



## Overview for Garmin Oregon 550 and 550t Units

### **Abstract**

This guide gives an overview of the Garmin Oregon 550 and 550t GPS units for NRCS users in Indiana. Note that the layout of icons on the menu screens in this guide may differ from the layout of icons on a given unit, but all icons should be available. Please refer to the Owner's Manual included on the unit for additional information.

### **Details**

#### **Accessing the Owner's Manual (if needed)**

The manual can be found as a PDF file on the unit while the unit is connected to your computer.

1. Connect the unit to your computer. The unit behaves as a hard drive while connected.
2. Open **My Computer**. The icon for the unit will be a blue triangle called **Garmin Oregon**.
3. The file is found on the unit at [\Documents\files\pdf\OM\\_EN.pdf](#).

### **Layout**



*Image Source: Garmin Oregon Series Owner's Manual*

### **Layout Descriptions**

Power Button:

The Power button turns the unit on and off. **Press and hold** the button to turn the unit on or off. If you tap the Power button while the unit is on, you can adjust screen brightness or lock/unlock the screen. If the Screenshots setting is active, tapping Power will instead store a screenshot of the current screen.

Camera lens:

3.2 megapixel camera

Micro-USB Port:

Used to connect the unit to a computer via a standard Micro-USB to USB cable.



**Battery Cover:** Simply lift the latch at the base of the unit to unlock the cover and then lift the cover off. This compartment is very easy to access if you remove the belt clip from the mounting spine *before* trying to open it. Replace the cover and press the latch back down to seal the unit.

**Micro-SD Slot:** This is found inside the battery compartment, beneath the batteries. To place a card in the slot, slide the silver cover towards the top of the unit and flip it up. Rest the card to the contact points beneath, lower the silver cover and slide it towards the bottom of the unit to lock the card in place.

**Belt Clip (not shown):** The belt clip easily slides on or off the mounting spine.

**Screens**

These are the main screens on the unit. Please note that icons have been rearranged in these screenshots to place more commonly used icons on the leftmost screens. Your unit may have icons placed differently or hidden altogether. All of these main screens show remaining battery power, satellite signal strength, and scroll arrows.



Menu Screen 1



Menu Screen 2



Menu Screen 3



Menu Screen 4



Menu Screen 5



## Navigating Screens

These units use touch screen technology. Other than the power button, all interaction is handled with the touch screen. To select a menu or an option, simply press the corresponding item on screen. Common navigation or entry buttons are listed here. Buttons specific to functions or tasks are described in their related task guide.



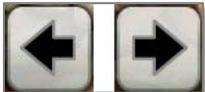
**Confirm:** To confirm an entry, press the green check mark onscreen. The current data will be saved and the current screen will close.



**Exit:** To exit a menu or screen, press the “x” button. The “x” may be red or white.



**Go Back:** Sometimes exit or confirm are not available and you must press the go back button onscreen to return to previous menus or screens.



**Scroll Left/Right\*:** To scroll across screens press the left or right arrows onscreen, when applicable.



**Scroll Up/Down\*:** To scroll up or down a menu or list, press the up or down arrows onscreen, when applicable.



**Access Text Entry:** This button will bring up a text entry screen, when available.



**Text Entry:** Entering text is done with onscreen key entries. Any letter, number, or symbol you select will overwrite the character currently highlighted by the text cursor. If you scroll to the right using the arrow buttons, additional choices for entry will be available including numbers and special characters.

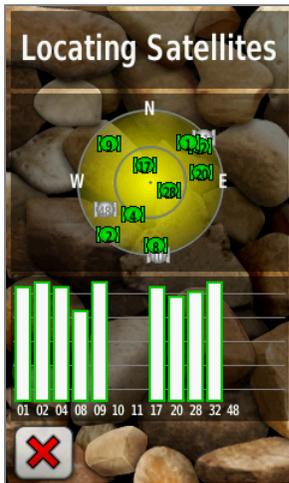


**Backspace:** Backspace is available when entering text.

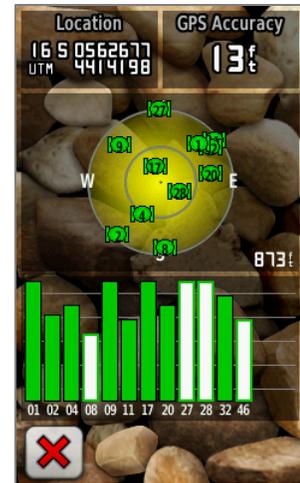
\*Touching and dragging the screen also works to scroll, but the unit may register a touch as an item selection and activate the touched item instead of scrolling.



## Satellite Page



Access the *Satellite* page by touching the satellite strength bar graphic while on a main screen. The graphic may be black, red, green, partly filled, or covered with a red “x” depending on current signals and settings. A screen will be displayed with satellite information and a sky plot. If the unit does not yet have a fix, satellites and their corresponding bars will be flashing and a *Locating Satellites* message will be displayed.



If the unit has a strong enough fix on several satellites, then a coordinate pair will be displayed in the upper left, an estimated GPS position accuracy will show in the upper right, and many of the satellites and their corresponding signal strength bars will be steady and green. Once at least four to five satellite bars are green, the user can exit the *Satellite* page and begin working with the unit. The satellite strength bar graphic will show filled green bars indicating an active position fix.

## Lock/Unlock Screen

If you tap the Power button while the unit is active, a screen will appear that allows you to lock the last viewed screen. To lock the screen, press the *Lock Screen* button that appears. You will be returned to your last viewed screen and not be able to navigate away from that screen until you unlock the screen. To unlock the screen, tap the Power button again and then press the *Unlock Screen* button. This is useful if you want to keep a particular screen displayed while you work, such as the compass, and not leave that screen if you accidentally touch it while working.

## Accuracy

Many factors affect GPS accuracy ranging from number and position of currently used satellites to the current atmospheric conditions down to proximity to solid objects or the way a unit is held in some cases. To achieve the best accuracy, stay away from tall vegetation, structures, vehicles, and low lying areas surrounded by steep terrain. All handheld GPS units in this area of the world perform best when the user faces south. This unit performs about the same when held upright or flat.

The units have an expected absolute accuracy, horizontally, of 3 to 5 meters at the 95% confidence level using the WAAS setting. Absolute accuracy is a measure of how close a given point is to an actual ground position by comparing the recorded point against a professionally surveyed location.

The units have an expected relative accuracy, horizontally, of 1 to 2 meters. Relative accuracy means that if you drew a circle around a collected point with a 2 meter radius and then you collected many more points while standing in the same spot, nearly all or all of those points would fall within that circle, but not necessarily exactly on top of each other or the original point.

As essentially a recreation grade unit, the vertical accuracy of this unit should be regarded as an approximation. Survey grade units are the preferred hardware for observing elevations.