

Do you have limited space?

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If you have limited space to put up an antenna, I have some suggestions. There are a number of vertical antennas available that do not need radials. You are thinking how does that work? The reason is that they are in fact top fed and the “top hat” on these antennas is a counterpoise. For those of you that work mostly MARS, you may want to tweak the adjustments to fit the needed frequencies. Otherwise the antenna tuner should take care of it.

Another possibility is a non-resonate antenna. Now don't laugh. I have loaded up the gutter system on my house. It is an excellent NVIS that easily gets out 400 miles. I have a friend that split the drip edge on his gazebo and fed is as a loop. It works very well on 10, 15, and 40 meters. He contacted Washington State on 15 meters from central Ohio. Not too bad for an antenna only 10 feet off the ground.

The bottom line is that there is nothing that says that you have to have a resonate antenna.

The fact is that an antenna only needs to be tunable. We all know that an antenna tuner is a “cheat”. It allows the radio to see the impedance it wants to see. And yes, there are some losses in the tuner. Most of the time these tuner losses are minimal.

I am looking forward to other questions from you to answer in this column.