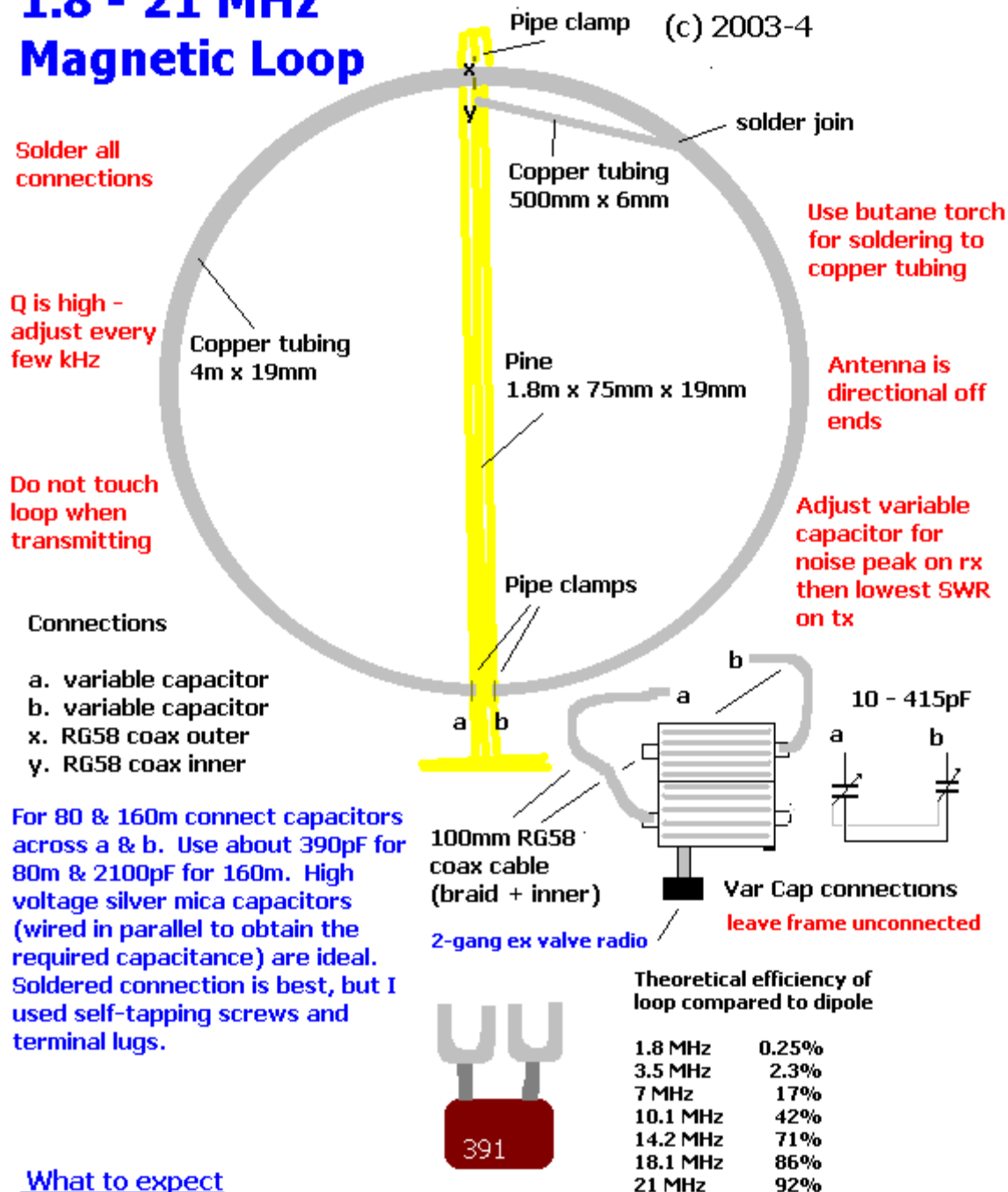


1.8 - 21 MHz Magnetic Loop

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What to expect

Magnetic loops are a compromise antenna and performance will be down on a full-size wire antenna, particularly on the lower HF bands. If built properly, expect the following results at QRP power levels: (i) 80 metres - contacts up to a few hundred kilometres, (ii) 40 & 30 metres - single hup contacts up to about 1000 km, (iii) 20 metres - contacts up to about 3000 kilometres with the occasional DX. The variable capacitor won't spark if transmit power is kept down (10w is fine).

80m: comparison with full-sized wire antenna

During the 80 metre 55B 2004 VK/Trans Tasman contest the indoor loop was compared to an inverted-L approx 30 metres long installed in an RF-quiet suburban park. The results are as follows.

	Inverted-L (outdoors)	Magnetic Loop (indoors)
Operating time	1hr 50 min	2hr 20 min
No contacts	57	36