

C6 NAVIGATION SYSTEM COMPARISONS

08-16-2012

If you have a C6 Corvette, there are many different navigation systems you can use to help find your way around the country. After using most of them for a while, here are my observations. All will work, none are perfect. Pick the system that meets **your** needs:

C6 Factory Nav: Easy to buy in the car, no installation problems, covered by 3/36 and GMPP warranties, projects turn/distance data onto HUD, mutes music for voice directions, many features, continues calculating position for a few minutes if you lose GPS signal, highly theft resistant.

But- expensive to buy new or update, repairs not convenient, can only enter first page of Previous Destinations + 6 presets while moving unless a cutout switch is installed, non-intuitive to use, backup camera must be installed separately, early units had no Bluetooth/Ipod, sometimes produces goofy routings.

Aftermarket In-Dash Nav: Usually cheaper to buy/update, usually easy to use, allows entries while moving, most will accept backup camera, may produce better music, may have other nice feature like traffic/redlight/speed cameras.

But- Requires separate purchase, installation not simple, improper installation can cause other problems, dealers sometimes want to blame any electrical issues on aftermarket unit, shorter warranty, repairs not convenient, no information on HUD, may not mute music, older units may not have Bluetooth/Ipod/voice commands, features/reliability/friendliness vary with brand & model, sometimes more easily stolen, sometimes produces goofy routings.

Garmin, etc: Cheap to buy/update, easy to use, allows entries while moving, portable, easily replaced.

But- Smaller screen, harder to mount in visible/fixed location, needs power wire, shorter warranty, no information on HUD, does not mute music, invites broken windows/theft if left visible, not easily wired to backup camera, can look "cheap", many do not accept voice commands, sometimes produces goofy routings.

Cellphone Nav: Easy to buy, up to date maps, may be easy to use, allows entries while moving, may have many features.

But- Small screen and keys, no information on HUD, must be removed/replaced from your belt each time you drive/exit, shorter battery life or needs power cord, aftermarket apps may be unreliable/expensive, harder to mount in visible/fixed location, voice directions can be hard to understand and don't mute music, most won't work if you don't have cellphone coverage, after an accident/crime you may not be able to find your phone, invites theft/broken windows if left in car, cellphone use while driving may be illegal, sometimes produces goofy routings.

Paper Map: Cheap, portable, good for trip planning, gives you the "Big Picture".

But- Dangerous to use solo while driving, requires you to determine your current location, scale is usually too big or too small, no POI information, may need to order in advance for long trips.

