Introduction

• An overview of common ham antennas for portable, base and mobile use, geared towards the new ham.
• Answers the (BIG) question of, “Now that I’ve got my license and I bought this Super Whiz-Bang radio, how do I get this thing on the air?”
Introduction

• Remember that frequency is inversely proportional to wavelength. Many antennas are measured in terms of the fraction of a wavelength at the frequency of operation.
• Engineering methodology and higher math will not be covered in this presentation (whew!).
Antennas for Portable (HT) use

• Single or dual band (2m/440MHz)
• stock vs. aftermarket
• Connectors used include BNC, SMA and reverse SMA (Chinese radios)
• Extending coverage by using a mobile or base antenna
Antennas for mobile and base VHF/UHF

- \( \frac{1}{4} \) wave ground-plane

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency (MHz)</th>
<th>A (Inches)</th>
<th>B (Inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>19-5/16&quot;</td>
<td>18-11/16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>12-5/8&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>445</td>
<td>6-3/8&quot;</td>
<td>5-3/4&quot;</td>
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</table>
Hustler 5/8-wave full-size 2-m

Comet dual-bander

Larsen dual-bander
J Pole vertical antenna

A = 705/f (Mhz) = Length in feet.
B = 234/f (Mhz) = "
C = 23/f (Mhz) = "
D = 22/f (Mhz) = "

(feet x 12 = Length in inches)

Diagram ©g4wpw

50 Ohm Coax feeder

E = About 18 inches to secure to mast
• Bob K9TMU’s Slim Jim
• Variation on J-pole
• dual band
• easily built from a piece of 450 ohm ladder line
Commercial collinear base antennas

- multiple $\frac{5}{8}$ wave elements means more gain, lower takeoff angle
- watch out for overstated gain figures

Diamond X-50a

Ringo Ranger II
Antennas for HF base use

Simple wire antennas

- resonant dipole, either as flat-top or inverted V
½ wavelength horizontal dipole
- Best angle between the elements is 90 - 120 degrees
- It does not have to stand completely vertical
½ wave folded dipole
Dipole and Inverted Vee Antenna Calculator

Sufficiently accurate for wire antennas up to 30 MHz.

Enter primary operating frequency in MHz: 3.80
Inverted Vee, approximate angle from horizontal: 45 Degree - 5% shorter

Click to Calculate Length or Clear Values

Dipole’s length
Each leg

Total Vee length
Each Vee leg
Min vert. height
Min horiz. spread

Assuming level ground, the minimum height of vee will be (length of leg * sin(angle from horizontal)) plus the height of endpoints of vee above ground. The horizontal spread of vee will be the distance from endpoint to endpoint, plus the lie off points.

NOTES: Remember that location, height, obstructions, wire type, wire coating, etc. will effect the calculated lengths. Always cut your wire a little longer and then trim for your installation.

The basic formula for determining the wire length of a center fed, 1/2 wave dipole or inverted Vee antenna (30 MHz or less) is 468/freq(mhz).

The inverted vee antenna will be shorter by 2 - 5% depending on the angle from horizontal.

Dipoles and inverted vee antennas have a feed point of about 75 ohms in free space, and can be fed with 50 to 12 ohm coax with or without a 1:1 balun.

http://qsl.net/wb4bxw/antenna_cal_diople.html
Loop Antennas

Full-wave horizontal loop: good for short-range communications, NVIS or “cloudwarmer” antenna
Vertical Square loop

- Feedpoint determines polarization
- Maximum radiation perpendicular to the plane of the loop
20m delta-loop

7 m wire

Glass-fiber pole

7 m wire

7 m wire

Balun

ATU

Coax to transceiver
Vertical and Inverted L Antennas

• \(\frac{1}{4}\) wave Vertical monopole, which requires a ground plane (elevated) or a system of ground radials (ground-mounted).
• Many verticals are a 5/8 wave element, which has higher gain, lower radiation angle. Requires GP or radials. Note the loading coil at the base of the antenna.
• Many commercial multiband verticals, which use a combination of traps, linear loading and/or capacity hats, use \( \frac{1}{2} \) wave elements which does not require radials.
½ wave antennas can be fed from the end (voltage feed)
• The Inverted L is popular on 160 and 80 meters where vertical height is often lacking. Many are \( \frac{1}{4} \) wavelength, but some longer, which allows easy multiband operation.
Multiband Antennas

- Fan (or parallel) dipole

Tension rope is not tied to pulley rope in picture. It is tied near location of pulley rope down on supports within easy reach. It is tied last after final SWR adjustment and the antenna is in its final position.

Suggested total lengths:
- 80 meters - 120 feet
- 40 meters - 65 to 66 feet
- 20 meters - 34 feet
- 10 meters - 17 feet

These lengths are not exact. Some tuning may be required. Use the standard formula $468 / \text{freq mhz}$ for total feet for each band (freq) of interest. Adjust each length longer or shorter as needed.
Off-Center Fed (OCF) Dipole

- Based on the Windom antenna
The G5RV

BASIC G5RV CONSTRUCTION
80 - 10
102 feet

Open wire 34 feet
Ladder line 30.6 feet
TV twinlead 28 feet

See construction notes in article

Any length coax to tuner

TO TUNER
Dipole Doublet – L.B. Cebik W4RNL (sk)

• Fed with ladderline and an antenna tuner, this will work all HF bands from its ½ wave frequency on up.
• Not concerned with radiation pattern.
The Broadside Doublet – L.B. Cebik W4RNL (sk)
Extended Double Zepp

1.25-Wavelengths at Highest Operating Frequency

Height above Ground

Feedpoint

The Broadside Doublet

Broadside Doublet Lengths and Amateur Band Coverage

Length (feet) Bands covered

- 44' 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40 meters
- 66' 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, 60 meters
- 88' 20, 30, 40, 60, 80 meters

Fig. 3
Stealth Antennas

K2AMV dual-bander

K8YC Spiderbeam

There's an antenna here somewhere!
Directional Antennas

- Yagi-Uda antennas feature a driven element with a passive reflector and director(s)
- Monoband Yagis have the best performance
- Multi-band Yagis utilize traps and additional elements

K4KAY Yagi antennas
Many Yagis are triband (20/15/10m) such as W4BFB’s Cushcraft A3 and A4 antennas.

Add-on kits extend the number of frequency bands covered by the array.

Gain is related to the number of elements and the length of the boom.
K4MQG 80 and 40 m beams at 135 and 120 feet. How’d he get all the way up there?
W3GQ SteppIR Yagi – motorized elements
AE8J Hexbeam
Moxon Rectangle
- Like a Yagi, but more compact
W3GQ (now K4FAN’s) Lightning Bolt Quad 20-6m, 2m Quad at the top
Better performance at lower heights, but fragile
Log-periodic Antenna

- Wide frequency coverage
- Less gain than yagi
N8WRL 80m Four-Square Antenna
HF Mobile Antennas

• These antennas are shortened versions of vertical antennas
• Use loading coils and capacity hats to match and increase efficiency
• Screwdriver antennas use a motor to adjust the tap on the coil
• Hamsticks are helically wound, single-band antennas
References

- [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) QST, The ARRL Antenna Handbook
- [www.cebik.com](http://www.cebik.com) W4RLN (sk) Antenna guru
- [http://www.hamradiosecrets.com](http://www.hamradiosecrets.com) lotsa antenna stuff
- [http://www.diamondantenna.net](http://www.diamondantenna.net) mobile/base antennas
- [www.cdxa.org](http://www.cdxa.org) Thanks for the fine pictures many of you sent me!
- [www.k0bg.com](http://www.k0bg.com) “The Man” for all things mobile radio!
- [http://qsl.net/wb4bxw/antenna_cal_diople.html](http://qsl.net/wb4bxw/antenna_cal_diople.html)