



## Cobra MT800, MT975 etc Walkie-talkies & Rechargeable Batteries



### Basics

The Cobra walkie-talkie radios that we sell, currently the MT800 and MT975 models, all come with rechargeable batteries (4 x AAA sized batteries).

The radios can be used with non-rechargeable conventional AAA batteries, although this would be an expensive option if they were used like this regularly.

It is worth remembering this though, if you are ever in a situation where you need the radios working and cannot recharge, just go to any shop and buy some Duracells!

### Rechargeable Battery “Lifespan”

Rechargeable batteries do not last indefinitely. After a few hundred charge / discharge cycles, they will eventually no longer hold any charge.

The amount of time the radio will last on a full charge will decrease over time as the batteries

300 – 500 charges is what you can reasonably expect. After that, you will have to replace the rechargeable batteries with new ones.

### Battery Storage Capacity

A battery’s “storage capacity” is measured in Amp-hours, or more usually, milli-Amp-hours (mAh).

The rechargeable batteries supplied with the Cobra radios typically have a capacity of 600mAh.

It is possible to buy better AAA rechargeables with higher capacities (up to around 1100mAh) which will allow the radios to last longer on a single “charge”.

Find these batteries for sale on Ebay or shops like Maplin.

Try to stick with “known brands” such Fujicell, Uniross etc, when buying new batteries.

### What To Do If Your Walkie-Talkie Won’t Charge Up, Or Stay Charged

First, check if the problem is with the rechargeable batteries, or if it is the radio itself or the charger. You can do this by swapping the rechargeable batteries from the radio that is not working with the ones from another radio that IS working correctly.

If the problem “follows the batteries”, then it is the batteries that need replacing. If the same radio is still faulty even with a another set of batteries that are known to be OK, then there is a fault with the radio, or the charger.

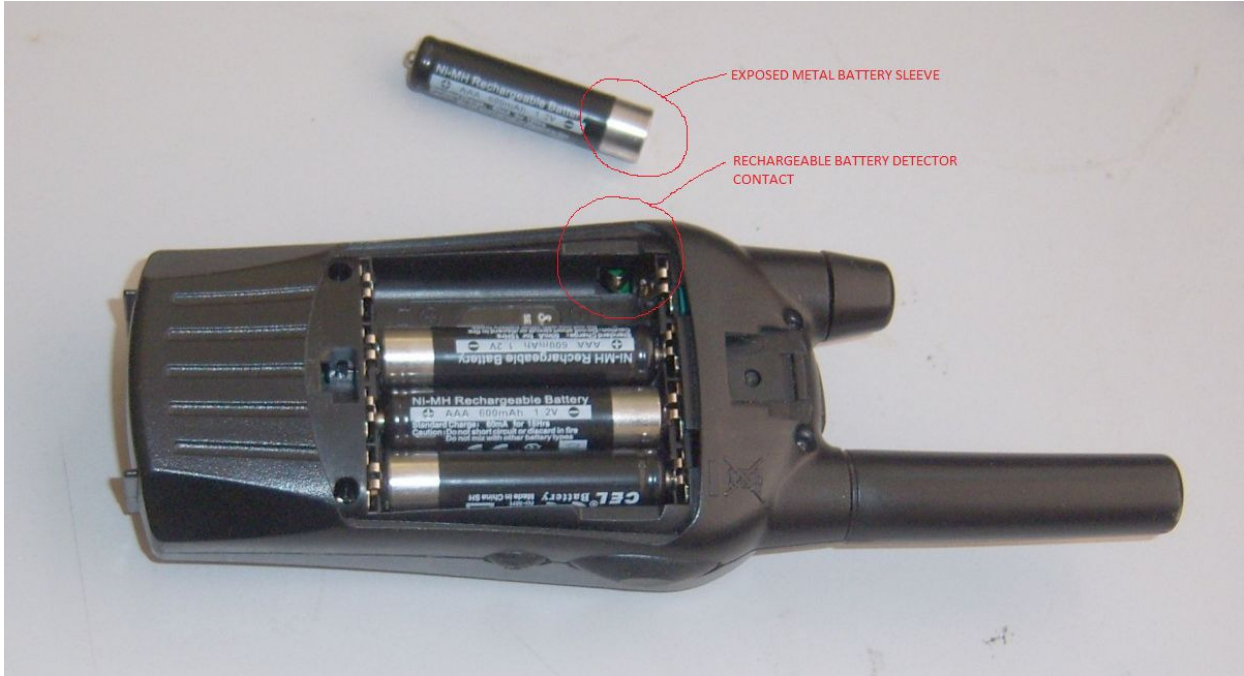
You can also swap chargers if you have another one to hand, to identify if the charger is working or not.

## Fitting Replacement Rechargeable Batteries

If you buy some generic AAA rechargeable batteries and fit them in to your Cobra MT800, MT975 or other radio, you will notice that although the batteries will power the radio if charged up, they will not charge via the Cobra charger.

The reason for this is that the radio incorporates a simple circuit that it designed to prevent possible damage by stopping non-rechargeable batteries from being "recharged".

If you look at the picture below you can see that there is an extra contact in the position of the left-most battery, positioned so that it will touch the lower side of the leftmost battery in the battery compartment.



## How To Make Your New Rechargeable Batteries Work In Your Cobra Radio

All that you have to do in order to make your new rechargeable batteries work correctly is to take a knife and carefully scrape away the plastic sleeve at the bottom of one of the four batteries, exposing the metal underneath.

Once you insert a battery with an exposed metal side into the left-most slot, then the Cobra radio will "think" that it has rechargeable batteries fitted, and will then allow recharging to take place.

The purpose of this extra contact is to make sure that if you fit your walkie-talkie with non-rechargeable batteries (which can overheat and catch fire if you try to recharge them) that if you then connect the radio to a charger, it won't cause damage by attempting to "recharge" them.

The rechargeable batteries supplied by Cobra (pictured below) have exposed metal on the bottom part of the side of each battery. This metal makes contact with the "rechargeable battery detector" contact in the battery bay.

The above applies to many Cobra Microtalk walkie-talkies including MT600, MT700, MT725, MT750, MT800, MT950, MT975, CXT85 and many others that take 4 x AAA rechargeable batteries.