

Quick Start Guide Forum Loader Companion

Reference status: Software version 1.7.1 / March 2025

Installation:

- The Forumslader Companion is a Garmin IQ data field (i.e. not a standalone IQ app) that can be displayed in any Garmin display that allows data fields.
- To do this, the Forumslader IQ data field must be installed once by loading it from the Garmin IQ Shop.
- After that, it is selectable in the Garmin layout menus. This allows the data field to be displayed, for example, under the map, or on any data page.

Function:

- After starting the Garmin and scrolling to the data page where the data field is displayed, the search for a forum charger starts (display "search").
- *Pairing*: The first forum charger found is used, as long as its Bluetooth signal level allows good reception (RSSI > -85). After that, the connection to this forum loader begins immediately, and the one-time loading of basic data ("initialize" display). Charging the basic data can take up to 15 seconds, this includes in particular the value of the Forum charger battery level.
- After the connection has been established, the current data of the forum loader appears in the data field. The data is updated every second. 1 to 4 of 11 possible values can be displayed (see settings for selection), either summarized in a data field (smaller font), or individually and alternately every second (larger font).
- When you leave the data page with the data field, the data transfer between Forumslader and Garmin continues in the background. When the data page with the data field is opened again, current data can be seen immediately.
- *Reconnect*: If the connection between Garmin and Forum charger is broken (e.g. if the Garmin is removed from the bike during a break from riding), "connect" will be displayed after a waiting time of 10 seconds. As soon as the Garmin is back in Bluetooth range, the connection is automatically re-established and current data appears again.
- *Device lock*: After switching off and switching on the Garmin again, pairing with the forum charger begins again. By setting a device lock (see under Settings), it is possible to permanently couple the Forum Loader Companion with a specific Forum Loader (e.g. to prevent the Forum Loader from being removed from the other wheel if the wheels are next to each other).

Settings:

The settings menu can be accessed in two ways:

- Older Garmin devices and basic Garmin smartwatches:
 - Using the Garmin Connect IQ app (not to be confused with the Garmin Connect app) app with the smartphone. Go to "My Data Fields", select the Forum Loader Companion data field, "Settings".
 - Using the Garmin Express software on the PC. Procedure similar to above.
- Newer Garmin devices:
 - In addition, newer Garmin devices (Edge from model 1040) have a setting menu on the devices themselves. When the data field is installed, this appears automatically. After installation, it can be accessed via a Garmin device-dependent dialog guide.

There are the following setting options.

- *Data field selection*: Up to 4 values can be selected out of 11 possible. If you want to display less than 4 values, select "off" for 1 to 3 values. When using the Garmin device-side settings menu, tap on the respective value to select it, and the next option will appear.
- *Rotate fields*: No = all selected values are displayed in the data field at the same time, in smaller font. Yes = second-by-second alternating display, in larger font.
- *Log data*: Yes = values are recorded while riding while Garmin activity is running, and can be displayed and evaluated with the Garmin Connect app after the end of the activity. Currently the recorded values are not selectable (may come in a future version). The following are recorded: battery voltage, battery level, dynamo power, consumer power.
- *Coulomb counter*: The Forum charger V6 has two different ways to calculate the battery level. Yes = the more accurate Coulomb counting method of the V6 is used / No = the method of the Forum loader V5 is used.
- *Device lock*: Yes = The currently connected forum loader will be saved, and will only be connected in the future. No = A saved forum loader will be deleted, and in the future it will be connected to the forum loader found first in the search.
- *Alarms*: Yes = Alarms of the forum charger (short circuit, overload, battery level below 20%, system interruption) are output as an alarm on the Garmin. Important: the IQ alarms function must be switched on on the Garmin – otherwise nothing will happen!