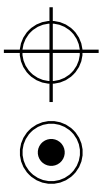
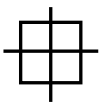
CHART ANNOTATIONS

When navigating, we have to write various information on the chart to keep a proper navigational record.

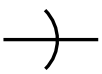
These markings enable us to keep track of the work we are doing and, if written correctly, also enable someone to take over our navigation duties seamlessly, should the need arise.



Position Fix: A more certain position fix may be marked using a circle, for example a GNSS position where latitude and longitude have been and plotting it on the chart, hence the cross. It could also be a transit and secondary bearing fix resulting in a dot surrounded by a circle.

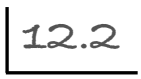


Waypoint: A square with a cross through it is a waypoint, denoting a marker or position on a chart being used for navigational purposes.

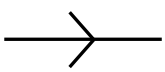


Dead Reckoning: A single arc crossing a heading vector represents distance run. The arc is formed as through using a compass with a spike and pencil to measure distance from the last position fix.

Estimated Position: An Estimated position is noted using a triangle around the fix. This shows the uncertainty of the position fix and is usually at the end of a tidal vector showing us a representation of the tidal stream.



Ships Log: When plotting positions on a chart, a record of the ships log should be noted beside the appropriate time. To clearly identify it as a log reading, it should have an 'L' wrapped around it.



Heading Vector (Course Steered): A single arrow represents a vessels heading, or course steered. This can be plotted after the event, or can be representative of an intended heading or course.

Ground Vector (Ground Track): Two arrows denotes a Ground Vector, a line used to represent the course that the boat did or intends to cover over the ground. The arrow point in the direction of travel.

Tide Vector (Tidal Stream): Three arrows denotes a tidal vector, a line used to represent the direction of the tide. It is commonly used on Estimated Positions & Course to Steer calculations. The arrows point in the direction of flow.