

THE BUDDIPOLE™ QUICK-FIX for NVIS

The Buddipole Quick-fix for NVIS on the Lower Bands

One of the best and most-used antennas for NVIS, or Near Vertical Incidence Skywave, is a dipole low to the ground. You can take a standard Buddipole and turn it into an excellent antenna for local communications on 40, 60, and 80 Meters.

Make up two identical wire assemblies as follows: Wind 31 feet of wire on each of the linewinders. Solder or crimp a 3/8" ring connector on the loose ends of each assembly. Attach the ring connector to the female opening at the end of each coil by using the 3/8 by 24 threaded bolts. The wires on each side of the coils will slope down from the T when the mast is raised to about 9 feet off the ground. Keep the wires off the ground by at least two feet by using non-conductive electric fenceposts (or similar stakes) for that purpose. Follow the chart below to determine the wire lengths. You can paint colored marks on the wire to show the lengths of that wire needed for the band you wish to use. The coils are not tapped for 80 Meters, but are tapped for 60 and 40 Meter operation. *Note:* Always count tap settings from the WIRE SIDE of the coil.

Parts list

- > 2 kite linewinders. Something to hold the wire. Reels OK too.
- > 2 pieces of insulated wire 31' long, wire size 18 to 22
- > 2 bolts, 3/8 by 24 threads, each inch long
- > 2 Ring connectors to hold the wire in place on the coils
- > 2 non-conducting electric fenceposts or wooden stakes

SETTINGS				
Bands	RED SIDE		BLACK SIDE	
	Wire length	Tap	Wire length	Tap
80 METERS	28'	No	29'	No
60 METERS	12'	Tap 37	15'	No
40 METERS	14'	Tap 16	17.5'	Tap 20



Set the Buddipole up as you normally would. The RED COIL goes on the left, or hot side of the coax and the BLACK coil goes on the ground side of the coax. Leave the whips OFF the coil ends. The wire assemblies will provide the extra length needed to make the antenna resonate on the lower bands.

As for tuning this antenna, I used an MFJ Analyzer to set the wire lengths and tap positions. You should be able to get very close to resonance with those settings. You can go up and down in frequency with a tuner or by shortening and lengthening the wires on each side of the dipole by winding the wire on and off the linewinders.