

Effective Simple Antenna for HF

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This antenna is mechanically and electrically simple; and it works quite well. Performance is not quite as good as a dipole, but generally much better than a “short” antenna such as a Buddipole.

The antenna is a “Quarter Wave” length of insulated wire, connected directly to the radio (if the radio has an “antenna tuner”, or directly to an external “antenna tuner”; then on to the radio via coax.

The wire is “good” for using on only one Band. Antennas are generally more efficient if they are an odd multiple of a quarter wavelength.

The overall length of my antenna (for 80 meters, low end) is 65 feet. Use the formula: $\text{Length (feet)} = 234/\text{Frequency (Mhz)}$ to determine the length for other Bands. The length includes the length of any radiating “support” pieces (see following paragraph).

The near end my antenna is mechanically attached (about 6 feet from the end) to either the top Luggage Rack of my car (via a 3 foot length of cord, or the top of a shortened CB antenna steel rod on my pickup truck. A “wire coupler” is used between the CB antenna and the wire.

The far end of the wire is connected to monofilament fishing line; then to any appropriate support (tree limb, bush, non-conducting pole). Use high visibility Warning Flagging at appropriate places along the antenna and supports. The antenna performs quite well at low (5-10 feet) heights.

The Fishing Line and wire for each Band are stored on “Christmas Tree Light cord winders.

Experiment and make it Better! See the following photos.



