

Installation of a GPS & Laptop Computer in a 1998 HUMMER

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My objective in this project was to install a laptop computer linked GPS system that would be simple and reliable, both on- and off-road. It needed to be capable of providing navigational assistance using major highway networks, street-level detail in cities, and topographical maps. Further, I wanted the system to be easily removable for security purposes and keep the amount of exposed cables on the dash and doghouse to a minimum. It also had

to look good and be functional.

I used a port replicator (instead of attaching the computer to the base directly) because it makes installation and removal of the computer quick and easy. The cables (speaker cable, replicator power cable, and RS-232 serial cable) remain connected to the replicator all the time. That allows for power plug to be inserted into the cigar lighter and the computer to be slid into the replicator and locked without further action. To mount the computer directly to the base would require connecting each cable to the computer each time it was installed in the vehicle.

Note: The other stuff in the truck includes, from left to right: the speaker (connected to the laptop computer); the GPS; the inclinometer; the face for a Kenwood TM V7A amateur radio; and a Radio Shack PRO-2066 Mobile Trunk-Tracking Scanner, which is designed to scan the "undercover police" frequencies in the 800 MHz range. There is also a Cobra WX ST CB radio mounted in the overhead console.

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