

Loop Antenna is Portable

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<html> <p>We don’t know if [OH8STN] has a military background, but we suspect he might since his recent post is about a “<a href=„<http://oh8stn.org/blog/2017/02/09/diy-man-portable-magnetic-loop-antenna/>“ target=„_blank“>DIY Man Portable Magnetic Loop Antenna.” “Man-portable” is usually a military designation, and — we presume — he wouldn’t object to a woman transporting it either.</p> <p>[OH8STN] started with a Chameleon antenna starter kit. This costs about \$100 and is primarily a suitable variable capacitor with a 6:1 reduction drive premounted and soldered. Of course, you could source your own, but finding variable capacitors that can handle transmit duty (admittedly, these can apparently handle about 10 W continuous or 25 W on single sideband) can be tricky, especially these days. Although he started with a kit, he did modify the antenna to switch between two different sets of ham radio bands. You can see the antenna in the video below.</p> <p>Loop antennas aren’t ideal–but neither is any other small antenna. Because the loop is tightly tuned to a particular frequency, it requires retuning for even relatively small frequency changes, even though it can operate on many different frequencies. If you want more technical details, you might enjoy this <a href=„<http://viennawireless.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Magnetic-Loop-Antennas-W4RAX.pdf>“ target=„_blank“>recent presentation from [W4RAX]. The links at the end are worth checking out, too.</p> <p><p>Of course, in addition to the starter kit, you need some other components, and the video shows it all. You also need some tools, but we were amused to see that for bending the aluminum loop, [OH8STN] simply wrapped it around a tree trunk of suitable circumference.</p> <p>Loop antennas are popular with apartment- and other city-dwellers. But if you are just looking for exotic radiators, perhaps try <a href=„<https://hackaday.com/2017/01/09/pumping-up-an-antenna-from-a-stream-of-sea-water/>“>sea water. Or you could have a look at a very short dipole-like antenna called the Poynting <a href=„<https://hackaday.com/2017/01/06/the-poynting-vector-antenna/>“>vector antenna.</p> <p><iframe class=„youtube-player“ type=„text/html“ width=„800“ height=„480“ src=„http://www.youtube.com/embed/Dw1rz0CVn90?version=3&rel=1&fs=1&autoplay=2&showsearch=0&showinfo=1&iv_load_policy=1&wmode=transparent“ allowfullscreen=„true“ style=„border:0;“>[embedded content]</iframe></p> </html>

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