

Appendix 'E'

More Details of the 'Host' mode of GPS_COM

- 1 Host Mode in GPS_COM enables transfers to be initiated from the GPS unit, rather than from the computer. It was included for completeness, and really has only academic interest in the computer-to-GPS scenario, although you do feel more 'in charge' when you select the operation from the GPS unit, rather than the PC.
- 2 However it does have another use, since it allows the configuration to be changed to a computer-to-computer link, where both machines are running GPS_COM, and one is set to Host mode. This configuration was used a great deal during testing of the software, and can be used to increase your confidence in the whole package. (Do not forget that the cable will need the two data lines swapped over, so that RXD at one end is TXD at the other).
- 3 GPS_COM correctly emulates the GPS unit during all Host operations, including Database Updates. Once again, using GPS_COM on both machines will result in the transfer of an image file from one machine to the other, albeit rather slowly.
- 4 You can also employ the manufacturer's database update software on the 'sending' machine. Yet another academic exercise, until the manufacturer decides to encrypt his image files. Since the 'receiving' machine running GPS_COM looks just like the real thing, it cannot fail to receive a correct image.
- 5 In normal Host operation, GPS_COM identifies itself as a GPS Model 90, but command-line options will cause it to look like other models: '-AVD' for GPS95AVD, '-195' for GPS195, '-3P' for GPS III Pilot, '-89' for GPS89. This is only useful during Database Update transfers with the sending machine running the manufacturer's update software, which is a little 'choosy' about what type of image it sends to each type of unit.
6. GPS_COM in Write AVD mode places no restriction on the type of GPS connected, leaving it to the user to decide what is appropriate. This does allow you to attempt to upload a 1MB image to a unit with only 512K of memory, which takes a long time and achieves nothing except the Erase Database operation.
7. Note that AVD-only images do work in units with enough memory to hold SUA information, so if you do not need it, and would like the map to re-draw much more quickly, this is the solution. I have used an SUA image cut-down to 512k in my 95AVD.