

# **TOTAL PERFORMANCE** **VAN'S AIRCRAFT**

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## **Garmin G3X Touch README File**

G3X-PRE-SETS-READ-ME-11-10-16 Rev 5

***Overall it is our hope that use of the settings files will make installing new products and maintaining current software on older EFIS screens much easier.***

### **What's New:**

***We realize that you may have read this document many times before. Here is a heads up on major changes to look for. It is still strongly encouraged to read the entire document as many small changes may have been incorporated as well.***

- 1) *Added a rev level and revision summary to the read-me document to communicate rev changes to customers.*
- 2) *'RV-12 G3XT Base Config R9.gca' File: Replaced  $V_A$  with  $V_O$ .  
 $V_A$  can be manually replaced with  $V_O$  (without overwriting any settings) by performing the following: Hold down the "MENU" button on the front of the display then turn on the master switch to turn on the display. Continue to hold the menu button down until the configuration message appears above the word Garmin. The screen will then boot to the main configuration menu. Inside the main configuration menu touch the button named "Aircraft". Under the "Reference Speeds" tab, scroll down to " $V_A$ " and delete (clear) the speed in the adjacent field, then scroll down to "Custom Speed 1" and enter "0" and "72 knots" in the adjacent fields.*

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There are two types of files that may be loaded into the G3X, software and configuration files.

**NOTE:** Older SD cards may not be compatible with the G3X screen. If the steps below are not working and the G3X Touch is not able to view files on the SD card purchase a new SD card. Garmin recommends using a 8GB SanDisk SD card.

“Software” is independent of aircraft specific settings and may be downloaded from the Garmin G3X Touch web page.

To install software:

Step 1: Download the latest software. Click on the following link or on the G3X Touch page navigate to “Other References” then click on “G3X Software” (near the bottom of the page).

<http://www8.garmin.com/support/collection.jsp?product=010-00G3X-00&cid=155&pid=63892>

On the Updates and Downloads page click “download” on the latest software for “GDU 46x Cockpit Display.....”.

Complete the menu choices and save the file to the desktop (or other known area).

Step 2: Insert a SD card (blank with all files removed for best results) into a card reader (or SD slot on your laptop or computer).

Step 3: Run the software executable file downloaded in Step 1. When prompted select the drive letter for the card reader then finish the prompts given by the software.

Step 4: View the contents of the SD card and confirm a “Garmin” folder has been added to the card. Check that files have been added inside the Garmin folder.

Step 5: Turn on the Avionics switch and Autopilot switch. Check that the COM radio is turned on.

**NOTE:** Software for LRU’s (GTR200, Autopilot Servos, GDL39R, GEA24, GSU25) is included inside the G3X Software file and will update automatically to each LRU if connected. Note GTR200 will only automatically update if the software level is 2.3 or above. Since the transponder is a TSO’d device it may not be updated through the non-TSO’s G3X Touch and must be updated separately. When updating software check that all LRU’s have been updated before flight. The latest software version for each LRU is noted on the Garmin web site.

Step 6: Turn on the master switch to turn on the display. Insert the SD card into the SD card slot on the front of the G3X Touch display in the aircraft. (It is also acceptable to insert the SD card before turning on the display.)

Step 7: When prompted, agree to the installation of the new software. If a second screen is installed in the aircraft, turn the master switch off, move the SD card to the second screen, turn the master on again and agree when prompted to installation of the new software on the second screen.

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**“Configuration files”** supplied by Van’s are specific to RV-12 model aircraft but not to an individual aircraft. These configuration files will not overwrite aircraft specific calibrations such as trim and fuel level. The autopilot configuration file may overwrite changes (tweaks) made to the autopilot settings.

**NOTE:** The RV-12 G3XT Base Configuration Rev X.gca file was loaded into the G3X Touch before delivery. There is no need to load the configuration file unless the system needs to be reset.

**NOTE:** Although loading a configuration will not overwrite the fuel level calibration it is wise to save a backup just in case. Inside the “Engine” menu select “FUEL LVL 1” then “Calib”. Inside the “Calib” menu press the menu key. A dialog box will appear allowing the fuel level settings to be written to or read from the SD card.

To install airplane specific configuration files:

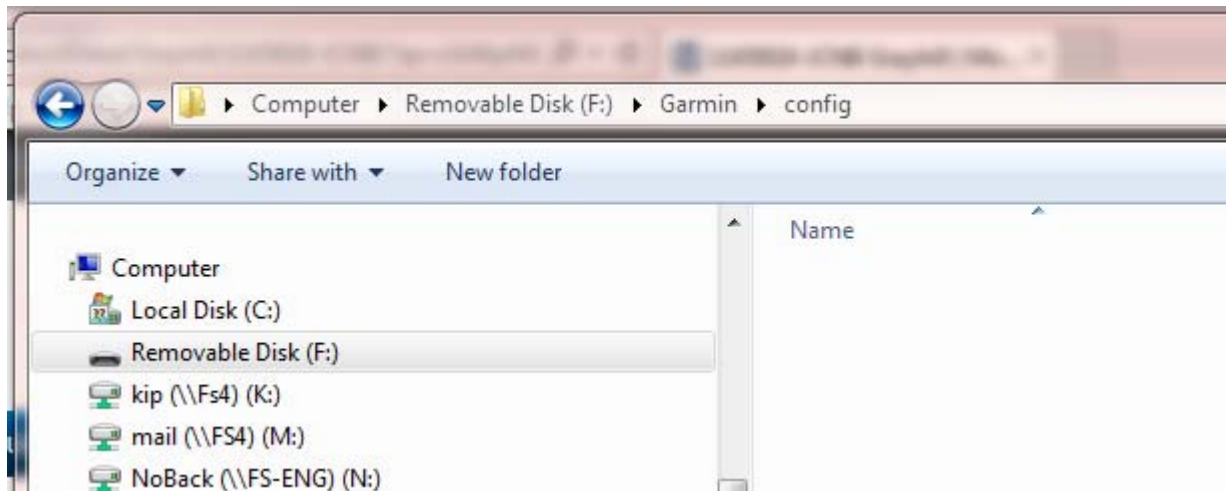
**CAUTION!** When downloading right-click the file name and select “save target as”. Left clicking will load the file in your browser and when saved will add browser formatting to the file that will render it unusable.

Step 1: Download the latest configuration files from Van’s web site.

Step 2: Insert a SD card (blank with all files removed for best results) into a card reader (or SD slot on your laptop or computer).

Step 3: Make a folder on the SD card named “Garmin”.  
If a folder named “Garmin” already exists then skip to Step 4.

Step 4: Inside the folder named “Garmin” make a new folder named “config”.



Step 5: Place the files ending with extension “.gca” inside the “config” folder.

**NOTE:** The following steps may take some time. It is advisable to place the aircraft on a battery charger compatible with your aircraft’s battery. This will prevent damaging the battery. Some functions may have a red X through them if the battery voltage drops too far.

Step 6: Insert the SD card into the SD card slot on the front of the G3X Touch display in the aircraft.

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Step 7: Hold down the “MENU” button on the front of the display then turn on the master switch to turn on the display. Continue to hold the menu button down until the configuration message appears above the word Garmin. The screen will then boot to the main configuration menu.

Step 8: Inside the main configuration menu touch the button named “config”.

**NOTE:** It is only necessary to load configuration files onto the PFD if a dual screen installation is installed. The settings will automatically be pushed to the MFD.

**NOTE:** First load the main RV-12 G3XT Base Config RX.gca file then load other files such as RV-12 G3XT Autopilot RX.gca. **If you reload the base file in the future all other files will need to be reloaded again.**

Step 9: The configuration files located inside the “config” folder will be listed. If the files are not appearing this is because the SD card in use is not compatible with the G3X Touch or the file has been corrupted in some way. See the note near the top of this document on SD cards.

Check the box near the “RV-12 G3XT Base Config RX”. This file must be always loaded first. Agree to install the settings.

If an autopilot is installed check the box near the “RV-12 G3XT Autopilot RX”.

*You have completed loading the files but further setup will be required even if the unit was previously setup. Please complete the “Basic Setup” portion of this readme file.*

**“Basic Setup”** will be needed after loading the configuration file or if installing the system for the first time. The following steps have been written in the context of both possibilities. Skip those steps that are not applicable. **Read the G3X Installation Manual Section 30 “GDU 45X/46X CONFIGURATION AND POST INSTALLATION CHECKOUT” before continuing.**

Step 10: Check inside the Transponder menu that the Mode S Type and Address (transponder US Tail #, Octal or HEX code...any of the three will work within the US) has been entered for the aircraft. For Octal or Hex code see your aircraft under the aircraft registry. <http://registry.faa.gov/aircraftinquiry/>

Step 11: If you have GPS 20A ADS-B out capability, go to the Transponder menu and set the position integrity to “IFR GPS 1E-7”.

Under the System Information menu, verify that the transponder software is at version GTX V7.02 or later for ADS-B compliance. Update the transponder software as required.

Step 12: If you have GPS 20A ADS-B out capability, go to the RS-232 menu and set Serial Port 3 to “Garmin Data Transfer”.

Step 13: If you have GPS 20A ADS-B out capability and only one GPS antenna, go to the GPS menu and set the PFD to “No GPS Antenna Connected”. If you have a dual screens and a second GPS antenna, set the MFD to “Use PFD GPS Antenna”.

Step 14: Loading the RV-12 G3XT Base Configuration Rev X.gca will reset the ADARHS unit orientation and require

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recalibration of the ADAHRS.

Under the “ADAHRS Calibration” menu change the “Unit Orientation” to “Tubes Down Connectors Forward”. Changing this will require going through the calibration steps so check this first before continuing with calibrations.

Under the ADAHRS button perform the pitch and roll offset compensation, magnetometer interference check, and magnetometer calibration. When performing the magnetometer calibration take care to use an area well away from buildings or pavement that may have metal grating or imbedded rebar...yes we learned this the hard way. The magnetometer calibration requires you to turn right slowly and stop and hold position at different points. As you approach the point where you will be required to hold there will be less and less dots. This will help you anticipate and stop in time. If you turn slow enough this should not be a problem. Not stopping in time may cause a failed calibration. Here at Van’s we hold full right brake with slight left brake and use the vernier throttle to add just enough power to turn slowly then left brake to stop.

For initial installations complete the Engine Run-Up Vibration Test.

Step 15: Loading the RV-12 G3XT Base Config RX.gca will reset the weight and balance information for weight and arm. Enter the weight and balance menu and re-enter the weight and balance information for the aircraft.

Step 16: The configuration file will not enable screen shots (a picture of the current screen to be saved to the SD card). While in “Configuration mode”, go to Display menu and “enable” screen shots.

Hold down the menu (for an extended period of time ....count to 5) button to take a screen shot. A message will appear letting you know that a screen shot has been saved to the SD card when in normal operation. Within the config menu no message will appear.

**WARNING:** Some items under the Engine setup menu show the description “UNKOWN” or “NOT CONFIGURABLE”. DO NOT edit or change the settings of these items! These represent items that use special RV-12 software. Shunt 1, Discrete 1 (Stall Warning) and Discrete 3 (Canopy Latch) are examples of Engine setup menu items set to “NOT CONFIGURABLE”.

Step 17: Under the engine menu FUEL LVL 1 then Calib check/configure the fuel level.

Under elevator trim check/configure the elevator trim. In the lower left side of the screen check under “Display Options” that “Gauge Display” is set to “Inverted”.

If calibrating the elevator trim for the first time note that the Neutral calibration is in the middle of the two extreme voltages for trim full up and full down (the trim position sensor is linear). Set up both extremes then calculate the average of the two voltages. Select “Neutral” then run the trim until the displayed voltage equals the calculated average voltage of the extremes. Save that voltage as the Neutral calibration.

**NOTE:** Fuel Flow at this time is not setup for G3X. Some aircraft may exhibit erroneously high fuel flows (this condition is independent of the EFIS system in use). We hope at some time in the future to enable this feature on Garmin equipped RV-12’s.

Step 18: While in configuration menu, go to **Audio** and verify Alert volume, Message volume, etc.

Step 19: After all configuration changes have been made, use the Save & Reboot button.

Step 20: Go to [www.fly.garmin.com](http://www.fly.garmin.com) and create an account.

All updates to Firmware, Data Base (charts, obstacle, terrain, etc) can be obtained by visiting the website

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([www.fly.garmin.com](http://www.fly.garmin.com)) and performed in normal mode. Read G3X Installation Manual Section 30.5 for more information.

## **Common “Gotchas”**

**Red X on Com and/or Transponder:** Did you load the Mode S Address...and is the avionics switch on?

**No ADS-B Traffic Audio Alerts:** Check that the potentiometer for the autopilot sound level on the AV-50000A is turned up to a setting where it may be heard. Older SkyView control modules had this sound level turned off and some of those control modules may be in service.

**Autopilot not functioning:** Is the autopilot switch on? ...we have to ask.

Did you accidentally load the autopilot config file before the base configuration (autopilot button will not appear in the config menu...this also can be caused by a corrupt config file...try downloading the config file again and start over).

If you have not completed all the calibration steps for the ADAHRS the autopilot will turn and be recognized by the PFD but will not perform NAV, VNAV etc. functions.

**Numerous functions randomly have a red X:** Most likely the battery voltage has dropped too low. Place the aircraft on a battery charger.

*NOTE: If the links or references within the readme are out of date please notify us and as soon as time permits we will update this document.*

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## **Revision Summary:**

*This summary tracks changes to the software settings files and the readme document.*

*Rev 5 11-10-16*

- 1) *Added a rev level and revision summary to the read-me document to communicate rev changes to customers.*
- 2) *RV-12 G3XT Base Config R9.gca' File: Replaced  $V_A$  with  $V_O$ .  
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