

PC Navtex Pro - User Instructions

Installation

The NASA Marine PC Navtex Pro is not watertight so it must be mounted in a position, which is dry at all times. Mount the antenna in a convenient position outside the cabin, then, connect the antenna to the receiver. Connect the power cable to the 12-volt supply. The red wire to positive and the wire with a black stripe to negative.

PC Navtex Pro software

The NASA Marine PC Navtex Pro software is used with the PC Navtex Engine. It controls all the operations of the PC Navtex Engine, as follows:

- Downloads all saved messages from the Engine;
- Sets the Engine's internal real-time clock;
- Sets up switching times for 490kHz or 518kHz reception if required;
- Displays chosen selections of stations and messages for world-wide Navtex transmissions by name and area;

The PC Navtex Pro software need not be run continuously: however, the PC Navtex Engine must be continuously powered to ensure its internal clock does not get reset and to ensure that switching times and messages are not lost.

Getting started

Insert the CD-ROM into your CD drive. **It does not autorun.** Select the CD drive from My Computer, and observe that there is a folder named *With Java Included* and an executable file named *PCNavtexPro.exe*.

If Java is not installed on your PC, or you are not sure, open the folder named *With Java Included*. Double-click on *PCNavtexPro.exe* in this folder, and accept all the default settings when they are offered.

If Java is known to be installed on your PC, or PC Navtex Pro has previously been installed on the machine, double-click on *PCNavtexPro.exe* in the top directory of the CD-ROM, and accept all the default settings when they are offered.

In either case, an icon named *PC Navtex Pro* is placed on the Desktop to enable the program to be run.

Running PC Navtex Pro

Ensure that the PC Navtex Engine is powered-up. Connect the supplied 9-pin RS232 lead between the Engine and a serial port on the PC. Double-click on the *PC Navtex Pro* icon on the desktop, and await program loading and execution. At start-up, the Navtex Pro loads all available messages from the Engine, and displays them all as they arrive. (A full suite of messages in the Engine can take over 30 seconds to load.) If there are no messages stored in the Engine, a message is shown to indicate that fact. If a message shows that there is no communication with a comm port, select the

Preferences/COM Port drop-down, and enter the number of an available port to which the RS232 lead from the Engine is connected. Note that the system must be closed (click on X in the top corner, or the “Close” button to implement the COM port change.

Using PC Navtex Pro Options

The size of the PC Navtex Pro window at start-up is set to fit small displays. The boundaries of the window are controllable in standard Windows fashion by “pulling” the edges, or by clicking the pane controls in the top right-hand corner of the window.

The PC Navtex Pro program offers a number of user options which are controlled by the Preferences drop-down list or by the two Station and Message type windows.

Click on single station or message types to show only those. Selections are blue, and multiple selections may be made by CTRL/clicking on the choices. Click All Stations and All Message types to see all messages. Click on Apply Filters to show the chosen message(s) from the chosen station(s). The newest message is last in the list.

If too many messages are shown (the factory default is all messages and all types), click on Preferences/Max Messages, and select the number you require. The choice is saved for future use.

The Navtex Navarea is chosen from the Preferences/Switch Area drop-down list. The choice is saved for future use.

The display font size is selected from the Preferences/Font Size drop-down. The choice is saved for future use.

New messages are always shown on-screen if they fit the existing selection criteria. The Preferences/New Message Alert drop down allows switching of a warning beep upon reception. The choice is saved for future use.

The PC Navtex Engine has an internal real-time clock, which is automatically reset to the PC’s internal clock whenever the PC Navtex Pro program is run. The clock is used to time switches between channel A (518kHz) and channel B (490kHz) if timed switching is selected.

Set the switching times using the Preferences/Channel Auto-switching drop-down, and select the times to switch to channel A and channel B to record the wanted messages. Two switches to each channel per day are allowed, and are usually 12 hours apart, but need not be so. Press OK to set the switch times, or Cancel if you need simply to see which times could be selected. If OK is pressed, the settings are saved for future use, and the Engine will continue to switch channels at the chosen times even when the PCNavtex Pro program is not running. Note that selecting a single channel (see below) inhibits timed switching.

The Preferences/Set Channel drop-down allows choice of the receive channel as A (518kHz) or B (490kHz). Press OK to set the channel, or Cancel if you need simply to see which channel could be selected. Note that pressing OK stops timed switching if it was previously selected. If OK is pressed, the chosen channel setting is saved.

Uninstalling PC Navtex Pro

Select Add/Remove programs from the Control Panel, and follow the instructions for removing the PC Navtex Pro software.