

FAQ

- **Can I use my RTK rover GPS with the autopilot.**

Internal GPS is no longer included in this Autopilot. They do not perform consistently to the level needed for Autonomous Control. We have replaced the low cost GPS with a ttl converter system so you can bring an auxiliary NMEA GPS string out of your GPS receiver. All survey GPS have this capability. Simply choose GGA and RMC in the NMEA output setup and bring it to the autopilot via a RS232 cable. Now the Autopilot has the same accuracy as your Survey.

- **I have used Mission Planner with my drone, is this similar?**

Yes its very similar to using a drone and a bit easier since you are only operating at one elevation.

- **I will be surveying in an area without internet and maybe no cell coverage will I be able to see my map on the PC?**

Yes with the prefetch tool you can download an area and bring it up anytime without internet. You will see your survey being completed on the map page saved. This will be covered in the Autopilot video.

- **Can I draw a polygon around my search area in mission planner?**

Yes polygon feature make creating a grid fast and easy, adjust line spacing and line angle and waypoints.

- **Can I remove the AutoPilot and setup my job and survey lines at my desk.**

Yes remove the Left and Right thruster control leads and pull out the autopilot. using the external USB on the side of the Autopilot you can plug it into your Laptop and this will power and allow connection to mission planner. Once finished reinstall in the BathyCat

- **What are some advantages of the Autopilot vs the RC version.**

While the Autopilot adds a bit more complexity and setup time to the operation, it can have some advantages in certain situations. The Autopilot can repeat a survey area on the same navigation gridlines over and over. This is nice if you repeat an area monthly or even annually. The Autopilot keeps the BathyCat moving slow and steady, this is very efficient for the battery life and clean data collected. Human interaction normally results in the Bathycat moving much faster, many times at max throttle. For small jobs I do like to just grab the RC BathyCat and go, to ensure plenty of coverage i just use landmarks while driving shore to shore and I just do "over coverage" which amounts to just collecting more lines of data and also bisecting the surveylines from the other direction.