2014

Navigation system basics

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## Index

### Contents

1. Introduction .................................................................................................................. 3
2. Overview ....................................................................................................................... 4
3. Navigation overview ....................................................................................................... 4
4. Destination Entry ........................................................................................................... 6
5. Points of Interest (POI’s) ............................................................................................. 9
Using the Seventh Generation Corvette Navigation System.

1. Introduction

Moving forward from the previous generation Denso navigation radio in the 2005 – 2013, this next generation system is a full-fledged, Linux based infotainment system. Users that have had exposure to the Cadillac CUE system or other vehicles within the GM line using the “My Link” system will find this unit very familiar to operate.

The system incorporates a 24 bit color, 8” multi-touch capable touch screen. Additionally, you will find a concealed storage location to place and charge your phone or mp3 player while in use. This is located behind the screen. The system supports device connection via Bluetooth and I/O courtesy of USB, SD and a 3.5 mm Auxiliary in connection for non-USB enabled legacy devices with audio out capability.

Users will find this unit much easier to use than the previous generation system and find the input and the menu structure for commands much more intuitive. In addition to navigation functionality, owners will find updated features such as navigation and traffic tools, weather, Pandora, AM/FM and XM radio and a rear facing camera. This added technology comes with a lot of available information at the users finger tips and you will still need to invest some time in learning this system if you want to get the most out of it.

The screen uses navigation gestures that will be familiar to anyone who has used a current generation smart phone or tablet with swipe, tap and pinch to zoom functionality. Navigation of the system and its commands are augmented with a very clean voice recognition system by Nuance that goes beyond basic commands but is most useful in navigation, audio and calling features. Picture this as a little bit like Apple’s Siri but it is installed and processed locally in the vehicle.

Much like my last tutorial, this guide will focus on system functionality and make use of screen shots and simple to use language to help you find your way around the system.
2. Overview

The main menu screen is icon based. Each of the icons can be moved and arranged. Outside temperature to the top left, clock to the top right and favorites button to the lower right of the screen. On the bezel to the left of the main touch screen you will find the power button, the volume knob and button to raise and lower the screens. Below the touch screen you will find button to bring up the radio display, the media display screen and a home button to get back to the main menu. In the center below the screen you will find a menu button to bring up the audio system menu and to the right you will find Forward/Seek and Backward/Seek and a Back button. Lastly, note the arrow presented on the right and left sides of the screen. These will be used to scroll between screens.

3. Navigation overview

Let’s move right in to the navigation system. This marks the end of DVD based navigation for the Corvette. It makes use of a proprietary adaptation of the Navteq database. The 2014 Corvette navigation system is upgradeable via software download through a USB port.
Once you have selected the Navigation icon from the main menu you will be greeted by a very nice full screen implementation of the map screen. You will have the option to configure 2D and 3D views as well as zoom features (with buttons at the bottom or multi-touch capability). The menu at the bottom will timeout if not used. Once this happens, a touch anywhere on the screen will bring it back in to service.

You will also note that there is a very nice sub-menu at the top that will give you access to your commonly used icons. For example, audio menu, return to the navigation menu, telephone menu and climate control menu. You can alter this configuration and include three to five favorites. Also, deleting an icon from the sub-menu will not delete it from the main menu.

Along the bottom you will find zoom out, zoom in, reset view, destination entry sub-menu and system menu where you will change view and preference settings.
4. **Destination Entry.**

Destination entry can be from the map (tap and mark or select from displayed points of interest, from a keypad where you can type in an address, street, intersection or search term.

Once you press the Destination Menu icon you will be greeted with a keyboard screen.

Type in your destination address. Give it as much accurate information as you have. Including the city, state and or zip code will narrow the search results and reduce the search time.

Once you have your destination entered you will be presented with an overview and your choices for beginning navigation and estimated time of arrival.
Once you select go, you will be able to see an overview of the route depending upon your map scale and view your turn list with another tap.

On the right side of the map screen you will see a box that lists your arrival time and shows a graphic of your next driving direction. Pressing the top section of this box (with the flag and time display) you can change your view option from arrival time to the number of hours for your trip. If you press the NAV icon in the upper tray, you can change your view from top down to 3D to north facing. Each press will cycle to the next view option.

You will also see roads highlighted on the map screen, this shows your route. You can vary the amount of detail by zooming in and zooming out with the menu buttons. If you have the traffic feature enabled,
it will highlight the roads with color showing traffic flow and you will be presented with icons for accidents and construction issues on your route.

You can view your turn by turn list by pressing on the large black box with the arrow in it on the right of a navigation screen while under route guidance. This will present you with your turn by turn route overview.

Selecting any section of the route will bring up an overview of that section on the map display to the right of the screen. You can scroll using your finger on the arrow at the bottom or sliding the display bar up and down. Select by pressing your finger on the screen on your choice. You can also use the ring at the outside of the menu knob and select using the menu button in the center of the knob.

If you elect not to take this route or if you want to end your trip early, select the menu button and you will be presented with the navigation settings menu and if you are under route guidance, the first option you will be presented with will be to end your trip.
5. Points of Interest (POI’s).

The second most frequently used method of destination entry is likely to be the point of interest icons. POI’s must be enabled in the map options. You can access this screen from the menu tray icon in the navigation app.

Select the Menu button and scroll down to “Display Places of Interest Icons”.

This will bring up another menu screen where you can select the types of POI icons that you would like to display. Simply scroll down the list and make your selections. This can be accomplished by pressing an arrow or sliding the bar with your finger. Touch a box or use the MENU hard key to make your selections.
In this view you will note the generic POI’s displayed on the map. Generic in so much as they are not identified by brand but it will be clear in viewing them that some are food, some are banks, some are lodging, etc. just not brand specific as some of the restaurant icon’s were in the previous generations system.

Selecting one of the icons will bring up additional details about the proximity of your selection to your current location.

If multiple POI’s are present in the general vicinity of your press, it will bring up a dialog box that will show you each point of interest and you can select from the list to get additional information by pressing on the POI name and the selecting INFO.
For a single POI on screen, pressing the “i” on the detail box will bring up even more details like Name, address and phone number.

From this screen you can select this POI as a destination by pressing Go. Save it as contact to the vehicle by pressing Save or press the Info button at the top center to bring up additional info and the phone number.
From the info screen shown above, you can navigate to this POI by pressing Go. You can save it as a contact by pressing Save. You can add it as a waypoint to your trip by pressing the plus icon or you can call the phone number as listed by pressing the phone icon.

You will first be presented with a POI category list. You can scroll down the list to pick a category. These category lists will continue to allow you to refine your criteria.

For example, pressing Food and Nightlife will expand to show different types of venues by cuisine and type of establishment. Coffee shops, Nightlife and Restaurants (the number in parenthesis will indicate how many of each type are contained within. Expanding the Restaurant list will further allow you to break down your selection by type of cuisine and category.
Much like the Destination address entry, you can also search for POI’s via the built in keyboard. Press the POI icon from the navigation destination menu and select Search All at the top of the list of POI categories on the first page of the menu.
To begin your search, type in information about the POI that you are trying to find. The system will display results based on proximity.
You can alter your search results by pressing the sort button. It will start with a list displayed by proximity with the closest to you at the top of the list. Pressing sort will allow you to change that sort from proximity to alphabetical and lastly by confidence.

You will also note that your POI selection screen changes depending upon whether or not you are currently under route guidance. The assumption is that if you are under route guidance you will want to select from points of interest that are along your route to your desired destination.

You can change this by pressing the “Search Nearby” button on the displayed map segment. Doing so will allow you to change your search criteria from Along Route to Nearby, Near Destination or Another Location which you can specify using the keyboard.