

# The Double Inverted Vee

*If one is good, two is better*

**A** beam costs about \$200 and a quad over \$100. Then there is the problem of what to hold it in the air with. A tower is the most popular device, ranging in price from perhaps \$50 for a used tower up to

depending on how it is constructed. The antenna will give a much lower angle of radiation and thus a better signal to DX areas not normally workable with simple antennas such as a dipole.

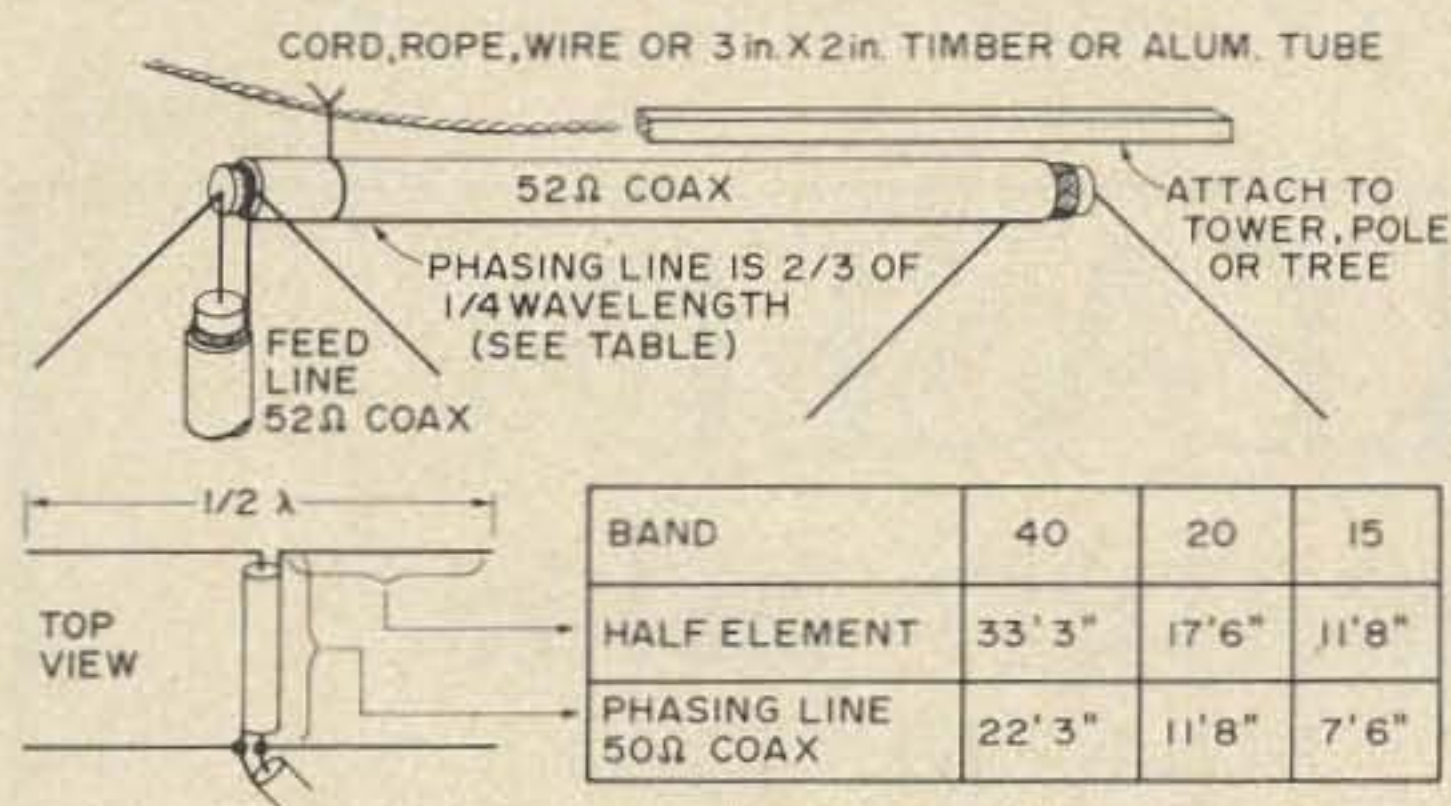


Fig. 1.

many hundreds of dollars, depending on the type desired. The more expensive types might be crank-up, non-guyed (with tilt over action). Of course a heavy duty rotator such as a Ham M costs around \$130 plus cable, freight, etc., and the cost never seems to end.

This antenna, which may also be built for other bands if desired, is known as a *double inverted vee*, gives good directivity and power gain in the direction chosen, but also allows signals to be heard and worked from the sides and back. Construction is relatively simple and cost can be held to a minimum

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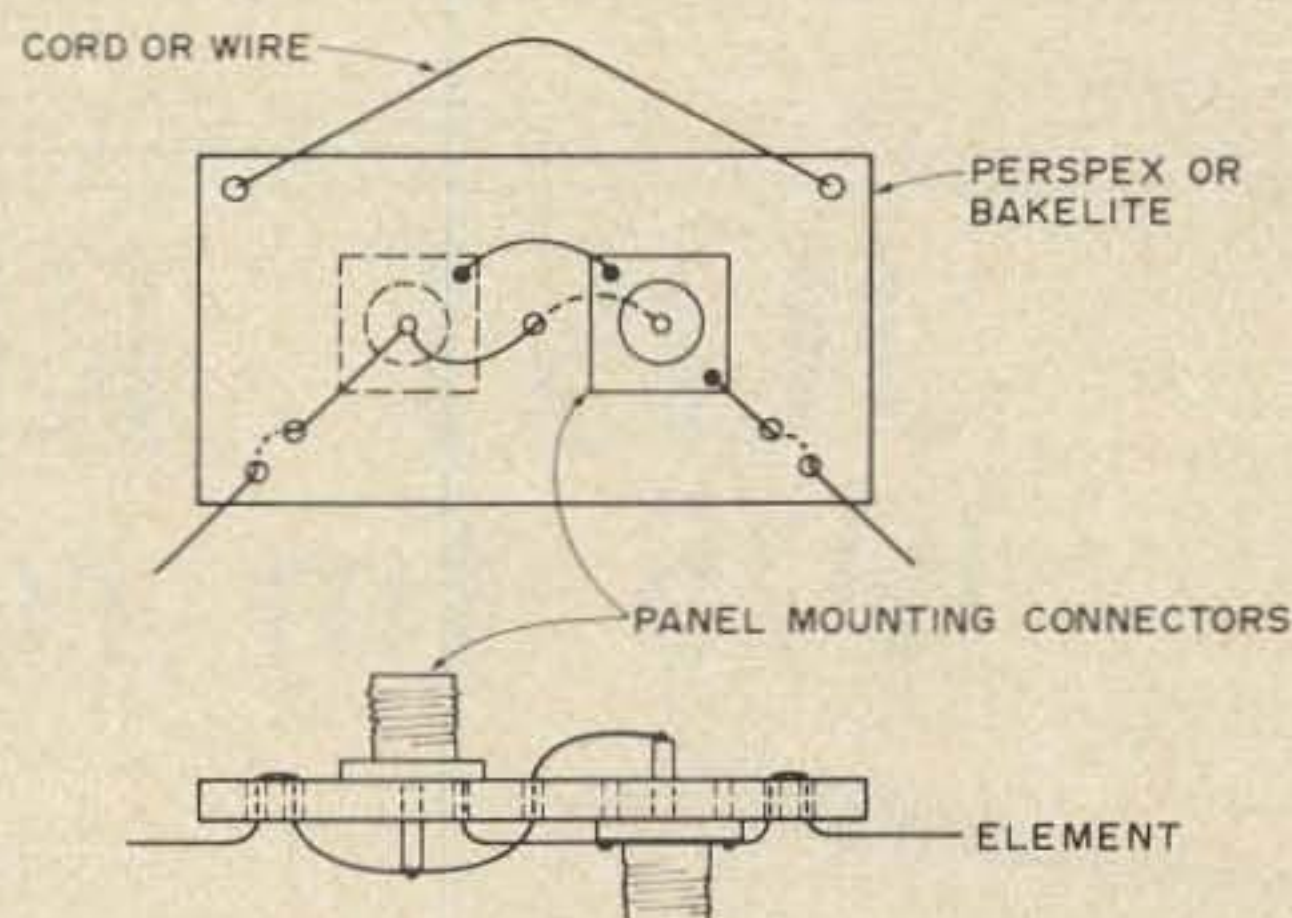


Fig. 2.

When finished the antenna looks like the outline of a tent, Fig. 1. The lower this antenna is placed to the ground the shorter the elements become due to ground effects. This can be determined by experiment with an SWR meter and cut and try, the easiest method being to allow a foot or two of the element to hang down beyond the end insulator, where it may easily be trimmed. This saves unfastening insulators each time. Fig. 2 shows how the connections may be made at the feedpoint. Alternatively the elements and co-ax may be soldered together at the appropriate points using egg insulators or similar supports. Theoretically a 1.1 balun

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should be used at the feed-point, but it does not appear to make such difference.

The antenna will work well with 75 ohm co-ax but the SWR will be slightly higher, although not excessive (less than 1.5 to 1). With 52 ohm co-ax SWR should be near unity, depending somewhat on height and surrounding objects.

If no co-ax is available a twisted pair of wires will serve the same purpose as 72 ohm co-ax and should substitute quite nicely. Another possibility is 75 ohm twin lead, which will make the whole structure lighter.

For the adventurous, more elements (up to 6 or so) can be added for higher directivity and gain. Element ends are insulated and tied off on bushes, trees or stakes in the ground. The beautiful thing about this antenna is that it is highly transportable, fitting into a box when traveling to a Field Day site and easily erected in a matter of minutes in emergency conditions. Note when more than 2 elements are used the element length, co-ax length, and spacing are exactly the same. Just add them on.

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