

"In my kitbag"



GPS specialist Kevin Bolton from Bolton's GPS Warehouse tells us which goodies he's currently playing with.



1 Garmin nüvi 3790
Garmin recently launched this unit, and I've been testing one for the past few months. It's a sexy-looking device: thinner than previous models, with a nice, clear screen.

It tends to get quite warm, but this is normal for thin electronic devices.

I'm impressed with the "estimated time to destination" function. On a recent trip from Durban to Johannesburg it was spot on. It must be designed to take into account stops for fuel, tolls and so on.

2 RAM windscreen mount
The windscreen mount that

comes with your GPS might be fine for the N2, but it could slip off on a corrugated dirt road. I like this RAM mount, because it has a much bigger suction cup than other mounts, plus it comes with a 25-year warranty.

3 External antenna
When you use a GPS unit inside a vehicle, the roof can block signal reception from satellites. An external antenna mounted on the roof will in most cases give you full signal. Garmin has two models: the GA 25BNC and the GA 25MCX. Check which one works with your GPS; not all Garmin models are necessarily compatible with either one.

TENT OF THE MONTH

GREENSPORT DIK-DIK TURBO TENT

Automatic for the people

Only 30 seconds to pitch a canvas dome tent? That's what the manufacturer says. Mark Johnston put it to the test.



What do you like about this tent? Well, it's really fast to pitch. But Greensport has been a little cheeky with the 30-second claim. This is how it works: The inner tent comes pre-clipped to a framework of hinged poles that pop up automatically... once you've taken the whole lot out of the bag and opened the legs. You also need to attach the flysheet. And peg down the corners and guylines. To pull it off in 30 seconds would be a real feat. But with two pairs of hands it shouldn't take more than 5 minutes, which is still incredibly fast for a tent of this size.

What's it made of? The durability of the frame is key with a pop-up tent. Fortunately Greensport hasn't skimped on quality. The poles are made of 25 mm aluminium tubing, with metal hinges. The inner and flysheet are both ripstop poly-cotton canvas, with mosquito netting on the doors and windows.

How does it perform in bad weather? Very well. The fabric is completely waterproof. The frame does flex a bit in strong winds, as do all dome tents. This shouldn't be a problem if you've hammered the pegs in properly.

Any complaints? The window flaps can only be accessed from the outside.

Is it easy to pack away? Yes. The spider-like frame snaps closed just as quickly as it pops open, and everything fits back into the carry bag with ease.

Number of people: Two

Weight: 21 kg

Size (l x w x h): 2,10 m x 2,10 m x 1,65 m

Price: R2 850

Contact: Greensport ☎ 021 915 5220; 🌐 www.cymot.com

GO! It's not just a gimmick – the design really does take the pain out of pitching the tent. ☑