

CB radio



CB Radio (**Citizen Band Radio**) will be smiled at amongst amateur radio professionals (toy). But it is sufficient for car-to-car conversations or for small groups. However, transmission range is very limited; around 3 to 4 kilometers according to my experience. In cities, this ranges can come down to only a few 100 meters. The conversation is ,public'. It can be received by anyone tuning into your channel on the 11-meter band (all-in-all 40 channels available). On the other hand, you will not have to spend a lot of money for this solution. Acceptable transceivers are available from 150 CHF onwards. You can get them even cheaper on the second-hand market. Also, they don't require a license in general.



I made my mind up for a 'Midland Alan 78 Plus Multi' mobile station. That is a middle price class device (around 350 CHF when I bought it). It's an Italian product and they are not bad (<http://www.cte.it/>). I bought it at my favorite specialist store in Zurich (<http://www.gugolzfunk.ch/>). But there are many offerings through the internet as well . The mingy 1 to 4W output can be boosted. However, without a respective amateur license, this is illegal (at least in Switzerland). Should you use a booster anyway, you should at least let it run through a band-pass filter as not to interfere with the TV/radio programs of your neighbour. Boosters are offered by CTE Intl. as well. But as the only one using such a device in a group is of no advantage as you are still dependent on the transmission range of your friends.



As a ham radion user I am accustomed to a much better range and transmission quality. However, a lot of my colleagues use the CB radio. And this is also the reason why I bought such a device. But if you prefer privacy, high quality transmissions/reception, extended range and connection to worldwide radio services, then you most probably should buy a real amateur radio and acquire a radio license. In Switzerland, USKA (Union of Swiss short-wave amateurs) offers respective courses (or PDF material for selfstudy). You then have to pass an exam of BAKOM (Governmental agency for communication in Switzerland).

