FUEL TRAKKER

For Palm OS®

Users Manual
Version 1.2
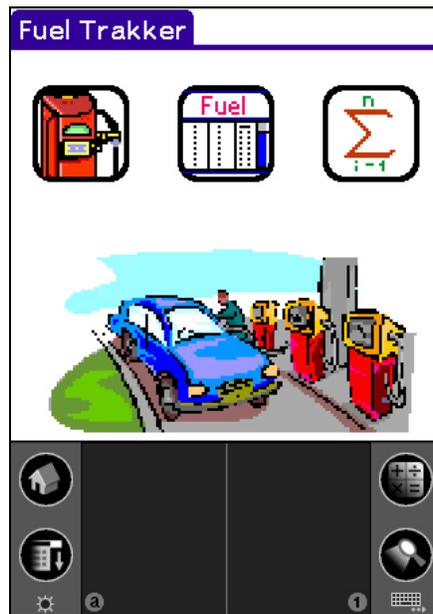
Software by,
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Program Overview

Fuel Trakker is a compact PDA program that has the ability to track fuel records for up to 15 vehicles. You have the ability to monitor records using the units of your choice. That is, liters versus gallons or Mpg versus km/L and many more. The option the convert existing database entries to different units is available too.

Fuel records can be entered in any order. There is a built in validation checker to verify data entries. For example, more recent entries must have higher odometer readings and vice versa. Unlike other programs that have you calculate the distance you traveled from the previous fuel purchase then enter the value into the program, Fuel Trakker handles all of the operations for you. You can even enter records out of order, just as long as the new entry meets Fuel Trakker's validation requirements.

Summary reports for each vehicle can be generated based on the selection of a start and end date. The summary will provide results that can then be exported to Memo Pad and hot-synced to your PC for backup.

Demo vs. License Version

The demo version has all of the same functionally as the licensed version. However, once you have entered five records into the database the program will be locked until a license key is entered. A key can be obtained by purchasing the software from PalmGear.com or Handango.com.

You may also purchase the program through PayPal using email address PdaSolutions4U@yahoo.com. PayPal purchases receive a 10% discount. The PayPal purchase price is $9.00 compared to the $10.00 charged at the popular software storefronts. Visit http://www.PdaSolutions4U.com for more information.

Adding/Renaming Vehicles

Adding vehicles is done the same way categories are managed in other Palm programs. Up to 15 vehicles can be added by selecting the "Edit Vehicle.." pop-trigger located in the upper right corner of any of the forms. When the trigger is selected you can add, change vehicle names, or delete vehicles.

Navigating The Software

When Fuel Trakker launches, a main screen appears. This is the *menu* that points to all of the program's functionality. There are three buttons that make navigating through the program easy. These buttons are:

- Enter Records button (gas pump icon): used for inputting all fuel information.
- Records List button (list icon): all fuel record entries are found here.
- Fuel Summary button (summation icon): database queries are performed here.
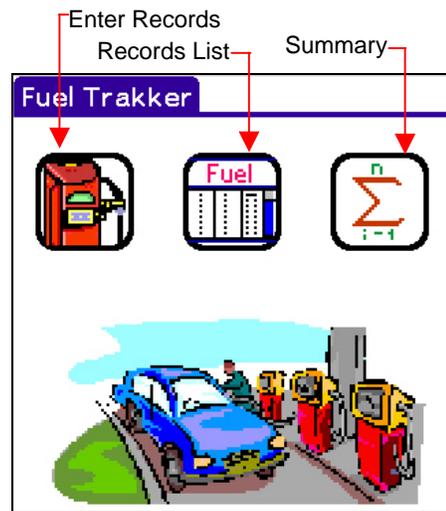
Setting Up User Preferences

Select "Preferences" from the menu options located on the Fuel Entry, Fuel Records, or Summary forms to gain access to the Preferences form. This form allows you to choose the units and the number of decimal places that will be displayed for selected items on each form.
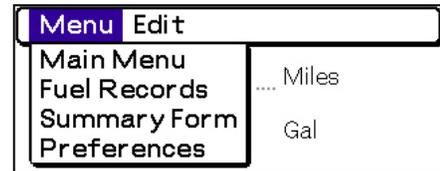
There are only three things to consider when using the Preferences form. What units you want to use for each item, how many decimal places you want displayed, and should the existing units be converted. Selecting the units to be displayed and the number of decimal places to be shown is rather straight forward. In order to force a conversion of units, i.e. Liters to US Gallons, you must already have Liters selected as your current units. Then you select the "Force Conversion" box as shown in the figure below. Selecting the box will force all values of the *current vehicle* to be changed. In the figure below, all database values for Fuel Volume of the current vehicle will be converted from the previous selected units (Liters in our example) to US Gallons.

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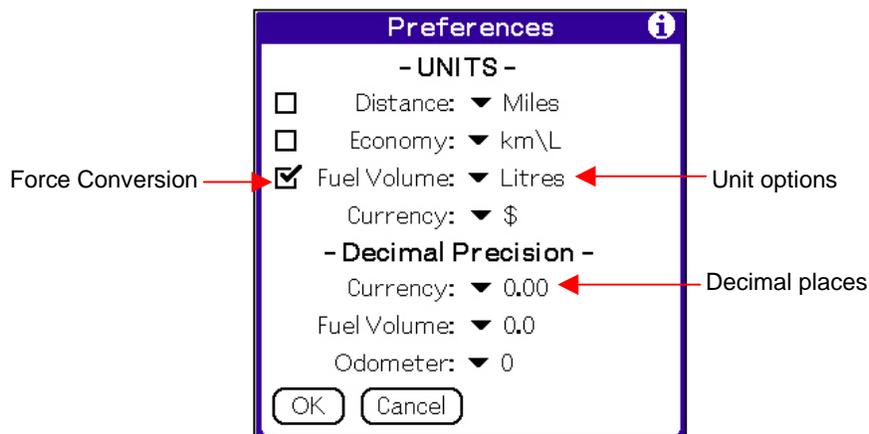
You may also track your fuel expenses using different currency options. The are five different options currently available, which are ¤, ¥, £, $, and the Euro.

Entering Fuel Records

Select the gas pump icon from the main menu to enter the Fuel Entry form. This is where fuel entries for vehicles are made. The form consists of the following details:

- Vehicle name: select the vehicle that is to receive the new record entry.
- Odometer: the odometer reading when the vehicle was fueled. This value is used for validating data entries and tracking fuel economy.
- Total Fuel: the amount of fuel that went into the vehicle.
- Date: the date the vehicle was fueled. The date is used for validating other fuel entries by comparing it to the odometer readings of previous and prior fuel entries. Also, the date is used for summary reports that are discussed in the Vehicle Summary Section
- Full Tank: only select [Yes] if the tank was completely topped off. This entry is used to determine how the fuel economy should be calculated. If the tank was not completely filled, fuel economy calculations will be incorrect. Also, if you are missing the fuel entry prior to the current entry select [No]. Otherwise, the fuel economy calculation will show a very efficient fuel economy value. If you are entering fuel records out of order and you know that you will be entering the previous fuel record eventually, then go ahead and select [Yes]. Fuel Trakker will automatically recalculate the fuel economy for any previous and prior record entries when a new record is entered into the database.

Viewing Fuel Records

Select the record list icon from the main menu to enter the Fuel Records form. There are five columns in the list of records as shown in the following figure. The labels above each column identify the numbers in each column. The labels will change according to the desired user preferences.

The database will regenerate with new values automatically if a different vehicle is selected. Also, there are several sort order options available for the database. You can sort by date, distance, fuel quantity, fuel cost, and fuel economy. Each row is a single database entry. If you want to view every detail of the record or modify the record, simply select any item in the row. This will launch a window with all of the record information; refer to the Modifying Fuel Records section for more information.

The table scroll arrows will only appear if you have more records then can be viewed at one time. Selecting the arrow will cause the records to scroll one page at a time. This allows you to cycle through records very quickly.

Tip If your PDA has a wheel it will perform the same function as the table scroll arrows. This will provide even faster movement through database entries.

Fuel Records	▼ Hemi Ram 1500				← Current vehicle name
▼ Select Sort Order					← Database sort order
Date	**Miles**	**Gal**	**Cost**	**Mpg**	
4/30/04	3212.23	21.23	41.25	10.41	← Single fuel record entry
4/15/04	2991.30	22.23	39.25	12.02	
4/2/04	2724.20	23.36	46.25	12.97	
3/25/04	2421.30	19.37	38.25	10.90	
3/11/04	2210.20	22.32	42.15	12.44	
2/29/04	1932.50	20.52	44.32	10.23	
2/14/04	1722.50	21.35	51.32	10.42	
2/1/04	1500.10	22.53	45.55	11.10	
1/15/04	1250.10	22.13	44.54	11.30	
Menu				▲▼	← Table scroll arrows

Modifying Fuel Records

Selecting any record from the Fuel Records table will produce all the contents of the record. You can change every detail of the fuel entry even the vehicle that the record belongs to.

Whenever the [OK] button is selected a recalculation of previous and prior records occurs. If the record is moved to another vehicle, the fuel economy values for the vehicle gaining and the vehicle losing a database entry are updated automatically to reflect the change.

Fuel Record	ℹ
Vehicle:	▼ Hemi Ram 1500
Odometer:	85000.00 Miles
Fuel Qty:	21.25 Gal
Fuel Cost:	44.6 $
Date:	1/1/04
Full Tank:	Yes No
OK	Cancel Delete

Deleted database entries are permanently lost.

They cannot be recovered. A warning message will appear if the [Delete] button is selected, which helps prevent accidental deletion of records. Selecting [Cancel] from the warning message will send you back to the current fuel record.

Creating Reports

Select the summation icon from the main menu to enter the Fuel Summary form. There are only two items needed to create a report, namely the "start date" and the "end date". Once you have chosen the desired dates select the [Calculate] button to create the report. The results will appear as shown on the accompanying form. You must select [Calculate] to update the report if you change the dates or vehicle.

Summary	▼ Hemi Ram 1500
Select Start Date:	1/8/04
Select End Date:	9/6/04

Total Distance:	**400.0**	km
Total Fuel Cost:	**193.98**	$
Total Fuel:	**94.990**	US Gal
Avg. Economy:	**4.03**	Mpg
Avg. Cost/Distance:	**0.16**	$/km

(Menu) (Calculate)

The units listed on the report will correspond to the user preference selections.

Exporting Reports

In order to export a generated report choose "Export to Memo Pad" from the drop down menu located on the Summary form. The report is created in a comma-delimitated format (.CSV). The report will be sent to your PC if your hot-sync program is setup to accept memos. Once the report is on your PC it can be viewed with any spreadsheet program.

Menu	Export	
Select S	Export to Memo Pad	

Tip If you use Microsoft Outlook you can access the CSV file by doing the following. Select the imported Fuel Trakker record that you want to view. Next, select FILE then SAVE AS. When prompted for the file name, change the extension to .CSV or .XLS for viewing in Excel.

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