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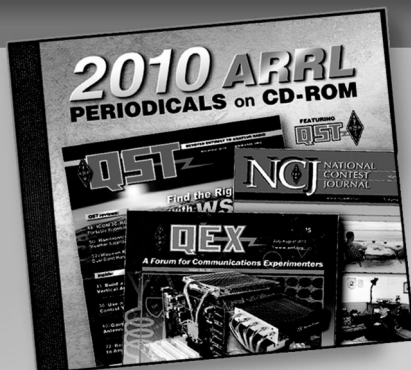
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Author: Richard W. Stroud, W9SR

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By Dick Stroud, W9SR

Six Meters from Your Easy Chair

Take one abandoned lawn chair, add some ham ingenuity, and voilà: an effective 6 meter squalo.

If you have a discarded aluminum folding lawn chair, chances are you have the essential elements of an effective 6 meter antenna. After one of our lawn chairs was scrapped because of deteriorating fabric, the aluminum legs were given a rebirth as the elements for a 6 meter squalo. See Figures 1 and 2.

The thin wall tubing measures 0.975 inch OD and the critical 90 degree bends have been neatly done by the chair manufacturer. You will only need to cut the tubing to the dimensions shown. A 12 inch length of 1 inch ID tubing telescopes over the elements to join the two sections. A 3 inch length of Teflon is inserted inside the tubes at the opposite side to stabilize the assembly. One inch Teflon rod (available from Small Parts, Inc.¹) can be turned down as necessary by any machine shop. The entire assembly is bolted together with stainless-steel hardware.

The two capacitance discs are of 0.050

inch aluminum sheet and are cut to a diameter of $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. A center hole is cut in each disc to just clear the tubing OD. Small L brackets hold the fixed disc to the tubing using the same screw that attaches the Teflon spacer. The other disc, which is adjustable, also uses two brack-

ets but one leg of each bracket is extended parallel to the element and clamped in place with a stainless steel hose clamp. The capacitor plates should be parallel and will be about $\frac{15}{16}$ inch apart if the dimensions are followed.

The gamma assembly is made from a



Figure 1—Before: The humble lawn chair, soon to be transformed.

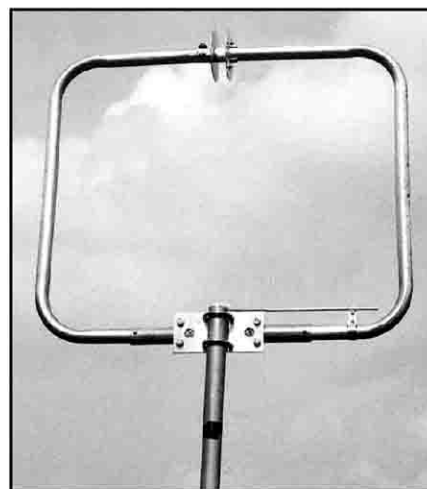


Figure 2—After: The 6 meter squalo, ready for action.

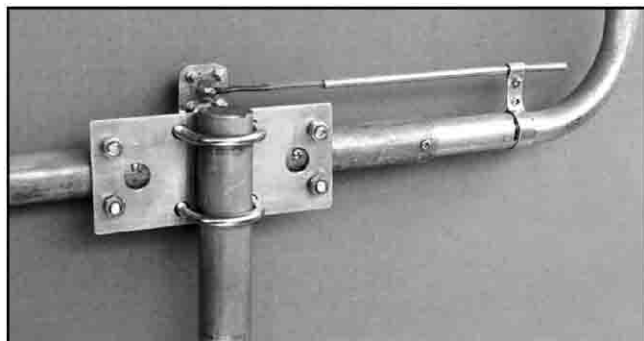


Figure 3—Gamma tuning assembly and mounting system. Two $\frac{1}{2}$ inch holes are drilled through the aluminum mounting plate to clear the screw heads when the antenna is in the vertical plane.

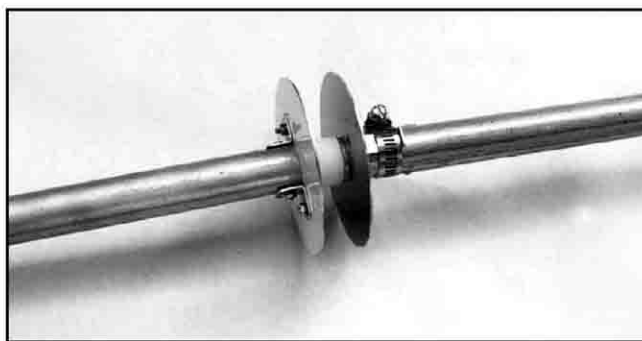


Figure 4—Detail of the tuning disk construction. The fixed disk is held in place with a screw through the assembly, and the movable disk is clamped using a stainless hose clamp. A Teflon spacer provides support and high voltage insulation.

¹Small Parts, Inc., 13980 NW 58th Ct, PO Box 4650, Miami Lakes, FL 33014-0650, tel 800-220-4242 (orders), 305-557-7955 (customer service), smlparts@smallparts.com, www.smallparts.com/.

