

FUEL TRAKKER

For Windows Mobile®

Users Manual
Version 1.5



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Program Overview

Fuel Trakker is a compact PDA program that has the ability to track fuel records for an unlimited number of 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.

Fuel records can be entered in any order. Records can be entered out of order, and at any time. 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.

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 functionality as the licensed version. However, once you have exceeded the 15-day trial period the program will be locked until a valid user key is entered. A key can be obtained by purchasing the software from PalmGear.com or Handango.com. Provide the **Device Owner Name** displayed on the Start Screen of Fuel Trakker at the time of purchase so that an unlock key can be created.

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 www.PdaSolutions4U.com for more information.

Software Installation

1. Run the Fuel Trakker Install.exe file and install the files onto your PC. If Active Sync does not automatically start the installation of Fuel Trakker, all the necessary files can be found in the folder that the program was installed in.
2. Using ActiveSync, install the CAB files compatible with your PDA. Non-compatible versions will not install so do not be concerned about accidentally selecting the incorrect one(s). The following items are needed to run Fuel Trakker on a Microsoft Windows Mobile compatible device:
 - a. Fuel Trakker CAB file (**FuelTrakker.CAB**)
 - b. SQL Server CE CAB file (**sqlce...CAB**)
 - c. Microsoft .Net Framework CAB file (**netcf...CAB**)

The Fuel Trakker setup file has all the items necessary to install Fuel Trakker for your version of operating system.

Fuel Trakker uses the SQL Server CE edition as its database engine. Therefore, SQL Server Mobile 2005 must be installed on the machine. SQL Server Mobile is the preferred database engine for the Microsoft Mobile operating systems. There is virtually an endless amount of records that can be entered into the database with very little performance degradation. The CAB file for SQL Server Mobile 2005 can be found in the same installation folder as Fuel Trakker. It can also be downloaded at Microsoft.com or at PDASolutions4U.com

Microsoft .Net Framework Version 2.0 is also needed for Fuel Trakker. All Pocket PC/Windows Mobile 2003 and newer already have this installed on the device. If installation is needed, it will require the device to be rebooted after it is installed. Since a reboot is required, you might want to install the .Net Framework last. If you need a copy of the .Net Framework it can be downloaded free at Microsoft.com/downloads or at PdaSolutions4U.com/help.

Registering the Software

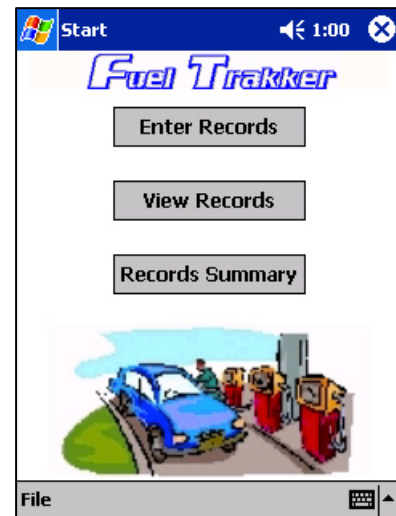
The software registration is tied to your Device Owner Name. The owner name can be found on the registration screen of the program. The device's owner name can also be found on most devices in the Settings→Owner Information section.

Navigating the Software


When Fuel Trakker launches, a start 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: used for inputting all fuel information.
- View Records button: all fuel record entries are found here.
- Records Summary button: database queries are performed here.

Aside from the start screen, icons are at the bottom of every screen and can be used to navigate from that specific screen or perform functions within the screen. Appendix A has a list of each icon and a description of its function.

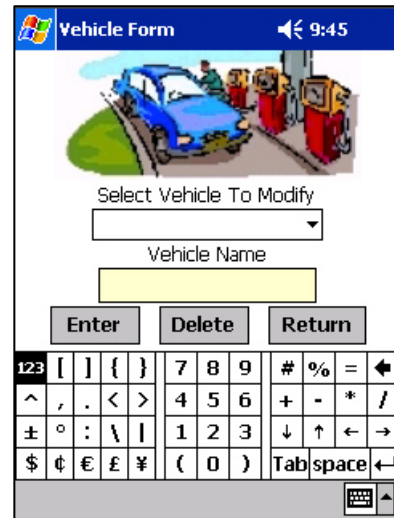


Adding/Deleting/Renaming Vehicles

While at the "Fuel Entry" screen, select the car icon  located at the bottom toolbar. This will launch the "Vehicle Form" shown to the right. The following functions can be performed at this screen.


- To add a new vehicle, enter the name in the yellow textbox and select [Enter].

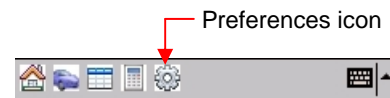
- To delete an existing vehicle, select the name of the vehicle from the combo box and select [Delete]. All records associated with the vehicle will be deleted as well. Only delete the vehicle if all records tied to the vehicle are no longer wanted.
- To rename a vehicle, select the name of the existing vehicle from the combo box. The selected name will automatically fill the yellow textbox. Make the desired changes to the name and select the [Update] button.



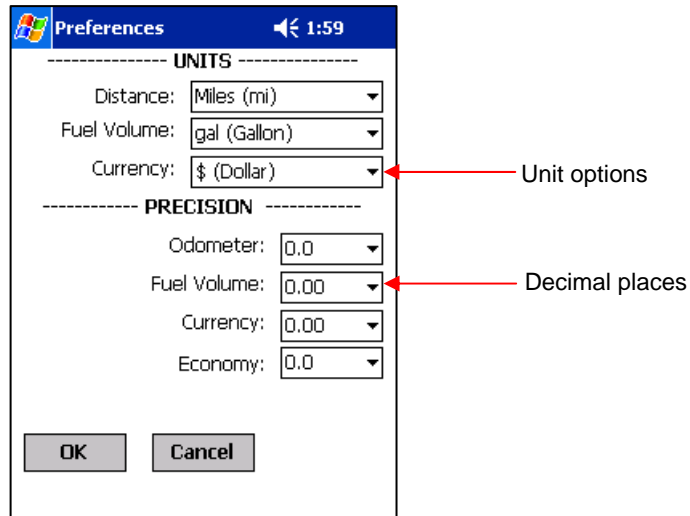
After each entry or modification made, a popup window will appear giving the user the option to add or modify more records. If [No] is selected, the “Vehicle Form” will close and the “Fuel Entry” form will appear again.

Setting User Preferences


Select the “Preferences” icon  from any of the toolbars 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 three things to consider when using the Preferences form. What units you want to use, what currency you want to use, and how many decimal places you want displayed. Making your selections to be shown is rather straight forward. [Enter] must be selected to save the settings. Selecting [Cancel] will abort any changes made during the current preferences session.

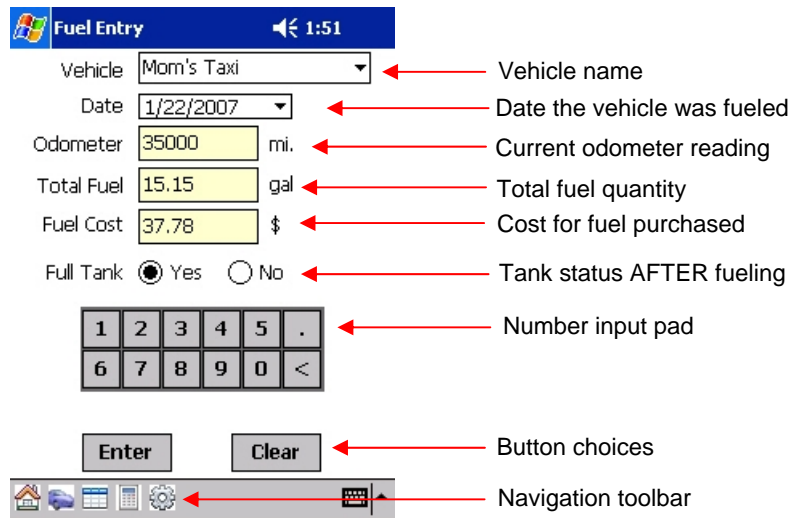


Entering Fuel Records


Select the [Enter Records] button from the main menu to enter the “Fuel Entry” form. The add record icon  can also be used to enter the “Fuel Entry” form and is visible in all of the main forms. 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: select [Yes] **only** 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, and [Yes] was entered for the full tank option, the 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.

For convenience a number pad is provided with large buttons. Use this pad to enter values into any of the yellow colored textboxes. If you prefer to use the standard input panel, select the input panel icon on the bottom right of the screen and the number pad will disappear. Selecting the input panel icon again will cause the number pad to reappear.



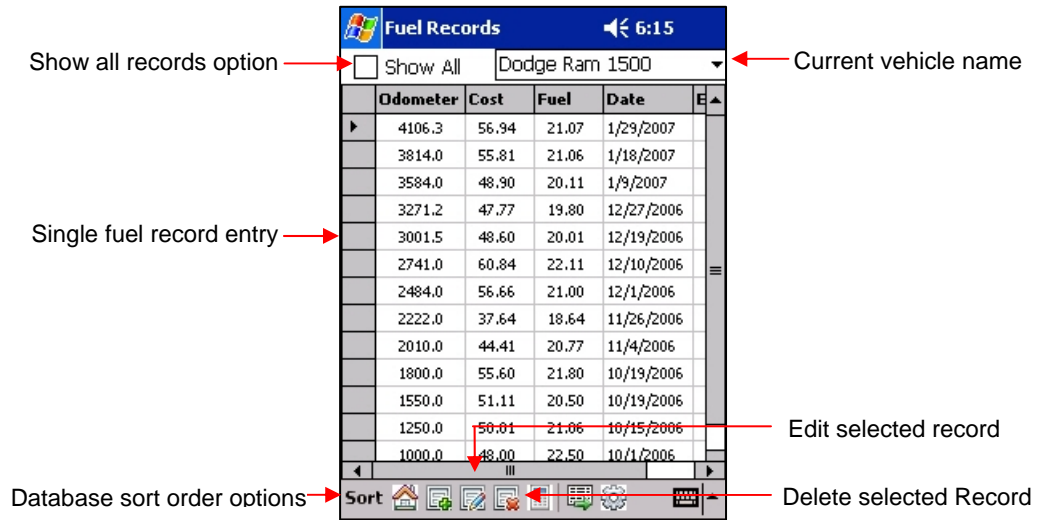
Viewing Fuel Records

Select the [View Record] button from the main menu or the records icon  from any of the other forms to enter the Fuel Records form. There are several columns in the list of records as shown in the figure below. The labels above each column identify the items in each column.

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. Then select the edit record icon  located on the toolbar. This will launch a window with all of the information for that record; refer to the Modifying Fuel Records section for more information.

The table scroll bars will only appear if you have more records than can be viewed at one time.

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



Modifying Fuel Records

To modify a fuel entry, first select the record to be modified from the table. You can select either the row or the cell, then select the edit record icon located on the toolbar. This will fill the “Update Record” with all of the contents for that specific record entry.

This form is exactly the same as the “Fuel Entry” form except now the [Enter] button is now an [Update] button and the option to delete the record now exists. You can change every detail of the fuel entry even the vehicle that the record belongs to.


The 'Update Record' dialog box contains the following fields and controls:

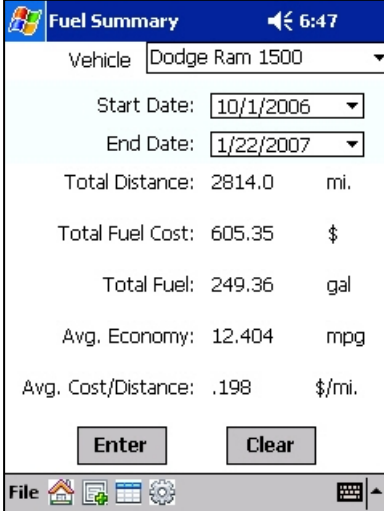
- Vehicle: Dodge Ram 1500
- Date: 11/26/2006
- Odometer: 2222.0 mi.
- Total Fuel: 18.64 gal
- Fuel Cost: 37.64 \$
- Full Tank: Yes No
- Numeric keypad with buttons 1-9, 0, and a left arrow.
- Buttons: Update, Cancel, Delete.

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

There are two ways to delete records. The easiest way is to select the row (or a cell within the row) for the record you want deleted while at the “Records Form”. Then select the delete record icon. The other way to delete a record is from within the “Update Record Form”. Note that deleted database entries are permanently lost and 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 [Record Summary] button from the main menu or the calculator icon  located on the toolbar of forms throughout the program to enter the Fuel Summary form. There are only two items needed to create a report, and those are 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.




The screenshot shows a window titled "Fuel Summary" with a clock icon and the time "6:47". The form contains the following fields and values:

Vehicle	Dodge Ram 1500	
Start Date:	10/1/2006	
End Date:	1/22/2007	
Total Distance:	2814.0	mi.
Total Fuel Cost:	605.35	\$
Total Fuel:	249.36	gal
Avg. Economy:	12.404	mpg
Avg. Cost/Distance:	.198	\$/mi.

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Enter" and "Clear". Below the form is a Windows taskbar with icons for File, Home, Print, Calculator, Settings, and a keyboard icon.


For convenience, when the form is first loaded or a new vehicle is selected the start date is automatically set to the very first entry date for the chosen vehicle.

The units listed on the report will correspond to the user preference selections. To modify the displayed units or decimal places select the preferences icon .

****Note**** The Average Cost/Distance AND the Average Economy calculations skip over records that do not have Full Tank entries. The elimination of these records guarantees accurate calculations. However, the total distance, fuel cost, and total fuel do include partial tank quantities.

Exporting Reports

Exporting reports can only be done while at the “Summary Form”. In order to export a generated report, select the File menu item and two options will be available.




The screenshot shows a menu titled "Export Result As" with two options: "Export Result" and "Clear". Below the menu is a Windows taskbar with icons for File, Home, Print, Calculator, Settings, and a keyboard icon.

- Selecting “Export Result” will create a report with a default name that will be saved to the My Documents folder.
- Selecting “Export Results As” will give you the user the freedom to name the file what ever you want. The file will still be saved to the My Documents folder.

All exported reports are text files with a TXT extension.

Exporting Records

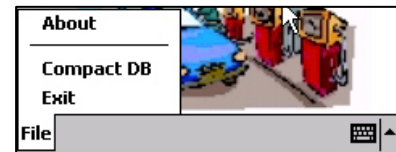
Exporting records must be done from the “Records Summary” form. Select the export records icon  from the toolbar. All records displayed on the data grid at

the time of the export will be saved in comma-delimited format in the My Documents folder. So if you only want to export the records for one vehicle then select just that vehicle from the combo box at the top of the form. If you want to export the records for every vehicle then select the *Show All* box on the top left of the form.

There is one catch to this operation. The file extension will be TXT instead of CSV. This is due to the compatibility with older Pocket PC's. The devices do not recognize the CSV files so they can't be viewed by the PDA. Once the file has been exported to the PC, simply change the extension to CSV and Excel or any other spreadsheet program can view the file.

Compacting the Database










To compact a database, select "Compact DB" from the menu located on the Start Menu. A prompt will appear to verify that you actually want to proceed with compacting the database.



Reducing the physical file size of the database file can be achieved by compacting the database. In order to notice any gain from doing so, hundreds of record entries must exist and several records must have been deleted or updated along the way. Compacting the SQL Server CE database rarely needs to be done. However, Fuel Tracker does provide the capability to do so.

Appendix A

Program icons:

-  Navigate to the Start Screen
-  Navigate to Entry Form, create a new fuel entry
-  Navigate to Records Form, view/edit all records
-  Navigate to Vehicle Form, enter new or edit existing vehicles
-  Navigate to Records Summary\Calculations Form
-  Preferences Form, customize data displayed throughout the program
-  Export .CSV style document from the Records Screen
-  Edit the selected fuel entry from the Records Form
-  Delete the selected fuel entry from the Records Form