

Uniden 0.5W handhelds - UH305SX-NB

Not being lucky enough in the club draw, I finally bit the bullet and bought some two-way radios with a Christmas voucher. JB HiFi had some on sale after Christmas, but I was too busy on home duties to get across in time. They got in a pair of camo ones though for \$55. The Woden shop wouldn't budge on the price, but the Civic shop dropped the price to \$45. Although not rechargeable, I had enough of my own NiMH AAAs, and lots of batteries from the kids' toys.

I also had an old 40CH UHF, and my friend had another two-way. Spreading across three 4WDs in hilly terrain, we were able to maintain good comms all day. The older, more powerful radios were a bit louder to receive, but the 0.5W was still audible in each of the cars. I switched to the small radio halfway through the day. It is a compact size, and mounted on the sun visor it was quite audible.

The units come with a belt/lanyard clip, and although not waterproof, they are small enough and with a short lanyard on the fly vest they shouldn't fall in too easily. They can't have a handsfree or CB microphone attached, but they were only \$45 and from a long-standing radio manufacturer. There is another model (036) available, but not seen in Canberra - it has the additional feature of selective calling (CTSS). Otherwise the 036, 037 and this one (305) seem to be the same radio.