

AirNav Radar Box

An Advanced Real-Time Radar Decoder

Back in the 1960s and 1970s, aircraft spotting was quite simple. All that was needed was a pair of binoculars or a telescope, and a notebook and pen. Registrations of aircraft at (or close to) airports could be gathered easily. The advent of airband radios meant that aircraft registrations and callsigns could be obtained even from objects that were just dots in the sky. The difficulty lay in converting the callsign or flight number into a registration. In the last few years, companies have produced computer software that can pick up emissions from aircraft and the position of these dots can now be represented on a computer screen.

The latest product is the AirNav Radar Box from AirNav Systems, which picks up IFF (International Friend or Foe) Mode S transmissions from aircraft and reproduces them all on the screen with a map overlay. Information such as flight number, type and operator, plus heading, height and speed, are simply displayed. More importantly for the enthusiast, the aircraft registration is also presented. (With some other systems, a database has to be downloaded for this additional information.) With the benefit of the Internet, all users of the AirNav system can link information, and aircraft beyond the line-of-sight of the user's aerial can be displayed.

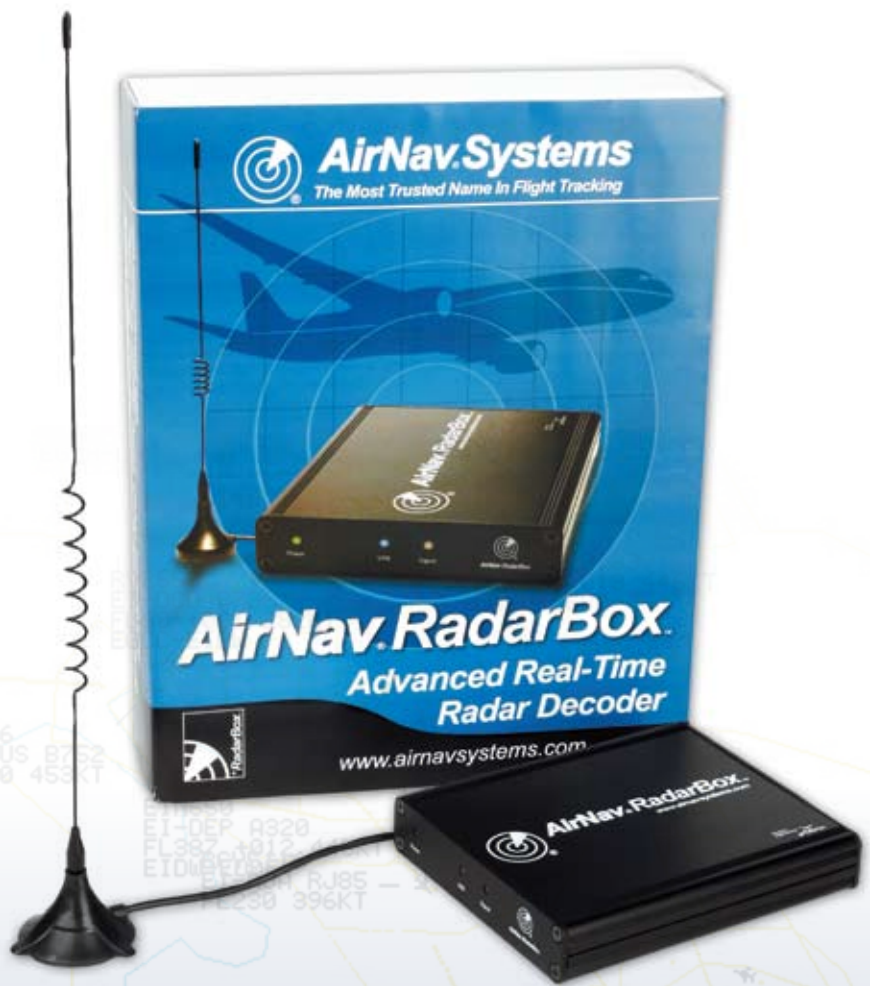
Using a laptop computer, enthusiasts can visit airports and, while watching aircraft movements, can also monitor inbound and outbound flights, along with anything passing over the airport – at any height.

The equipment can be purchased from a number of dealers throughout the UK for just £399.95 – see advert on page 49 of this issue. It is very simple to connect and needs no external power source – just plug in to a USB port on the computer. Installation is via a CD-ROM, which takes only a few minutes, and all aircraft movements 'magically' appear on the screen.

Pick-up range is normally line-of-sight, but this can be influenced by factors such as buildings in close proximity to the aerial provided. At present in the UK only commercial aircraft are required to transmit Mode-S, but the CAA plans to extend this to all types in the coming years. Other countries in Europe already enforce this.

The AirNav box is a valuable addition to any enthusiast's collection. Next time you visit an airport viewing area and see cars with small aerials on the roofs and people peering into the boot at their laptops, you'll know what's happening!

Inset pic - Satellite layers for any part of the world can be downloaded at the click of a button. This shot shows traffic around London/Heathrow being viewed from 150 miles away using the RadarBox Network function. Height filters have been set to only show traffic below 15,000ft. (AirNav Systems)



Competition

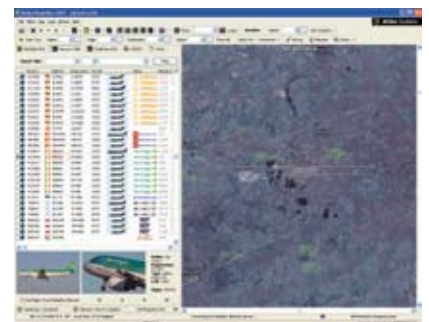
Win an AirNav Radar Box

Airliner World has teamed up with AirNav Systems for one lucky reader to be the proud owner of an AirNav Radar Box.

Simply answer the following question:

On what page is the AirNav advert in this issue?

Send your entry, name, address, telephone number and e-mail (if you have one), PLUS the Competition coupon on Page 3 of this issue, to AirNav Competition, Airliner World November 2008, Key Publishing, PO Box 100, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 1XQ. Closing date for entries is 15:00 GMT on December 18, 2008. The winner will be notified no later than December 23, 2008 – and should have the prize in time for Christmas.



On occasion Key Publishing Ltd may make offers on products or services that they believe to be of interest to our customers. If you do not wish to receive this information, please write NO INFORMATION clearly on your entry. The competition is organised by Key Publishing. Proof of purchasing is not required. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. There is no cash alternative. The organisers are not responsible for entries lost or damaged in the post and proof of mailing/postage is not proof of delivery.