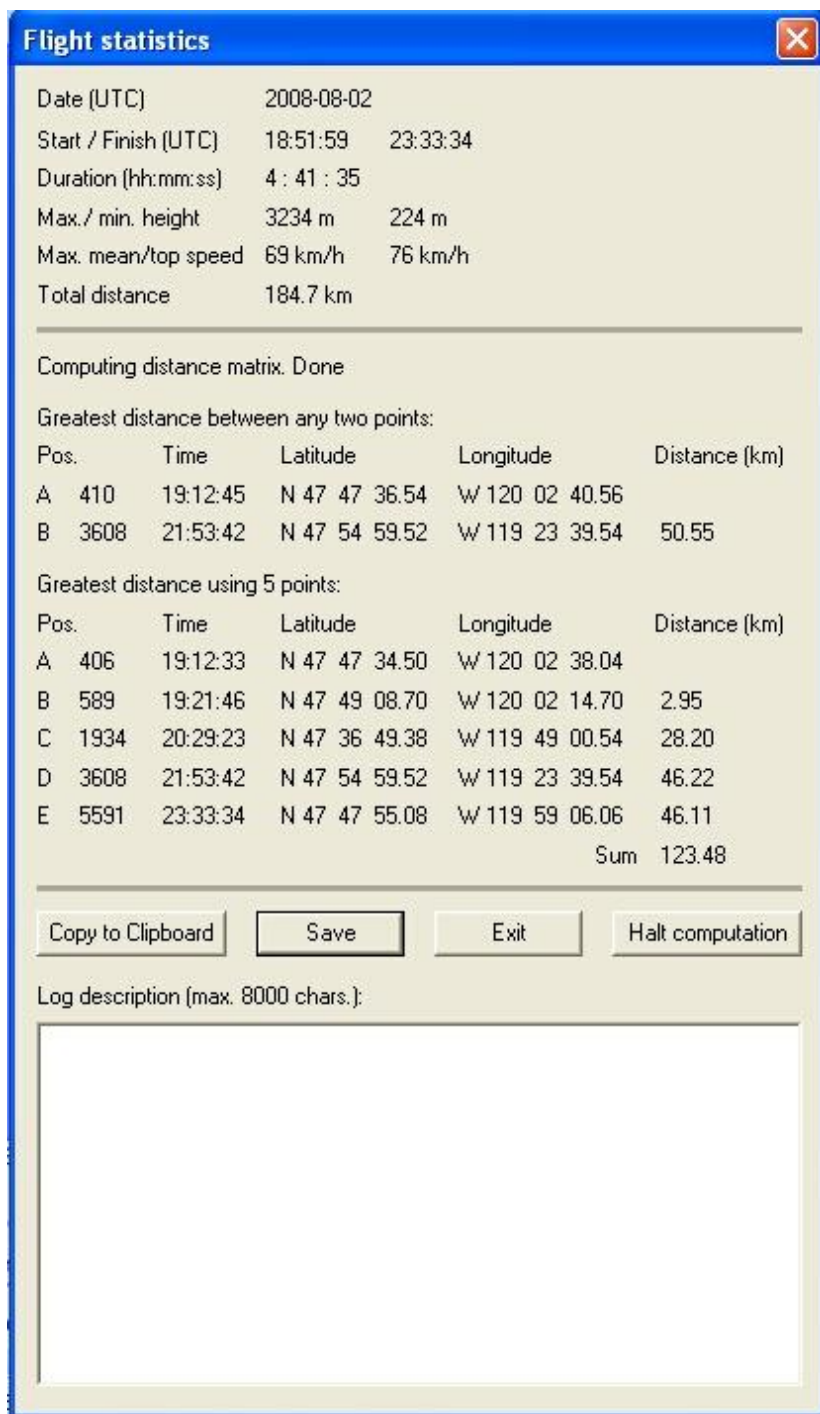


Figure 5

STEP 6

The last step is to save the file to your hard drive. PLEASE – PLEASE – PLEASE, use the format that is shown

in "File name" box in the picture below. It will save the scorekeeper (me) a lot of time when I'm trying to locate your file later. The format that I'd like you to follow, as exemplified in the picture, is as follows:

080906CloudbaseBob

YR MTH DAY LAST NAME FIRST

The date in the example is September 6, 2008.

If you follow this format the scorekeeper will love you! Last, make sure that **.kml** is what's shown in the "Save as type" box before you save it.

Well, that's pretty much it. Now you just have to email me the file so I can score it.

