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## Pilot Case Study by a Deepsea Pilot

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*(written in reply to a fellow pilot)*

I use Navmaster Pilot with ARCS charts on the UKHO Navigator service. I have a folio of 90+ charts. I suggest that a standard folio of 100 charts would be ample for any deepsea pilot's needs, covering both east and west coast of the UK and from Europa Point to the Northern tip of Norway. There are various options for chart updates using ARCS; PC Maritime's quarterly update service would be the most cost-effective.

The Navmaster system is fully supported and constantly developed. The Pilot version has come a long way over the last few years and I would say that it is now probably the best system available on the market to the individual user. By far the biggest advantage is that PC Maritime will listen to your feedback and, over time, incorporate changes into the program as required. I would add that the Pilot version is virtually the same as their full ECDIS version which I've used on various ships.

Auto selection of charts: You can leave Navmaster Pilot running on your laptop during rest periods and the system will automatically scroll from one chart to the next. Similarly, when passage planning you can zoom in or out and the best available scale chart will be selected.

Daylight, dusk and night settings: AIS targets can be any colour you wish - a major advantage. I use 'rusty red' targets for daylight and 'yellow' for dusk/night. You can also choose what information is permanently displayed onscreen for individual AIS targets. Target name, destination and CPA is ample for my needs, but you can add what you want from the ECDIS target information list such as heading, speed etc – it depends how much chart clutter you are prepared to put up with. You can also change the font size on AIS targets in order that permanently-displayed information becomes less of a distraction.

The side bar is, on the whole, readable at night particularly with white lettering, although some information which is in 'grey scale' can be very hard to see (it appears fine on the full ECDIS, but doesn't translate well onto a laptop).

(contd)

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Navmaster also fully incorporates Admiralty Total Tide and you can use any colour you wish for tidal vectors and tidal heights. Proudman tidal information is also an option.

Overlays for no-go areas, temporary corrections etc can be easily added, but no auto-display for T+P Notices unless you use vector charts.

Overall, the system really is excellent and I've recommended it to a number of pilots over the years. A little more expensive than some on the market, but you really do get what you pay for.

Captain S.  
Deepsea Pilot

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