

Fishpole on 160

Harold E. Davis, W8MTI

Onondaga, Michigan

Living in an overpopulated housing project is not the best inducement to hamming. Several reasons may be given to back up this statement but the one of most importance here is the lack of space in which to hang up a suitable sky-wire. Being a 160 meter ham from the word go I looked around to find two good points between which to hang a half wave doublet. I couldn't find anything that even remotely looked like antenna supports. This brought about the horrible thought that I might be forced to operate on ten meters with accompanying tv-ititis. Not being endowed with a surplus of energy when it comes to de-tv-eye-ing I went to CQ to see who else was having troubles. W2EUQ's article on a fishpole vertical for forty meters set up activity in the top story. If it works on one band it might work on another.

A fishpole was obtained that was nearly 25 feet long (actually two were obtained). Being as we had a large spool containing several thousand feet of #21 d.c.c. wire we used that instead of the #22 trolling wire used by W2EUQ. 275 feet of wire, just about twice the length of the formula $\frac{1}{4}$ wave, was used.

Getting the wire on the fishpole was the next step. Rather than wind the wire with the spacing wound at the ends we wound close wound at the top end and then used spacing through the middle and the bottom of the winding. This was to give more the effect of a top loaded vertical. In the interest of improvement let me suggest that you use 300 to 310 feet of wire for the low half of the band (1800-1900 kc) and 285 to 295 for the upper half of the band (1900-2000 kc).

As I did it, a loop about one inch was made in the end of the wire and caught over the small end of the pole. This was then taped to prevent corona discharge. The first three sections of the bamboo were covered close and tight wound to give added strength and the next section was space wound with about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch spacing. The sections were then wound close for two sections and spaced for one. This worked out as planned. After getting about half the wire on the antenna the spacing was increased to about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and continued to within three feet of the base of the fishpole. There it was close wound for a dozen turns and the end fed through a small hole just big enough for the wire. A knot was made in the wire to secure it at this point. About thirty feet of wire was left to serve as lead in.

Mounting was accomplished by the use of TV chimney mounting straps spaced about two feet apart on the chimney. The lead-in end was then brought into the shack through standoff insulators.

The rig was then loaded up feeding directly from the link in the final tank into the antenna. The loading was identical to the $\frac{1}{4}$ wave horizontal that we had been using and the adjustment of the variable link in the final was sufficient for the whole band.

Total improvements went like this: I started getting out, I eliminated fundamental overload in nearby teevee sets that existed when using the horizontal, I had an antenna that withstood winds up to sixty miles per without guying, and to me, most important, something to talk about with most everyone and especially with W2EUQ who had wondered if the fishpole would work on 160 m.

One comment. Do the work outdoors where it is most practical. A bag or old newspaper tied in the end of the wire when it is laying out across the back yard and field is a great help in seeing where the end of the wire is. ■

