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[Mio Moov S760 GPS Navigator Review](#)

Power of the Spirit unleashed



Mio Moov S760
Mio

Over time, we've managed to get our hands on a fairly large number of Mio products and we were able to thoroughly test for ourselves what the company's GPS personal navigation devices were able to achieve. Plus, after enjoying a hands-on experience with the new Spirit interface a while ago, we were quite curious to see just how the new Moov line (the S Series) would behave when used extensively.

Out of all the new models that will come equipped with the Spirit interface, we've had the chance to test the top-range one (at least in terms of dimensions), namely the Moov S760, whose size makes it a very good choice for people riding an SUV rather than the owners of a smaller vehicle.

One of the reasons why we've gone for this particular version was to test just how a large touchscreen would behave when paired with the new interface. As some of you might remember, one of the large-size PNDs from Mio we've tested a while back, the [C725 model](#), had some issues related to the touchscreen displays' sensitivity, something we haven't encountered in the case of the other Mio navigators we've thoroughly tested, such as the [Moov 330](#) or the [Moov 500](#).

Of course, we won't tell you right from the start which were our conclusions regarding the issue mentioned above, but we will, however, point out that the Moov S760 in particular and the Spirit line in general represent a major overhaul of the navigation experience provided by Mio's PNDs, for quite a significant number of reasons.

Despite of the fact that some of you might feel that the size of the Moov S760 is simply way too big of an issue, the truth of the matter is that this device is a very good example of what Mio's Spirit is all about. In this way, you'll be able to get at least a general idea regarding what you might expect from the new Moov PNDs from Mio that come pre-loaded with this UI, and opt for a smaller version that better suits your needs.

[[BREAK=Aesthetics and Design]]

Overall design features

As you might remember, we've always admired the design of the devices from the Moov series, since they always seemed a bit more classy and elegant than some of the other devices from the same class or category available out there. And the same goes for the S760 model, which takes things even further, by adopting a glossy, piano-black front frame, accompanied by a brushed-aluminum-like rear side.

In fact, black and silver are the two dominant colors of the Moov S760, the only speck of color being a red line on the "Main Menu" button, which is extremely important during the use of the PND and, for this reason, had to be highlighted in some way from the rest of the body.

Moreover, the level of finishing is a great one, with very good quality plastic in each and every component (including the mounting system). In fact, there's absolutely nothing about

the Moov S760 that can be considered "cheap," which is quite an impressive achievement, especially taking into account the size of the thing.

Size and portability

Despite featuring a 7-inch display, the Mio Moov S760 offers a very pleasant surprise as far as its weight is concerned. So, while the PND measures 190.5mm x 105.5mm x 15.5mm, the weight is just around 300 grams, which means that one will have absolutely no problem carrying it around in pedestrian mode. Sure, he/she might receive some pretty surprised looks from passers-by (we sure did upon testing this gadget), but they certainly won't feel any strain in the hands.

On the other hand, the size does become a problem when talking about the vehicle this thing will be installed in. So, to be honest, if you're the owner of a small-class, compact vehicle, then it's perhaps for the best to choose another model from the Moov Spirit series, since the S760 will take way too much from your windshield view. So, the first vehicle we've tested this thing on was an Opel Corsa, 2007 edition, whose windshield proved to be rather small for the S760, leaving room for little else and actually kind of blocking us from viewing in good conditions almost half of the street.

However, if you own an SUV, a truck or even a larger town car (we've tested it on a Skoda Octavia, so this applies to cars of this size as well), the size of the S760 won't be a problem at all. In fact, it will prove to be an advantage, since drivers will have absolutely no problem whatsoever in viewing information regarding the road ahead, POIs and so on.

Control elements

Since the Moov is a touchscreen-equipped PND, the number of control options has been kept to a minimum, quite obviously, with the majority of the available functions being accessed by simply pressing the display. However, there are also some physical buttons as well, both of which are extremely important for the way in which the navigator works.

The first button is the power switch, which, as always, is located on the top side. The button has three different positions, namely "Reset" (for the soft reset), "Off" and "On," whose functions are pretty much obvious.

The "Main Menu" button, placed on the front side, in the left-hand upper corner, has the role of taking back the user to the Main Menu wherever he might be at the moment. This is especially useful since, after fiddling with the various settings and functions, one can avoid the lengthy path of hitting the back button countless times.

Connectivity options

Similar to most other devices available on the market nowadays, the connectivity options of the S760 can be divided into two separate categories, namely physical (or wired) ones and wireless ones, based on built-in chips.

The Mio S Series PNDs feature two physical data-transfer interfaces, namely a microUSB port and microSD card slot (which replaces the SD slots found in previous models). The USB interface can be used either for syncing the PND to a computer or for charging the device's battery (or both, when the S760 is hooked up to a PC or notebook). The microSD can be used for storing additional content, such as music or movies, for example, while the S760 also sports a dedicated power charger (used when mounted in a vehicle).

The "invisible" connectivity options, however, are a lot more impressive than the physical ones. So, besides the enhanced and seriously improved GPS module, the PND also comes equipped with a Bluetooth 2.1 interface, which makes tethering a very fast and easy process, while at the same time turning the S760 into a high-end speakerphone for one's vehicle.

Also worth mentioning is the fact that the Mio device packs a fully functioning FM transmitter, whose purpose is to relay audio via a car's stereo system. While this feature is not particularly useful for voice directions (which are loud enough, even when listening to the device's own speaker), it really comes in handy when using this thing as a speakerphone, since it allows drivers to understand what the caller is saying a lot easier.

Last, but certainly not least, the Mio S760 also features two large grooves on the back side, which are used for installing it onto the windshield mounting system (which, albeit a lot simpler than in the case of the aforementioned C725, is a tad more complex than the ones used for smaller PNDs).

Display

The very large, 7-inch display of the Mio Moov S760 GPS navigator represents one of its main points of attraction, but also its...Achilles' heel, so to say.

Hence, since the touchscreen display represents the only control system users can rely on, its level of sensitivity is extremely important. To tell you the truth, at first I was a bit concerned about this issue, since the PND seemed a bit...slow, at least by comparison to what I had been expecting of it. However, this only applied while using the side button navigation (which I'll detail a bit later in the review), because once I moved to SlideTouch, pretty much everything changed.

[IMG=21][IMG=22]

So, in other words, it's very likely that you won't encounter any major problems while using the S760's touchscreen display, albeit, in certain situations and at certain angles, it's perhaps for the best to use the tip of your fingernail (as some sort of pseudo-stylus) rather than the finger itself.

As far as the quality of the displayed images is concerned, the screen of the S760 is pretty much flawless, being able to render maps in both 2D and 3D and night / day format without any problems. Plus, one shouldn't have any major problems viewing the display in good conditions, even in direct sunlight.

Speaker and microphone

The Mio Moov S760 PND comes with a built-in speaker, used both for relaying the navigation-related information but also for audio output (when listening to music or watching a movie), as well as an integral part of the speakerphone. While the speaker does behave pretty OK, don't expect any miracles from it and, if you have a very good car audio system, it's perhaps a better idea to use the built-in FM transmitter.

Besides the speaker, the PND also features a built-in microphone, its presence being directly related to the speakerphone function, of course. As far as we've been able to see, the speakerphone manages to do a very decent job at relaying one's speech, even during in-car testing, in rush hour.

[[BREAK=Tech Facts]]

Spec sheet

Processor

Type - Samsung 2450;
Clock speed - 400Mhz;

Memory

Internal RAM memory - 128MB;
Internal ROM memory - 1GB;
Memory card possible - Micro SD;

Navigation Hardware

GPS Chipset - SiRFstar III with InstantFixII;
GPS Channels - 20;
External antenna connection - no;
TMC - optional;

Display

Type - color transfective TFT display;
Color depth - 16 bit/pixel (65536 scales);
Touchscreen - yes;
Color display - yes;
Display resolution - 800 x 480;
Display size - 7 inches;
Orientation - Landscape;

Battery

Battery type - Rechargeable integrated Li-ION;
Battery capacity - 720mAh;
Replaceable battery - no, built-in;

Audio (input & output)

Speaker - built-in, mono;
Microphone - built-in;
Earphone jack - no;

Physical Attributes

Width - 190.5mm;
Height - 105.5mm;
Depth - 15.5mm;
Weight - 300g
Real keyboard - no;
Antenna - built-in.

Windshield mounting system setup - getting the PND ready to work

The days when the GPS navigators' mounting systems were some pretty complicated contraptions are long gone, but this doesn't mean that the S760 is that easy to attach to the windshield. So, while most mid-sized PNDs attach directly to the mounting system, which is typically formed out of a single piece, that's not really the case with the device at hand.

[IMG=23][IMG=24][IMG=25][IMG=26]

So, the S760's mounting system includes 2 pieces, one featuring the glass suction cup and the second one the sliding connector that goes into the 2 grooves on the PND's back. The two pieces are attached via a ball-based mechanism, which ensures the fact that users will be able to easily adjust the device's position for optimum viewing, while at the same time providing a very good level of stability during use. Plus, the design of the system makes it easier for drivers to attach the power jack from the cigarette lighter adapter, which is something extremely important when using the S760 within a vehicle.

[IMG=27][IMG=28][IMG=29][IMG=30]

Attaching the system should take only a few minutes, and once you're done, it's very likely that you'll simply leave it attached to the windshield, rather than repeating the process time and time again.

[[BREAK=Real-life performance]]

The Spirit user interface

For those people who've used a Mio PND before, the first striking feature of the Spirit will certainly be its simplicity. In fact, the whole main menu only has 11 large icons, very easy to press, even while driving. Moreover, menu browsing is also done in a very fast and easy manner, one of the factors that make navigation a lot easier being the Main Menu button we've mentioned in one of this review's previous section, which will instantly take you back to the main menu wherever you might happen to be at the moment.

Speaking of navigating through the menus, I'll have to mention (again) that SlideTouch is the way to go in the case of the S760. I mean sure, the fact that this thing can be set to provide buttons either for one's left hand or right one is surely interesting, but, to tell you the truth, I found it rather irritating, since I always seemed to forget which part of the screen I had to push in order to scroll either up or down. The SlideTouch, on the other hand, really unleashes the power of the PND's touch display, allowing users to scroll and navigate a lot easier and faster.

[IMG=31][IMG=32][IMG=33]


Besides being a lot less crammed up, the Spirit interface is also a lot easier to use and more intuitive. Hence, we've got only three major navigation-related options, namely "Go," "Find" and "Explore," each of them providing access to the PND's navigation system in a slightly different manner.

The "Go" button allows users to choose the desired destination for their trip, and in order to do so they're provided with the usual options found in most other PNDs, but also a few extras. So, drivers can either choose to go home, to a location saved in the "My Places" directory, a recently visited location, or a certain route they've already saved in the device's memory, or some location they can choose directly on the map.

[IMG=34][IMG=35][IMG=36][IMG=37]

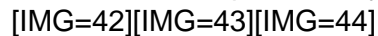
Moreover, they can also choose the navigation mode (either car or walking), and choose the map display mode (2D or 3D). However, the thing we loved the most about this "Go" option was the fact that it also provides direct access to all the route customization options, without having to access a different menu, as was the case with previous Mio models. And

mind you, there are a lot of options (useful or less so) to go through, probably the most important being related to the display of surveillance cameras, speed alerts, as well as the various types of roads one will take (or not).



We've left for last the "Find" option, because this is the one that lets users search for and go to a location they've never visited before. You might say that, to some extent, this option is more or less redundant, given the fact that there's a whole button called "Find" available in the main menu, and, to tell you the truth, you're not really mistaken.


However, the "Find" option from the "Go" remains useful, allowing users to either find a keyword, type (from a list of POIs), address or intersection. By accessing any of these functions (apart from the "Type" one), one will be provided with a virtual keyboard for inputting the search coordinates. This is also the reason why I wanted to talk a bit more on this subject, because this virtual keyboard is one of the best-developed such applications I've ever seen implemented in a PND, and certainly a huge leap ahead compared to the previous versions provided by Mio.



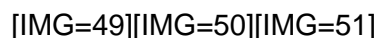
The "Explore" option was another extremely pleasant surprise. I don't know how many of you are familiar with that iPhone app that tells you exactly what points of interest (POIs) you can find around your location, but this is exactly what the "Explore" feature of the S760 is able to achieve. So, when you'll enter this particular menu, you'll be provided with a very comprehensive list of pretty much every interesting thing around you, including banks, ATMs, restaurants, museums, hospitals, etc.

Plus, one can also customize the types of POIs that will be displayed and, obviously, after being provided with the list of possible POIs, you'll also be able to navigate to the respective locations by simply tapping them on the screen.

Next in line comes the "Travel Book" function, which is possibly one of the coolest features of the Spirit interface, especially if you plan to go abroad using your own car as the vehicle of choice. Practically, Travel Book offers loads of interesting information regarding certain major cities (in the case of the model we've tested, the main European cities), so that users will be able to know what to expect prior to visiting the respective locations or when actually there.



Practically, upon arriving to a foreign city, one will be able to find information regarding the most important things that can be done there, whether we're talking about cultural activities (such as visiting museums, etc.), shopping, night life or other points of interest (even taxi stations). Of course, a navigation option is also included, which means that, after one has read the short description of a certain location, he/she can navigate to it by simply pressing a button.



To tell you the truth, when coupled with a serious battery, the "Travel Book" feature might have turned the Mio S760 into THE navigator of choice for going on a holiday. However, given the fact that the battery life is quite awful (as you'll be able to read a bit later on), I'm sad to say that this is not likely going to happen.

We've also briefly mentioned above, the PND also sports a "My Places" menu, which allows users to access some locations they've saved during their trips or chosen manually from the map. Moreover, this particular function grants access to the NavPix feature, namely the possibility to navigate to certain locations using geo-tagged photos uploaded into the GPS navigator's memory (as a quick memory refreshment, geo-tagged photos include geographical coordinates and are obtained with the help of a geo-tagging device

similar to the [i-gotU GT-120 USB GPS Travel Logger](#) we tested a while back.

[IMG=52][IMG=53][IMG=54]

Last, but certainly not least, we'll also have to talk a bit about the "Capture" feature, which can really come in handy for saving certain locations and/or routes (and which is closely related to the "My Places" menu described above). What's interesting to point out is that users can employ the built-in microphone in order to attach a voice message to each location, which is a very useful feature if you want to remind yourself just why you found a certain location to be special at a certain moment in time.

Actual navigation

Up until now, you've been able to read about the extensive navigation options this device is able to provide. However, now it's time to talk about just how the Mio Moov S760 behaves when really put through its paces, namely while the user is moving from one location to the next.

So, while the PND is still built around a classical SiRF Star III chipset, the additional InstantFixII technology manages to seriously boost up its level of performance. The navigation device is able to provide the exact location at any given moment, while also tracking the speed and permanently informing the user just how much time is left until they'll reach the desired destination, as well as the estimated distance, depending on the selected route.

While I won't go into details regarding the quality of the maps provided by the new Moov S760 (which is, by the way, quite good), I will however point out that the device can be used equally well while driving a vehicle or for taking a quick walk to a selected location. However, if you do decide to walk, you'd better start running, because the battery won't last too much, which leads us to the next subject.

Battery life

The battery life of the Mio Moov S760 is perhaps one of the biggest disappointments the device provides. While being rated at around 2 hours of non-stop functioning, we'd dare to say that, should the user desire to simply pick up the Moov and walk around some new city he/she is visiting, the PND will run out of juice in about 1 hour, 1.25 hours, tops, which kind of defies the purpose of the whole "Travel Book" thing. Of course, it's not very likely that many people will decide to take the S760 out for a walk, but this is, nevertheless, something that we're compelled to point out.

[IMG=55][IMG=56]

Bluetooth pairing and speakerphone

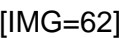
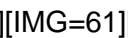
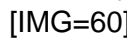
While the pairing process does take a while (I mean, my Nokia E55 only paired with the Mio PND after six or seven attempts, during which time I was constantly being prompted to accept the connection, which I did every single time), after it's completed, one can turn the Mio PND into a fully functional speakerphone.

[IMG=57][IMG=58][IMG=59]

In fact, after the initial pairing, one can recreate the connection every time he/she needs to make a call while driving, without having to actually reach for the mobile phone. Also, the pairing process doesn't necessarily involve a mobile phone, since drivers can also pair the PND with a headset, for example, thus allowing for a certain degree of privacy.

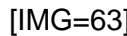
Other important features worth mentioning related to this Bluetooth pairing function are the possibility to either download one's contact list from the mobile phone to the PND, but also

the option of creating a new contact list right on the S760. Plus, the device will save one's call history, as well as their list of contacts.



It's also worth noting here that the speakerphone function is in fact pretty complex, as it includes an on-screen keyboard and even contact search capabilities, which makes calling a certain person while driving a fairly easy task.

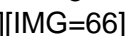

Now, the Bluetooth module can also be used for a very different purpose, namely tethering. As we've mentioned above, the PND offers a localized Google Search option, which, however, can only be accessed when online. And in order to get online, one will have to first get a data-transfer contract.



After you're done with the tethering process (more or less similar to pairing, but featuring a lot of built-in functions and features that make the process a fast and rather seamless one), one will be able to access the embedded Google Local Search service and look for important, real-time information related to the areas he/she is visiting or the businesses along the route, just to give a short example.

FM transmitter

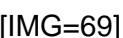
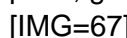
As we've mentioned before within our review, given the fact that the built-in speaker is not exactly fantastic, the Moov S760 has also been equipped with a built-in FM transmitter. Using this component is in fact pretty easy, since all the drivers have to do is simply choose the broadcasting frequency and then tune to it by using the car's own radio.



Moreover, the broadcast frequency can be applied directly or saved to one of the four available pre-set slots, which makes it easier for users to tune it at a later moment (by also saving the respective channels into their car radio's memory).

Video and music playback

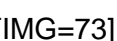
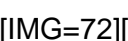
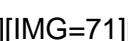
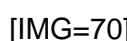
Given the fact that we're talking about a very complex navigation device, it should come as no surprise that it also provides certain built-in entertainment-related features, including here the possibility to play music and videos, the latter being a particularly interesting option, given the size of the device.



The only thing we really didn't like about the multimedia applications (which, by the way, provide a basic set of customization and control features, which should prove enough for pretty much anyone) is the fact that one can't transfer music or video clips directly into the PND's memory, but instead has to rely either on a microSD memory card or the MioDesktop application in order to do so. However, ultimately, that's not even that important an issue, all things considered.

In any case, video playback is pretty good, and the same goes for audio, although, as mentioned above, we kind of recommend the built-in FM transmitter for streaming music to one's car audio system rather than using the included speaker.

Customization options



Of course, as expected, the Mio Moov S760 GPS navigator also provides a couple of useful customization options, which allow users to tailor their navigation experience to their

personal needs, including the brightness of the display, the active measurement units, the time zone, language of choice, control options, audio output, etc. All in all, one can really fiddle with the settings of the S760, making it a very easy-to-use machine in just about any conditions.

[[BREAK=Conclusions]]

The good

The Mio Moov S760 is as a fully featured PND, offering drivers just about every function they might expect from such a device, and more. First and foremost, it manages to put to very good use the Mio Spirit interface, which is a major step forward by Mio in user-friendliness. Plus, the interface grants access to a huge array of navigation options (including the very cool Travel Book function), while users can even record their journeys and attach voice tags to certain specific locations.

Moreover, the S760 packs a Bluetooth module, which can be used both for tethering (thus enabling the Google Local Search feature) and for turning the PND into a full-fledged speakerphone, a feature quite a lot of users might really find to be particularly interesting. Additionally, the Moov device incorporates an FM transmitter and is also able to deliver some pretty decent video and music playback. Plus, it's very slim and elegant, which is a must, given the fact that it's mostly targeting SUV owners, for whom luxury is quite an ordinary thing.

The bad

Without even thinking about it twice, the single worst thing about the Mio S760 is the provided battery life. On its own (and when installed within a vehicle), the PND works very well, but when taken around for a walk, it might run out of battery way before you even reach your destination. So, in other words, don't count on the pedestrian mode too much, or do so if you're just struggling to find an address while on foot (but no sightseeing through some foreign city).

It's also likely that some people might find the large screen of the Moov S760 a little less responsive than that of a smaller version, while others will probably find the whole PND way too big for their vehicles (but, as mentioned right from the start, those people are encouraged to opt for one of the smaller models from the S Series).

Overall impressions

To some extent, the Moov S760 GPS personal navigation device can be regarded as some sort of a niche product, since it will most likely appeal mostly to the owners of larger vehicles, such as SUVs, trucks, campers, etc. However, it does manage to prove just what the new Spirit interface is all about, while its elegant aspect will certainly draw quite a few people's attention.

[IMG=74][IMG=75][IMG=76]

Sales package

- Mio Moov S760 Full Europe PND;
- USB cable;
- Car charger with cigarette lighter adapter;

- Windshield mounting system (2 pieces);
- User's Manual;
- Software CD (with Mio Desktop application).