Instrument Challenge

This was a fairly simple navigation type challenge that required the manual insertion of seven (7) waypoints involving differing cylinder sizes and the creation of a route (optimised) where the instrument software would allow.

A total of 17 returns covered the instruments/apps listed below. Probably the biggest single factor was familiarity with the navigation system which was quite capable of halving the time and improving accuracy. However, additional comments related to either the ease or awkwardness of use of some instruments/apps. Generally apps were found much easier to use than dedicated instruments.

Video links are shown when provided on the main webpage.

Instrument	time (m/sec)	route length	optimised (where possible)
XCsoar (Kobo)	11.30	124k	-

(“ .. much easier than my 6015”)

Oudie 3	15.40	85.7k	76.6k

The biggest issue I found with setting the task or waypoint, really the task bit was easy.

I entered the tr01 etc. in the waypoint name box and not code so when selecting the waypoint for the task it was showing code which was a default ref and therefore not very helpful and made it easy to make a mistake.

When I was wanting to type the waypoint name, you need to select keyboard, I would tap this and it would take me to my menu and out of my waypoint editor screen. I think this is down to the screen layout I have, which I will change and try again for my own benefit. And at the end I couldn't figure how to get out of the task setting screen back to the main flying view, but obviously that is lack of understanding on my behalf. If you get a video of someone setting up the task on the oudie I would be interested in seeing it, to see what I could do to be more efficient.

Oudie	12.30	85.7k	76.7k
6015	25.00	85.9k	
Brauniger IQ basic	11.50	87.7k	

: I'm very familiar with this instrument, so I can't imagine anyone knocking much more than a minute off my time with it - most of my lost time was in overshoots when clocking up radii and altitudes for cylinders. The machine does NOT optimise routes, nor will it even tell me directly how long the route is - I have to infer it from the fact I'm 367.5km from start and 455.2km from goal.

Flymaster SD Live	10.21	86.2k	79.01k
Flymaster Live	16.30	85.6k	
Flymaster GPS	24.00	86k	

The poor time result is due to lack of use of the route plotting potential of the instrument. I found it really useful to plot the route into the instrument and think if I were to do it again now I could reduce that time by half. Once into the task I found the process on the Flymaster quite logical, but I can't compare it to any other it is my only GPS instrument. Can't change cylinder size on Flymaster GPS, its set at 400m.

Flytec 5020	18.05	85.7k

I found it harder than it should be – fiddly and lots of scrolling, weird menu system.

Butterfly Freeflight	8.08	85.7k

Now preferred to Flyskyhy for ease of use

Garmin 76c	11.24
Garmin 76csx	12.34
Garmin Map	14.30

Straightforward menu system once familiar, but time consuming data insertion via keyboards.

Skytraxx 2	24.36	400.5k

I found the skytrax is fidgety for multiple manual entry's of waypoints and time consuming ,however that said if your a regular user i would imagine the time would come down a bit . On the other hand if it was pre written in a file it would only take a minute to drag and drop on a Pc as that is what i purchased it for.

Xcsoar (Nexus 7)	6.02	86k	77k
Compeo	12.40	85.8k	77.7k
Flyskyhy	11.30	86k	76.8k

A number of main instruments were not tested – C Pilot, Leonardo, xctrainer etc.

Conclusion? Whatever works best for you.