
Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by Patt5735 - 2008/10/30 09:15

Garmin has announced two new aviation portables this morning, the Garmin 695/696:

http://garmin.blogs.com/my_weblog/2008/10/see-it-on-the-b.html

https://www.zaon.aero/images/fbfiles/images/6a00d83451bb7069e2010535c8f0c2970c_800wi.jpg

I have been thrilled with the performance of the PCAS XRX interface with the Garmin 496, but I would very much like to upgrade to the Garmin 696.

Are there plans to provide an interface between the PCAS XRX and the Garmin 696? Any chance that the current interface will work as-is?

Thank you,
Robert

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojornn - 2008/10/30 15:44

Excellent question Robert, I also would like an answer:unsure:

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by jrphelps - 2008/10/31 13:06

Gents, I also have the XRX and a Garmin 430 and the Zaon interface cable.

I spoke to Garmin Technical support this morning and they indicate that the cable may be slightly different -- and that this would a question for Zaon.

So let's hope a Zaon person is monitoring this and can enlighten us on the best cable. Zaon are you there? Thanks.

Note:

Garmin also indicated that the power data cable (bare wires) from the 696 to a 430 or 530 would be different (this allows flight plans in the 494 or 696 to be fed by the panel mounted Garmin).

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojornn - 2008/10/31 14:12

This is the response from Zoan so far:

I don't know yet, we are working to find out. But haven't heard back from Garmin just yet.

Thanks

Daniel Evans
Electronic Technician
daniel@zaon.aero
1-800-496-9430 or (469) 916-6640 x311

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojornn - 2008/11/03 10:32

Zoan got the info from Garmin as follows:

We have just heard from our contacts at Garmin that the 696 will still accept our XRX traffic input.

However, the style of power plug has changed, and our current interface cable (GARX-X) will not work. We encourage our customers to be patient and allow us time to make the simple changes to update this cable.

The other option many pilots have preferred is to hardwire the power for their portable Garmin products. Used in conjunction with our power data cable (XPD-X) you can hardwire our power and run the data to the Garmin at the same time.

Thanks

Daniel Evans
Electronic Technician
daniel@zaon.aero
1-800-496-9430 or (469) 916-6640 x311

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by Patt5735 - 2008/11/03 10:38

Excellent news, Sojornn! Thanks for doing the legwork and passing along the info to us all.

We'll be awaiting the updated data cable from Zaon . . . meanwhile the 696 is on order and the 496 is on it's way to a new home.

Fly safe,
Robert

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojornn - 2008/11/03 11:08

Robert, Just curious what kind of airplane you have and where you intend to place the Garmin 696? I don't care for yoke holders but RAM makes some neat suction cup and other type of widgets.

I have a 396 and a 296 so I am going to sell one or both. I like having a back up for long trips however they are few over the course of a year no matter how well intentioned I am about going places.

FlySafe
Bill

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by Patt5735 - 2008/11/03 11:16

Hi Bill,

I bounce in and out of a large number of different GA aircraft.

Currently I have the possibility of flying one of the following: Beech Baron, Piper Seneca, Piper Saratoga, Diamond Star, Piper Warrior, Cessna 182, and a Citabria. Because of the wide selection, hard-wiring obviously isn't an option for me.

How about you?

While I have traditionally sat the 496 on the "bean-bag" mount on top of the panel (this worked in all but the DA-40), I

envision that the 696 will probably become somewhat of a knee board for me. It will probably ride either on my lap, on my co-pilot's lap, or in the co-pilot's chair if I'm flying solo.

It will take some getting used to, and I may try out the yoke mount myself -- but I've never been a big fan of those either. The 696 may be a better platform for the yoke mount, though, because of it's "tablet" shape. We'll see . . . but it sure is a beautiful piece of technology.

Happy landings,
Robert

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by Patt5735 - 2008/11/03 11:19

If you're looking for a place to sell your used Garmin(s), you might check out my friends over at Air Power: <http://factorygps.com/>. They offer generous prices for used GPS units.

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/11/03 11:31

Hi Robert,
I have a Maule M7 235C tail wheel in the avatar. Take a look at these RAM mounts <http://www.ram-mount.com/newramitems.htm>

Some are portable enough to go from aircraft to aircraft.
Thanks for the buyer of Garmin GPS's.
Blue Skies
Bill

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/11/03 13:36

The tablet approach has real possibilities

http://www.ram-mount.com/tablet_mount_pc_mounts/tablet_mount_pc_mounts.htm

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/11/25 19:29

Looks like the cable for the XRX interface to the Garmin 696/695 is available for purchase on this web site!
GAR6-X Garmin 695/696 Interface Cable

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by Patt5735 - 2008/11/25 20:25

Bill,

For some reason your link didn't come through on your post. I did a Google search, though, and I think this is the website that you intended to link to: <http://skysupplyusa.com/proddetail.php?prod=GAR6-X>

I just placed an order for the cable myself.

Thanks for the tip!

Fly safe,
Robert

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/11/26 02:00

Robert,

It was not a link. I did not explain that if you go to the My Account button top right corner of this page, a page pops up that offers Zaon and 3rd party stuff for sale. Looks like you found it through a vendor and the price is the same. I usually register all my Zaon stuff on this site because they repair at no cost if something breaks or if they offer upgrades you get notified.

Let me know how you like the 696 and the interface to Zaon. I just finished my annual and need to take a spending break until next year. But I really like a PIREP.

FlySafe
Bill

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by dmanuel - 2008/11/30 18:17

While I wait for my 696 to be delivered, I looked at how a friend installed it in his C-177. He used the (provided) yoke mount, where the linking arm is actually is routed underneath the yoke so that the 696 is neatly centered in the yoke.

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/11/30 20:16

It is a personal choice but I personally have tried yoke mounts with the 296 and really don't like having it on the yoke or the wires rigged to the yoke. I drive a tail dragger and the yoke needs to be free. The RAM mount to the side is the solution I settled for on the 396 but what I would really like to do is reconfigure the panel, move some things to the left and upgrade radios and Xponder. That would be after I do the ELT upgrade to 406mhz. I'm sure the panel mount like the 269,396 will be forth coming. All it takes is thousands of dollars :huh:

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by dmanuel - 2008/12/01 11:46

The folks at Propellerhead say that they will be releasing suction mount shortly, for the 696. As for the ELT, while not a long term solution, have you looked at the SPOT unit? It gives a continous track plot so if you really had a bad day and the ELT was destroyed, your location could be extrapolated (not even a 407 unit can do that) to within a (max) 10 minute flying radius.

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/12/01 12:39

I have the Spot and it works quite well for tracking and emergency if you are capable of pushing the button but the 406MHZ ELT automatic will eventually become mandatory in the USA.It already is in Canada and Mexico. The Artex ME406 with Whip Antenna, \$949.00 is the cheapest presently. My understanding is that the FAA is waiting for

competitive pricing before making it a law. There are PLB's between 500.00 to 600.00 but the button does have to be pushed. In the final analysis if you have crashed somewhere and you can't push a button at that time, a thousand bucks is worth every penny.

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by dmanuel - 2008/12/02 07:24

I agree with you. Still a SPOT is a good supplement for all ELT's. If Steve Fossett had had one, perhaps the outcome would have been different (his ELT did not survive but it appears he may have - initially).

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/12/02 11:30

I just read in AOPA that the FAA is requesting Canada and Mexico to allow US aircraft to use 406 MHZ, PLB's in lieu of the automatic since the FAA will not require automatics in the US due to the expense. Some people also say the you cannot count on the automatics to actually work 100% of the time in a crash.

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by Patt5735 - 2008/12/03 13:46

I am told that the 695/696 interface cable is back ordered with Zaon and all Zaon dealers until mid-January. (including the Sky Supply USA link that was previously provided in this thread).

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/12/03 15:30

Since it is new I would think they are in a release to manufacturing phase. At least it is in process and that is a good thing!

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by hsilcox - 2008/12/14 19:22

I have my new Garmin 696 and new Zaon XRX-A connected and they are working great together.

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by sojorn - 2008/12/15 00:38

Thanks for the piprep, where did you mount it?

Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by dmanuel - 2008/12/15 10:07

What vendor did you use to get the interface cable (XRX-696)? Do you use the XRX audio output or the 696 audio

output? If it is the latter, how is the aural traffic alerts through the 696?

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Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by jrphelps - 2008/12/15 13:20

FYI. I just spoke to Zaon and they indicate that no cables have shipped yet and they expect shipments to begin mid Jan.

jp

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Re:Garmin 695/696 Interface?

Posted by hsilcox - 2008/12/15 19:51

I mounted the XRX on the small dash on the co-pilot side.

I made the cable for the 696 (pin-out is in the manual), I purchased the bare wire Zaon cable, installed gold pins on the ground and serial out connected them to the 696 ground and serial in. Unlike the 496 the 696 bare wire connector does not have audio and alarm output wires. The audio comes from the earphone/line-out plug. To test the audio from each I used two small ear plugs in my ears and put my headset on over them. I will connect them to seperate inputs on my audio panel. I will wait for the 696 bare wire kit to finish the installation.

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