

Using the Navig8r M35 for Speed Limit Assistance

by Michael Paine 14 January 2009

The Navig8r M35 navigator unit from Laser now has SpeedAlert™ pre-installed. It comes with a 30 day trial of SpeedAlert, after which the subscription is \$9.90 per update.

The M35 is much more advanced than other sat-navs which appear to offer speed limit assistance. Firstly the speed limit database is extensive and remarkably accurate (it is vector based) and secondly, it can be run exclusively in SpeedAlert mode, avoiding the distraction of the navigation map.

The SpeedAlert speed limit database covers most cities, major towns and major highways of mainland Australia. The Australia wide coverage is listed at the SpeedAlert website:

<http://www.speedalert.com.au/>

Time-based school zones are included but the current version does not adjust for school holidays so you will get false warnings.

SpeedAlert operation

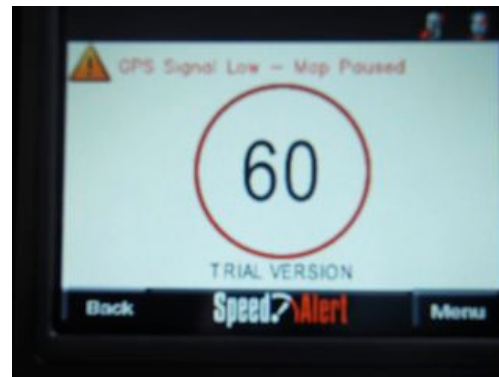
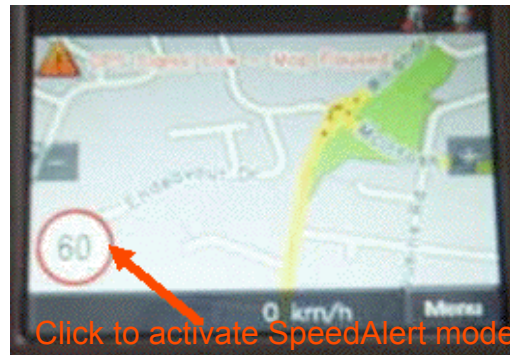
From the Main Menu select the Navigator button by touching the screen ("clicking"). Conditions of use are displayed. Click on the AGREE button.



Once the GPS signal is located the map is displayed.

A speed limit sign should display in the bottom left corner. This can take a while to display if the GPS signal is new.

To run the unit in SpeedAlert mode, with no map simply click on the speed limit symbol.



To return to the map display click on the BACK button.

There are three levels of warning:

1. The circle changes to solid red if the speed limit is exceeded
2. The unit beeps if the speed limit is exceeded by 5km/h
3. The unit double beeps if the speed limit is exceeded by 10km/h. A voice announcement of the speed limit is also played.

The best way to drive within the speed limit is to keep watching the road but notice, out of the corner of your eye, if the circle changes to solid red. Reduce your speed slightly and the circle will change back to white in-fill. You will find that you only need to look at the screen if you are unsure about the prevailing speed limit. This is much less distracting than looking out for those elusive road signs.

GPS limitations

With a good GPS signal the unit is very accurate for geographic location and vehicle speed (better than 1%). Weaker signals such as under bridges or amongst city buildings can result in less accuracy. Use it wisely as a device to assist with keeping to speed limits.

Some windscreens tend to block the GPS signal and an external aerial (not supplied) may be necessary.

If the road is not in the SpeedAlert database the Speed Limit display will vanish.