

What's NEW

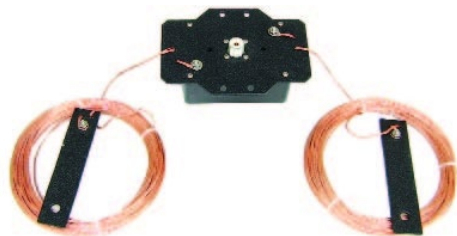
Tell them you saw it in Monitoring Times

Larry Van Horn, New Products Editor

New MFJ Off-Center Fed HF Wire Antennas

MFJ recently released two more antennas in their series of off-center fed dipole (OCFD) antennas. The MFJ-2016 covers the low end of 160 meters and the 75 meter SSB DX window. This antenna is 240 feet long and is rated at 1500 Watts CW/SSB. The MFJ-2013 is a one-half wave dipole ERP on 60 meters plus up to 9-dBi of gain on 30 meters. This antenna is 86 feet long and handles up to 300 Watts PEP SSB.

The Power-Lite™ for 160 and 75 Meters



and the Ultra-Lite™ for 60 and 30 Meters, engineered by K1BQT, breaks traditional OCFD design barriers to deliver wider bandwidth, lower SWR, solid gain, and full-frequency agility without a tuner.

These are high-efficiency antennas with full-sized radiators and Matchmaker™ feed blocks that have been tested with over 98 percent efficiency. The NEC-modeled elements deliver the same feed-point impedance on every band thanks to a new transformer design. Element feed points are compensated for typical mounting height, so you always get lowest possible SWR on all bands.

OCFDs need good baluns to block feed-line radiation. The new OCFDs have built-in bifilar-wound Guanella current-chokes that have over 30 dB of common-mode rejection on all bands. These new baluns kill pattern irregularities, radio frequency interference (RFI), and noise.

The MFJ-2016 delivers a 6-dBi ground-reinforced dipole pattern on the fundamental and a 9-dBi full-wave cloverleaf on the second harmonic. You get up to 11.5 dBi peak gain on higher bands.

These antennas are built to last with UV-resistant marine-ABS feed blocks, stainless hardware, and Teflon® SO-238 connectors to ensure maximum protection from the environment. They can be installed as a flat-top or inverted-V setup, and the feed block for each antenna has attachment points for tower or tree support. MFJ suggested an installation height of 35-70 feet.

The MFJ-2016 sells for \$130 and the MFJ-2013 for \$80 plus shipping from MFJ (www.mfjenterprises.com) and selected MT advertisers.

MFJ-9211 QRP Balun

If you are a QRP enthusiast and need an inexpensive balanced antenna balun, MFJ has a new product that should certainly interest you. The MFJ-9211 QRP Balun is a 4:1 current balun and the price is definitely right: \$20 plus shipping.

It has five way binding posts for balanced line connections and BNC output to your rig. The balun comes in a tiny cabinet two inches by three inches by one inch. It is available from the MFJ website at www.mfjenterprises.com.



70 cm ATV Transmitter from PC Electronics

The PC Electronics TX70-5s is a four channel ATV transmitter on the 70 cm and is designed primarily for emergency communications applications. This unit can also be used in home stations.



The Videolynx TX70-5s accepts line level audio and video from video cameras and camcorders. Power requirement for this unit is 11 to 14 VDC at 1.5 A and has a power output of more than four watts PEP on 426.250, 427.250, 434.000 or 439.250 MHz (channel one is not used to transmit, but all channels correspond to the PC Electronics companion TVC-4S down converter).

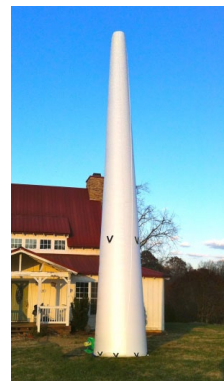
PC Electronics also has 50-100 mW versions of the unit above in the same enclosure for the 902-928 MHz and 1240-1300 MHz amateur bands. These transmitters can drive the Downeast Microwave 3340PA and 2330PATV amplifiers respectively.

A built-in TR relay switches the antenna jack between the transmitter output and a jack for the receiver. The TX70-5s sells for \$499, the TX33-1 (33 cm band at 50-100 mW) or the TX23-1 (23 cm at 50-100 mW) sells for \$449. For more information on these products or to order, visit www.hamtv.com.

Inflatable Antenna Tower from LTA

Need a portable mast to put an antenna up in a hurry? LTA Projects may have

a solution with their new portable towers. These portable inflatable towers are everything you need to quickly put up your antennas/repeaters, video, or sensor payloads after emergencies or at large public gatherings. They're portable enough to mount on any vehicle so you can enhance your radio or mobile phone range on any remote operation. The COMET version will even put a high quality video camera 37 feet in the air.



These new inflatable towers easily handle 35+ mph winds; are easy to setup and are safe to operate; are constructed with super rugged materials, self inflating, auto-pressure control, and can ground mount or on any vehicle.

Made in Cookeville, Tennessee, these new towers use a powerful continuous 110V 9.5A blower that inflates the tower in less than 40 seconds with a setup time of about seven minutes.

These towers come in three standard and five optional colors. You can even have your amateur call sign printed on the tower for an extra \$60. LTA new 33 foot HAM tower weighs just 52.5 lbs complete with blower, stakes, and ropes. The HAM33 will lift 10 lbs of antenna, with additional payload options along the sides. For more information and pricing call LTA Projects at 877-897-5158 or visit their website at <http://ltaprojects.com/ham.html>.

HamCall Announces HamCall on DVD, HamCall Archives

The venerable HamCall amateur radio call sign database has been published on CD-ROM since 1990. HamCall has now outgrown the 700 Megabyte CDs can hold so newer versions will be published on DVD, which can hold up to 4.7 GB (4,800 Megabytes.).

The HamCall database includes 2,175,000 current call signs and now with the extra DVD space includes 590,000 archival call signs from 1960 and 1983, all integrated into one call sign lookup program. You will now be able to search by name, city, county, state, country, and more. HamCall is supported by over 53 logging programs and ham-related programs. It is the world's largest call sign database and the only one to include downloadable updates.

HamCall is available for \$50 including

six months of updates and six months of HamCall.net gold member website access, or \$80 for 12 months of updates and HamCall.net access. You can get more information by contacting Buckmaster Publishing at 800-282-5628 or on their website at <http://hamcall.net>.

P25 Phase II TDMA Decoding Available?

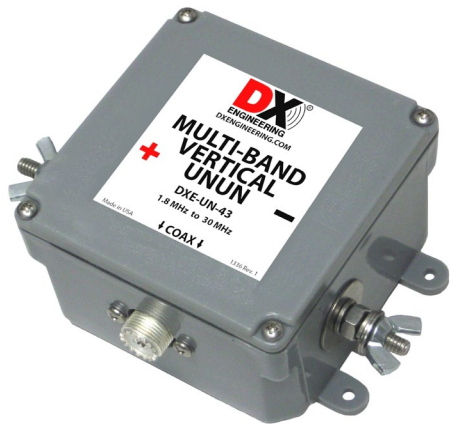
The word on the scanner street is that GRE has released some beta firmware that allows P25 Phase II TDMA decoding for the GRE PSR-800 scanner only. It also includes (and is used with) version EZ Scan DG 1.07 computer software. According to GRE this P25 Phase II upgrade will not work with the PSR-500/600 or Radio Shack Pro-196/197 scanner as they lack the required hardware to decode the Phase II data stream.

So one can now say (even being just a beta) that the PSR-800 is now the only scanner sold today that has the option for P25 Phase II reception. See Communications column on page 7 for an update on GRE-Japan.

Thanks to David Zantow N9EWO for the heads up.

DX Engineering Maxi-Core® High-Power Multi-Band UNUN

The DXE-UN-43 DX Engineering Multi-Band Vertical UNUN is a matching device specifically designed for use with any non-resonant 43 foot tall vertical multi-band antennas, such as DXE's MBVE-1 and MBVE-5. This UNUN assures the best efficiency from your vertical multi-band antenna and transmission line/tuner installation.



DX Engineering's UN-43 minimizes the additional transmission lines losses caused by SWR and lets your antenna to perform to its full potential. By allowing your wide-range tuner to easily match the antenna's complex impedance, low frequency performance is improved over other devices currently available.

Features include full band tunable coverage on 160-10 meters when used with customer supplied wide-band tuner, SWR under 1.5:1, and 2 KW CW/ 5 KW SSB power handling capability. Components are enclosed in a high impact

weather sealed NEMA-spec case. Rugged hardware is used throughout, including a silver-Teflon SO-239 input, stainless steel washers and wing nuts at the feed point connection.

The UNUN is priced at \$105. A complete kit with mounting hardware and tinned braid connections, the DXE-UN-43-R is priced at \$130. Customer supplied wide band tuner required. For more information or to order, visit www.dxengineering.com.

bhi, Ltd. Mini Switch for GAP DSP Speaker

One of the better speakers in the radio hobby marketplace is the GAP "Hear It" DSP Speaker. This speaker is an active filter; that is, it isn't just capacitors and resistors, it has electronic components like ICs and transistors. It is used to cut off high and low frequencies much more accurately than simple tone controls.

This compact speaker system utilizes powerful digital signal processing (DSP) to suppress annoying background hiss and static, revealing crisp, clean audio for shortwave reception, scanner monitoring, ham radio transceivers, CB installations, maritime mobile, noisy recordings, and other sources of crackly, hiss-ridden audio. Unlike competitive models which produce harsh, distorted audio with distracting DSP artifacts, the "Hear It" reveals up to 2-1/2 watts of clean, undistorted sound. Controls are provided for volume and DSP level.

Measuring a mere 4-1/3 wide by 2-1/2 high by 2-1/2 inches deep and weighing only seven ounces, The "Hear It" is designed to be used in compact mobile installations and includes a mounting bracket, eight inch input cord with 1/8" (3.5 mm.) mini plug, a fused DC power cord, and an instruction booklet. The unit's standard 2.1 mm. power jack will accept 12-28 VDC at approximately 500 mA, making it universally applicable to fixed, mobile, and even aeronautical configurations. The small internal speaker is ideally suited to voice frequencies; for more demanding sound requirements, an external speaker or headphones may be plugged into the 1/8" jack provided. This speaker sells for \$169 from Grove Enterprises.

A new mini switch from bhi Ltd now enables you to connect two radios to the GAP Hear It Speaker. The switch measures 2.1 by 1.75 by 0.75 inches and is supplied with 3.5 mm mono connectors, hook and loop pads for mounting and instruction for use. For more information and pricing, see the www.gapantenna.com, www.w4rt.com or www.bhi-ltd.com websites.

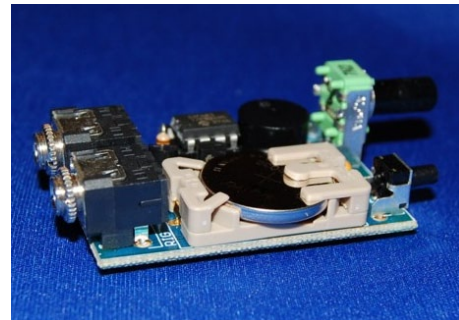
The NOAXS PicoKeyer-Plus Kit

After the success of the original PicoKeyer kit, the company wanted to offer a PicoKeyer with everything mounted on-board, and do it in a nice enclosure. Now you can order your

PicoKeyer-Plus kit with the enclosure already drilled and ready to install your completed kit. The end panels are drilled for the controls and connectors, counter-bored for the nuts on the RIG and KEY jacks, and a set of speaker "grille" holes are drilled in the top cover.

This kit has all of the features of the original PicoKeyer kit in the exact same size package. The only differences are the addition of a horizontally mounted speed pot and pushbutton switch on one end of the board. The header and solder pads for external power are still there, if you choose to build it without the on-board battery or need to build it into some other project. Parts are included for a Zener voltage regulator if you choose to go that route, though the on-board coin cell battery will last at least a couple of years of normal use.

The PicoKeyer Plus complete kit contains everything you need to build a stand-alone Morse code memory keyer and code practice oscillator with speed control. You can put it in a nice looking plastic box (not included, available as an option), build it into your next homebrew rig, or even retrofit it into your favorite commercial rig. At less than 1.3 inches by 2 inches, you can stuff this tiny board into some pretty tight spots. The latest PicoKeyer chip and all the parts you need are included, along with a high quality double-sided printed circuit board with plated-through holes and silk screened component outlines. The setup/memory button and speed control are mounted on one end of the board, and the RIG and KEY jacks are on the other.



The PicoKeyer is an advanced, super low power iambic keyer with a long list of standard features. The PicoKeyer-Plus kit includes the PicoKeyer chip, a high quality solder masked and silkscreened PCB, and all parts needed to build a complete keyer. All parts carry a 90 day warranty. Of course, complete documentation is included on a mini CD-ROM, and a PDF copy of the documentation is available in English and in French.

You can get information on this product on the www.hamgadgets.com website, via email at sales@hamgadgets.com, or you can call toll free within the U.S. at 1-888-777-1393, or from anywhere in the world at +1-402-527-1000.

Books and equipment for announcement or review should be sent to What's New, c/o Monitoring Times, 7540 Highway 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902. Press releases may be faxed to 828-837-2216 or emailed to Larry Van Horn, larryvanhorn@monitoringtimes.com.

When ordering or inquiring about the products mentioned in this column, be sure to tell them that you saw it in the pages of *Monitoring Times* magazine.