

Tachographs

Attention trailer-towers!

Digital tachographs

Soon we will have a fleet of vans that all have the new, swanky digital tachograph machines in. This will mean that any of you out there with a **WRG Trailer** ticket will need to have a **digital tachograph card** - or you can't tow without breaking the law. Cards are obtained from the DVLA, and WRG will refund the cost of the card: contact Jenny Black at head office.

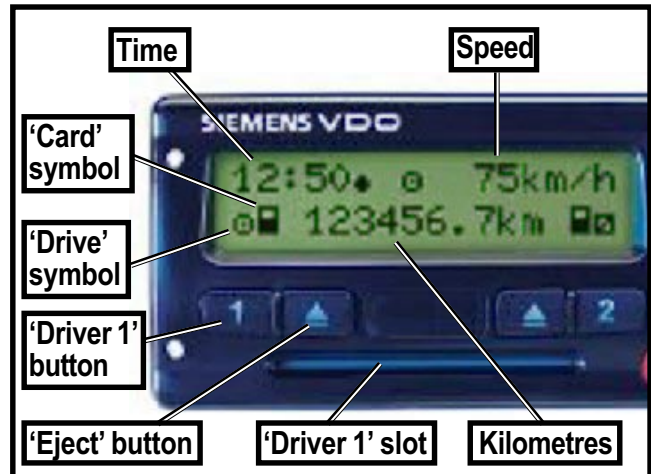
The tachograph machine looks complicated to someone new to it. Even me - I have spent some frustrating hours trying to get my card back out over the last couple of years! So here is a guide to help you along with the basic functions you will mainly need to use. There are loads more - we'll tell you about them in future articles.

Before you set off...

- Turn the 'ignition' on.
- There will probably be a warning message saying '**Driving without card**'. Push the OK button on the machine.
- Insert your card in the 'driver 1' slot with the chip facing up and the arrow facing away from you.
- You will get a '**welcome**' message followed by some lines counting down, then it will say when your last withdrawal was.
- After these an, '**M entry**' screen will appear. This means 'manual entry'. You won't normally need to make a manual entry - we will explain when you need to and how you do it next time. Use the up and down arrows on the machine until it says '**No**' then push OK.
- You will get a '**Begin country**' screen. Again, unless satnav took you a really weird way to the Wilts and Berks, 'UK' will be flashing and you will just need to push OK.

You can now drive. The machine should automatically set your card to driving (the little steering wheel.) When you stop for a rest break you need to set the machine to the 'bed' symbol. To do this push the 'driver 1' button.

When you have ended your jour-



ney and want to remove your card...

- Best to have the engine running. Due to the machine needing good voltage, if the battery is slightly low it won't eject your card.
- Push the 'eject' button next to 'driver 1'.
- '**End country**' will come up and '**UK**' should be flashing. Push 'OK'
- Your surname will appear, and bars counting down.
- '**24h day**' will appear. A '**yes**' or '**no**' will flash. use the up and down arrows until it says 'no' then OK to select.
- Your card should come out.

If you have just got your card and are simply testing to see if it works, you won't be able to just insert it and then eject. You will need to wait at least 5 minutes, otherwise you will get an '**ejection not possible**' message. Also on the screen you will only see the bottom half of your card symbol. This is a black square. For a complete card symbol a black square with an outline-only square above it will appear.

Drivers hours: My rule of thumb is the numbers 4 and 5. You can drive for 4.5 hours before making a compulsory break. A break must be 45minutes long. You can only drive for up to 9 hours per day (I am sure you have spotted the 4+5 is 9!) There are rules about longer hours but for most WRG use the 9 hours rule is easier to stick too.

Between days' driving you must take at least an 11-hour break.

Please remember that these are just brief guideline: there are many more functions and rules about breaks and days off which WRG driving rarely involves - unless you find yourself towing the trailer to site every day of a week's camp. See the fuller guide in a future 'Navvies', in the meantime if in doubt ask someone who knows, and if still in doubt **don't tow**.

James Butler