

2 Meter Hentenna by WA0ITP

Follow the trials and tribulations of Terry as he attempts a
2 meter version of the Hentenna.

(The following has been edited from emails from Terry in the order of his
progress)

"I thought I'd drop a note about my experiences with the Hentenna.
I just built a 2 Meter version of it out of 1/2" copper pipe. It was 39" x
13", a nice workable size for a gain antenna. I have a friend whose
trying to receive two repeaters 180 degrees apart,, each about 15 miles
away, and I put it together to try at his qth.

Try as I might, I couldn't get the swr below 2:1, as read with an MFJ
antenna analyzer. The impedance in the 2 Meter band never got below
100 ohms.

Subtracting and adding (More experimentation)

I fed it with a 104" piece of rg-58, adjusted the matching point up
and down 8" to about 14" from the bottom. Reading that the impedance
becomes lower with a narrower "aspect ratio", I subtracted and added a
couple of inches to both the length and width, one at a time (copper pipe
is easy to work with isn't it?). I also added another piece of coax in the
line just in case. No improvement, I could only make it worse. The best
match was 2:1, So I've left it there.

I think I should have been able to achieve a better match.

Do you think the copper pipe diameter may be at fault?

I'm gonna hoist it into position tommorw and see if it's any better at 20'
off the ground.

Success!!!!!!.....at last! Learn from my mistakes! Don't measure Swr on a picknic table!

Still using 1/2" copper pipe. I decreased the overall width slightly, saw a
favorable result, reduced it a little more and achieved 1.4 swr at 147
Mhz, so I quit there.

I wound up with 39.25" long, 12.25" wide, and the #12 bare wire (on a board) feed point is at 8.75", no balun. Dean Straw (Simple & Fun Antennas) modeled it to help out and found nearly identical dimensions using the 1/2" copper pipe in the model.

I'm happy with 1.4:1, the feed point resistance is 68 ohms and it's pretty broad: 1.4:1 from 146.3 to 148.2, and the 2:1 bandwidth is 144.6 - 150.6!

Don't try to measure SWR on a picnic table!

What would Hams do without duct tape?

A little time passes and we continue.....

I just returned from the final qth. We installed it temporarily until we can purchase better quality coax.

The antenna wound up being 15' at the base, on a pvc pipe temporarily duct taped to a 10' 4x4 doing double duty as dipole anchors. The swr at 147Mhz dropped to 1.2 to 1 at that height. and the bandwidth is astounding!

I'll make some more measurments when we get it permantly installed.and send you some more info, and probably write a club newsletter article detailing the thing.

Dean Straw, N6BV sent some ideas for copper pipe construction in an email, however I had already experimentally found dimensions that were nearly identical and had built the thing out of pipe. This has been a lot of fun, I agree Ham radio needs some easy to build, easy to install, cheap, and good performing 2 Meter antennas. This seems to be one of them.

I'll keep ya posted."

Terry, WAØITP

NOW LET'S BUILD ONE

Building the Hentenna I used 1/2 inch copper water pipe as the loop element. Each elbow adds about 3/4 inch to the overall lengths so plan accordingly.

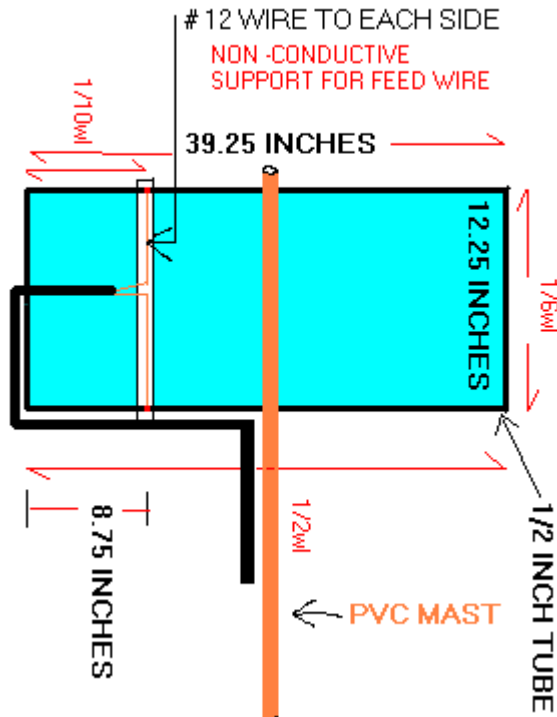
I cut the long sides to 37 3/4 inches, and the short sides to 10 3/4 inches. Assemble the loop using 4 elbows and solder. I just laid it out on the garage floor to keep it flat.

Use SAFETY GOGGLES or glasses since a concrete floor may "pop off" small pieces of concrete when heated by the torch. I used acid flux

and non lead solder from the hardware store but rosin flux should be used for longevity.

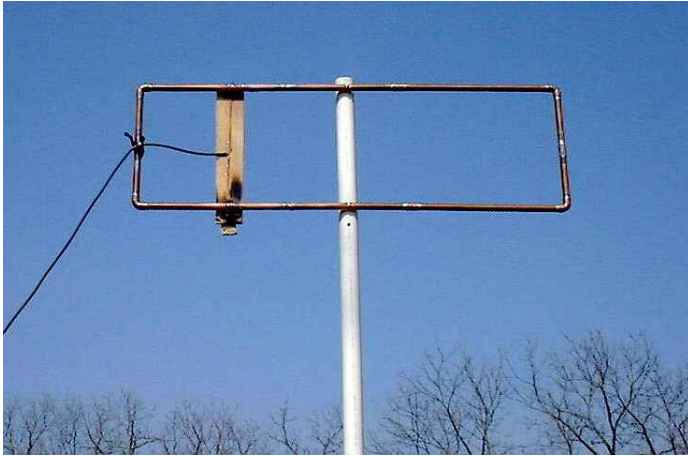
The feed points were made by glueing a piece of #12 wire from a piece of Romex house wiring to a piece of 1/4 inch plywood. It was moved up and down the loop until a match was found at 147 MHz., then soldered. Plastic clamps (wire ties) were used to hold the wire to the loop while checking swr. Use them in final installation to tie coax to the loop and the support pipe.

It is performing well at the final qth and WA0MWW is pleased to be able to use two or 3 repeaters that were unuseable on a 5/8 wave vertical. See pictures below!



Drawing not to scale!





Isn't it a beautiful piece of art!

Photography by WA0ITP

Go direct to his page for more details on the Hentenna.

Learn more about building, testing and putting it on the air! [Click here](#)

I hope this helps you build this great little antenna. WA0ITP.....TERRY

Editors note:

From the first email to the working model of this project, Terry only took a couple of days to get the 2 Meter version up and running. After a little fine tuning....now a great project! If you use wood as the support for the feed wires, seal it well with weather proof sealer or use plexiglass or some other suitable non-conductor. Seal all coax end connections from the weather..

Many thanks go out to Terry for sharing his project with all of us!

Great work Terry!

Keep EXPERIMENTING and have FUN!.....N4UJW