

It's

SIMPLY

MAGIC

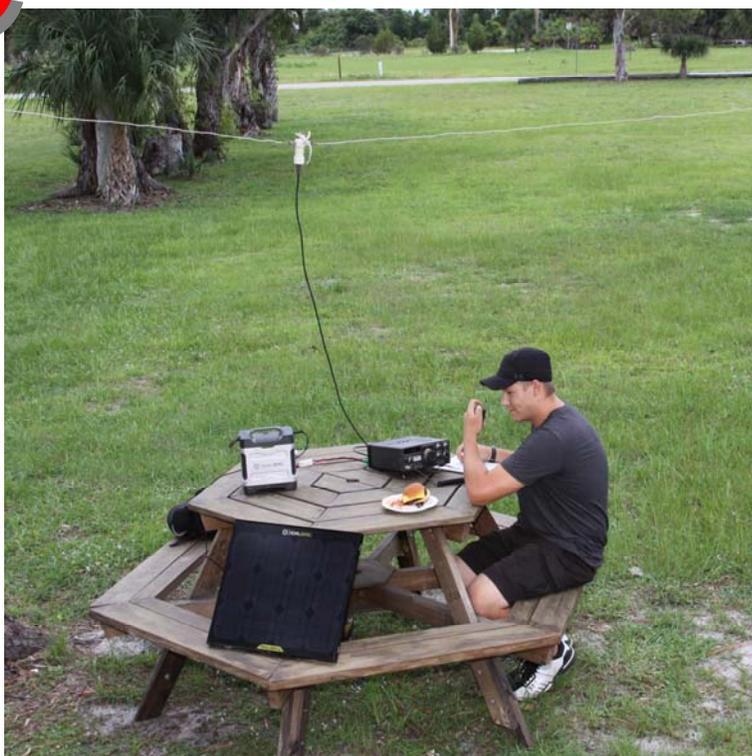
A battery

Some wire

+ A ham radio

The whole world

Talk to the world for free with the magic of shortwave radio. ***It's not complicated!*** With a little study you can get an entry level ham radio license in about a week. Just add some wire, electricity and a basic radio and one day you can be talking to Japan. The next day it might be France or Germany. Who knows where you may have your next conversation? Let the magic of Ham radio grow as you talk with people all over the world.



"It is shortwave radio that has the power to create and friendships and community. Reaching out across continents to people you may never meet but wish were neighbors with a simple wire...that's magic!"

The entry-level FCC Amateur Radio license allows even brand new "hams" to talk on part of the 10 meter short wave band. With the help of the sun (yes, the sun's spots help—we *told* you this was magic!), you can send and receive radio signals from around the world.



ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

Simple, easy and you don't need Morse code—just talk!



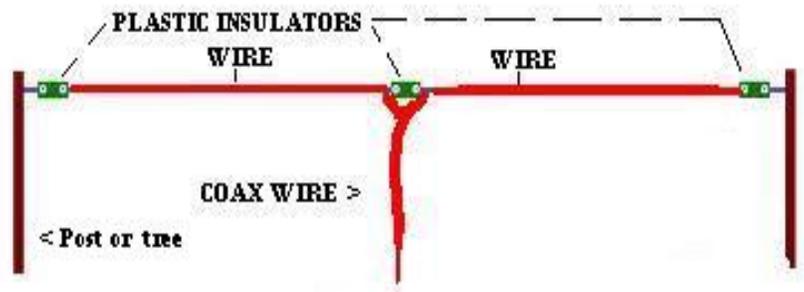
A Battery

You will need a good 12 volt source of electricity. Almost all ham radios are powered by 12 volts. A car battery could work but one of the “deep cycle” marine batteries or a gel-cell works even better. Or, you can purchase a special power supply meant for radios for about \$100. But most of us can find an inexpensive battery. If it still holds a charge, it’s good enough to get you started.

Some Wire

You will want two kinds of wire to make your antenna, but neither one is expensive.

You will want about 17 feet of plain copper wire— even regular lamp cord type wire will work for this top part. You split it into two equal pieces with a cheap plastic insulator (or even a block of wood) in the middle.



The other wire is coaxial cable. You can find it where you find radios. It’s not expensive. Try “RG-58” and most places will even have segments with all the connectors already done for you!



And a Radio

Here’s where the fun starts. As a new ham radio operator you begin with a Technician Class FCC license. That means you can talk on 28.3 to 28.5 MHz (in the 10 meter ham band). You can find good used radios that will do this at most any hamfest or on the Internet. You don’t need all the bells and whistles, just a simple, basic transceiver that will do 10 meters.

That’s it!

You get the whole World



Your voice can skip off the ionosphere high up at the boundaries of space, ricochet off oceans and travel at the speed of light. Your words can reach into the most remote corners of the world, darkest jungles or hottest deserts. You might talk to people on any continent. Butcher, baker, soldier, housewife, teacher, king — all kinds of interesting people are “hams” on the airwaves. You don’t need to know their zip code or a phone number. There’s no “minutes,” fees or service contracts.... It’s the magic of radio.

Step 1: Getting your entry level radio license

You need to get an FCC license to use an Amateur Radio. But it’s not hard to earn your beginning level ham radio license. Most folks can pass the FCC’s test and become licensed in a week with some study. You can find a lot of help for this at www.arrl.org/studying-for-a-technician-license .

You’ll also learn just how best to put your radio, wire and battery together. There’s also ham radio clubs all over the country that can help you. You can find them at www.arrl.org/findaclub .

Look at the back of this folder—there’s probably one very near you!



Step 2: Getting your “stuff”

You can find a radio, wire, batteries and everything you need, plus meet other hams at local hamfests. See www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar to find one near you.

What's next?

Looking for more help once you get your license? Your local ARRL affiliated clubs should be more than willing to help you get going quickly. You can also get good information for beginners at

www.arrl.org/newham .



ARRL *The national association for*
AMATEUR RADIO

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators. The League represents Amateur Radio interests to regulatory bodies, provides technical advice and assistance to Amateur Radio enthusiasts and supports a number of educational programs throughout the country. ARRL is a non-profit organization. The ARRL has been helping new people get licensed and have fun with the magic of Amateur Radio for 100 years.

Who can I talk to locally?

We know the best way to learn about the magic is to talk with a magician, and the best way to learn the magic of Amateur Radio is to talk with a radio amateur. The people who put out this folder are willing to talk with you, help you get started and even let you "try it out" by getting on the air using their radios and see for yourself what the magic and fun is all about. Here's their contact information.

Ham Radio—

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