

Yaesu FT-60R Battery Hack

I've had a Yaesu FT-60R for quite a while, possibly 10 years. In that time, I've replaced the battery pack twice. I got to thinking that Yaesu is likely to eventually discontinue the packs, so I bought a FBA-25 "6 AA battery case" and filled it with some nice Sanyo Eneloop rechargeable batteries. I was set! At least I thought so.

It was a bit of a pain to remove the 6 cells and charge them, and that was somewhat exacerbated by the fact that my charger wants to charge four cells at a time. I needed another idea.

I recalled that the Yaesu NiMH packs would charge in the radio, and investigated why theirs would charge, but the FBA-25 would not. It turns out that there is a 3rd contact on the factory packs, it is the contact seen in the red box in the lower left of the radio, shown below. This contact is intended to mate with the back of the factory pack.

I looked at the construction of the Eneloop batteries, and decided I would attack the wrapping with an Exacto knife, and I was able to remove a small band of the plastic cover, as seen in the lower right of the battery pack in the photo below. Now the FBA-25 pack, full of 1900 mAH Eneloop batteries, charges in the radio with the stock wall wart! Success!

Note that making your own rechargeable pack this way may not save you any money compared to buying a new FNB-83 (currently about \$35). The FBA-25 is about \$19, and the Eneloop cells are about \$3 each, so \$37 -- clearly more expensive. The advantage to this solution is that:

1. More capacity! The latest Eneloops are 2000 mAH rated, so almost 50% more capacity than the FNB83.
2. Cheaper next time. The FBA-25 should last forever, and AA-size Eneloops are likely to be available for a good long time.



Mandatory Lawyer Talk: Don't do this. You might cut your self with the knife. You might cut the cells or otherwise short them out while removing the plastic covering. You could drop the radio on your foot and hurt yourself. You could install the cells backwards in the pack and damage your cells, radio, self, home, car, etc. The longer lifetime of the better cells could mean you stay up too late fooling around with your handheld. You have been warned.

On the other hand, I did it, and it works well.