



## CYCLING FACT SHEET No. 67

# GPS and SatNav for bicycles

In-car global positioning and satellite navigation systems have become commonplace in new vehicles, with smaller portable units also gaining popularity in recent times.

One leading manufacturer has now recognised the potential of GPS technology for cyclists by adapting its handheld range to suit the needs of local riders.

Magellan's new Triton range of units, attach to the handlebars using a custom-designed bracket and can be easily removed for safekeeping when the bicycle is unattended. They are waterproof with a rugged impact-resistant construction, and feature a colour touch screen that directs you through an intuitive menu.

Mid and top range models come with useful additions such as a barometer for keeping track of the weather, an MP3 player to listen to your favourite music while you pedal, and a digital camera.

The units have an update rate of once per second and are powered by two AA batteries.

Because GPS receivers cannot give a bearing direction when they are stationary, the Tritons have a separate electronic compass.

Although all Triton units come with a standard Australian topographic base map, it is possible to purchase preloaded SD cards that show WA maps in much greater detail.

Of particular interest to cyclists is the inclusion of paths and on-road cycling facilities that make up the Perth Bicycle Network, along with important recreational ride routes, and major mountain bike trails.

The maps featuring this cycling infrastructure should be available on SD card by the end of March 2008, and will include gradients – extremely handy if you are riding somewhere for the very first time.

Magellan also recently added nautical charts to its Australian cartographic database, meaning the one GPS unit can be easily moved between car, bicycle and boat as the owner's needs change.



At home, a personal computer can be used to view and manage all maps, keep trip notes, create custom routes and highlight waypoints.

The new Triton range is available from electronics retailers, camping stores and selected bike shops.

***This fact sheet is one of a series dealing with the use of bicycles for recreation and transport in Western Australia. The series looks at a range of cycling-related topics including ride routes, touring tips, maintenance, safety, road rules, insurance and product reviews. You can find more cycling fact sheets online at [www.transport.wa.gov.au/cycling](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/cycling)***

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