



DeLorme Earthmate® GPS PN-20 FAQs

Q: I already own Topo USA 6.0 software. Do you offer a bundle without the software?

A: No. We include for no extra charge a special version of Topo USA, which is required for proper operation with the PN-20 GPS. Please uninstall your previous version of Topo USA if you have one and use the included PN-20 version instead. All previously saved Map Files will be usable with the new software.

Q: Other handheld GPS devices I have purchased for outdoor recreation usage have required me to pay extra for topographic maps. What do you include for maps?

A: The DeLorme Earthmate GPS PN-20 is an all-in-one solution, providing complete U.S. topographic and street map coverage – as well as a world base map for use when traveling between major international cities and towns. The included Topo USA DVD software lets you transfer to the PN-20 DeLorme pre-cut routable map regions or select smaller areas of interest. Topo USA is also your access point to DeLorme Aerial Data Packets (ADPs), which are layers of the following: black & white digital orthoquads, SAT-10, which is 10-meter colorized satellite imagery, and scanned USGS 7.5-minute quad maps.

Q: How does one handle the layering of the map data and imagery on the PN-20? Can I look at one place of interest switching among the various map and imagery data types?

A: Yes, you can. In fact, this is one of the most powerful aspects of the PN-20's design. When the GPS has acquired a 3-D fix, it brings up the data you have available on the device for that area, layered in the order you select on the device. You can change the order of your various map layers so the top layer will always show the DOQQ imagery, for example, or the scanned USGS 7.5-minute quad maps, or the updated Topo USA vector maps, which also show the latest DeLorme U.S. street network.

Q: Please tell me more about how the included Topo USA software interacts with the Earthmate GPS PN-20.

A: The overall design is similar in concept to the way one handles music files with an mp3 player, except in this case you are using the included DeLorme map data and software to customize and create your own perfect map(s). On a desktop or laptop PC with Topo USA loaded, you create automatic road and trail routes, profile the terrain in advance, and add symbols and notes to customize your map. You also download the included free ADPs to your desktop, viewing different layers and saving and naming your map files for future retrieval.



Next, using the Handheld Exchange function, you send your routes, track logs, waypoints, and maps to the PN-20. The PN-20 includes 75MB of user-available internal Flash memory, as well as an SD card slot built into the battery compartment. The internal memory is capable of storing the included DeLorme regional maps as well as many more detailed user-cut maps of your areas of interest. For example, the northeast region, which includes New England, takes up only 12MB on the device. Because of the size of the ADP files, we suggest you transfer them to an SD card in an SD card reader, as the transfer rates are very fast using the reader's USB 2.0 transfer rates. DeLorme offers these for sale to help you get started.

Q: Does Topo USA support popular geocaching file types?

A: Yes, the software works with .gpx and .loc files, the two popular geocaching file formats.

Q: How recent is the included free imagery downloads within the ADPs?

A: This depends on the area you select but in most cases the imagery was captured around 2000, and in some cases before then. The cost to acquire and deliver more recent imagery is very high and DeLorme plans to offer for sale more recent imagery in the coming months. Having said this, you will find that for use with the PN-20, the ADP imagery is extremely useful, especially in rural areas, which is where most of the outdoor activities intended for this device will take place. The DOQQ imagery is terrific in showing logging roads and clearings from above, providing a very useful additional perspective for camping, hiking, fishing, hunting – almost every outdoor recreational activity you can think of.

Q: What is the difference between the DeLorme Topo USA topographic data and the USGS 7.5-minute scanned maps?

A: The quick answer is each has its own unique advantages depending on your intended usage. That is why we make them both available to you – the former with complete U.S. coverage and the latter as free downloads of specific areas of your interest, or separately for sale on DVD by state. The ADP downloads provide full U.S. coverage.

Topo USA is comprised of a vector-based blended map database developed here at DeLorme, which includes updated USGS topographic digital data combined with the latest DeLorme U.S. street network. The problem with scanned paper quad maps is they can be decades old. Topo USA overcomes this problem by offering a newer blended database, which because it is vector-based, can provide much of the software's additional intelligent functionality.

But sometimes you will prefer to use traditional 7.5-minute scanned maps because they show buildings or other landmarks unique to them. So, DeLorme offers these as a layer within the Aerial Data Packets (ADPs) for online download within Topo USA. DeLorme also sells for an extra charge a state-by-state series of 3-D TopoQuads on DVD-ROM, which are the scanned raster-based USGS quad maps. These can be viewed and exchanged with the PN-20 using the Topo USA software, which sees them as just another data type.



Q: Can I create automatic routes on the Earthmate GPS PN-20?

A: Yes, you can create both road routes and direct routes. We suggest for long cross-country routes you generate these on the desktop and transfer to the PN-20. Shorter road routes can be created on the PN-20 as well. The PN-20 is primarily designed for outdoor recreational activities and the default setting for the routing function is a direct route, intended for waypoint-to-waypoint routing. But you can change the setting to road routing and also have a very effective in-vehicle routing GPS.

Q: What are the various battery settings for?

A: In order to maximize the power capacity of each battery type, we have included these settings on the device and strongly encourage you to match them to the battery type you are using. This is especially true when you switch from one type to another, for instance, AA Alkaline to Lithium-Ion rechargeable. DeLorme includes two Energizer AA alkaline batteries. We recommend for those who want to use AA batteries and not the DeLorme Travel Power Kit, that you use Energizer e-Lithium batteries, which based on our power-usage studies, dramatically improve battery life. For the most flexibility, we suggest buying the DeLorme Travel Power Kit, which provides A/C and 12-volt rechargeable Li-Ion battery options using an included PN-20 connector assembly. Buying this as one of our convenience bundles at time of purchase will save you money as opposed to buying later a la carte.

Q: What rechargeable batteries can I use with the PN-20?

A: The included lithium-ion battery and charging cradle is the only DeLorme-tested battery pack and the only one recommended for use with the PN-20. Please contact Customer Service for an additional or replacement battery and cradle kit. [Contact Us](#)

Q: Is it possible to measure property boundaries using the PN-20?

A: The PN-20 includes a very useful measure tool, which can be used to measure distances. Each leg of a boundary shows the total distance as well as the distance of that leg. Measuring on top of the DOQQ imagery layer is fascinating and very useful. So now you have a low-cost way to get a pre-survey measurement of your property boundaries or land you plan to sell or buy.

Q: What is the product warranty?

A: The product comes with a one-year warranty, details of which can be found on the Earthmate GPS PN-20 product pages, within the Specs tab.

Q: What if I need to have a repair made after the warranty period expires?

A: DeLorme offers repair services in these instances, details of which can be found within the technical support section of this Web site.



Q: Let's say I'm off on a trip and forgot to bring my Topo USA desktop software with me and need a map or imagery of a specific place. Is there a way to access maps online?

A: Yes, at data.delorme.com. As long as you registered your software upon purchase, the site will grant you access to our maps. The Earthmate GPS PN-20 has a built-in unique user key that runs an encryption process allowing the authorized user to access the desktop and Web maps. If you need additional keys for additional users, please contact customer service: [Contact Us](#)