



SETUP GUIDE

GNS530 & GNS430 GPS Navigators

Display setup for X-Plane 11, X-Plane 12, and Microsoft Flight
Simulator 2020 / 2024.

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Hand-built avionics for X-Plane & MSFS

SIMTECH GNS530 / GNS430

This guide covers display setup for the RHSimTech GNS530 and GNS430 panels. The physical controls connect to your simulator via SimLink automatically — this guide is specifically about getting the GPS map displays onto the panel screens.

Device summary

PANEL	TYPICAL ROLE	SLOT
GNS530	Primary GPS / COM1 / NAV1	Pilot (slot 1)
GNS430	Secondary GPS / COM2 / NAV2	CoPilot (slot 2)

Both panels work identically in terms of display setup — the steps below apply to each unit. Where the procedure differs between the two, both options are shown.

Before you begin: ensure the SimLink plugin for X-Plane is installed, or for MSFS the latest SimLink app is running. Each panel must be connected via USB and HDMI, and each panel screen must be connected and recognised by Windows before following any of the sections below.

X-PLANE 11

SECTION 01

X-Plane 11 — Display Setup

In X-Plane 11, both GPS displays are handled **automatically** by the SimLink plugin. Once the plugin is installed and X-Plane is running, it will detect each connected panel, pop out the in-sim GPS windows, strip the bezels, and position each one on its respective panel screen without any manual steps on your part.

If a display does not appear on its panel screen after loading an aircraft, check that the SimLink plugin is installed correctly and that the panel screen is active in Windows before launching X-Plane.

SECTION 02

X-Plane 12 — Display Setup

X-Plane 12 lets you assign a specific monitor to each avionics device directly in its Settings. This is a **one-time configuration per aircraft type** that persists across sessions — you do not need to repeat it each time you fly.

How to assign each GPS display to its panel screen

- 1 With X-Plane 12 running and an aircraft containing your GPS unit(s) loaded, go to **Settings** → **Graphics**.
- 2 Scroll down to the **Monitor Configuration** section and select the monitor number for the GPS display you are setting up.
- 3 Using the drop-down menu, select the appropriate option for your panel:
 - For the **GNS530** (primary, pilot side) — select **GNS530 Pilot**
 - For the **GNS430** (secondary, copilot side) — select **GNS430 CoPilot**
 - If you are running a **second GNS530** as COM2/NAV2 — select **GNS530 CoPilot**
 - If you are running a **second GNS430** as COM1/NAV1 — select **GNS430 Pilot**
- 4 Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the second panel screen if you have both units fitted.
- 5 Click **Done**. X-Plane will immediately begin rendering each GPS display full-screen on its assigned monitor.

This setting is saved per aircraft type. You will need to set it once for each aircraft you fly that includes these units, but it will be remembered for all subsequent sessions with that aircraft.

If your aircraft does not have a GNS530 or GNS430, those options will not appear on the screen. Load an appropriate aircraft before attempting this step.

MSFS — Display Setup

In MSFS, the GPS displays are managed by the SimLink app. SimLink handles the popout for each panel automatically — on first use it will ask you to identify each GPS display in the cockpit once, then remember those positions for all future sessions.

The GNS530 and GNS430 are set up independently. If you have both panels, you will be prompted for each one in turn.

First-time setup

- 1 Start MSFS and load your aircraft. Let it reach the cockpit view before doing anything else.
- 2 Start SimLink. After a moment, a small prompt window will appear asking you to **click on the GPS display** in the cockpit. If you have both units, it will prompt you for each one separately.
- 3 For each prompt: move your mouse over the relevant GPS display as shown in the cockpit on your main monitor and **left-click once**. SimLink will capture that position and briefly confirm the coordinates on screen.
- 4 SimLink will then perform each popout automatically — holding Right Alt and clicking the GPS display to generate the popout window, then positioning it on the correct panel screen.

Positions are saved automatically. SimLink writes each captured position to `simlinkoptions.txt` (`GNS530PosX` / `GNS530PosY` for the 530, and `GNS430PosX` / `GNS430PosY` for the 430). You will not be asked to click again next time. If your cockpit camera position or display layout changes, delete the relevant entries from `simlinkoptions.txt` and SimLink will prompt you to re-capture on next launch.

Subsequent sessions

Once positions have been saved, the entire process is automatic. Load your aircraft in MSFS, start SimLink, and both GPS displays will be popped out and placed on their panel screens without any further input from you.

Do not move the cockpit camera during the moment SimLink performs the popouts. If the camera has moved from the default forward view, reset it using the camera options in the MSFS toolbar before starting SimLink.

Troubleshooting

- **X-Plane 11: a display does not appear on its panel screen** — confirm the SimLink plugin is installed in the correct X-Plane plugins folder and restart X-Plane.
- **X-Plane 12: GNS530 or GNS430 options do not appear in Settings → Graphics** — the monitor configuration list is aircraft-dependent. Load an aircraft that includes the relevant unit before opening the Graphics settings.
- **MSFS: SimLink prompt does not appear** — ensure SimLink is running and that MSFS has fully loaded the aircraft before starting SimLink.
- **MSFS: a popout lands on the wrong display or in the wrong position** — the saved click position may be stale. Open `simlinkoptions.txt`, remove the lines for the affected unit (`GNS530PosX` / `GNS530PosY` or `GNS430PosX` / `GNS430PosY`), save the file, and restart SimLink to re-capture.
- **MSFS: a popout generates but the GPS display is blank or shows the cockpit** — the click position was not centred on the GPS screen in the cockpit. Re-capture as above and click more precisely on the centre of the relevant GPS display.

Covers the current SimTech GNS530 / GNS430 build.
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