



SD Data Card Guide



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This manual reflects information typically encountered when performing the indicated procedures. Some differences in operation may be observed when comparing the information in this manual to earlier or later versions.

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WARNING: The purpose of this guide is to help manage and troubleshoot Secure Digital (SD) data cards. The guide does not supersede any information found in the Pilot's Guide.



CAUTION: Always refer to the applicable Pilot's Guide for the installed avionics for clarification, definitions, and instructions.



NOTE: Detailed instructions and information can often be found in the Appendix of the applicable Pilot's Guide.



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Part Number	Rev	Date	Description
190-03103-00	A	December, 2023	Production Release.
	B	December, 2024	Replaced Type 1 Fonts Updated Notes

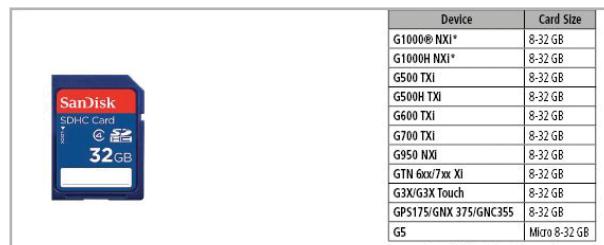
This document uses interactive links to improve the user experience. Throughout the document, there will be icons and buttons the user can select to navigate to the associated material and information.

	Video Link	Click to view video.
	Table of Contents	Click to view Table of Contents.
	More Info	Click to view additional information.

Interactive Icons

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Open Market Card Approved

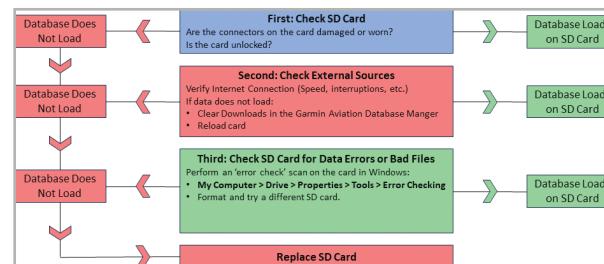
Name Brand SDHC Card - SanDisk® - 32GB - Class 4 & Devices

* If the SD card will be left in the lower navigation card slot during the flight, the card must be a TSO card supplied by Garmin.

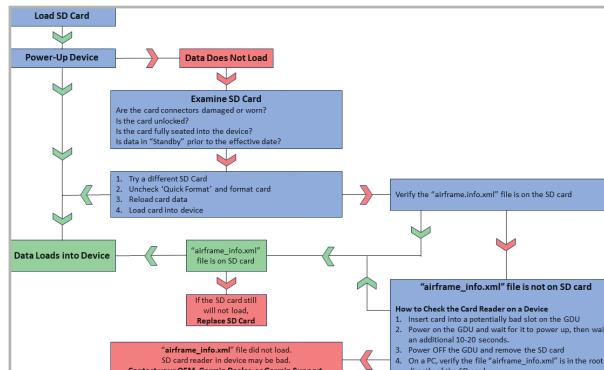


SD Card Must be Purchased From Garmin

Click on the Image for Troubleshooting Loading Databases Onto SD Cards



Click on the Image for Troubleshooting Loading SD Card Into Device



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TYPES OF DATA CARDS USED IN GARMIN DEVICES



NOTE: Check the applicable Pilot's Guide to confirm the secure digital (SD) card requirements for your device.

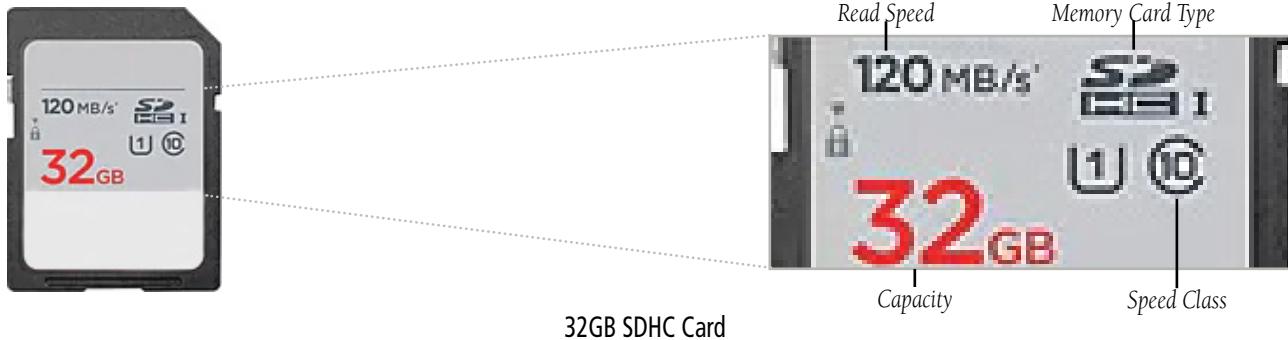


NOTE: Most secure digital (SD) and secure digital high-capacity (SDHC) cards with 32GB or lower storage are set to FAT32 by default. Please verify before use.

Two types of secure digital (SD) cards are used in Garmin devices. The standard SD card has a capacity of up to 2 GB.

The high-capacity SDHC card has a capacity range from 4GB to 32GB.

The card format for Garmin devices is FAT32.



WHAT IS A TECHNICAL STANDARD ORDERS (TSO) CARD?

Depending on the device, some SD cards must meet minimum technical performance standards. The cards are identified by 'TSO' on the card label. These cards must be supplied by Garmin or the original equipment manufacturer (OEM). TSO cards are necessary for Garmin devices, such as the G1000®/G2000®/G3000®/G5000® and GTN™ 600/700 series, where navigation data cards must remain in the device during flight.



Garmin - TSO SD Card



CAN WE USE OPEN MARKET SD OR SDHC CARDS?



NOTE: Check the applicable Pilot's Guide to confirm the secure digital (SD) card requirements for your device.



NOTE: It is recommended to use at least a Class 4, 6, or 10 SDHC card.



NOTE: It is not recommended to use off-brand or generic SD or SDHC cards, as they may damage equipment/devices.



NOTE: The newer Xi™, NXi™, and TXi™ series of devices can use open market SDHC cards. Those data cards must be between 8GB and 32GB.



Name Brand SDHC Card - SanDisk® - 32GB - Class 4

LOADING DATA ONTO SD/SDHC CARDS



NOTE: Loading the card directly using an SD card port on a computer is preferred.



NOTE: Avoid using an external USB hub, computer screen port, or keyboard port when loading an SD card, to avoid degraded performance.



NOTE: If an external card reader is required, connect directly to the computer.



NOTE: A Transcend USB 3.0 card reader is an acceptable adapter if your computer does not have a USB SD card port available.



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING SD CARDS



NOTE: Whether left in the aircraft or transported home, keep the cards secure.



NOTE: When not installed in a device, place the card in an SD card case to keep them clean and protect the metal contacts on the back of the card.



CAUTION: DO NOT use the data cards for any purpose other than database storage. Using the data cards for personal storage can corrupt database information and/or damage the data card.



CAUTION: DO NOT format Garmin Supplemental TSO Data Cards unless instructed to do so by Garmin. Formatting cards will delete all databases. Reloading Supplemental TSO Data Cards from flygarmin.com and/or Jeppesen could incur additional cost.

To avoid damage, data loss, or corruption, the following guidelines should be followed when handling data cards:

- Store data cards in a clean and dry location.
- Do not save personal files on data cards.
- Properly eject data cards after a database download has finished.
- Do not touch metal contacts on the backside of the data cards.
- Use only high-quality, name brand open-market SD cards, if necessary.



GARMIN FEATURE UNLOCK CARDS



NOTE: If a Garmin Feature Unlock Card is lost, there is a replacement fee. Contact your OEM, Garmin Dealer, or Garmin Aviation Product Support to obtain a replacement card.

Garmin Feature Unlock Cards are used to activate, or unlock, specific features such as:

- TAWS-B
- TAWS-A
- Synthetic Vision Technology (SVT)
- Video Input
- Electronic Stability Protection (ESP™)
- Jeppesen ChartView™

After the feature is activated, keep this data card in the aircraft in case a service center needs to reactivate a feature after a software update or other system repairs/issues.



Garmin - Feature Unlock SD Card



GARMIN DATABASES



NOTE: Check the applicable Pilot's Guide to confirm the secure digital (SD) card requirements for your device.



NOTE: The Navigation database should be loaded onto a separate card.

The following databases may be purchased on flygarmin.com, and loaded on SD cards using the Garmin Aviation Database Manager.

Database	Description	Update Cycle (Days)	Notes
Navigation Data	Airport, NAVAID, Waypoint, Airspace	28	Options include Garmin Navigation Database and Jeppesen Navigation Database. Stored internally on panel mounted devices after update.
SafeTaxi	Geo-referenced airport diagrams	56	
Obstacles	Man-made structures over 200' AGL viewed via Synthetic Vision Technology (SVT), if available. 9 Arc Second database required for SVT.	56	
Basemap	Boundary, city, rivers, and road info.	As needed	Non-aviation related info.
Airport Directory	Airport facility and FBO info.	56	Provided by either AOPA or AC-U-KWIK.
FliteCharts	Electronic version of published approach, arrival, and departure charts	28	Disables 180 days after expiration date
Terrain		As needed	Provides elevation and topography info.

Database Update Schedule



NOTE: Starting with G1000 GDU version 15.10 and G2000/3000/5000 GDU version 6.50, Garmin began supporting a new format of the Navigation Database known as ADB2. The ADB2 filename on the SD card is "nav_db2.bin".



NOTE: G1000 GDU software versions prior to 15.10 and G2000/3000/5000 GDU software versions prior to 6.50 only support the ADB1 database format. The ADB1 filename on the SD card is "avtn_db.bin".



NOTE: Database update tools will program both versions (ADB1 & ADB2) of the database onto the card and the avionics will use the appropriate database.



NOTE: Starting with G1000 GDU version 15.00, Garmin began supporting a new format of the Terrain Database known as TDB2. G2000/3000/5000 GDU have supported TDB2 from launch. The filename on the SD card is "trn.dat".



NOTE: G1000 GDU software versions prior to 15.00 only support the TDB1 database format. The TDB1 filename on the SD card is "terrain.tdb" or "terrain_9as.tdb". Users will need to know their GDU version so they can choose the correct Terrain database for their system/avionics.



NOTE: TDB1 supports various resolutions including 30 arc/sec, 9 arc/sec, 6 arc/sec. TDB2 supports 4.9 arc/sec.





NOTE: To load ChartView™ on a G3X/G3X Touch, you will need a Micro SD card no larger than 32GB.



NOTE: To load ChartView™ on avionics/systems other than the G3X/G3X Touch, you will need a standard SD card with 32GB or less.



NOTE: For G1000, ChartView™ should be loaded to the Supplemental Data Card assigned to the MFD.



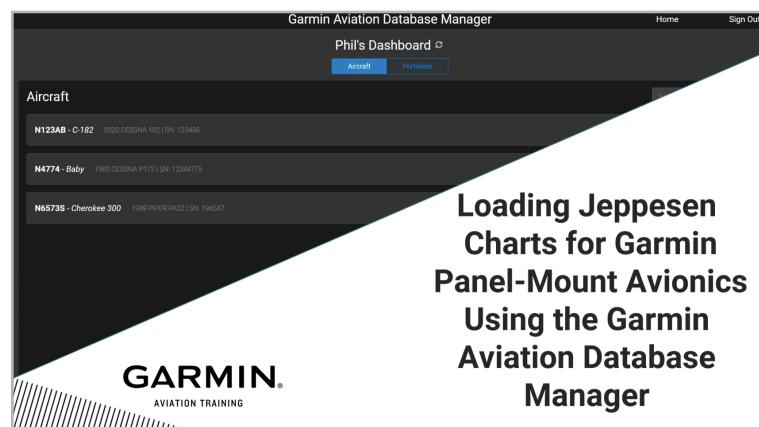
NOTE: For G2000/3000/5000, ChartView™ should be loaded to all Supplemental Data Cards.

Many Garmin devices load Jeppesen's ChartView™ digital aviation charts instead of Garmin's FliteCharts. To use Jeppesen's ChartView™ services, an unlock key must be purchased from Garmin, then purchase a separate database subscription directly from Jeppesen.

ChartView™ can be loaded using the Jeppesen Distribution Manager (JDM), or through flygarmin.com via the Garmin Aviation Database Manager (GADM).

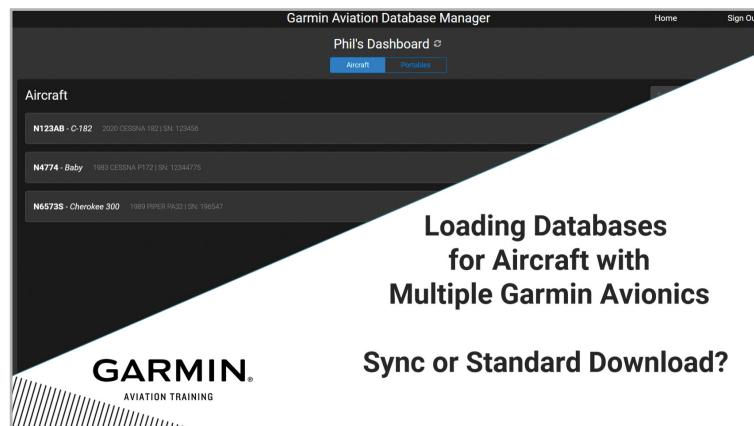
HOW TO LOAD JEPPESEN CHARTVIEW™ DATABASES ONTO SD CARD

Click on the Image to See How to Load
Jeppesen ChartView onto SD Card



HOW TO LOAD GARMIN DATABASES ONTO SD CARD

Click on the Image to See How to Load
Garmin Databases onto SD Card



ACTIVE AND STANDBY DATABASES

Garmin devices utilize two types of databases, active and standby. Active databases are currently in use and visible on the system. Standby databases are loaded but not installed until their effective date. These standby databases are stored and not visible until installation.



NOTE: When loading databases, be sure to know their status. If the databases are loaded before the active date, check Standby to ensure they are loaded.



NOTE: Loading a database in the system prior to its effective date will result in the expiration date on the start-up screen and the effective date on the AUX-System Status Page will be displayed in yellow.

	Navigation	1613, Expires 05-JAN-17
	Basemap	16M1
	Obstacle/HOT	16B6, Expires 05-JAN-17
	Terrain	15T1
	SafeTaxi	16S6, Expires 05-JAN-17
	FliteCharts	1613, Expires 05-JAN-17
	Airport Directory	16D6, Expires 05-JAN-17
	SafeTaxi	16S4, Eff. 21-JUL-16 to 15-SEP-16
	FliteCharts	1606, Eff. 26-MAY-16 to 23-JUN-16
	Airport Directory	16D4, Eff. 21-JUL-16 to 15-SEP-16
	Terrain	Database Not Found

Garmin - Start-Up - AUX - Yellow Effective Date(s)



WHERE TO PURCHASE SD CARDS FOR GARMIN DEVICES



NOTE: The SDHC card may be purchased on the open market. 8MB - 32MB, Class 4, 6, or 10 recommended.



NOTE: All devices can use open-market 4GB and 8GB SDHC cards for logging aircraft performance data, checklists, and screen captures.



NOTE: Check the applicable Pilot's Guide to confirm the secure digital (SD) card requirements for your device.



Device	Card Size
G1000® NXi*	8-32 GB
G1000H NXi*	8-32 GB
G500 TXi	8-32 GB
G500H TXi	8-32 GB
G600 TXi	8-32 GB
G700 TXi	8-32 GB
G950 NXi	8-32 GB
GTN 6xx/7xx Xi	8-32 GB
G3X/G3X Touch	8-32 GB
GPS175/GNX 375/GNC355	8-32 GB
G5	Micro 8-32 GB

Open Market Card Approved

Name Brand SDHC Card - SanDisk® - 32GB - Class 4 & Devices

* If the SD card will be left in the lower navigation card slot during the flight, the card must be a TSO card supplied by Garmin.



Device
G1000
G1000H
G2000/G3000/G5000
G3000H/G5000H
G900X
G950
G500/G600/G700
G500H
GPS150/CL & GPS155/xl
GNC250/GNC300
GTN6xx/7xx

SD Card Must be Purchased From Garmin

Garmin - TSO SD Card & Devices



HOW TO VIEW FILES ON DATA CARD

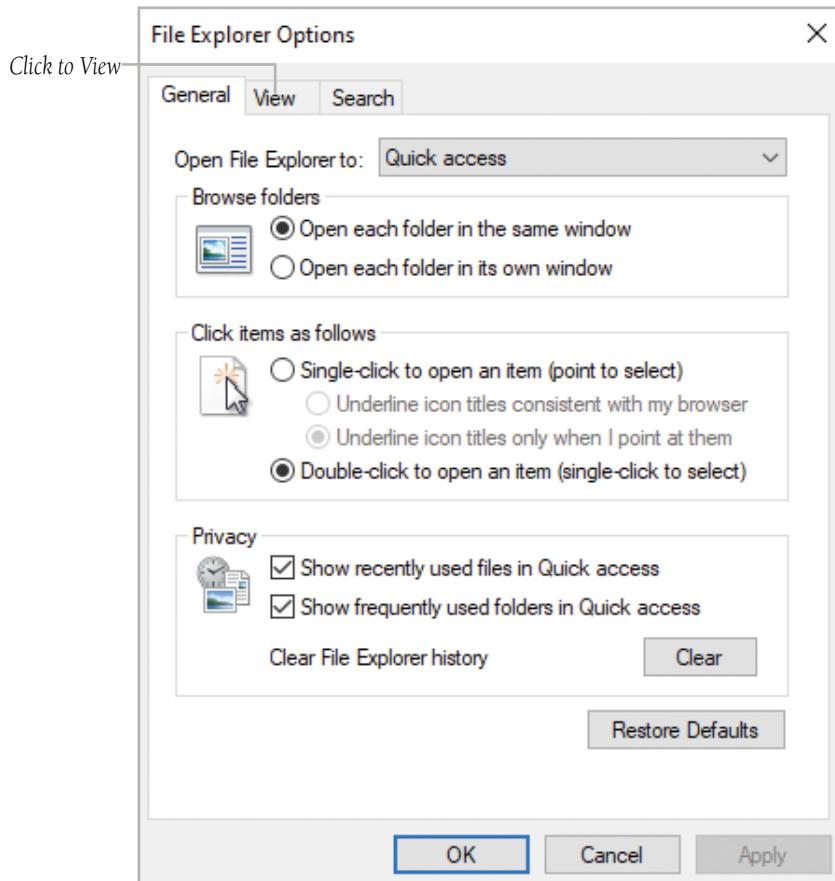
Occasionally, Garmin database files may need to be viewed on the data cards. If the files are not visible, performing the following steps on a Windows computer may be necessary.

How to View Files on an SD Card From a Windows Computer



Viewing Files on Data Card:

- 1) From your Windows computer, click on the Search icon in the lower left corner, then type **File Explorer Options**.
- 2) Select **View**.

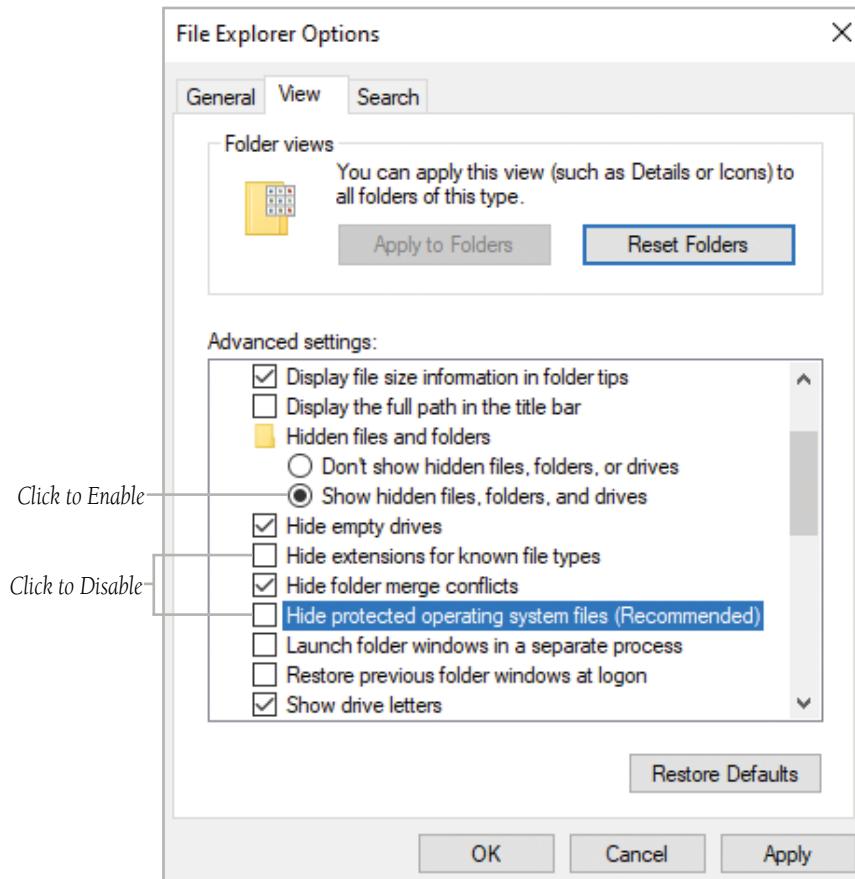


Windows Computer - Search - File Explorer Options - Main

[Back to Troubleshooting Loading
Databases Onto SD Cards](#)



- 3) Select **Show hidden files, folders, and drives**.
- 4) Ensure **Hide extensions for known file types** is unchecked.
- 5) Ensure **Hide protected operating system files** is unchecked.
- 6) Select **Apply**. All files should now be visible on the data card.



Windows Computer - Search - File Explorer Options - View



TYPICAL FILES FOUND ON GARMIN SD DATA CARD

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
airframe_info.xml	1 KB	XML Document	3/23/2009 2:14 PM
feat_unlk.dat	5 KB	DAT File	8/18/2009 12:49 PM
terrain.adb	24,152 KB	ADB File	5/13/2008 6:20 AM
terrain.odb	3,907 KB	ODB File	6/16/2009 11:56 AM
terrain.tdb	91,591 KB	TDB File	5/12/2008 6:50 PM

Garmin Supplemental Data Card Part Number 010-00330-41

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
fc_tpc		File Folder	11/6/2009 11:07 AM
airframe_info.xml	1 KB	XML Document	4/1/2005 5:49 AM
apt_dir.gca	7,337 KB	GCA File	10/8/2009 1:23 PM
avtn_db_stby.bin	12,192 KB	BIN File	11/6/2009 10:59 AM
bmap.bin	12,433 KB	BIN File	7/17/2008 7:08 AM
feat_unlk.dat	11 KB	DAT File	4/1/2005 5:49 AM
safetaxi.bin	6,269 KB	BIN File	10/7/2009 9:34 AM
terrain.adb	24,152 KB	ADB File	5/13/2008 5:20 AM
terrain.odb	3,946 KB	ODB File	10/6/2009 1:59 PM
terrain.tdb	91,591 KB	TDB File	5/12/2008 5:50 PM

Garmin Supplemental Data Card Part Number 010-00330-42

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
fc_tpc		File Folder	11/6/2009 8:56 AM
airframe_info.xml	1 KB	XML Document	4/1/2005 4:50 AM
apt_dir.gca	7,337 KB	GCA File	10/8/2009 1:23 PM
avtn_db_stby.bin	12,192 KB	BIN File	11/6/2009 10:59 AM
bmap.bin	12,433 KB	BIN File	7/17/2008 7:08 AM
feat_unlk.dat	11 KB	DAT File	4/1/2005 4:51 AM
safetaxi.bin	6,269 KB	BIN File	10/7/2009 9:34 AM
terrain.adb	24,152 KB	ADB File	5/13/2008 5:20 AM
terrain.odb	3,946 KB	ODB File	10/6/2009 1:59 PM
terrain_9as.tdb	1,056,442 KB	TDB File	5/13/2008 12:25 AM

Garmin Supplemental Data Card Part Number 010-00330-43



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
fc_tpc	9/12/2016 5:07 PM	File folder	
.evidf.dat	1/28/2016 1:55 PM	DAT File	1 KB
apt_dir.gca	9/23/2014 5:28 PM	GCA File	11,443 KB
bmap.bin	8/5/2015 10:49 AM	BIN File	19,829 KB
feat_unlk.dat	9/12/2016 5:23 PM	DAT File	11 KB
safetaxi.bin	9/23/2014 5:18 PM	BIN File	9,369 KB
terrain.adb	9/23/2014 5:40 PM	ADB File	21,694 KB
terrain.odb	9/23/2014 5:21 PM	ODB File	4,468 KB
trn.dat	9/12/2016 5:23 PM	DAT File	2,933,981 KB

Garmin Supplemental Data Card Part Number 010-00474-44[45]



NOTE: The 010-00330-4[A-F] cards use 6 arc/sec Terrain Database although the database filename on the SD card is "terrain_9as.tdb" which may imply incorrectly that 9 arc/sec is used.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
fc_tpc	1/28/2016 1:23 PM	File folder	
.evidf.dat	1/28/2016 1:55 PM	DAT File	1 KB
airframe_info.xml	6/4/2016 6:43 AM	XML Document	1 KB
apt_dir.gca	1/28/2016 1:22 PM	GCA File	6,917 KB
bmap.bin	1/28/2016 1:22 PM	BIN File	19,829 KB
feat_unlk.dat	6/15/2016 3:58 PM	DAT File	9 KB
safetaxi.bin	1/28/2016 1:22 PM	BIN File	9,905 KB
terrain_9as.tdb	6/15/2016 3:58 PM	TDB File	752,282 KB

Garmin Supplemental Data Card Part Number 010-00330-4[A-F]*

*Each card -4A through -4F contains Terrain data for a different geographic region, as listed below:

- 010-00330-4A - Americas-North
- 010-00330-4B - Americas-South
- 010-00330-4C - Atlantic-North
- 010-00330-4D - Atlantic-South
- 010-00330-4E - Pacific-North
- 010-00330-4F - Pacific-South



JEPPESEN CHARTVIEW DATABASE

When the Jeppesen ChartView Database is copied to any of the previously mentioned Supplemental Data Cards, the following folders are added to the list:

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
 charts		File Folder	2/3/2009 10:59 AM
 Fonts		File Folder	7/21/2008 3:52 PM

Jeppesen ChartView Database Files

JEPPESEN NAVIGATION DATABASE

The Navigation Database should be loaded to a separate Navigation Database Update Card. The following files are typically seen after loading the Navigation Database:

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
 feat_unlk.dat	1 KB	DAT File	1/26/2009 10:44 AM
 airframe_info.xml	1 KB	XML Document	5/15/2008 2:27 AM
 ldr_sys		File Folder	8/28/2007 10:12 AM

Jeppesen Navigation Database Files



DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTENT IN THE DATA FILES

AIRFRAME_INFO.XML

This file is placed on the card by the system during power-up. This file is not present on a new card that has not yet been inserted in a display card slot. This contains the system software level and the System ID number. Once the system ID is written on the card it will only work on that specific aircraft. If this file is missing, it will not interfere with the operation of the databases and will be replaced after re-inserting the card in the display card slot and powering up the system.

APT_DIR.GCA

This is the Airport Directory database file. It can only be used with GDU version software 10.00 and higher. Airport Directory databases offer detailed information for airports worldwide. This file includes the names and phone numbers of thousands of FBOs, plus ground transportation, lodging, restaurants, and more. Updates are offered every 56 days.

AVTN_DB_STBY.BIN

This file is copied from the Navigation Database card to the Supplemental SD card and is intended to store the upcoming Navigation Database cycle to support the transition to the new cycle once the current cycle expires. It may become out of date if not maintained by the operator. Use of the Standby Database feature is optional.

BMAP.BIN

This is the Worldwide Basemap database. This file includes the locations of oceans, rivers, and lakes, cities and towns, major interstates and highways, and political boundaries. Updates to basemap data occur approximately once per year.

CHARTS

This is a Jeppesen ChartView folder. It is only present after copying the ChartView database to an SD card.

.EVIDF.DAT

This file is added by fly.garmin.com when a database update is performed. The file makes it easier for Mac computers to perform database updates if needed in the future. Garmin's recommendation is to leave the file on the card.

FC_TPC

This is the Garmin FliteCharts folder containing the chart files. Garmin FliteCharts are electronic versions of terminal procedure charts. Approach procedures are geo-referenced whereas departure and arrival procedures are not. Updates are offered every 28 days.

FEAT_UNIK.DAT

This file is placed on the card when the databases are written on the card. It contains information about databases on the card and helps ensure the integrity of the database files. If the file is missing, databases on the card will not be accessible by the system and databases may need to be re-programmed to the card.

FONTS

This is a Jeppesen ChartView folder. It is only present after copying the ChartView database to SD card.



SAFETAXI.BIN

This is the Garmin SafeTaxi database file. SafeTaxi identifies runways, taxiways, FBOs, and hangars at many airports, as well as the aircraft location at the airport. SafeTaxi is seamlessly integrated with basemap data, so the airport information appears on the basemap at the appropriate map range setting, with details increasing as the range setting decreases. SafeTaxi is georeferenced, so pilots will see their aircraft icon move along the taxiway diagram on their navigation screen. SafeTaxi includes position information for hundreds of airports, and updates are available every 56 days.

TERRAIN.ADB

This is the airport terrain database file and is included in the terrain database download (30AS and 9AS). This file contains the elevation data which represents the topography around the airports contained in the database. Airport Terrain data does not include man-made objects (towers, airports, VORs, etc.). Updates to Airport Terrain data occur approximately once per year.

TERRAIN.ODB

This is the obstacle database file. This file includes the locations of towers, tall buildings, and other vertical obstructions that could be a hazard to pilots. Updates are offered every 56 days.

TERRAIN.TDB, TERRAIN_9AS.TDB, OR TRN.DAT

This is the terrain database file. The file contains the elevation data which represents the topography of the earth. Terrain data does not include man-made objects (towers, airports, VOR, etc.). Updates to terrain data occur approximately once per year. The terrain filename and resolution of the database used depend on the GDU software level selected when updating the database. Only one is needed by any given avionics system. If in doubt as to whether the correct Terrain file is installed, please contact Garmin Product Support.

OTHER FILES

If other files are shown on the data cards that are not listed above, they may need to be removed to ensure proper operation. Contact Garmin Product Support before removing unknown files.



FORMATTING SD CARD ON A WINDOWS COMPUTER

How to Format a SD Card on a Windows Computer



NOTE: Before formatting a SD card, please ensure the files and folders listed below, if installed on the SD card, are copied and moved to a safe location on your computer:

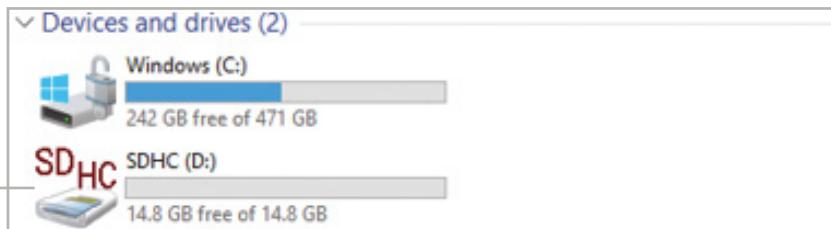
"CMC" folder	"chklst" file	".ace" file	"Checklist.zip"	".chk"
.JPEG or .JPG	.PNG	.GIF	.TIFF	.PSD
PDF	.EPS	.AI	.INDD	.RAW

Windows Computer - Files to Secure Prior to Formatting

Formatting SD card on a Windows computer:

- 1) On your Windows computer, usually in the bottom left corner, click .
- 2) Scroll down and click  > .
- 3) A list of drives will be displayed. Right-click on the drive that has the SD Card > **Format**.

Right-Click to View Info



Windows Computer - Formatting SD Card - Selecting SDHC Drive

- 4) Verify that "FAT32" is selected for File System.
- 5) **Uncheck** the box next to Quick Format.



CAUTION: The Garmin Electronic Flight Instrument System (EFIS) will not recognize a SD card with fragments of files left when "Quick Format" is selected.

[Back to Troubleshooting Loading Databases Onto SD Cards](#)

[Back to Troubleshooting Loading SD Cards Into Devices](#)



- 6) Click **Start**. The formatting process will begin.



Windows Computer - Formatting SD Card - SDHC Drive - Format - General

- 7) Copy the files previously offloaded, back onto the SD card.



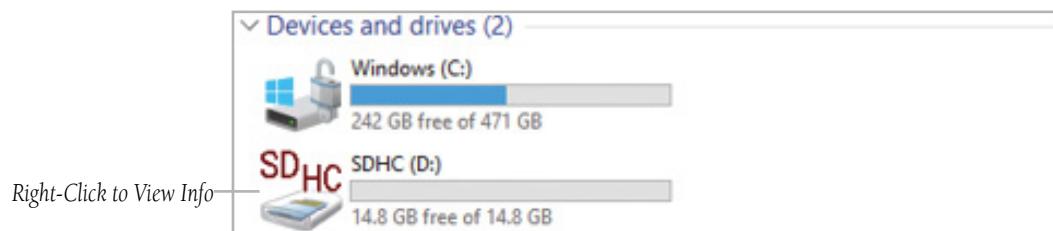
SAFELY EJECTING SD CARD FROM A WINDOWS COMPUTER

How to Eject a SD Card on a Computer

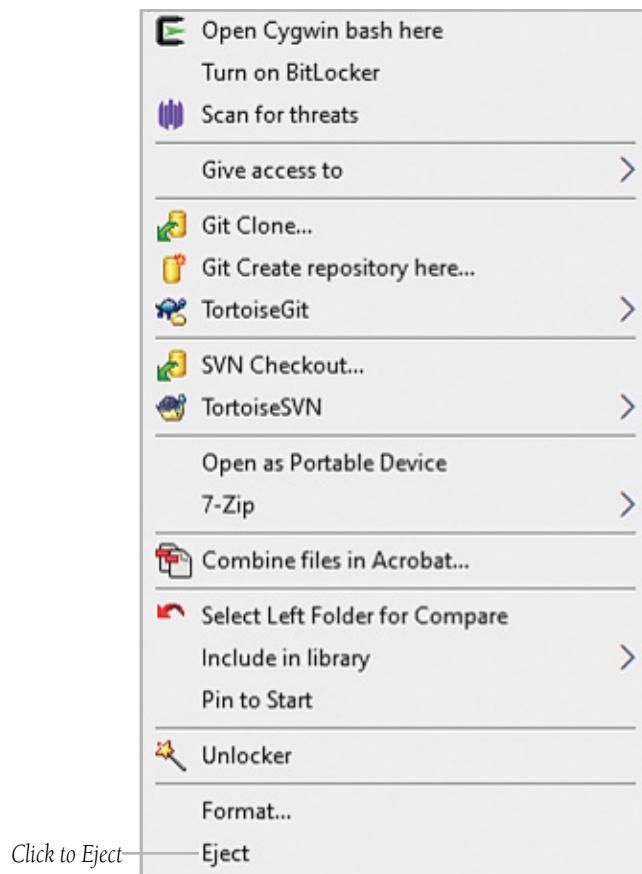


How to safely eject a SD card from a Windows computer:

- 1) On your Windows computer, usually in the bottom left corner, click .
- 2) Scroll down and click **Windows System** > **This PC**.
- 3) A list of drives will be displayed. Right-click on the drive that has the SD Card > **Eject**.



Windows Computer - Formatting SD Card - Selecting SDHC Drive



Windows Computer - SD Card - SDHC Drive - Eject



SAFELY EJECTING SD CARD FROM A MAC COMPUTER

How to Eject a SD Card on a Computer



How to safely eject a SD card from a Mac computer:

- 1) Click on the Finder icon at the bottom of the screen.
- 2) Locate the external hard drive that you want to eject, then right-click and select **Eject**.

Or:

- 3) Depending on the MAC Operating System version, the Eject button may be visible to the right of the hard drive without having to right-click. If so, locate the hard drive and then select **Eject**.

Or:

From the Desktop, drag the appropriate hard drive to the 'Trash' bin to safely eject the SD card.

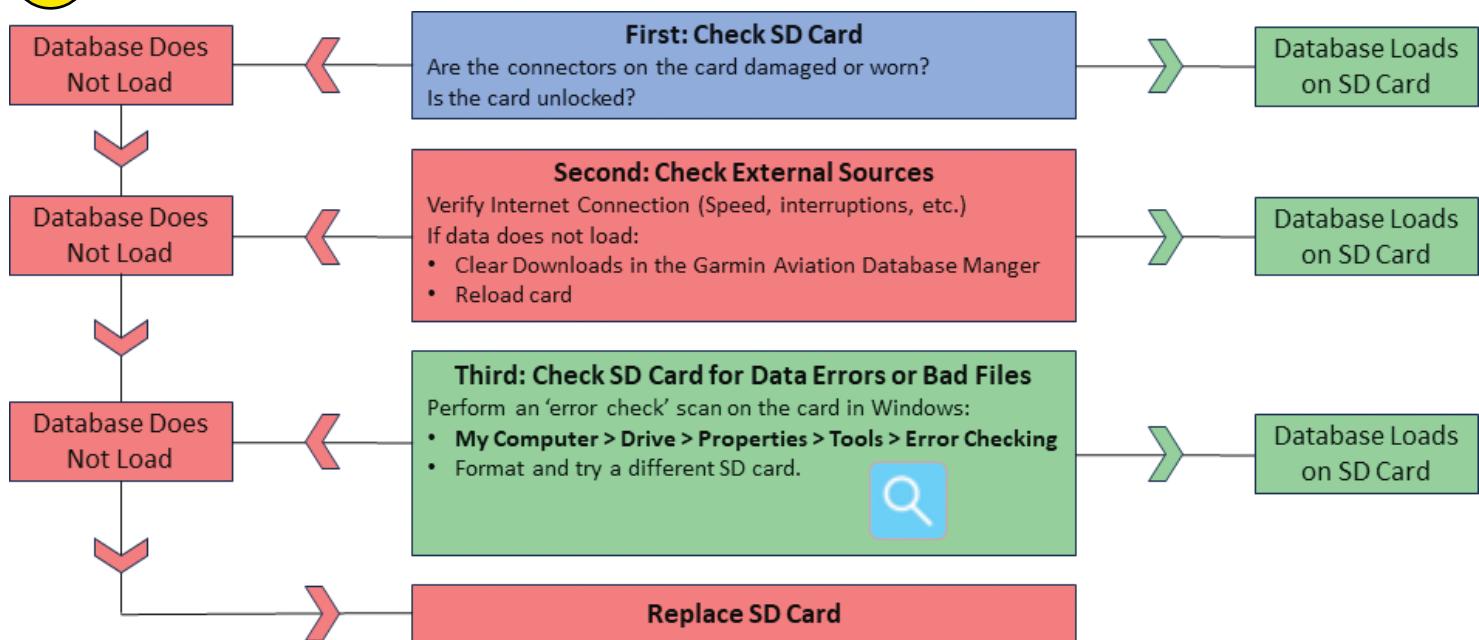
- 4) Once safely ejected, the hard drive will no longer be visible on the computer. It is now safe to unplug the device.



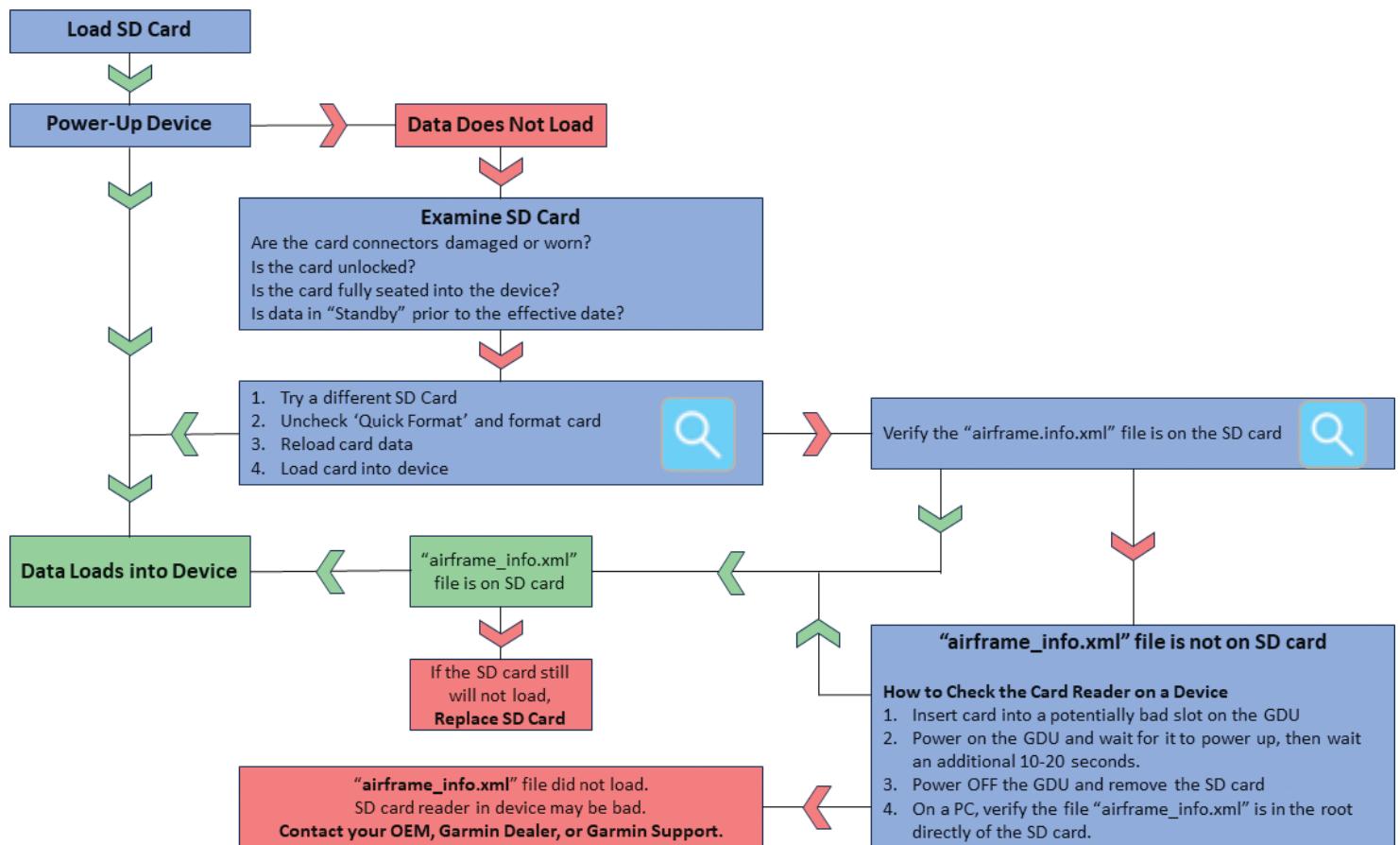
TROUBLESHOOTING LOADING DATABASES ON SD CARD



CAUTION: Once a System ID is written on the SD card, the card will only work on that specific aircraft until reformatted.



TROUBLESHOOTING LOADING SD CARD INTO DEVICE



UPDATE TO AN OLD DATABASE CYCLE ON G1000 START-UP



NOTE: When navigation data is accidentally loaded onto the incorrect SD card slot (bottom) on a G1000, a prompt on start-up will appear asking to update to an older cycle.

Resolving update to an old database cycle on G1000:

- 1) Remove the SD cards loaded into the bottom card slot on the G1000.
- 2) Plug SD cards into a computer.
- 3) Locate the "ldr_sys" folder on the SD card, which could be on either or both SD cards, and **Delete** the folder.
- 4) Reinstall the cards back in the bottom SD card slots on the G1000. The prompt to update to an older database should not appear.

Click for Instructions on How to View Files on SD Card.





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