

Black Widow Vertical Antenna Operation

If you're reading this article, I guess you're really going to use this great antenna. I have used this antenna in portable locations all over the place! I used it with a pole on the beach and without a pole on the Appalachian Trail in the mountains.

The BW Antenna works without a tuner on 20m, 30m and 40m across the entire band. On 40m you'll have to tune the top coil for the middle of the band to have a swr of 2:1 or less across the entire 40m band. On 20m and 30m the swr is low across the entire band.

After you have the antenna built, you now want to use it! The BW consists of a coil, radiator wire and two sets of three radial wires. It can also be used with a 20' collapsible fishing pole. Don't buy a 16' pole as that's just too short for it to properly work.

Let's setup the antenna on the ground.

1. First insert your 20" x 3/4" PVC rod into the ground. Then slip your 3" pipe insulator material over the pvc pipe.
2. Next grab the top two pieces of the fishing pole and pull them out then twist to secure.
3. Now unscrew the pole bottom cap and slip it over the pvc rod.
4. If you have a guy system, slip it over the pole until it's snug. Near the top of the bottom pole section. Now stretch out the bungee cords and secure to the ground with rain gutter spikes.
5. Now slip the coil over the pole and secure at around 48" - 50". I usually just tie a small bungee cord around the pole here.
6. Now take the fishing swivel on the top of the radiator wire and attach it to the top pole section. Then pull out and twist all the pole sections.
7. Then insert the bottom of the radiator wire into the top coil snap connector.
8. Now attach and spread out the six 16' radial wires.
9. Attach a 25' piece of RG-8X to the coil. The 25' of coax is important. If you use a longer piece, it will change the tuning somewhat.

10. Now connect the 10"-3/4" jumper from the top connector coil bar to the bottom bar - jump out both coils. You're now setup for 20m operation.
11. For 30m operation just move the radiator wire to the bottom snap connector on the coil. Remove the coil jumper wire.
12. To operate on 40m just make sure you have the radiator wire in the top snap connector and no coils jumpered out.

This all looks like it would take hours to do, but I can setup my BW in under five minutes!

The BW Antenna can be used on asphalt, but you'll have to mount the pole in a bucket or some other support.

Most of all - have FUN with your Black Widow Antenna!

72,

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