

# A Better Feedthrough For Cables

— the \$2 solution

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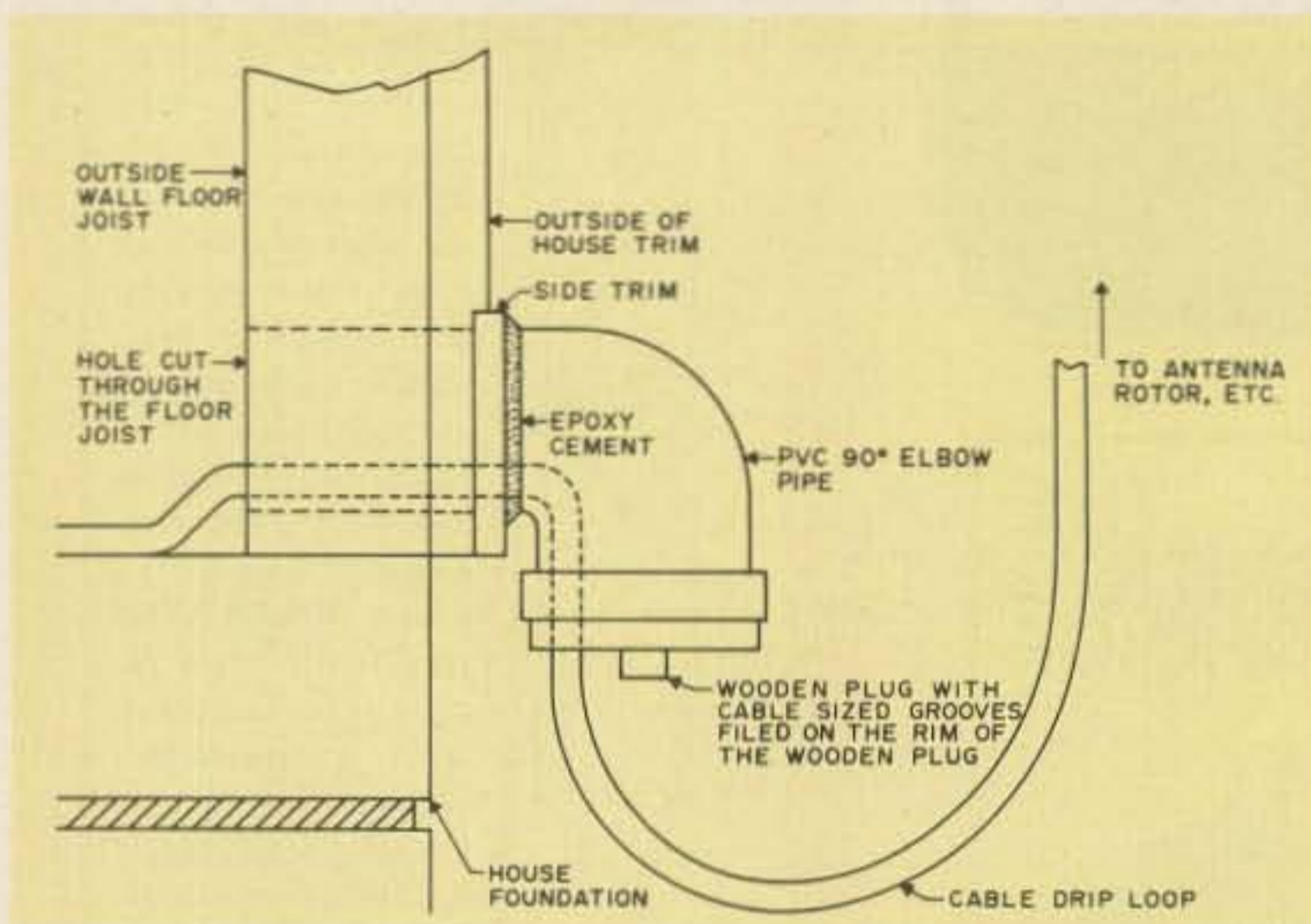


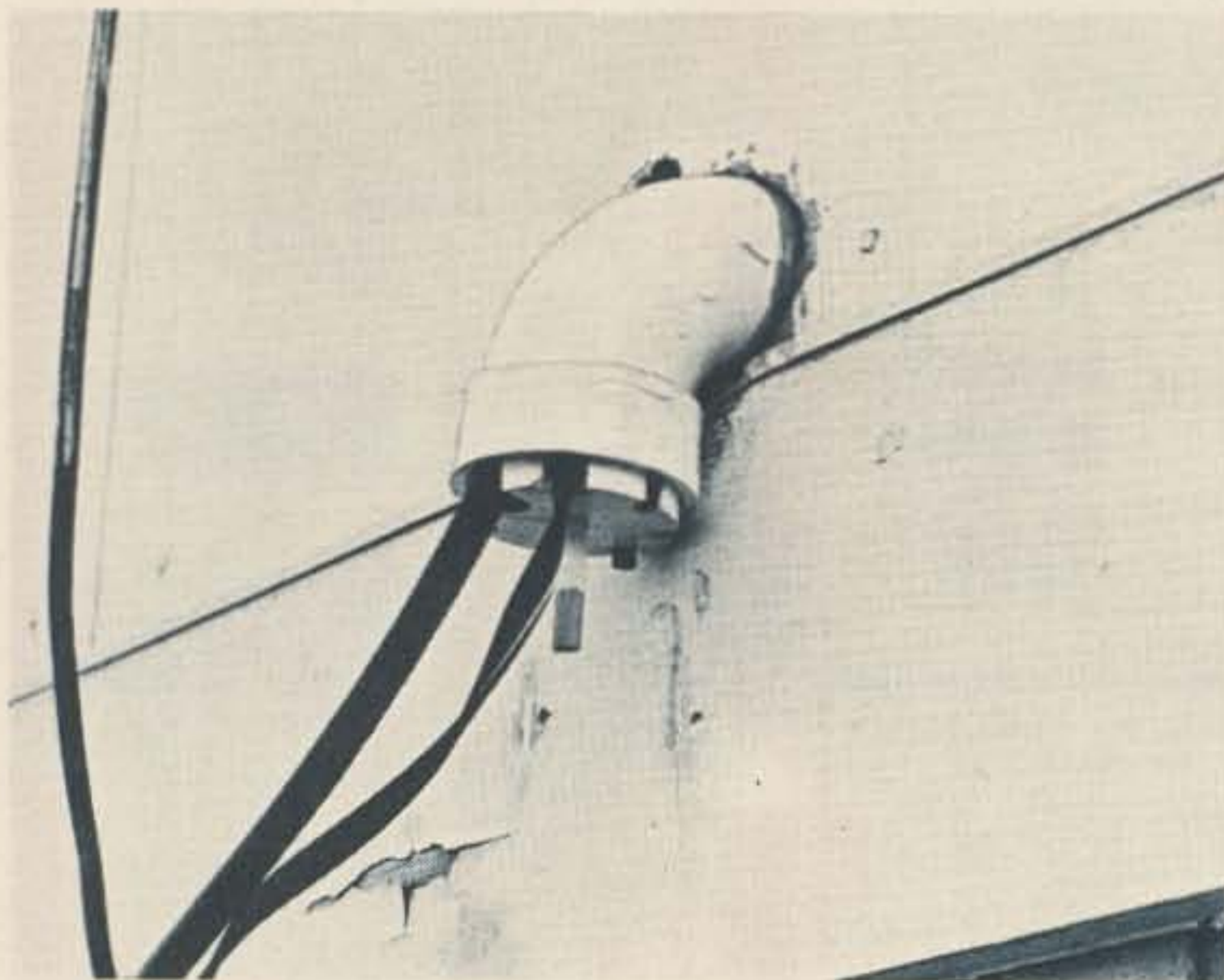
Fig. 1. Flexible method of passing antenna cables into a house.

It was now October, and almost everything had found its niche in our new house. It was now time to set up the ham gear. But how to run the antenna cables into the laundry room, or I mean ham shack, without a lot of work looked as if it would take some time to figure out. Although there have been several methods published for running antenna cables into a shack, none seemed to be flexible enough for my needs. That is, being a careful planner, nothing stays static in my ham shack for very long. So I needed a very flexible way of running an-

tenna cables into the ham shack.

While wandering around a local department store, I found myself in the plumbing supplies department. While looking at some plastic PVC pipe, I suddenly realized that the 1¼-inch diameter 90° elbow I was looking at was the solution to my problem. Using the elbow, I could route several cables into the house and still add a cable or two more, PL-259 connector and all.

Fig. 1 and the accompanying photographs detail how the 90° elbow is mounted on the house. If the



Outside view of the 90° elbow installed with an antenna cable already routed through.



Inside-of-house view of the 90° elbow and the cables routed through it into the house.

house has a basement or lower level (like a bi- or tri-level), the hole for the elbow can be cut, with an appropriate size holesaw, so that the hole is cut through the center of the outside wall floor joist and between any interior floor joists which may be attached to the outside floor joist. The elbow is then coated with quick-setting epoxy around the tapered end and is inserted into the hole on the outside of the house with the elbow

opening pointed down. Once the epoxy has cured, the elbow can be lightly sanded and then painted to match the color of the outside of your house.

To keep insects out, either a wooden plug with cutouts for the cables around the plug's edge or a piece of lightly oiled steel wool can be pushed up into the mouth of the elbow. Either way, use something to plug the mouth of the elbow, or you and your spouse will be con-

tinuously surprised by the number of creepy crawlies and flying thingies that will find their way into your house (and ham shack) through the unplugged opening of the elbow.

This method of routing antenna cables into the house has worked out quite well for me over the past several months, especially whenever I wanted to route another coax cable into the house. Also, if we should move, the PVC pipe elbow can just be capped

with a PVC pipe plug or I could take out the elbow and put a wooden plug into the hole, filling in any cracks with plastic wood. Then sand and paint the repair spot, which should then look like there was never a piece of pipe mounted there. Additionally, this is a simple 2-hour project (depending on how your house was built) that is inexpensive (about \$2.00 for the PVC 90° elbow and epoxy) and not all that hard to do. ■



EDITORIAL BY WAYNE GREEN

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making it possible for me to see what I want to see when I want to see it, and to hell with the network schedulers. They run the Jean Shepherd shows at the darnedest hours, so I tape 'em. Jean, who is K2ORS, and an old, old friend, has a wonderful sense of humor. He keeps threatening to write a series for 73, but each time he goes off on some other foolish tangent... like his current TV series, "Shepherd's Pie," shown on PBS. You've probably seen "Jean Shepherd's America" many times, or his "Phantom of the Open Hearth" film on PBS. Through the VTR, Shep's 2 am programs are available while I eat dinner. Sorry about that, Cronkite.

#### WHAT'S WITH THE COVER?

There isn't any one simple answer to this. Part of it is that I got fed up trying to think of different covers after seventeen years of frustration and deadlines. Sure, we plan ahead: "Hey, Wayne, the magazine goes to the printer this afternoon. What do you want on the cover?"

Another part has been the success of the *Kilobaud* covers, where we've put the table of contents on the cover. The one thing that makes 73 really different from all of the other ham magazines is the quantity and variety of articles published. I counted up the number of feature articles published in 73 vs. *QST* last year and found 429 in 73 as opposed to 164 in *QST*, and I had to count a lot of public service type articles in *QST* to even get

that number. I wanted to get across the idea to newcomers that 73 is more like an ongoing encyclopedia of amateur radio than just a magazine. A year after publication, about 90% or more of the magazine is still as good as new, while *QST*, with its acres of operating news, is as dead as yesterday's newspaper.

I'm open for ideas. Frankly, I don't think much of the *QST* approach to covers, nor do I like the *HR* covers. *QST*, which is put together by a committee, looks like it is put together by a committee. *HR* manages to look exactly the same no matter how little they change. *CQ*, for those of you who have seen it, looks amazingly like *Poptronics*, *Radio Electronics*, *Elementary Electronics*, *Popular Science*, *Popular Mechanics*, and the rest of the popular tribe. Blah.

So, until someone comes up with something better in the way of an idea for the cover, we'll make do with a dash of color on top and the index to the articles. I have nothing against color covers; I'm just tired of trying to think them up.

#### WANT TO WRITE A BOOK?

There is little in amateur radio that can compare with having your name on a book. That beats making the Honor Roll, five band DXCC, and all those things. When you have your own book published, it puts you in a special class, for very few amateurs are so much of an authority on a subject that they can write a book.

But let's say that you are an authority and you have a book in you dying to come out and

wow the world. Where should you turn for a publisher? There are dozens of publishers of technical books, and it is bewildering to the new writer. Actually, your choices are quite limited. Sure, there are lots of publishers, and there are lots of poor authors, too. If you have a little better understanding of the role of a publisher, you will be better able to make a choice.

A publisher has two functions for the writer. Firstly, he provides the money it takes to get a book set in type, made ready for printing, and then printed and bound. The money required for this is beyond the average author. To give you an idea of the magnitude of money involved, just the printing and paper bill for one issue of 73 comes to well over \$65,000, never mind the cost of setting the type, proofreading, pasting up the pages, getting the diagrams drafted, the photographs made and produced in halftones, etc. The whole process runs considerably over \$100,000 per month.

Getting the book printed is something almost any publisher can handle. The second function is the important one... distribution. This is where you separate the publishers. In this field, magazines have a tremendous advantage over other publishers since they have extensive distribution for the magazines all set up and running. They also have it a lot easier when it comes to running ads for a book, a whole lot easier. Magazine advertising is not trivial...ask any manufacturer. With ads running from \$1500 a page to over \$3000 in the electronics magazines, advertising can be a deadly expense for book publishers, yet where else can they go to sell their books? Few books make it very far without advertising.

With over a dozen books currently in publication and many more in the works, 73 has a very good distribution system, and

the advertising. Thus, if you have a book which might interest amateurs or computer hobbyists, you can do a lot worse than contact the 73 book department. 73 can get your book into print and be sure it is in most of the radio stores and technical book stores, plus offer a substantial mail-order sale through Radio Bookshop.

Get in touch and start those nice royalty checks coming.

#### FEBRUARY WINNER

J. M. Mendelson W6AQM walked away with February's \$100 prize for the best article. If reader support for antenna articles like "Can A Miniature Antenna Work?" is any indication, this, our June antenna issue, should be a winner. Remember, your ballot is the reader service card at the back of the magazine—use it!

#### CLUB NEWSLETTERS NEEDED

Every now and then a manufacturer comes up with an idea which will benefit ham clubs and is interested in getting a list of clubs which have newsletters as a way to let clubs in on the special deal. When I hear of something which would really benefit ham clubs, I'd like to have a mailing list of all of the clubs with newsletters in order to pass along this information so these clubs can benefit. Send a copy of your club bulletin to Wayne Green, 73 Magazine, Peterborough NH 03458.

#### DALLAS IN JUNE

It's been far too long since there has been a first-rate hamfest in Dallas. You can bet that I'm looking forward to getting back to Dallas for the hamfest on June 17-18th.

The hamfest will also be heavy with microcomputer activities and exhibits, so it should be a lot of fun. The whole works will be at the

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