

Battery Power for AiRocks Pro

Several of you have asked about the best way to power the AiRocks Pro using a battery. Recently I bought an inexpensive (\$15) Universal battery Pack from my local Microcenter. Its primary purpose is to be used as a battery charger for mobile devices like cell phones. However, it works very well as a power source for the ARX-900 and ARX-910.

Since the AiRocks Pro radios need a +12V supply, you must connect the +5V (USB) output of Universal battery pack through an ARX-USBEXT before connecting to the AiRocks Pro. The ARX-USBEXT has a “step-up” DC to DC converter inside that converts the +5V output from the battery pack to the required +12V for the AiRocks Pro.

The best news is, this battery pack can power **the ARX-900 FOR MORE THAN 27 HOURS**. So for events where you need an isolated ARX-900 as a simple “Relay” point between units, you can use this combo to provide the power.

Here’s a picture of the battery pack. Actually, there are a number of these units on the market for prices ranging from \$15 to well over \$150, depending upon capacity. The Inland pack below is rated at 10400mAh, or 52 watt-hours. Since the ARX-900 consumes <2 watts, the 52 watt hour battery lasts (52/2) ~26 hours. My test ran successfully for 27.5 hours!



Below is a photo of the complete setup. The battery connects via a standard USB cable to the ARX-USBEXT. The USBEXT then connects via a standard CAT-5 cable to the ARX-900. Once connected, push the white power button on the battery pack to turn on the power.



If you like to give this a try and you don't already have an ARX-USBEXT, you'll need to buy one for \$99 (dealer). Send me an email at mikeh@airnetix.com if you would like to make a purchase.

Have fun!!

Mike