

## CoTaCo : COndor TAsk COnverter V2.1

**CoTaCo** is a basic tool to convert **Condor** flight plans (.fpl) to **XCSoar** tasks (.tsk).  
It handles both **Condor 1** and **Condor 2**.

It is possible to create an **XCSoar** profile file (.prf) with the following information:

- airspace file (if penalty zones have been defined)
- map (.xcm)
- glider polar (.xcp) (fixed ballast is taken into account)
- turnpoints file (.cup)

Maximum departure and minimum finish altitudes are directly written to the .tsk file  
If minimum or maximum altitudes are specified for a turnpoint, they will be written at the end of the turnpoint name.

AATs and **Condor** penalty zones are supported from version V2.0

### INSTALLING

Uncompress the Zip file in the desired folder

The **CoTaCo** folder should contain :

- ChangeLog.txt: description of the updates
- CoTaCo.bat : sample batch mode script (courtesy Erik P.)
- CoTaCo.exe : executable file
- CoTaCo\_Manual\_EN.pdf : This file : English Version of the manual
- CoTaCo\_Manual\_FR.pdf : French Version of the manual
- LISEZMOI.txt : French Version of README.txt
- NaviCon.dll: Condor utilities library
- README.txt : French Version of LISEZMOI.txt

After the first use, you may also find:

- CoTaCo\_maps.txt : list of XCSoar maps (see below)
- CoTaCo.ini : settings file

This file will be created automatically at the first execution of the program if it does not exist.  
On this occasion it will be necessary to indicate the path to the destination folder for the converted tasks

If you already have a **CoTaCo.ini** file from an earlier version, it may be re-used : it will be updated and the old version will be renamed to CoTaCo\_0000.ini or \_0001, etc. if an older file already exists.

It is possible at any time to edit this file with a text editor (Notepad or other) to adapt it to your configuration and wishes. See format below

## USAGE

If you want to use drag-and-drop mode to start the converter, it is recommended to create a shortcut on your desk. It is then possible to drag and drop a flight plan file to the shortcut to convert it.

Otherwise the converter can be started by double-clicking the icon. A popup windows opens to select the file to convert

It can also be started from a DOS prompt, either with the GUI or in CLI (Command Line Interface) mode. This can be useful if used in batch mode on a server.

GUI : type CoTaCo.exe at the ">" prompt

CLI : the command line syntax is

```
> CoTaCo.exe [-help] [-line] [-chkwp] [-v] [-aat] [flight_plan.fpl] [task.task]
```

all arguments are optional

-help : displays the command line syntax

-line : start without GUI

-chkwp : get the Lat/Lon values from the corresponding .cup or .apt files when available otherwise use the ones in the .fpl

-v : verbose mode

-aat : the task will be converted to AAT (Area Assigned Task)

flight\_plan.fpl : input file

task.task : converted file, if not specified, defaults to flight\_plan.task

## XCSOAR folders and files

The destination folder for the converted tasks may be on a remote computer, provided you have write access to it.

If **XCSOAR path** (in the .ini file) matches a filename (including path and ending with .task), that file name will always be used to write the task.

Otherwise, if **XCSOAR path** matches a folder, the name of the .task file will be identical to that of the .fpl file.

If **XCSOAR path** contains **Tasks**, the profile file and Default.task will be written in the parent folder, otherwise in the same folder.

CoTaCo will create either a **Condor.task** file in the **XCSOAR path** folder or a **Default.task** in the **XCSOAR** root folder (or in the same folder, see above), depending on the **Write Default.task** parameter in the **CoTaCo.ini** file (see below)

NOTE : Existing tasks with the same name will be silently overwritten !

## Profile files

If you want (or not) to have **CoTaCo** write a profile file, set the **Profile file** parameter in the **CoTaCo.ini** file (see below)

If the profile file does not exist, it will be created from the **default.prf** file (**REQUIRED**), otherwise it will be updated.

## XCSOar running on a different device

If you use **XCSOar** on a tablet or mobile phone and do not have write access to the **XCSOar** root folder (**XCSOarData**) on the device, it is recommended to create an **XCSOarData** folder on your PC (possibly with a **Tasks** subfolder), and to set **Use Polars folder=0** in the .ini file (see above).

You will also have to copy the default.prf profile file to your PC if you want to create a profile file

## Waypoints names and file

**XCSOar** truncates waypoint names to 5 characters (default) which prevents display of min/max altitudes.

It is possible to display the full name by changing the **XCSOar** setting in the menu :

**Config/System/Map Display/Waypoints/Label format**

It might be interesting to create a .cup file containing both turnpoints and airports.

This can be done using CondorWPFileGen.exe and copying the resulting file to the **XCSOar** root folder, see there : <http://www.condorsoaring.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=13020>

NOTE: if **XCSOar** finds a turn point in the .cup file, all the information (including its name) will be taken from the file, not from the converted task file, this may result in loss of min. or max. altitude display.

## Polars and ballast

If you want a profile file to be written, fixed ballast will be taken into account for the polar file, assuming you use the polar files for all **Condor 2** gliders that are available there:

<https://condorutill.pagesperso-orange.fr/index.html#Polars>

Water ballast cannot be defined in the profile file and has to be set in **XCSOar (Config/Flight)**

## Maps for XCSOar

It is possible to download maps from: <https://xcsoar.org/download/maps/>

It is also possible to generate maps on: <http://mapgen.xcsoar.org>

If writing the profile file is enabled, **CoTaCo** manages the correspondence between **Condor** scenes and **XCSOar** maps

The **CoTaCo\_maps.txt** file is created or updated by **CoTaCo** the first time a map is found.

You can also edit this file with a text editor (especially for changes).

File format (lines starting with # are not read):

Landscape\_name=XCSOar\_map

for example : AA2 = ALPS\_HighRes.xcm

### Coordinates conversion

**CoTaCo** uses a **Condor** library (**NaviCon.dll**) for coordinate conversion.

The library provided with **CoTaCo** corresponds to **Condor 2**. It can be used for:

- all **Condor 2** flight plans
- **Condor 1** flight plans located in the Northern Hemisphere.

For **Condor 1** flight plans located in the **Southern Hemisphere**, you **must** make a copy of the **NaviCon.dll** file (e.g. by renaming it to **NaviConV2.dll**) and replace it with the one that can be found in the installation folder of **Condor 1**

By default, a warning message is displayed for **Condor 1**.

It can be disabled by editing the **CoTaCo.ini** file (see below)

### Penalty zones

The penalty zones are converted to **OpenAir** format

They are written to a file named as the task with "-PZ" appended e.g. FLIGHT\_PLAN\_NAME-PZ.txt

### AAT

Due to the extreme simplicity of the GUI used, activation of AAT mode is more complicated than it should be.

From a DOS prompt or in a batch script : add the -aat option

Double-click start or drag-and-drop :

- either activate AAT in the **CoTaCo.ini** file, it is then possible to de-activate temporarily that mode by clicking [Cancel] in the AAT time popup window
- or rename the input flight plan so that its name contains "-AAT" e.g. flight\_plan-AAT.fpl

If the flight plan filename does not contain "-AAT", it will be appended at the end of the task filename e.g. flight\_plan-AAT.tsk

## **SUPPORT**

Please report any bugs to: [cotaco@marc-till.com](mailto:cotaco@marc-till.com)

## **DISCLAIMER**

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The GUI uses components from "tiny file dialogs" under a zlib license  
<http://https://sourceforge.net/projects/tinyfiledialogs/>

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## CoTaCo.ini file contents

Lines starting with # are ignored

- **CoTaCo Version** = version number of the program that wrote the file – please do not edit
- **Condor 1 path** = Condor 1 installation folder
- **Condor 2 path** = Condor 2 installation folder
- **XCSoar path** = path to destination folder (or file) for converted tasks  
usually : XCSoarData/Tasks
- **verbose** = verbose mode (0 = disabled, 1 = enabled)
- **AAT** = the task is an AAT (0 = disabled, 1 = enabled)
- **Condor 1 warnings** = warning messages for Condor 1 (0 = disabled, 1 = enabled)
- **Write Default.tsk** = write task to Default.tsk in the XCSoar root folder (0/1, default=NO)
- **Ask for map** = what to do if map found in CoTaCo\_maps.txt :  
1=always ask for map, 0=use map found
- **Use Polars folder** = the polars are stored in a specific folder (Polars) (0/1, default=1)  
XCSoar uses a Polars folder on Windows PCs, but not on Android devices
- **Profile file** = profile file name (name, 0=NO, default = Condor.prf)
- **Airspace file** = airspace file name (name, default=FLIGHT\_PLAN\_NAME-PZ.txt)
- **Flightplans path** = default path for flightplans - if unspecified : last folder searched  
if you fly mostly online, the most practical would be :  
MY\_DOCUMENTS\Condor\Pilots\MY\_NAME\Flightplan.fpl (C2)  
if you fly mostly offline:  
MY\_DOCUMENTS\Condor\FlightPlans (C2)