

Side-by-Side

A side-by-side comparison of types of radios and available features. Features vary by radio, brands, and models. There are exceptions to every rule. This table serves simple as a quick overview and features and radios in general.

	Single Band (SB)	Dual Band (DB)	Multimode (MM)	Multiband (MB)	Handheld (HT)
Frequency Agility	Limited	Medium	Medium	Full	Medium
Functionality	Limited	Limited	Full	Full	Limited
Ease of Use	Easy	Medium	Medium	Difficult	Easy
Programming	Easy	Easy	Medium	Challenging	Easy/Medium
Power	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low
Cost	Low	Medium	High	High	Low/Medium

Frequency Agility

Refers to the ability to change frequencies or the availability of frequencies. SB units support only on band of frequencies, while MB units offer multiple frequency bands.

Functionality

Refers to the availability of various functions. MM and MB radios are more likely to have a wider range of functionality.

Ease of Use

The overall ease of use. Fewer functions generally means less complex systems. Chinese radios such as Baofengs and QYT fall more into a medium category because of the poor documentation and confusing menu systems.

Programming

The ability to quickly program and change programmed frequencies and menus.

Power

This is the output power capability of the unit. HTs generally have a max output of 5 watts, SB, DB, and MM support 50 watts—sometimes up to 75 watts, and MB usually 100 watts. Power output may vary by band, too. Even though MB radios support up to 100 watts, that is usually only on HF bands. Most radios will limit VHF power to 50 watts and UHF power to 25 or 35 watts.

Cost

You get what you pay for. You can buy very inexpensive (cheap) radios that have lots of functionality. Buyer beware! Generally, SB and HT units are far less expensive than MB, usually an order of magnitude—\$25 compared to \$2,500.