

## Set of Zico Unicarp II indicators

**Intended for:** carp fishing, general fishing

It is unnecessary to introduce the Czech company, Zico, in much detail because it has been in our market since 1995, so most anglers must be familiar with it. Since its beginnings, the company has focused on its own products although nowadays it does not produce everything in the Czech Republic. Among other things, ZICO CZ offers electronic indicators, which are the subject of this review. More specifically, it is the latest Unicarp II model.

Unicarp II is based on the previous successful Unicarp range. However, there is always something to improve, which is why the company has developed the second generation of these indicators and receivers.



In comparison with the previous series, the design of this indicator uses more curves, so it is no longer the symmetrical box with rounded corners. In terms of size, I rate these indicators as medium-sized in comparison with competing products – they are 10cm high, 5.8cm wide and 2.5cm thick. Some of the features that have remained the same as in the previous series are the illuminated arrow showing the direction of line movement and the circle detecting line movement. The row of buttons on the side are the same as well.



With regard to the relatively low price, both the indicator and the receiver are very well made and the individual parts align well. The rubberised surface, which is matt and shows no reflections, is also nice. The receiver fork is quite wide and it can hold larger diameter rods. Moreover, it has rubber lining so that rods do not slide in it. The indicator screw is aluminium with high-quality black finish.



The previous series already had many functions but Unicarp II has some new and even unique functions, which are described below. The basic possible indicator settings are volume, tone and sensitivity. There are six volume levels plus a seventh one, which is mute. Most indicators lack this function, which I personally like to use a lot when sitting right next to the rods in the evening or when I have the receiver with me and do not want the beeping to disturb others. Volume can be set by pressing the “V” button shortly and the set level can also be seen on an arrow consisting of diodes and located on the front part of the indicator. The higher the volume the more diodes are lit, so you can't go wrong with the settings. What I really appreciate is the fact that the indicator uses sound to indicate the direction of biting. What is called a “drop” is indicated by a tone somewhat higher than the one you have set.



The tone is set in the same way as volume, using the “T” button. There are seven different tones, ranging from a high one to my favourite “duck.” Another thing I really appreciate is the transmission of the same tone from the indicator to the receiver. That means that the tone set on any indicator is used by the receiver, so according to the sound I know which indicator indicates a bite.

Another feature that can be set is sensitivity. Again, all you need is press a button shortly – this time it is “S.” The set level is also indicated by diodes lit in the arrow. The highest sensitivity can indicate as little line movement as 1cm. If lower sensitivity is set, the indicator and receiver only start beeping after several centimetres of line has been unwound, but the indicator diodes are lit. That means that you are not disturbed, for example, in windy weather or when the baits are being bit by small fish, but when you are sitting by your rods, you can see that something is happening although neither the indicator nor the receiver is beeping.



The indicator has several illumination options, which can be combined. The individual settings can be switched by the “Zico” button, which is in the middle of the front part and is also used for turning the indicator on and off. In the upper left-hand part there is a very bright diode, which blinks during a bite. It is also used as a memory diode for 20 seconds. There is also an illuminated “roller” (circle), which can be used as a position light, i.e. it is lit permanently, if you turn on this function. During a bite and 20 seconds after it, this diode blinks like the main one. Another light indication is provided by the “V” panel, which shows whether the line is moving forward or downward. All the indicator diodes always have the same colour and there are four colours to choose from: blue, green, red and yellow.



The indicator has a total of four combinations of light effect settings:

1. Main diode only
2. Main diode + roller
3. Main diode + V panel
4. Main diode + roller + V panel

Apart from the standard functions provided by most other manufacturers, Unicarp II indicators have a few extra ones. The first one is Delay. It can be activated by pressing and holding the “V” button for three seconds and it is indicated by a short beep. With this function turned on, you can put the swinger on the line and adjust the line without disturbing anyone. The function can be turned off by pressing and holding the “V” button for three seconds again.

Another extra function is Incognito. It can be turned on by holding the “T” button for three seconds. With this function turned on, the indicator becomes invisible and inaudible. That means that all lighting and sound effects on the indicator are turned off, so it behaves as if it was off, and bites are only reported by the receiver. Personally, the only situation in which I could think of using this function is when I don’t want anyone around me to know about my bites, i.e. for instance at competitions.



An interesting and unique function is “Lighthouse.” It can be turned on by pressing the “W” button shortly. With this function turned on, a bright white diode on the back part is lit, which blinks and can help you to find your way back during bait distribution.

Another unique function is an anti-theft alarm. It can be turned on by holding the “W” button for three seconds. It is deactivated in the same way. If the rod is in the indicator, nothing happens, but if the rod is lifted, the alarm goes off. However, I would appreciate if the manufacturer modified this function because the alarm also goes off when you lift the rod after a bite and it is not very pleasant to struggle with the fish while the alarm keeps beeping quickly. Anyway, I think that this function will be increasingly necessary because I know many anglers whose rods have been stolen.

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.



### Receiver

In terms of receiver 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 rubberised 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: yellow, green, blue and red, like on the indicators, plus violet and white. The set comes matched but if you buy another indicator, matching is very simple and it is described clearly in the manual.

Because the tone is 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.



The set of indicators is available as 2+1 or 3+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.

I haven't mentioned the batteries yet, so let me do it now. Both the indicator and the receiver use a 9V battery, which can easily be bought in any shop or petrol station. I can't really evaluate battery life because I have only had the indicators since the spring and the batteries supplied with the set have not been discharged. Batteries are included so you can try the set immediately on purchase.





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 2,790 and a set of three indicators and one receiver is CZK 3,490. The indicator itself costs CZK 790. Unicarp II also provides many interesting, useful and unique functions. 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. Moreover, this function is new, so this detail can simply be disregarded, or the function can be turned off. Despite a large number of functions, both the indicator and the receiver are easy to use. I also really appreciate the transmission of the tone 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

- Value for money
- Many useful and unique functions
- Easy control via buttons
- Line unwinding direction indicated
- Tone transmitted from the indicator to the receiver

### About the brand

**Producer:** Zico, Czech Republic

**Supplier:** ZICO CZ s.r.o, Pražská 8, 500 04 Hradec Králové 4 - Kukleny, Czech Republic

source of independent review: [www.mrk.cz](http://www.mrk.cz) (fishing web portal)