

Set of Zico Unicarp III indicators

Intended for: carp fishing, general fishing

Zico's products have been on our market for a quarter century, so most anglers must be familiar with them. Among other things, Zico offers Unicarp electronic indicators and this brand now comes up with the third generation.

Because I previously had the opportunity to try the second generation of these indicators, testing will be easier for me as I am familiar with their functions, but on the other hand, it will also be more difficult because I don't like repeating myself, which is not easy with another generation of the same product.



The design has been changed again. Although the basic shape has remained the same, all the edges are rounded. It is almost the same size, so it is neither too big nor too small; it is simply medium size. In comparison with the two previous generations, the indication of the direction of pulling has been changed – instead of an arrow located in the middle under the rod, there is now an illuminated wavy line on the indicator's right arm, called "S panel." It is illuminated by five diodes. A big and in my opinion a welcome change is the replacement of buttons with knobs and the classic lever switch. Battery placement is also different. The 9V battery can be replaced by holding it by its edge even on the stand.



Both the indicator and receiver are very well made and so is the surface rubber layer, which is matt. In the indicator fork there is rubber lining, which prevents the rod from sliding in the indicator. The indicator bolt is made of steel and is fitted with a locking nut with a rubber ring.

One of the main advantages of Unicarp indicators is a large number of functions, and the third generation is no exception. The basic settings are volume (V), sensitivity (S) and tone (T). They can be set by knobs, which I welcome because I prefer them to buttons. All settings have five levels, with the lowest volume level completely turning off the sound. Sensitivity can be set from just under one centimetre to approximately 5 cm. If lower sensitivity is set, the indicator recognizes biting and the diodes on the “S panel” are lit, but if the movement of the line is not long and does not correspond to the set sensitivity, no beep is heard. That is quite a good function for situations in which fish bite carefully but higher sensitivity can be set because of the current or wind that might cause frequent beeping. For all settings, the selected level is shown on the “S panel” – the higher the level, the more diodes are lit. As a standard, this indicator provides sound differentiation between the directions of bite (forward/downward).



The tone settings have five levels, ranging from my favourite “duck” to a high tone. Like in the previous version, the tone set on the indicator is transmitted to the receiver.

The indicator has several lighting features, which can be combined. The first one is the memory diode on the left. The second one is the illuminated roller (circle) and the third is the “S panel”, which has replaced the “V” of the previous model. The individual modes can be switched by pressing the Zico button shortly.

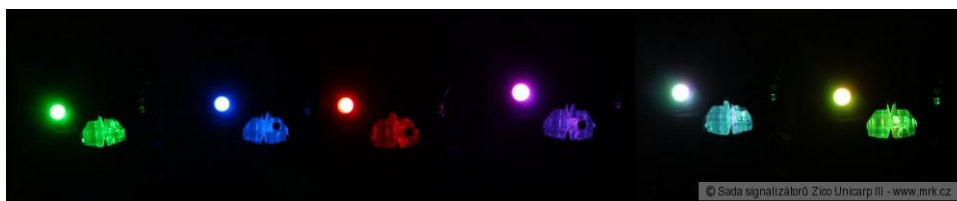


Options and their order – actions during a bite:

- 1) memory diode, illuminated roller + “S panel” (all of them turn off after 20 seconds)
- 2) memory diode, illuminated roller + “S panel” (roller remains lit after 20 seconds – night lighting)
- 3) memory LED only + roller (both turn off after 20 seconds)



The greatest new feature of this series of Unicarp indicators is the multicolour diode settings. There are six colours to choose from on every indicator. The colours can be set by pressing the “C” (Colour) button repeatedly. The colours that can be set on every indicator are green, blue, red, purple, white and light green with a tinge of orange. The colour set on the indicator will be lit on the receiver as well.



Another option of setting the indicator’s lighting features is the Balance function. By pressing “B” you can change the diode intensity in five levels. So, you can change lower intensity for the night. This a new function of this series.



Another new functions, which the previous Unicarp series didn't have, is the battery indicator. After the device is turned on by the lever switch, the "S panel" is briefly lit indicating the battery's state of charge.

Like the previous series, Unicarp III also has the Incognito function, which turns off all the light and sound indication on the indicator and bites are only indicated by the receiver. This function can be turned on by holding the "I" button for three seconds. Another tried and tested function of the previous series is the rod theft alarm. It can be turned on by holding the "A" button for three seconds. This function alerts you if someone lifts your rod from the indicator. A disadvantage, like in the previous series, is that the alarm is also turned on if the rod is lifted during a bite. A new feature is the possibility of setting the Incognito and Alarm functions by holding "I" and "A" for three seconds simultaneously.



One of the last functions is "Lighthouse." It activates a high-intensity white diode, which is located on the back side of the indicator. It helps you to find your way back when you are returning to your fishing place in a boat. It can be activated by holding the Zico button for three seconds. While this function is being activated, the diode flashes.



The indicator is also fitted with an output for the swinger, which transmits the light as the main diode, i.e. flashes during a bite and 20 seconds after a bite.

The receiver

The receiver is the same as the one of the previous series. In terms of design, the producer has kept the traditional shape of a rounded box. All edges are rounded and the receiver can stand on its bottom or lie on its back side. It can also be hung on a cord, which comes with it. For this purpose, there is a loop in the lower corner. There is also a removable clip, which can be used to attach the receiver to one's belt or pocket.



The surface of the receiver is rubberized as well. The front part is dominated by the “V panel”, which indicates the line winding direction. This panel is lit in blue regardless of the colour of the indicator indicating the bite. To distinguish the individual indicators, there is a set of diodes of different colours on the upper edge of the receiver. They flash during a bite and 20 minutes after a bite. If bites are indicated by multiple indicators within a short moment, the diode of the indicator that is the last to show a bite flashes. The diode of the previous indicator showing a bite is lit.



There are six diodes of different colours on the receiver. These colours are yellow, green, blue and red, like on the indicators, plus violet and white. The receiver shows the colour that is set on the indicator. The only difference is that the green with a tinge of orange is pure orange on the receiver.



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Because both the tone and illumination colour are transmitted to the receiver from the individual indicators, the receiver only has three buttons on its side. The middle button is used for turning it on and off and the upper and lower buttons are used for setting the volume. Six volume levels can be set, or it can be muted or vibrations can be set to indicate bites.



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The set of indicators is available as 2+1, 3+1 or 4+1 and comes in a hard case with a zip. The case could



well be used by producers of far more expensive indicators. It is solid, has a black matt finish and the inside is padded with soft foam with cut-out compartments for the indicators, receiver, receiver clip and batteries. Both the indicator and the receiver use a 9V battery, which can easily be bought in any shop or petrol station.

In general, I rate this set very high. Despite the relatively low price, it is very well made. A 2+1 set costs only CZK 3,590 and a set of three indicators and one receiver is CZK 4,490.

The indicator itself costs CZK 990. Unicarp III provides many interesting, useful and unique features and one of its great pros is the multicolour illumination. My only minor complaint is about the rod theft alarm, which could be more sophisticated. However, if someone is worried about their rods, they probably won't mind the alarm being turned on even if the rod is lifted during a bite. Despite a large number of functions, both the indicator and the receiver are easy to use. I also appreciate the transmission of the tone and illumination colour from the indicator to the receiver. Another advantage of this product is the three-year warranty, which is unusual for fishing electronic products.

Pros and cons of test UNICARP III

Value for money

Many useful and unique functions

Easy control

Line unwinding direction indicated

Tone and illumination colour transmitted from the indicator to the receiver

Multicolour diodes in indicators

9V testing battery included

Power consumption is higher with some functions (especially "Lighthouse" or roll illumination).

About the brand

Producer: ZICO, ČR (Czech Republic)

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source of independent review: www.mrk.cz (fishing web portal)