RoadBook Editor 4.0.5 User Guide

Contents

- Introduction
- Why use a roadbook
- Interface and getting started
- Menus and keyboard shortcuts
- Context menu
  - Open in Google Earth Pro
  - Open in ArcGIS Wayback
  - Open in Google Maps
  - Copy coordinates
  - Start track section correction
- File menu
- Map menu
- Track menu
- Import menu
- View menu
- Edit points menu
- Print PDF menu
- Languages menu
- Graphical notes with junctions, icons, text and CAP
- Icon tabs
- Tips and limitations
- Frequently asked questions
- Time control mode
- Obstacle trials
- CAP navigation

Introduction

RoadBook Editor helps you create and share roadbooks for non-competitive outings, such as trips with friends. It includes tools for preparing the track, drawing the notes and distributing the roadbook. TripMaster and the Secure project came before this editor, which focuses on creating and sharing roadbooks.

Contents

Why use a roadbook

A roadbook gives passengers an active part in navigation. They watch the terrain, orient themselves and check bearings (CAP) and distances. The idea grew out of events such as the 24 ore del Frignano, where accuracy, timing and route management mattered more than speed.

Contents

Interface and getting started

The map is on the left and the roadbook area is on the right. The menus are at the top. The status bar at the bottom shows the file name, point count and messages. To get started, import a GPX file, prepare the track, create notes with **W** and add the details. Save the roadbook as JSON, then create a PDF or export the package for RB Reader.

Contents

Menus and keyboard shortcuts

Commands in File, Track, Map and Print PDF generally combine Ctrl with another key. Single keys are used to edit track points. Use the buttons in the roadbook area to edit notes.

Examples

- **File.** Ctrl+O opens a roadbook, Ctrl+S saves it and Ctrl+Q exits the program.
- **Map.** Ctrl+0 shows or hides labels. Ctrl+1 switches to the Outdoors map.
- **Track.** Ctrl+X imports a GPX file, Ctrl+I reverses the track, Ctrl+R reduces its points and Ctrl+G exports it as GPX.
- **Print PDF.** Ctrl+P creates the PDF.
  You can also use these commands from the menus.

Edit points shortcuts

* **W** adds a waypoint, **M** moves a point, **A** inserts an intermediate point, **L** adds a point near the track line, **T** converts a waypoint to a trackpoint and **Delete** removes the selected point.

Contents

Context menu

Right-click the map to open the context menu.

- **Open in Google Earth Pro.** Opens Google Earth Pro with a placemark at the cursor location. You can view historical imagery and use Street View where available.
- **Open in ArcGIS Wayback.** Opens the same area in the online viewer, where you can browse and compare imagery from different dates.
- **Open in Google Maps.** Centres Google Maps on the cursor location. You can use the map tools, including Street View where available.
- **Copy coordinates.** Copies the coordinates under the cursor to the clipboard, in decimal degrees and in **latitude, longitude** order. You can paste them into RB Explorer or other programs that accept this format.
- **Start track section correction.** Adjusts a section of the GPS track to follow the road while keeping both endpoints fixed.

How to correct a track section

1. Select the first point you want to keep fixed. If it needs adjusting first, move it with **M**.
2. Open the context menu and choose **Start track section correction**. RB Editor uses the selected point as the first endpoint.
3. Click the second fixed endpoint. Leave at least one point between the endpoints, then click an intermediate point to use as the control point.
4. Drag the **yellow control point** towards the road. The blue preview updates as you drag. The amount of movement gradually decreases from the control point towards both endpoints.
5. Click **Apply** to confirm or **Cancel** to discard the correction.

Contents

File menu

- **Open…** loads a previously saved roadbook (Ctrl+O).
  Save roadbook… saves the current roadbook (Ctrl+S).
- **Export digital (Ctrl+D)** creates an RB Reader package in two forms.
- **ZIP archive.** Share this file with participants, for example via WhatsApp. They can open it on their phone in RB Reader.
- **RB_Reader_pack folder.** Contains the roadbook file and the “icons” folder with all the icons used.
- To create an icon legend, copy the icons from the folder into Word, CorelDRAW, Excel or another editor, and add a description beside each one. You can share the resulting legend with participants.
- **Exit (Ctrl+Q)** closes the program.

Contents

Map menu

- **Personal Mapbox token…** lets you use a public token from your Mapbox account to display the maps. Create an account or sign in, open **Access tokens** and copy the public token that starts with **pk.**
  In RB Editor, choose **Map → Personal Mapbox token…**, paste the token and confirm. Restart RB Editor to apply the change. Leaving the field empty uses the default token if your copy includes one.

Choose the map type from the Map menu.

- Satellite with labels
- Satellite without labels
- Outdoors (roads and trails)

Keyboard shortcuts

- **Ctrl+0** switches between satellite imagery with and without labels.
- **Ctrl+1** switches to the Outdoors map, which shows roads, trails and contour lines.

For the commands available by right-clicking the map, see Context menu.

Contents

Track menu

* **Load GPX (Ctrl+X)** imports a GPX track.

Where the outbound and return routes overlap, RB Editor can draw the two directions separately to make them easier to select. This only affects how they appear on the map.

* **Reduce track points (Ctrl+R)** simplifies the track. Compare the point count in the status bar before and after. If you have added points you want to keep, save a copy before reducing the track again.
* **Invert track (Ctrl+I)** reverses the direction of travel. Use it when the start and finish notes are the only notes on the track.
* **Save track only (Ctrl+G)** exports a GPX with the track and numbered waypoints. To keep the text, junctions and icons, save the roadbook as JSON.

Contents

Import menu

Use the Import menu to load recordings from a reconnaissance trip with RB Recorder.

- **Import voice notes** loads voice recordings associated with the track and shows their markers. Click a marker to listen in the editor and create or complete a roadbook note.
- **Import from RB Recorder** imports the recorded track and the voice notes collected during the trip.

Contents

View menu

Show audio indicators controls whether the imported voice notes appear on the map. The markers are visible when the option is checked.

Contents

Edit points menu

Select a point on the map. Once it turns yellow, press the corresponding key.

- **W — Add waypoint.** Creates a note with a number, cumulative and partial distances, bearing, coordinates and arrows. You can then add junctions, icons and text.
- **M — Move point.** Select a point, press M and click its new location. For a waypoint, RB Editor also updates the distances and bearings. Check that its junctions, icons and text still make sense.
- **A — Add intermediate point.** Inserts a point between the selected point and the next one. Use this to divide a long or straight section.

L — Add point on line. Place the cursor where you want the point and press L. RB Editor uses the cursor position and inserts the point between the endpoints of the nearest segment in the track sequence. The cursor must be within 15 metres of the track line.
To move several points in a bend together, use Start track section correction.

- **T — Convert waypoint to trackpoint.** Removes the note and keeps the track point. RB Editor updates the numbering and bearings.
- **Delete — Delete point.** Removes the selected point.
- Click a voice note marker to open the playback window. You can move the window and mark the recording as listened to or incorporated into the roadbook.

Contents

Print PDF menu

Press **Ctrl+P** or choose **Print PDF → Create PDF**.
The PDF shows the header on the first page and the notes on subsequent pages. Save the roadbook first so the correct title appears. The icons are designed to remain legible in greyscale.

Contents

Languages menu

Use the Languages menu to choose Italian, Spanish or English. The choice applies to menus, tabs, tooltips and program messages.

Contents

Graphical notes with junctions, icons, text and CAP

Change the road type. You can change the arrow segment in the current note. Subsequent notes inherit that road type for their incoming segment.

* Click the small white circle in the middle of the note arrow.
* Choose Highway, Asphalt, Dirt track or Off-road.
* The selected type becomes the default for new notes. To change an existing note, click the circle in that note.

Add, edit and delete junctions

* To add a junction, first click an empty area of the note to deselect the arrow. Click **Add junction**. Use the black handles to move it and the red handles to rotate it.

* To edit a junction, click it to show the handles, then move or rotate it.
* To delete a junction, select it and click the **red X** on the toolbar.
* You can add more than one junction to a note.

Move, rotate and delete icons

Icons are organised in the tabs at the bottom.

- Select the note you want to edit. It is highlighted in pale yellow.
- Click an icon in a tab to add it to the upper-left corner of the note.
- Drag the icon to move it. Use the rotation handle to turn it.
- To flip the icon horizontally, click the horizontal arrow button or press **H**.
- To delete an icon selected in a note, click the **red X**. To delete an icon from a tab, press **Ctrl+Delete**.

If Add junction does not respond, click an empty area in the note to deselect the segment, then try again.

Contents

Icon tabs

The icons are grouped in five tabs: TERRAIN, ALERTS, INFO!, POI and SIGNS. Choose the category that fits the note.

You can add custom icons to any tab. Copy an image, move the cursor over the icon area and press **Ctrl+V**. Press **F2** to rename it or **Ctrl+Delete** to delete it.

Contents

Tips and limitations

* Save regularly and work in stages. RB Editor has no general Undo or Redo command.
* Reverse the track while the start and finish notes are the only notes present.
* Set the road type at the beginning by clicking the circle in the centre of the arrow. Your choice carries over to subsequent notes. When the road type changes, for example at a junction, use the circle in that note to change it.

If a waypoint does not update, select it and press **W** again.

Contents

Frequently asked questions

* **The PDF title is incorrect.** Save the roadbook first, then create the PDF again.
* **Changes disappeared after reducing the point count.** Track reduction removes points. Work on a copy if you need to keep the earlier version.
* **A point will not move or a shortcut does not respond.** Make sure the point is selected in yellow before pressing the key.
* **An icon does not change.** Check that you have selected the icon in the note. To flip it, use the toolbar button or press H.

Contents

Time control mode

Choose an average speed that suits the surface, visibility and limits along the route. The example uses 25 km/h. You can apply this system without RB Ranking.

Hidden time controls reward accurate timing.

Early arrival. Count the penalty from the first second.

Late arrival. Count the penalty from 60 seconds after the target time.

The organiser decides whether to score penalties in seconds or whole minutes.

In each note, record the target arrival time and the elapsed time between the two waypoints.

Quick calculation at 25 km/h

Time in minutes = 60 × distance in kilometres ÷ average speed in km/h. At 25 km/h, 10 km

takes 24 minutes.

Hours and minutes use units of 60, while distances are decimal. A table or spreadsheet makes conversion easier.

Contents

Obstacle trials

0 min penalty if you clear the obstacle on the first attempt.

1 min if you clear it on the second attempt.

2 min if you clear it on the third attempt.

3 min if you opt out without trying.

4 min if you do not clear it in three attempts.

You can calculate the penalties manually or use RB Ranking.

The aim is to enjoy the trial, give everyone a chance to complete it and avoid unnecessary risks.

Contents

CAP navigation

A) GPS with bearing and distance
Use the bearing and distance on your GPS to navigate towards the next waypoint indicated by the CAP. Choose a route to reach it.

B) RB Reader radar with bearing

In this mode, RB Reader shows the bearing to the waypoint. It leaves the exact distance and the small exit CAP out of the display. Navigation works like a compass and is particularly useful in open terrain. Where the available roads limit your choices, the navigator decides which way to go.

The large CAP points to the next relevant waypoint. Intermediate trackpoints define the track line.

Follow the route restrictions and limits and allow a margin for the conditions.

Contents