



Photo E— The Lightning Guard Model 100 from Electronic Specialty Products is designed to protect your transceiver from lightning when you are out of the shack. AC power, as well as your antenna coax, connect to the Lightning Guard so that your transceiver gets its AC power and its antenna connection through the Lightning Guard. (Photo courtesy of Electronic Specialty Products)



Photo F— The SG-211 MiniSmartuner is designed to meet professional and amateur needs for a lightweight, portable antenna coupler for low-power applications, one which requires no external battery support. The SG-211 handles from 1 to 60 watts of input power over a frequency range of 1.8 to 60 MHz. (Photo courtesy of SGC)

power to remain on, but still have some degree of protection. If voltage spikes occur that are high enough to jump the relay contacts, they jump to ground and not through your transceiver. This feature will effectively protect your equipment from lightning, although as noted, with a direct hit, nothing can absolutely guarantee protection.

The Model 100 is designed to be used with one transceiver. It will handle AC current of 10 amps and maximum RF power of 200 watts. Standard SO-239 connectors are provided. The unit is priced at \$80 plus \$8.00 for Priority Mail shipping. Similar models are also available for computers and high-end TVs as well as.

For details, contact Electronic Specialty Products, LLC, 555 Seminole Woods Boulevard, Geneva, FL 32732 (phone 407-349-9150; e-mail: <cs@electronicspecialtyproducts.com>; on the web: <<http://www.electronicspecialtyproducts.com>>).

Portable and Mobile Goodies

Wonder Pole® Telescoping Poles. The American Flag & Banner Co., with its slogan of offering “the strongest telescoping pole made,” makes a number of highly portable telescoping poles, several of which have great potential for amateur radio use (fig. 2). Available in several different sizes and configurations, the Wonder Pole® is a telescoping pole made from sections of six-ply fiberglass tubing.

According to the manufacturer, the poles are made of a sturdy composite material. The basic pole has a minimum fiberglass content of 70%, which is then circular wound with additional fiberglass strands that add tremendous strength to the pole and which prevent linear splitting commonly associated with other fiberglass poles. UV inhibitors are added to prevent degradation of the pole when exposed to the elements. The poles will not rust, and they require no maintenance.

Each section of the Wonder Pole is wrapped with two layers of the highest quality Nexus® veil, which prevents fiber bloom (slivers in your hand), and which preserves the integrity of the outer and inner surfaces. The pole has nesting sections that fit inside of one another, and they draw out to any desired height. Each section has exclusive “stop markers” to prevent extending the pole too far. The sections are secured into place by turning the “Sure Lock” grips that are factory molded onto the pole; glue or rivets are not used to keep the handles or fittings on the pole, since they may come loose.

The Wonder Poles are nonconductive, and they don’t have any of the electrical hazards commonly associated with metal

poles. You can replace any part of the pole or even add to the Wonder Pole at any time. The poles’ low weight; superior strength; and available accessories, styles, models, and colors, make them excellent choices for a wide variety of amateur radio applications. Probably the best-suited poles for amateur use are the 21-ft. and 40-ft. Wonder Poles, which are priced at \$129 and \$250, respectively, as this is written. Some poles may require guying for stability, depending on the application.

For more information, contact American Flag & Banner Co., 5220 Lardon Road NE, Salem, OR 97305 (1-800-707-3524; e-mail: <info@wonderpole.com>; on the web: <<http://www.wonderpole.com>>).

SG-211 MiniSmartuner from SGC. SGC has been providing solutions for HF communication problems for some 34 years. Their transceivers and Smartuners™ have an enviable reputation for quality and reliability that has remained unmatched since the company’s founding in 1970. Indeed, SGC’s Smartuners have done much to “set the standard” for antenna tuning since their introduction over 25 years ago.

SGC has announced an innovative, new antenna coupler for low-power use. The SG-211 MiniSmartuner (photo F) is said to set a new standard for low-power operations by completely eliminating the need for an external power source. Also, SG-211 users have the freedom to erect nearly any antenna based on the requirements of the situation rather than having to carry a tuned antenna that can only be used in a limited number of ways.

The SG-211 is designed to meet professional and amateur needs for a lightweight, portable antenna coupler for low-power applications, one which requires no external battery support. The SG-211 is rated to handle from 1 to 60 watts of input power over a frequency range of 1.8 to 60 MHz.

SGC has kept the current requirements so low that the SG-211 can operate for five years on a single set of four alkaline AA batteries. This characteristic eliminates wire clutter and the need to carry extra power for an antenna coupler.

With all of these innovations, the SG-211 MiniSmartuner still remembers previous “tunes” by frequency, and it recalls them from memory instantly when going back to another frequency. Reportedly with over four times the matching range of competing products, the SG-211 provides excellent flexibility and the lowest possible cost in power consumption for portable work. Operation is so simple that all essential information is silk-screened on the case. The SG-211 MiniSmartuner is \$179.95.

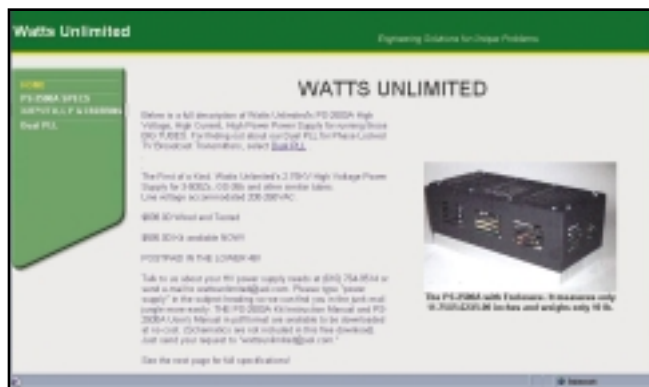


Fig. 1—Watts Unlimited has introduced the PS-2500A high-voltage, high-current, high-power power supply for running those “big tubes.” Reportedly the first power supply of its kind, the new unit is said to be ideal for new or old power amplifiers, and it accommodates line voltages from 200–260 VAC. (Artwork from the Watts Unlimited website)



Fig. 2—The American Flag & Banner Co. makes a number of highly portable, super-strong telescoping poles under the Wonder Pole® name, several of which have excellent potential for amateur use. Available in several different sizes and configurations, the telescoping poles are made from sections of six-ply fiberglass tubing. (Graphic from the Wonder Pole website)

For more information, contact SGC Inc., 13737 SE 26th St., Bellevue, WA 98005 (1-800-259-7331; e-mail: <sgc@sgcworld.com>; on the web: <http://www.sgcworld.com>).

From the Bookshelf

New Pasternack Enterprises Coaxial and Fiber Optics Catalog. The latest printed 2004 version of the Pasternack Enterprises Coaxial and Fiber Optics Catalog (fig. 3) we received is, once again, a very thick one. It's seemingly one of the decreasing number of thick, reference-style radio and electronics catalogs that you can have sent to you by mail for convenient perusal, rather than having to go to a website to find what you're looking for.

The comprehensive 2004 catalog includes thousands of different coaxial and fiber-optics related products, many of which Pasternack manufactures, along with considerable detailed technical data. The catalog shows a large selection of adapters, attenuators, matching pads, phase shifters, coax and coax assemblies, ferrite isolators, amplifiers, connectors, switches, power dividers, switches, terminations, tools, twinax, directional couplers, DC blocks, and considerably more.

The company also has brought its traditional paper catalog online. The easy-to-use website greatly assists you in “finding stuff”: you can track down any part in the inventory without the need to know part numbers. The website also lets you look up any part in the inventory if you know the Pasternack number.

Contact Pasternack Enterprises, LLC, P.O. Box 16759, Irvine, CA 92623-6759 (949-261-1920; e-mail: <sales@pasternack.com>; on the web: <http://

pasternack.com>). You may request a copy of the printed catalog online, or you may download an electronic (PDF file) version of the catalog from the website.

Short Bursts

Three Firms Team Up for the Amateur Radio Tower Market. Array Solutions, AN Wireless, and Nello Corporation have teamed up to better serve the amateur radio tower market. Nello Corporation of Nappanee, IN has selected Array Solutions and AN Wireless to be its exclusive distributors of amateur radio towers and tower supplies.

Nello Corporation, whose motto is “providing value through innovation,” is a young, aggressive, and highly experienced steel-fabrication company focused on the wireless communications market. The firm now manufactures its own versions of the Rohn 25, 45, 55, and 65G series of towers and accessories, which are designed to the latest EIA/TIA (Electronic Industries Alliance/Telecommunications Industry Association) standards.

Jay Terleski, WXØB, and Dan Simmonds, KK3AN, of Array Solutions, and AN Wireless, respectively, say that their selection is the culmination of their efforts to demonstrate the value of Nello's towers and accessories in the amateur radio marketplace. The two companies offer more than just sales. They have been engineering, building, and safely erecting radio towers, as well as offering many valuable accessories and antennas for the amateur radio operator for many years.

For more information on the new alliance, contact Nello Corporation at 1-800-806-3556, on the web: <http://www.nelloinc.com>; Array Solutions at

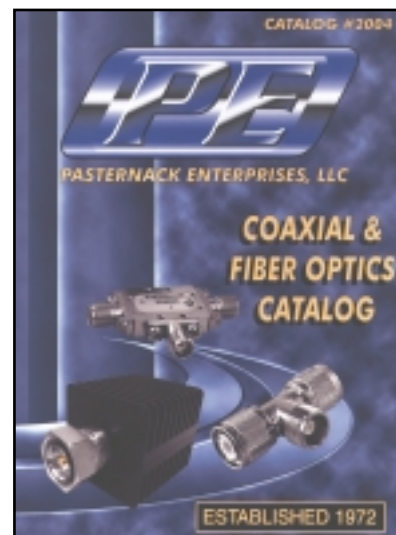


Fig. 3—The latest 2004 version of the Pasternack Enterprises Coaxial and Fiber Optics Catalog is a very thick one. It's one of the decreasing number of thick, reference-style electronics catalogs that you can have sent to you by mail. You also can view and search the catalog online. (Courtesy of Pasternack Enterprises)

972-203-2008, on the web: <http://www.arrayolutions.com>; or AN Wireless at 717-465-0519, on the web: <http://www.anwireless.com>.

Wrap-Up

That's all for this time, gang. Next time, more “What's New.” See you then.

Overheard: Did you know that one of the very nicest and most appreciated things that you can give someone is something to feel important about?

73, Karl, W8FX