



The color coded network ports make it easy to tell the LAN and WAN slots apart.



EDIMAX BR-6258n Wireless Broad- band Nano Router

LITTLE RED ROUTER – ALL THE BETTER TO TRAVEL WITH.

TEXT // ANDY SIM

AT A GLANCE

WIRELESS
802.11a/b/g/n

ANTENNAS
Internal

**OPERATING
FREQUENCIES**
2.4GHz

**ETHERNET
PORTS**
1x 10/100Mbps
LAN, 1x
10/100Mbps WAN

PRICE
\$59

Taiwan-based Edimax continues its push towards the profitable consumer zone after making its rounds in the enterprise networking space after two decades. Landing on our laps is the BR-6258n, a versatile networking device which doubles up as an AP client or a portable router to help you share your Internet pipe with multiple devices.

Although the “nano” description was a dead giveaway, we were nevertheless amazed at how small the 802.11n-compliant router is. Yes, it’s small enough to fit into the palm of your hand. Designed with portability in mind, Edimax’s latest travel router is wonderfully mobile, but dressed

rather uncharacteristically in bright red.

The BR-6258n espouses few interface slots mainly with the 10/100 LAN port dressed in yellow and WAN port in blue. Don’t expect to find Gigabit connectivity beneath its little red hood though. Instead of a conventional DC adapter, the BR-6258n is powered by USB, undoubtedly a handy solution which makes the device less reliant on power sockets during your travels. Alternatively, a 3-pin power cable with a USB outlet is provided if a PC or notebook isn’t available.

The router sports a clean web UI with active tabs showing up in red. While it doesn’t offer

the full-fledged capabilities of a desktop router, the BR-6258n does carry adequate features such as port triggering, static routing, advanced WiFi settings, QoS, DDNS, UPnP and WPS. Upon further checks, we discovered the router supports channel bonding too. You can enable the 40MHz option under the advanced wireless configuration page.

To transform the BR-6258n into its AP Bridge or Universal Repeater mode, simply select the appropriate option from the wireless setting’s drop list. You can also backup the router’s configurations into a convenient “config.bin” file if required. We also must note that the device takes about a minute to refresh itself after saving any system modification. For users with older wireless adapters, we observed that the BR-6258n supports mixed BGN mode as well.

As an AP, the router excelled at close proximities (2 meters) with measured 802.11n downlink and uplink throughputs of 56Mbps and 64Mbps respectively. Transfer rates were passable, requiring 2 minutes and 43 seconds to complete a 1GB transfer. However, long range communication evidently isn’t the gadget’s strong suit with throughputs dipping to 7Mbps and 4Mbps at the 25-meter spot.

In summary, Edimax has created a compact and affordable networking solution with the BR-6258n that’s excellent value for money. If you prefer a travel 3G router instead, Edimax also offers the 3G-6218n which supports most 3G and 3.5G USB dongles.

Verdict:

9.0

**GOLD
HWM
SINGAPORE**

**PHYSIQUE: 8.5
FEATURES: 9.0
USER-FRIENDLINESS: 9.0
PERFORMANCE: 8.5
VALUE: 9.0**

SPECIFICATIONS STANDARDS 802.11n, 802.11b, 802.11g // **WAN PROTOCOL** PPPoE, Static IP, PPTP, Dynamic IPL2TP // **SENSITIVITY GAIN** -68dBm (802.11n 40MHz), -71dBm (802.11n 20MHz) // **FIRMWARE** v1.03 // **MEMORY** 4MB NOR Flash, 16MB SDRAM // **DIMENSIONS** 51x42x17mm // **WEBSITE** www.edimax.com