

Comparing the **Yaesu FT-60R** to the **Wouxun UV-8D**

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I'm not going to list all of the specs for this new Wouxun UV-8D dual-band HT radio, as I'm sure that others will (in various magazine write-ups), but I will list a few of the features that I've already come to like very much on this new Wouxun UV-8D HT. I've chosen to compare it to the Yaesu FT-60R, which is the closest (feature-wise) Japanese-made analog FM HT that I could find for this comparison.

One, this new UV-8D radio will probably cause Yaesu's marketing department fits. Both the FT-60R and the UV-8D have approximately 1000 memories (999 on the UV-8D), but the color display on the UV-8D **MORE** than makes up for the loss of 1 memory to the FT-60R. **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Two, the UV-8D can display two frequencies (or named channels) vs. only one on the FT-60R. **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Three, both the FT-60R and the UV-8D support Alpha-Numeric naming of frequencies, but the UV-8D shows two frequencies on the display (vs. only one on the FT-60R), plus the UV-8D supports 8 Alpha-Numeric characters on the display vs. only 6 characters on the FT-60R. **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

At *RF Gear 2 Go*, when we are trying to name repeater locations (for hams around the country that want their radios pre-programmed before shipment), having the extra two Alpha-Numeric characters really helps. Having 999 (or 1000) memories allows us to program both the entire 2m and 70cm band repeaters for entire states into either of these radios, but having the extra 2 alpha-characters really helps the owners figure out which repeater they're using (or trying to locate if passing through an area).

Four, the standard FT-60R battery is an older 1400mAh NiMH battery based technology, the UV-8D ships with a newer (and more powerful) 1700mAh Li-Ion battery, plus you have the option to add an even larger 2600mAh Li-Ion factory battery if you choose. We currently stock the UV-8D with the 2600mAh Extended Battery as our "standard" UV-8D V2 model. **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Five, both of the radios can go out of band, but the Yaesu FT-60R requires a hardware modification (removing small surface-mount parts) to achieve this, while the Wouxun UV-8D does not (as the modification is done entirely with software). **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Six, (speaking of out of band usage), the UV-8D supports narrow and wide-band, whereas the FT-60R supports wide-band only. **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Seven, the UV-8D not only supports cross-band repeat functionality, but also allows you to transmit at the same time you are receiving a signal on another band. **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Eight, in addition to narrow-band support, the UV-8D also supports 2.5 KHz channels steps (a very nice feature for those users also considering it for commercial usage). The FT-60R is limited to 5KHz band steps. **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Nine, both radios can receive NOAA weather broadcasts, but the UV-8D has to be programmed for that function, whereas the FT-60R has a one-touch NOAA weather function direct from the factory.

ADVANTAGE?: FT-60R

Ten, the Wouxun UV-8D screen allows us to program your name, call, or even your phone number (up to 15 characters) on the top of the color LCD display (should your radio ever get lost or stolen), the Yaesu FT-60R has no such function available. **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Eleven, an Alpha-Numeric memory normally hides the actual frequency from the user and only shows the "Named" location. The Wouxun UV-8D allows you to hit one-button and enter the VFO mode directly, hit the same button again and see the Channel Number your memory is using, hit it a third time and see the actual frequency for the memory that's "named".

It's a feature that's not used every day, but when you have multiple repeaters (at the same location) and your buddy asks you to meet him on 145.27, it's nice to be able to see which one of the Mormon Mountain repeaters (for example) is actually the repeater on 145.27 (when your display is set to the Alpha-Numeric mode and you see MORMAN 1, MORMAN 2, etc.). **ADVANTAGE?: UV-8D**

Twelve, I'm sure that Yaesu is already working hard on the replacement for the older FT-60R (which may be why some of their largest national chain dealers have dropped the price recently), but since both radios are within \$20 to \$25 cost of each other, why would you not take a long, hard look at the additional ease of use features that the Wouxun UV-8D provides today and not wait?

To be fair, the Yaesu FT-60R also supports a proprietary internet repeater access system referred to as "WIRES" (which currently only Yaesu and TYT support), but both the FT-60R and the UV-8D are easily used on both EchoLink and IRLP, which have far more sites available nationwide than the Yaesu WIRES system. So if you need three ways to access the internet based repeaters (instead of just the two most popular), then the advantage for that WIRES repeater feature goes to the FT-60R. Personally for me that's a tie, since both Yaesu and Wouxun support the two most popular internet repeater systems (EchoLink and IRLP).

YOUR FINAL HT CHOICE?: That's ultimately your personal decision, as any radio that's liked by one individual or group may not be liked by another, but I know my new favorite HT, and it comes with a Color display from Wouxun. Call us if you'd like a new favorite HT as well.

