

**T**HIS DUTCH FLEAMARKET differs from those visited in the UK and Germany. To safeguard its traditional character (this was the 20th time at this venue) new radios cannot be exhibited or sold here. The emphasis is on used equipment, including second-hand amateur gear, test equipment and computers as well as vintage broadcast receivers. New instruments, components, tools, books and, surprisingly, antennas are permitted. There also was a large selection of software and CDs.

**WYSIWYG**

WHAT YOU SEE IS what you get, and the Dutch do not mince words about it. One trader displayed a sign:

NO REFUND OR EXCHANGE WITHOUT WRITTEN GUARANTEE: WE DO NOT GIVE WRITTEN GUARANTEES

Another trader, pen in cheek, threatened to be a spoilsport. On a vintage Marconi-built ex-Admiralty receiver he had placed a sign:

TOUCHING 50 CENTS -

KNOB TWISTING ONE GUILDER

Also interesting from a UK point of view is the restricted possession of transmitting equipment. In the Netherlands, traders must be licenced to hold such gear and buyers must show their licence and have their purchase recorded. CEPT licences are accepted.

**THANKS FOR THE MEMORY**

DURING WW2, THE NAZI occupiers forced Dutch radio stations to broadcast only news

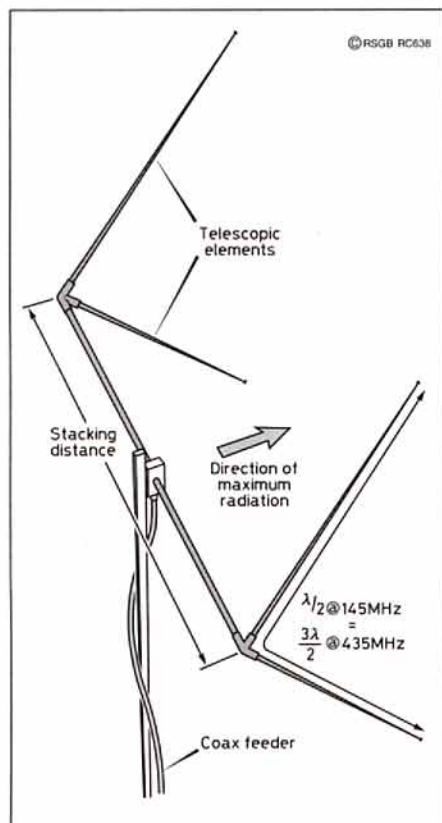


Fig 1: DL4KCJ's antenna uses vee-shaped dipoles resonant on both 145 and 435MHz and giving extra gain and F/B ratio on UHF. Versions with two or four elements in phase are available.



REPORTED BY  
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The aim of the biggest Dutch radio fleamarket, at 's Hertogenbosch in March of each year, is the fostering of home construction and experimentation. G4LQI went there to look for items not seen at recent UK rallies.

with a German slant. For the 'real' news, we listened to the BBC in English and to its Dutch service, *Radio Oranje*. When the Germans started jamming these broadcasts, MF loop antennas would null out the QRM but later, when interference started coming from several directions at once, the loops were useless.

The BBC also broadcast in the 25, 31, 41 and 49m shortwave bands, of which at least one generally remained Q5 because of skip differences between the sending and jamming stations. However, few home radios covered the HF bands and, eventually, all (registered) radios were confiscated anyway. Building shortwave receivers became the patriotic thing to do and how to do it was learned from *The Boy's Radio Book* by Leonard de Vries. Surprisingly, it remained freely available.

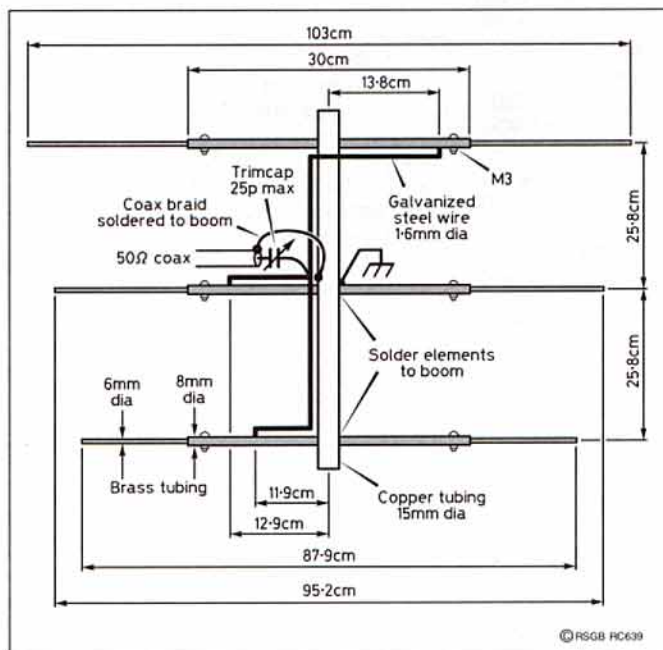


Fig 2: PA3EPS offers 145 and 435MHz versions of a '3-element HB9CV'.

As this book has led directly to my hobby, and my career, I had wanted a copy ever since I retired. I looked for and found one at this fleamarket, but it had just been bought by someone else! Well, there is always next year . . .

**TECHNICAL ITEMS**

I SAW TWO ANTENNAS which were new to me. A vertically polarized dual-band antenna with broad-side gain from several in-phase vee - shaped telescopic elements is offered by DL4KCJ. [1] The two-element version, Fig 1, is said to have a gain of 3dBd on 145 and 6.5dBd on 435MHz; for the four-element version 5.3dBd and 7.6dBd respectively are claimed. The elements resonate on a half-wavelength on VHF and one-and-a-half wavelengths on UHF. The high gain on UHF may be explained by looking at the shape as a rough approximation of Landstorfer's bell-shaped one and a half wavelength 'optimized' dipole [2].

PA3EPS [3] offered what he calls a 3-element HB9CV, in 145 or 435MHz versions. He stated that this antenna was devised for direction finding [4] and later used [5] in a crossed-beam design for horizontal, vertical and circular polarization [6] from which Fig 2 was derived. PA3EPS submitted his prototype at the 1994 antenna test day in Meppel [7] where it was found to have a forward gain of 6.2dBd and a F/B ratio of 12dB. That gain figure is good but I believe the F/B capable of improvement.

**NOTES**

- [1] DL4KCJ, SMB Elektronik, Mainzerstrasse 186, D-53179 Bonn-Mehlem, tel 0049 228 858686, fax 0049 228 858570.
- [2] IEE Conference Publication No 169, pp 132-141, summarized by G3VA in *Technical Topics, RadCom* 12/82.
- [3] EPS Antennas, Hengelosestraat 91, NL-7572BN Oldenzaal, tel and fax 0031-5410 20829.

[4] N van Eikema Hommes, NL-5005, 'Improved HB9CV antenna for 2m', *Electron* (NL) 1/76.

[5] G J Sliker, PE0CJS, 'The extended crossed HB9CV antenna, CQ-PA' (NL).

[6] *Radio Communication Handbook*, 6th edition RSGB, p 13.25ff.

[7] The Meppel antenna range and test method was described in *Eurotek* 9/92 and is based on techniques recommended by Dr Wayne Overbeck, N6NB, in the *ARRL Antenna Compendium*. ♦