



HYPACK
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Sounding Better!

Free Charts

By Boris Schulze

I travel a lot and use HYPACK® in various parts of the world. When I go somewhere and want to do a survey, I always like to have some kind of background chart that gives me an orientation. Planning is so much easier with this! A very easy way is, of course, to download some Bing Maps. They are available for every point on earth. You just need to have Internet access and, of course, a subscription.

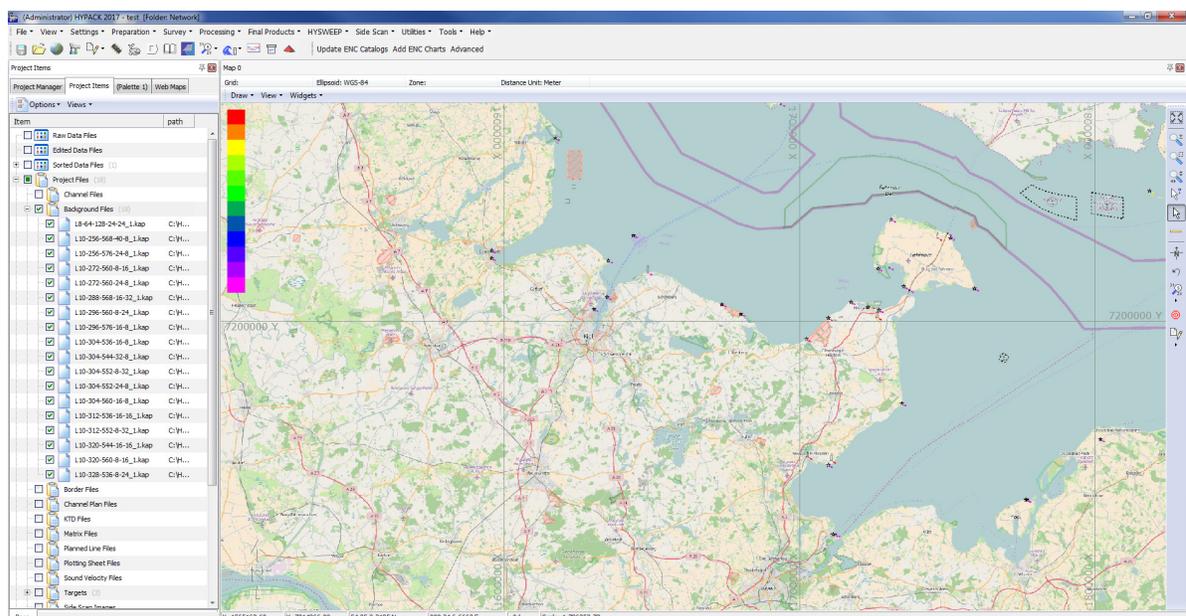
You don't have a subscription and your boss does not want to pay for one? There is an open source called OpenSeaMap (www.openseamap.org). The goal of this project is to create a free nautical database. You can check out the charts online, but the best is that you can download most of the earth (except the US eastcoast and South America, sorry guys). The charts are available as BSB/KAP charts, which are raster navigational charts. They come in areas, so make sure you download them before you go out, as some of them are bigger. They can be downloaded here: https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/KAP-charts_from_OpenSeaMap

If you try the FTP you even get more charts:

<ftp://ftp5.gwdg.de/pub/misc/openstreetmap/openseamap/chartbundles/kap/>

Once downloaded, extract them and they are ready to be used in HYPACK®. Import them as BSB Background files. Each chart bundle contains several hundred charts in different scales from overview to harbour charts. The projection of the charts is Mercator; keep this in mind when setting your Geodesy.

FIGURE 1. A Screenshot From My Area:



This is really a very good source for charts when doing a survey. They even have some inland waterway charts available, and the list is expanding.

IMPORTANT: Ah, and don't forget, *these charts are only to be used as information*—just like your Navigation system in your car— not for navigation on professional ships. They do not replace official charts!

Last but not least, since this project is run by a non-profit organization, it relies on donations. If you find their charts helpful, why not donate or become a sponsor?

Have fun!

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