

Fishfinder 300C

quick start manual



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See the *Important Safety and Product Information* guide in the product box for product warnings and other important information.

GETTING STARTED

Fishfinder 300C Tips and Shortcuts

- Press **HOME** from any screen to return to the Home screen.
- Press **MENU** from any of the main screens to access advanced settings.
- Press and release the **POWER** key to adjust the screen settings.

Manual Conventions

In this manual, when you are instructed to select an item, either press a button, or press up or down on the **ROCKER** to highlight the item, and then press **SELECT**. Small arrows (>) in the text indicate that you should select each item in order. For example, if you see “select **MENU** > **Zoom**,” press the **MENU** button, then press the up or down arrow on the **ROCKER** until **Zoom** is highlighted, then press **SELECT**.

Quick Links

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Turning the Fishfinder 300C On

Press and hold the  **POWER** key until the Fishfinder 300C beeps and the Home screen appears.




NOTE: When you turn on the Fishfinder 300C for the first time, you must select a language, units of measure, and a color scheme ([page 16](#)).

To adjust the backlight:

1. Press and release the  **POWER** key.
2. Press left or right on the **ROCKER** > **SELECT**.

To adjust the day/night mode:

1. Press and release the  **POWER** key.
2. Press down on the **ROCKER** to highlight the day/night bar.
3. Press left or right on the **ROCKER** > **SELECT**.

Using Simulator Mode

If a transducer is not connected, no data is shown. Use Simulator Mode to practice and learn how to use your Fishfinder 300C.



CAUTION: When in Simulator Mode, the depth, temperature, and speed information do not represent the actual depth, water temperature, or vessel speed.

To turn on the Simulator Mode:

From the Home screen, select **Configure** > **System** > **Simulator** > **On**.

BASIC OPERATION

Using the Fishfinder 300C Keypad

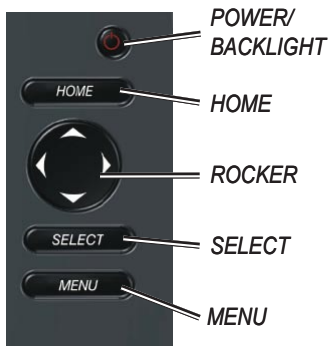
POWER/BACKLIGHT—Press and hold to turn the Fishfinder 300C on or off. Press and release to adjust the backlight and day/night modes.

HOME—Press to return to the Home screen.

ROCKER—Press up, down, left, or right to highlight fields and enter data.

SELECT—Press to select highlighted items and confirm on-screen messages.

MENU—Press to access additional settings or to return to the previous screen.



Understanding the Home Screen

Full Screen—displays a full-screen graph of the sonar readings (page 4).

Flasher—as an alternative to the full-screen graph, displays a round flasher to indicate the transducer's sonar readings (page 8).

Split Zoom—displays a split-screen with the normal graph on the right and a graph zoomed to your preferred level on the left (page 9).



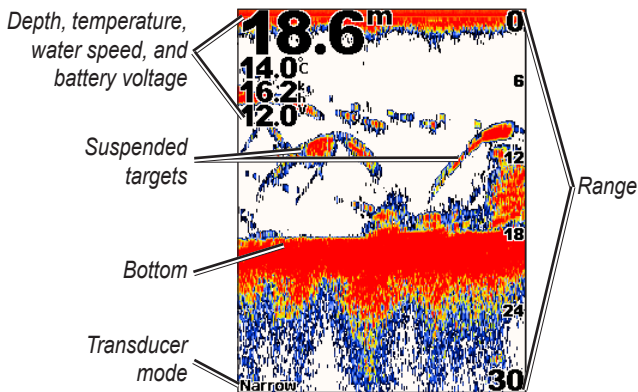
Numbers—displays a set of data fields to show information numerically ([page 10](#)).

Temp Log—displays a customizable graph of the water temperature when using a compatible transducer or sensor ([page 11](#)).

Configure—configures the Fishfinder 300C settings ([page 12](#)).

Understanding the Full Screen

From the Home screen, select **Full Screen** to view a full-screen graph of the sonar readings. The range scale along the right side of the screen displays the depth of detected objects as the screen scrolls from right to left. The colors indicate relative strengths of the sonar returns. (When using the white default color scheme, red indicates the strongest return and black indicates the weakest return.)



Range

To set the range of the depth scale on the right side of the screen:

From the Full screen, press right or left on the **ROCKER** to set the depth scale. Select **Auto Range** to set the range automatically, depending on the depth at your current location.

Or, from the Home screen, select **Full Screen > MENU > Range > Manual Range**. Use the **ROCKER** to set the depth scale.

Gain

To adjust the sensitivity (gain) of the sonar receiver:

1. From the Home screen, select **Full Screen > MENU > Gain**.
2. Select **Manual Gain** or **Auto Gain**. If you select **Manual Gain**, press right or left on the **ROCKER** to highlight the gain, then press **SELECT**. To see more detail, increase the gain. If the screen is cluttered, decrease the gain.

Beam

To select a narrow-beam or wide-beam sonar angle:

1. From the Home screen, select **Full Screen > MENU > Beam**.
2. Select **Wide** or **Narrow**. Select **Wide** to view a larger area. Select **Narrow** to view more detail.

Zoom

To select the screen zoom:

1. From the Home screen, select **Full Screen > MENU > Zoom**.
2. Select **No Zoom**, **2x**, or **4x**. Select **Bottom Lock** to lock the zoom window to the bottom. Select **Split Zoom** to switch to the Split Zoom screen ([page 9](#)).

Zoom Depth

Zoom Depth is displayed only when 2x or 4x zoom is selected.

To select the zoom depth:

1. From the Home screen, select **Full Screen > MENU > Zoom Depth**.
2. Select **Manual Zoom Depth** or **Auto Zoom Depth**. If you select **Manual Zoom Depth**, press right or left on the **ROCKER** to adjust the zoom depth window, then press **SELECT**.

Depth Line

To reference a specific depth on the screen:

1. From the Home screen, select **Full Screen > MENU > Depth Line**.
2. Select **Off** or **On**. If you select **On**, press up or down on the **ROCKER** to adjust the depth line, then press **SELECT**.

Sonar Setup

To change the sonar settings:

From the Home screen, select **Full Screen > MENU > Sonar Setup**.

- **Color Scheme**—select **White** or **Blue**. This affects the background on sonar screens.
- **Fish Symbols**—sets how the sonar interprets suspended targets.



Suspended targets appear as symbols with background information shown, making the distinction between fish and structure easier.



Suspended targets appear as symbols with background information shown. The target depth of each symbol is also indicated.



Suspended targets appear as symbols with no background information shown.



Suspended targets appear as symbols with no background information shown. The target depth of each symbol is indicated.

- **Scroll Speed**—adjusts the rate at which the sonar scrolls from right to left (**Ultrasroll**, **Fast**, **Medium**, or **Slow**). If using a speed-capable transducer, select **Auto** to have the scroll speed automatically adjust to the water speed of the boat.

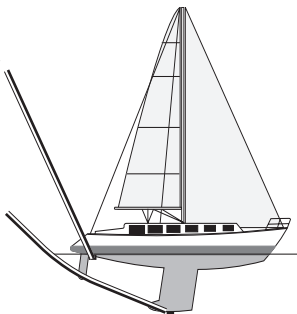
- **Surface Noise**—shows or hides the sonar returns near the surface of the water. Hide surface noise to help reduce visual clutter.
- **Whiteline**—highlights the strongest signal from the bottom to help identify the hardness or softness of the targets. **High** is the most sensitive setting. Almost all strong returns are highlighted in white. With a **Low** setting, only the strongest returns are highlighted in white.
- **Keel Offset** (visible only if a speed wheel is **not** attached; see **Transducer**, below, if a speed wheel is attached)—offsets the surface reading for the depth of a keel so you can measure depth from the bottom of the boat keel instead of from the transducer. Enter a positive number to offset for a keel. You can enter a negative number to compensate for a large vessel that may draw several feet of water. Use the **ROCKER** to adjust the offset, then press **SELECT**.

Transducer at Surface

Enter a (+) positive number to show the depth from the bottom of keel.

Transducer at Bottom of Keel

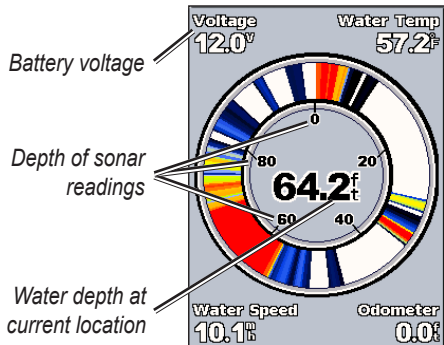
Enter a (-) negative number to show depth from the surface.



- **Transducer** (visible only if a speed wheel **is** attached)—Select **Keel Offset** to offset for the depth of a keel. Set as described above. Select **Calibrate Water Speed** to calibrate a speed-sensing transducer or separate speed wheel. Follow the on-screen directions for calibration.
- **Numbers**—shows or hides water temperature, water speed (if you have a speed-sensing transducer or a separate speed wheel), and battery voltage.

Understanding the Flasher Screen

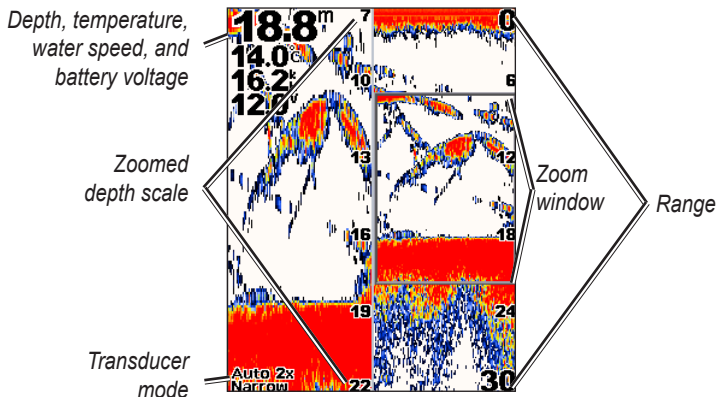
From the Home screen, select **Flasher** to display sonar information on a circular depth scale. The scale indicates what is beneath your boat. It is organized as a ring that starts at the top and progresses clockwise. Sonar information flashes on the ring when it is received at the depth indicated. The colors indicate different strengths of the sonar return. (When using the white default color scheme, red indicates the strongest return, blue indicates the weakest return, and white indicates no return.)



Press **MENU** to change the range, gain, beam, and sonar settings, as described starting on [page 5](#).

Understanding the Split Zoom Screen

From the Home screen, select **Split Zoom** to view the full sonar data and a zoomed portion on the same screen.



Press **MENU** to change the range, gain, beam, zoom, depth line, and sonar settings, as described starting on [page 5](#).

Understanding the Numbers Screen

The Numbers screen displays numeric information instead of a graph. The information shown is determined by the capabilities of your transducer.

Depth 19.1^m	
Water Temp 14.0^{°c}	
Voltage 12.0^v	
Water Speed 16.2^k_h	Odometer 0.0^m

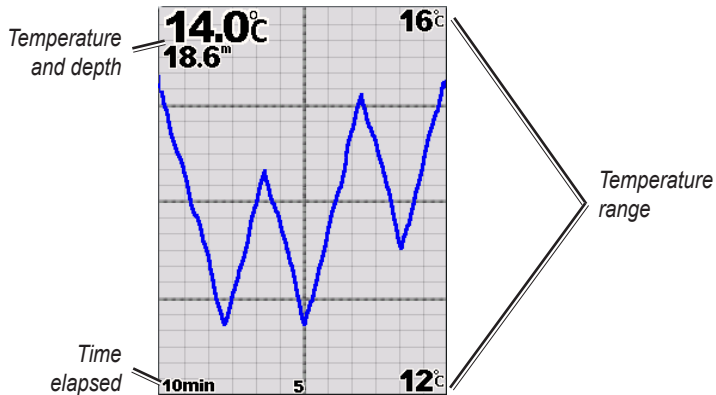
All sonar transducers display depth. Temperature-capable transducers display the Water Temp field. Speed-capable transducers or separate speed wheels display the Water Speed and Odometer fields.

To reset the odometer to zero:

From the Home screen, select **Numbers** > **MENU** > **Reset Odometer** > **Yes**.

Understanding the Temp Log Screen

If you are using a temperature-capable transducer, the Temp Log screen keeps a graphic log of temperatures. The graph scrolls to the left as information is received.



Duration

To adjust the time scale of the graph:

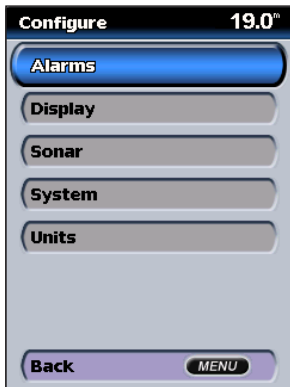
1. From the Home screen, select **Temp Log** > **MENU** > **Duration**.
2. Press up or down on the **ROCKER**, then press **SELECT**.

To adjust the temperature scale of the graph:

1. From the Home screen, select **Temp Log** > **MENU** > **Scale**.
2. Press up or down on the **ROCKER** to select the temperature range, then press **SELECT**.

Understanding the Configure Screen

The Configure screen contains options to define and adjust universal fishfinder settings.



Alarms

To set the Fishfinder 300C to sound an audible alarm:

From the Home screen, select **Configure** > **Alarms**.

- **Shallow Water**—sets an alarm to sound when the depth is less than the specified value. If you select **On**, press up or down on the **ROCKER** to select the minimum depth, then press **SELECT**.
- **Deep Water**—sets an alarm to sound when the depth is greater than the specified value. If you select **On**, press up or down on the **ROCKER** to select the maximum depth, then press **SELECT**.
- **Fish**—sets an alarm to sound when the Fishfinder 300C detects a suspended target of the specified symbols.



Sounds an alarm for all fish sizes.



Sounds an alarm solely for medium and large fish.



Sounds an alarm solely for large fish.

- **Water Temp**—sets an alarm to sound when the transducer reports a temperature that is 2°F (1.1°C) above or below the specified temperature. If you select **On**, press up or down on the **ROCKER** to select the temperature, then press **SELECT**.
- **Battery**—sets an alarm to sound when the battery reaches a user-determined minimum voltage. If you select **On**, press up or down on the **ROCKER** to select the minimum battery voltage, then press **SELECT**.
- **Drift**—sets an alarm to sound when the depth changes by the value specified. If you select **On**, press up or down on the **ROCKER** to select the change in drift, then press **SELECT**.

Display

To adjust the backlight or switch between day and night modes:

From the Home screen, select **Configure** > **Display**.

- **Backlight**—press left or right on the **ROCKER**.

- **Day/Night Mode**—press down on the **ROCKER** to highlight the Day/Night bar. Press left or right on the **ROCKER** to switch between day and night mode.

Sonar

To change the sonar settings:


From the Home screen, select **Configure** > **Sonar**. Change the sonar settings as described starting on [page 6](#).

System

To change the system settings:

From the Home screen, select **Configure** > **System**.

- **Beeper**—sets beeps to sound during alarms ([page 12](#)) or when keys are pressed. Select **Off**, **Alarms Only**, or **On (Keys & Alarms)**.
- **Simulator**—allows you to practice with or without a transducer.
- **NMEA Output**—allows the Fishfinder 300C to transmit information to other NMEA 0183-compatible electronic equipment.

- **Auto Power-on**—sets the Fishfinder 300C to automatically turn on whenever power is reapplied after a loss of power. The Fishfinder 300C does not automatically turn on if it was turned off with the  **POWER** key.
- **Language**—allows you to select the on-screen language.
- **System Information**—displays software version information and the Fishfinder 300C ID number.
- **Factory Settings**—deletes all adjusted settings and turns the Fishfinder 300C off. When you power the Fishfinder 300C back on, you must reconfigure the initial settings ([page 16](#)).

Units

To change the units of measure:

From the Home screen, select **Configure** > **Units**.

- **Depth**—select **Feet (ft)**, **Meters (m)**, or **Fathoms (fa)**.
- **Water Temp**—select **Fahrenheit (°F)** or **Celsius (°C)**. (Available only with temperature-capable transducers.)
- **Water Speed**—select **Miles/Hour (mh)**, **Kilometers/Hour (kh)**, or **Knots (kt)**. (Available only with speed-capable transducers or separate speed wheels.)
- **Distance**—select **Statute (mi)**, **Metric (km)**, or **Nautical (nm)**. (Available only with speed-capable transducers.)

APPENDIX

Specifications

Physical Specifications

- **Size:** 4½" H × 4½" W × 2¾" D
(11.43 cm × 11.43 cm × 6.03 cm)
- **Weight:** 9.7 oz. (275 grams),
12.9 oz. (365 grams) with bail mount
- **Display:** 3½" diagonal (8.89 cm),
QVGA display with adjustable
brightness, 320 × 240 pixels, capable of
4,096 colors
- **Case:** Fully gasketed, high-impact
plastic alloy, waterproof to IEC 529
IPX7 standards
- **Temperature Range:** From 5°F to
131°F (from -15°C to 55°C)
- **Power Source:** 10–33 Vdc
- **Fuse:** AGC/3AG – 3.0 A

Sonar

- **Power:** 150 W (RMS), 1,200 W (peak-
to-peak)
- **Sonar Voltage Range:** 10–20 Vdc
- **Frequency:** 80/200 kHz
- **Depth:** 900 feet (275 meters) (Depth
capacity is dependent on water
salinity, bottom type, and other water
conditions.)

Initializing Fishfinder 300C Settings

The first time you turn your Fishfinder 300C on, you must configure a series of initial settings. These settings must also be configured when restoring factory settings (page 14). Each of these settings can be changed later using either the Sonar Setup screen (Color Scheme) or the Configure screen (Language and Units).

To initialize your Fishfinder 300C settings:

1. **Language**—select the on-screen language.
2. **Units**—select **Statute (mh, ft, °F)**, **Metric (kh, m, °C)**, or **Nautical (kt, ft, °F)**.
3. **Color Scheme**—select **White** or **Blue** as the background on sonar screens.
4. Select **OK**.

Alarms and Messages

The Fishfinder 300C uses an on-screen message system to alert you to operating characteristics. When a message appears, press **SELECT** to acknowledge the message and return to the screen you were viewing.

Battery Alarm—battery voltage has fallen below the value entered in the battery-alarm screen (**Configure** > **Alarms** > **Battery** > **On**).

Battery Voltage Is Too High—The input voltage is too high. The Fishfinder 300C will shut off in 10 seconds. Decrease the input voltage to 33 volts or less.

Boat Is Not Moving Fast Enough to Calibrate—the boat is not moving fast enough for the speed wheel to provide a valid speed.

Can't Read Voltages That High, Limited to Top of Range—the battery-alarm screen voltage value is higher than the Fishfinder 300C can read.

Can't Read Voltages That Low, Limited to Bottom of Range—the battery-alarm screen voltage value is lower than the voltage at which the Fishfinder 300C automatically turns off.

Deep-Water Alarm—the deep-water alarm depth (**Configure > Alarms > Deep Water > On**) has been reached.

Drift Alarm—the depth has changed by the amount on the drift-alarm screen (**Configure > Alarms > Drift > On**).

Entering (Leaving) Target Water Temperature—the target water temperature is 2°F (1.1°C) above or below the water temperature alarm (**Configure > Alarms > Water Temp > On**). These messages appear when you enter or leave that zone.

Fish Alarm—an icon appears (page 12) and a beep sounds (if enabled) when a fish is detected. This alarm does not show a message banner.

Shallow-Water Alarm—the shallow-water alarm depth (**Configure > Alarms > Shallow Water > On**) has been reached.

Simulating Operation—the Fishfinder 300C is in simulator mode.

Sonar Disabled Due to High Voltage. Please Check Unit Voltage—the Fishfinder 300C voltage is greater than 20 volts. Check the battery voltage (**Configure > Numbers**). Turn the Fishfinder 300C off and back on again to restore the sonar.

Sonar Failed, Unit Needs Repair—there is an internal problem with the Fishfinder 300C. Contact your dealer or Garmin Product Support to have the Fishfinder 300C serviced.

Transducer Disconnected, Sonar Turned Off—the transducer or cable are not attached or need repair. If the transducer cable is removed while the Fishfinder 300C is on, reconnect and cycle power.

Water Speed Sensor Is Not Working—the speed sensor is not detected. Check the connections.

Product Registration

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Contact Garmin

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In the UK, contact Garmin (Europe) Ltd. by phone at 0808 2380000.

In Europe, go to www.garmin.com/support and click **Contact Support** for in-country support information, or contact Garmin (Europe) Ltd. by phone at +44 (0) 870.8501241.

Declaration of Conformity (DoC)

Hereby, Garmin, declares that this Fishfinder 300C is in compliance with the essential requirements and other relevant provisions of Directive 1999/5/EC.

To view the full Declaration of Conformity, see the Garmin Web site for your Garmin product: www.garmin.com.



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