About this Article

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Log Periodic-Yagi Arrays

Several possibilities exist for constructing high-gain arrays that use the log periodic dipole array concept. One technique is to add parasitic elements to the LPDA to increase both the gain and the front-to-back ratio for a specific frequency within the passband of the LPDA. The LPDA-Yagi combination is simple in concept. It utilizes an LPDA group of driven elements, along with parasitic elements at normal Yagi spacings from the active elements of the LPDA.

The LPDA-Yagi combinations are endless. An example of a single-band high-gain design is a 2- or 3-element LPDA for 21.0 to 21.45 MHz with the addition of two or three parasitic directors and one parasitic reflector. The name Log-Yag (log-cell Yagi) array has been coined for these hybrid antennas. The LPDA portion of the array is of the usual design to cover the desired bandwidth, and standard Yagi design procedures are used for the parasitic elements. Information in this section is based on a Dec 1976, *QST* article by P. D. Rhodes, K4EWG, and J. R. Painter, W4BBP, "The Log-Yag Array."

THE LOG-YAG ARRAY

The Log-Yag array, with its added parasitic elements, provides higher gain and greater directivity than would be realized with the LPDA alone. Yagi arrays require a long boom and wide element spacing for wide bandwidth and high gain, because the Q of the Yagi system increases as the number of elements is increased or as the spacing between adjacent elements is decreased. An increase in the Q of the Yagi array means that the total operating bandwidth of the array is decreased, and the gain and front-to-back ratio specified in the design are obtainable only over small portions of the band. [Older Yagi designs did indeed exhibit the limitations mentioned here. But modern, computer-aided design has resulted in wideband Yagis, provided that sufficient elements are used on the boom to allow stagger tuning for wide-band coverage. See Chapter 11.—*Ed.*]

The Log-Yag system overcomes this difficulty by using a multiple driven element cell designed in accordance with the principles of the log periodic dipole array. Since this log cell exhibits both gain and directivity by itself, it is a more effective wide-band radiator than a simple dipole driven element. The front-to-back ratio and gain of the log cell can then be improved with the addition of a parasitic reflector and director.

It is not necessary for the parasitic element spacings to be large with respect to wavelength, since the log cell is the determining factor in the array bandwidth. As well, the element spacings within the log cell may be small with respect to a wavelength without appreciable deterioration of the cell gain. For example, decreasing the relative spacing constant (σ) from 0.1 to 0.05 will decrease the array gain by less than 1 dB.

A Practical Example

The photographs and figures show a Log-Yag array for the 14-MHz amateur band. The array design takes the form of a 4-element log cell, a parasitic reflector spaced at 0.085 λ_{max}, and a parasitic director spaced at 0.15 λ_{max} (where λ_{max} is the longest free-space wavelength within the array passband). Array gain is almost unaffected with reflector spacings from 0.08 λ to 0.25 λ, and the increase in boom length is not justified. The function of the reflector is to improve the front-to-back ratio of the log cell, while the director sharpens the forward lobe and decreases the half-power beamwidth. As the spacing between the parasitic elements and the log cell decreases, the parasitic elements must increase in length.

The log cell is designed to meet upper and lower band limits with σ = 0.05. The design parameter τ is dependent on the structure bandwidth, B_s. When the log periodic design parameters have been found, the element length and spacings can be determined.

Array layout and construction details can be seen in Figs 31 through 34. Characteristics of the array are given in **Table 8**.

The method of feeding the antenna is identical to that of feeding the log periodic dipole array without the parasitic elements. As shown in **Fig 31**, a balanced feeder is required for each log-cell element, and all adjacent elements are fed with a 180° phase shift by alternating connections. Since the Log-Yag array will be covering a relatively small bandwidth, the radiation resistance of the narrow-band log cell will vary from 80 to 90 Ω (tubing

Table 8
Log-Yag Array Characteristics

1) Frequency range	14 to 14.35 MHz
2) Operating bandwidth	B = 1.025
3) Design parameter	τ = 0.946657
4) Apex half angle	α = 14.921°; cot α = 3.753
5) Half-power beamwidth	42° (14 to 14.35 MHz)
6) Bandwidth of structure	Bs = 1.17875
7) Free-space wavelength	λ_{max} = 70.28 feet
8) Log cell boom length	L = 10.0 feet
9) Longest log element	ℓ1 = 35.14 feet (a tabulation of element lengths and spacings is given in Table 9)
10) Forward gain (free space)	8.2 dBi
11) Front-to-back ratio	32 dB (theoretical)
12) Front-to-side ratio	45 dB (theoretical)
13) Input impedance	Z_0 = 37 Ω
14) SWR	1.3 to 1 (14 to 14.35 MHz)
15) Total weight	96 pounds
16) Wind-load area	8.5 sq feet
17) Reflector length	36.4 feet at 6.0 foot spacing
18) Director length	32.2 feet at 10.5 foot spacing
19) Total boom length	26.5 feet

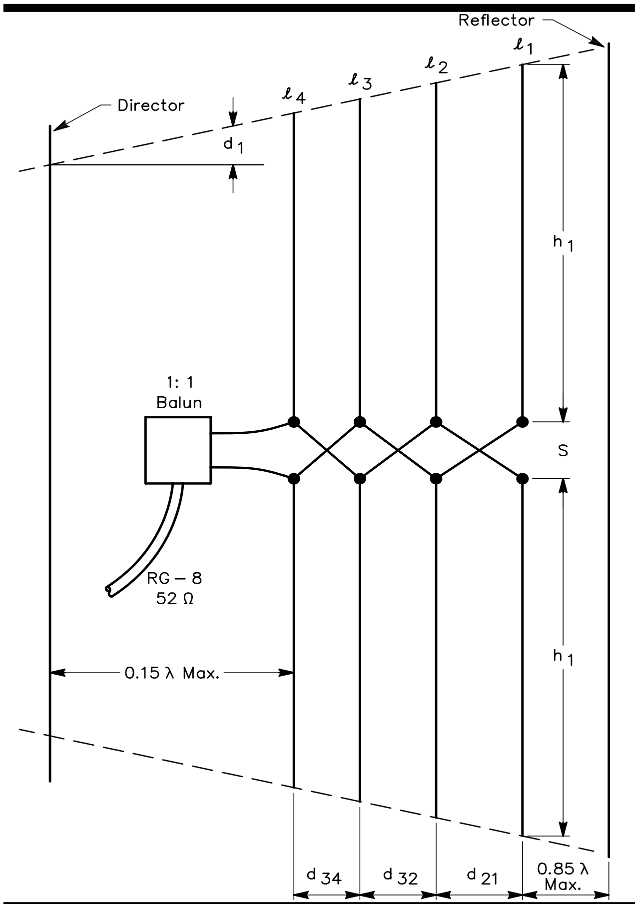

Fig 31—Layout of the Log-Yag array.

Table 9
Log-Yag Array Dimensions

Element	*Length Feet*	*Spacing Feet*
Reflector	36.40	6.00 (Ref. to ℓ1)
ℓ1	35.14	3.51 (d_{12})
ℓ2	33.27	3.32 (d_{23})
ℓ3	31.49	3.14 (d_{34})
ℓ4	29.81	10.57 (ℓ4 to dir.)
Director	32.20	

elements) depending on the operating bandwidth. The addition of parasitic elements lowers the log-cell radiation resistance. Hence, it is recommended that a 1:1 balun be connected at the log-cell input terminals and 50-Ω coaxial cable be used for the feed line.

The measured radiation resistance of the 14-MHz Log-Yag is 37 Ω over the frequency range from 14.0 to 14.35 MHz. It is assumed that tubing elements will be used. However, if a wire array is used, then the radiation resistance R_0 and antenna-feeder input impedance Z_0 must be calculated so that the proper balun and coax may be used. The procedure is outlined in detail in an earlier part of this chapter. However, programs such as *LPCAD28* are also suitable to automate the calculations.

Table 9 has array dimensions. **Tables 10** and **11** contain lists of the materials necessary to build the Log-Yag array.

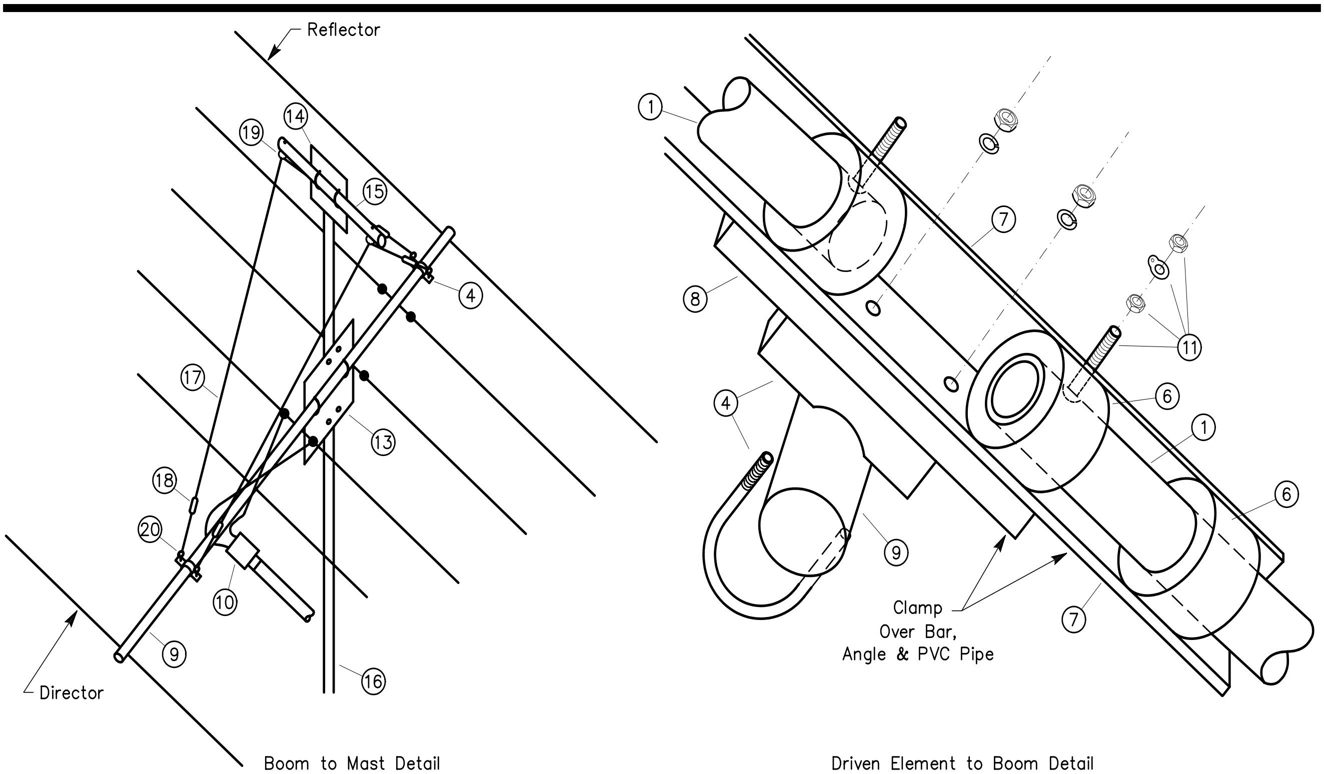

Fig 32—Assembly details. The numbered components refer to Table 11.

Table 10

Element Material Requirements: Log-Yag Array

	1-in. Tubing		*7/8-in. Tubing*		*3/4-in. Tubing*		*1 1/4-in. Angle*	*1 1/4-in. Bar*
	Len. Feet	*Qty*	*Len. Feet*	*Qty*	*Len. Feet*	*Qty*	*Len. Feet*	*Len. Feet*
Reflector	12	1	6	2	8	2	None	None
$\ell 1$	6	2	6	2	8	2	3	1
$\ell 2$	6	2	6	2	8	2	3	1
$\ell 3$	6	2	6	2	6	2	3	1
$\ell 4$	6	2	6	2	6	2	3	1
Director	12	1	6	2	6	2	None	None

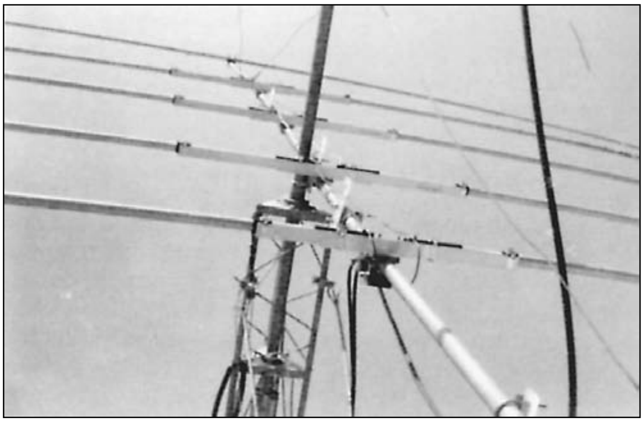

Fig 33—The attachment of the elements to the boom.

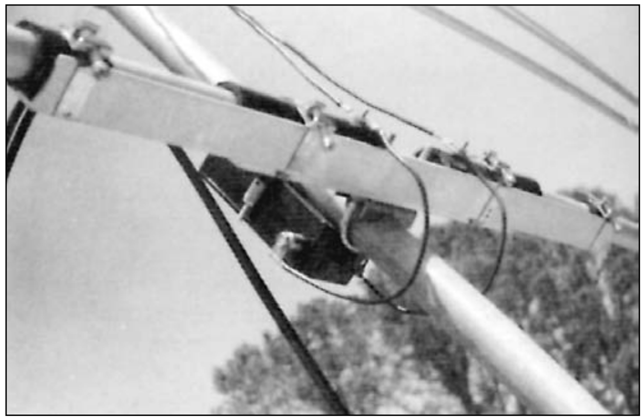

Fig 34—Looking from the front to the back of the Log-Yag array. A truss provides lateral and vertical support.

Table 11

Materials List, Log-Yag Array

1) Aluminum tubing—0.047 in. wall thickness
   1 in.—12 ft lenths, 24 lin. ft
   1 in.—12 ft or 6 ft lengths, 48 lin. ft
   7/8 in.—12 ft or 6 ft lengths, 72 lin. ft
   3/4 in.—8 ft lengths, 48 lin. ft
   3/4 in.—6 ft lengths, 36 lin. ft
2) Stainless steel hose clamps—2 in. max, 8 ea
3) Stainless steel hose clamps—1 1/4 in. max, 24 ea
4) TV-type U bolts—1 1/2 in., 6 ea
5) U bolts, galv. type: 5/16 in. × 1 1/2 in., 6 ea
5A) U bolts, galv. type: 1/4 in. × 1 in., 2 ea
6) 1 in. ID water-service polyethylene pipe 160 lb/in.^{2} test, approx. 1 3/8 in. OD, 7 lin. ft
7) 1 1/4 in. × 1 1/4 in. × 1/8 in. aluminum angle—6 ft lengths, 12 lin. ft
8) 1 in. × 1/4 in. × 1/4 in. aluminum angle—6 ft lengths, 6 lin. ft
9) 1 1/4 in. top rail of chain-link fence, 26.5 lin. ft
10) 1:1 toroid balun, 1 ea
11) No. 6-32 × 1 in. stainless steel screws, 8 ea
    No. 6-32 stainless steel nuts, 16 ea
    No. 6 solder lugs, 8 ea
12) #12 copper feed wire, 22 lin. ft
13) 12 in. × 6 in. × 1/4 in. aluminum plate, 1 ea
14) 6 in. × 4 in. × 1/4 in. aluminum plate, 1 ea
15) 3/4 in. galv. pipe, 3 lin. ft
16) 1 in. galv. pipe—mast, 5 lin. ft
17) Galv. guy wire, 50 lin. ft
18) 1/4 in. × 2 in. turnbuckles, 4 ea
19) 1/4 in. × 1 1/2 in. eye bolts, 2 ea
20) TV guy clamps and eyebolts, 2 ea