



## RANGE OF HANDHELD CB RADIOS

The range of a handheld CB radio is dependant on a number of factors. This document describes what to expect, and how to maximize range.

1. Maximum range with the short "rubber duckie" antenna is between 3/4 to 1 mile in flat, open conditions. The rubber duckie antenna is very convenient, but is not ideal for long range communications. For increased range, use a telescoping antenna such as the Cobra HA-TA.
2. The following conditions will reduce the operating range:
  - a. The batteries are wearing-out.
  - b. There are hills, trees, or buildings between the radios.
  - c. One or both radios are inside a building. Range will further be reduced if the building has a metal frame or aluminum siding.
  - d. Excessive atmospheric noise on the CB channels, which will vary from day-to-day.
3. Using the rubber duckie antenna inside a car will result in very short range. For use in a car, a mobile CB antenna (such as a magnet mount) is highly recommended. An adapter such as Cobra part number HA-BNC will be required to connect the radio to a mobile antenna. A suitable adapter is also available from Radio Shack.
4. For optimum range, please try the following:
  - a. Try new batteries.
  - b. If you are using the radio in a car, use the cigarette power cord.
  - c. If the radio has a high/low power switch, use high power.
  - d. Turn on Soundtracker (if equipped).
  - e. Turn the squelch all the way down.
  - f. Choose a channel with little or no interference.
  - g. Speak close to the microphone slot. This will increase modulation and make you sound louder.