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## Garmin nüvi 3597lmtD review

This is my first GPS unit, although I have used others in the past that were not mine. As far as GPS goes, I hate this one LESS than the others. I generally dislike GPS units because they always seem to take you on routes that defy logic, regardless of how you program the settings. This one has infuriated me a few times by insisting on needlessly taking a route right through the middle of a city - the exact sort of thing I want to AVOID at all cost! It is, however, invaluable in navigating the hellacious streets that are northeastern cities. If you follow it blindly, it's not good for your blood pressure. I typically plan my route out ahead of time using Mapquest, then use this unit as a guide.If your are in unknown territory, the features on this thing are GREAT. Like finding fast food joints, or gas stations. In the Northeast in particular, you have to take the gas station locations with a grain of salt, as some locations are just convenience stores with no gasoline or diesel pumps at all. If you drive a diesel, it's going to be hit or miss if the place even sells it - best to carry a can in the back just in case.Now that I've owned this thing over a year now, I have found it impossible to update the unit. Every time I turn it on now it tells me I need to update it ... but for some reason my desktop will not allow the update to go through. Very annoying. I really don't see the need for such frequent updates, but I have noticed it's navigation has got quirky since that message popped up - almost as if it's trying to piss you off to FORCE you to update it. One of the quirks of the electronic age, I suppose.Speaking of diesel, if you drive heavy trucks I wouldn't recommend this one, especially in the Northeast. It doesn't show low bridges, wires, or restricted weight roads ... of which there are many up here. Can get yourself into trouble relying on this thing, if you've never slung a 53' around these paved cowpaths before.As long as I know exactly where I'm going this thing is great. I love seeing the elevation displayed. It's interesting the changes in just a short drive down the street - something I never paid much attention to before. On a cross-country trip we saw a high of 8800 feet, and a low of -10 in a CA basin. Interesting.The mileage, average speed, & top speed displays are also interesting. When I got back to MA from my cross-country trip, I enjoyed showing everyone the 114 MPH top speed I hit on a private road in my 6k lb. pickup, loaded with gear. :D These can all be toggled as to which on you want displayed, otherwise you have to navigate through the menu ... which sucks while driving. The "Voice Command" feature is awesome ... as long as it works. Sometimes it's tough trying to figure out what to say in order for it to do what you want, while your trying to concentrate on staying on the road.

Typical of electronic devices these days. I certainly would rather have it than not, given a choice though.The best feature of all is the magnetic quick-attach feature of the window mount. You can quickly grab the unit and stuff it in your back pocket when parking in a bad neighborhood. The best part is reattaching it is super easy. The magnet guides it right in place, although it seems to take a bit longer now a year later - might be wearing out a bit ... or might just be me.Also in all I love the thing, quirks and all. Pretty high tech unit! Great resolution and features. Highly recommend it.\*\*UPDATE\*\* 4/29/2015: After a computer meltdown & reboot, I was finally able to update the unit - turns out I had issues with Windows that were preventing the update. Took FIVE HOURS - seriously! In this day and age, that's just plain ridiculous. The updates included updates to "Farsi" - I only speak English, so it would have been nice to delete all that unnecessary extra baggage.Used it a couple times last week. Along the way discussing the unit with a buddy of mine. I realized that the perfect GPS unit would be one that was EXACTLY like Mapquest - I would LOVE to be able to modify my own route by dragging the highlighted roads to boot! Even though my route was an additional 110 miles, it saves time spent sitting in traffic in every northeastern coastal city along 95, and toll booths, and the inevitable accident that everyone needs to slow down and gawk at. I had to stop the route - it was to infuriating. If I heard "When possible, make a u-turn ..." one more time, I swear I was going to launch that thing out the window!! While listening to the stupid thing unconsciously, I ended up taking 64 through VA, when I should have just stayed on 81, taking me many needless miles out of the way. GRRRR!!As fate would have it, the unit croaked once in FL. Every time I powered it up on the trip, I kept getting a message saying, "This cord cannot charge your battery - please use a Garmin approved cord" , or something to that effect. Surprisingly it made it the whole way down, and the next day driving around FL before the battery finally died. Of course, nobody carries the OEM cord with the traffic antenna, so basically I had a \$300+ paperweight in my truck at that point. Was just as well - using my old school maps, I made it home without a single wrong turn. Sometimes I wonder why I even bought this stupid thing ..As far as the cord, when I got home and played around with it, it suddenly worked again! Go figure. This was after updating the unit a second time. Hmmm ... makes you wonder if these things are programmed to do that, so you needlessly spend money on parts? Seems awfully fishy to me. But then again, this is the age of chinese parts & manufacturing cheapouts, so it could just be a crap quality cord.If I had to do it again, \$300 would have bought me a lot of nice paper maps! Lifetime maps Lifetime traffic Excellent voice control Live services require smartphone connection RDS-TMC traffic only Review Price: £269.99 5-inch widescreen with 800 x 480 pixels Maps for 45 European countries with lifetime updates Lifetime RDS-TMC traffic Live services via smartphone Magnetic quick-release screen mount The nüvi 3597LMT is not quite the top of Garmin's current sat-nav range - that position goes to the 3598LMT-D. However, the only major difference is the type of traffic system it incorporates. Whilst the 3598LMT-D sports Garmin's Digital Traffic for the lifetime of the device, the 3597LMT settles for the less detailed or frequently updated RDS-TMC variety. But you still get a lifetime subscription, and otherwise the devices are identical. Garmin nüvi 3597LMT: Design The 3597LMT has a 5-inch display, which is starting to feel like the new normal size now that so many 6-inch models are on the market. The screen has a resolution of 800 x 480, which is the norm for this size. The device itself is stylish and svelte, with a very thin frame around the bezel, and a single piece of glass covering the front surface. The back is silver with black inlays, resulting in a stylish look, and the 3597LMT's size is not much greater than a 5-inch smartphone, so this won't be a hard device to carry with you when not in use. Garmin has taken a leaf out of TomTom's book and now provides a magnetic mounting system with its latest premium models. The 3597LMT has a row of contacts on the back and a strong magnet, within a ridged area, so that it snaps into place firmly on the mount. This will mean taking the unit out of your car will be easy, although a lot of people don't like to leave a visible sat-nav mount in their vehicles as it can be an attraction to thieves. SEE ALSO: Garmin nüvi 65 LM Garmin nüvi 3597LMT - Interface The familiar Garmin menu system greets you when you start the device, and wade through the many setup routines that appear when you first start a sat-nav. The menu offers the usual two main choices - Where To? and View Map - with secondary icons for settings and supplementary functions, which Garmin calls Apps. These can be augmented by a selection of free and premium downloads. The Where To? section will be your primary port of call, however. This takes you to a submenu that is fairly traditional in layout. There is a grid of icons for your pre-defined home location, searching by address, and common points of interest (POI) categories, including restaurants, petrol stations, and shops. You can also add further icons from a list of options. The right-hand side gives you access to the full range of POI categories, plus your saved favourite destinations, and the history of recent destinations. Related: 5 Best Dash Cams right nowHowever, there is also a search bar at the top, which allows you to seek a destination by keyword across both address and POI databases. By default, this has a bias towards your current location, but you can change this by clicking on the area to the right of the search field. This gives you a whole slew of alternative options, like searching near a town, postcode, or along your current route. In all, the range of destination entry options is comprehensive, although most people will pick the method they like best and stick with it. This will quite likely be the keyword entry most of the time, particularly as this also accepts postcodes. But it's good to have the POI categories ready to hand, if you need to locate an amenity in an unfamiliar area. SEE ALSO: Garmin nüvi 2598 LMT-D The 3597LMT comes with maps for 45 European countries and lifetime updates across all of them, which is fast becoming the norm on sat-navs, presumably to compete with the fact that Google Maps and other online options are always the latest version. It's gratifying to see that the keyword search functions across all of the available countries without the need to specify, which will be handy if you're on a pan-European trip. Returning to the Apps menu, there is information about using Smartphone Link, which provides Garmin's Live services via your smartphone. You can also pair your phone via Bluetooth so the sat-nav can be used as a hands free device. You can configure and access the ecoRoute system, which helps you to minimise your fuel usage. There's also a multi-waypoint Trip Planner, which lets you create, save and load routes. You can also view your travel history and the last place the car stopped, which is handy for finding where you parked your vehicle. The Apps menu is also where you can go to customise the Voice Command trigger phrase. As we have mentioned in previous reviews, such as the nüvi 2598LMT-D, Garmin's verbal control system is particularly effective for address entry, although it doesn't cover every function the sat-nav has. Once you have chosen your destination, Garmin's trafficTrends ensures that your route is calculated according to historic traffic information, so jam black spots are taken into account and a realistic road speed is used to figure out your journey time. This is a feature that has been available in Garmin sat-navs for a few years now, and we have found it to be similarly effective to TomTom's IQ Routes. The navigational experience hasn't changed noticeably since the last generation of Garmin sat-navs. A bar at the top details the next turning, and the road name to look out for. A bar at the bottom details your current speed on the left, with your estimated time of arrival on the right, and the name of the street you are currently travelling down in the middle. You can also enable the Up Ahead panel on the right, which shows where the nearest petrol station, public toilet and restaurant is for your current position, which could be seriously handy if you have needy children in the car with you. The map also shows little 3D models of landmarks as you drive. We weren't particularly convinced by this feature when it first appeared in sat-navs some years ago, but there doesn't appear to be a noticeable performance hit from its inclusion on the 3597LMT, and more landmarks appear to be included now. There are also the usual full-screen graphics when you approach a complex interchange, so you know which signs to look out for and which lane to be in. As mentioned in the introduction, the 3598LMT includes traffic updates. These are only available when the car power adapter is attached as this contains the receiver. The system used is RDS-TMC, so not as many roads will be covered as with the Garmin Digital Traffic or TomTom's HD Traffic, and updates will not be so frequent. But this is still a useful facility to steer you clear of massive motorway jams. Speed camera notifications are also available, with the alert appearing at the top of the screen. Should I buy the Garmin nüvi 3597LMT? The Garmin nüvi 3597LMT is a capable, fully featured sat-nav. However, whilst it has some useful features that the equivalent TomTom doesn't, such as ecoRoute and the more varied Live services available via Smartphone Link, TomTom's GO 5000 costs a little less and comes with built-in HD Traffic, which trumps the 3597LMT's RDS-TMC system. So if you're a regular commuter needing to avoid gridlock on your journeys to and from work, TomTom just has the edge, or you could try the nüvi 3598LMT-D, which has Garmin's Digital Traffic built in for £30 more. Verdict The Garmin nüvi 3597LMT provides a lot of sat-nav features for the money, although the traffic updates are only RDS-TMC. Next, read our pick of the best sat-navs Screen Size (inches) (Inch) 5in Display Type Color General Features Lifetime RDS-TMC traffic, lifetime map updates, voice control Hands Free Bluetooth Live Services Via smartphone Battery life (Hour) 2hr Height (Millimeter) 77mm Width (Millimeter) 138mm Depth (Millimeter) 13mm Weight (Gram) 192g







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