



NEW HAM HT HINTS & HELPS

WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR SIGNAL AND YOUR RECEIVE

Hoop K9QJS, with thanks to Laura N4CLO

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- The HT: Handi-Talkie
- Available under \$100
- Stock rubber-duckie antenna





RUBBER DUCKIE ?



- Young Caroline Kennedy (early 1960's) looking at an FBI agent's transceiver antenna

Or

- Senior NASA Scientist Thomas A. Clark naming it after listening to one of Vaughn Meader's comedies about the Kennedy Family



WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR SIGNAL AND YOUR RECEIVE

1. Microphone technique & positioning at your QTH





2. Evaluate bent rubber ducky

TH-F6 Antenna
Hoop, K9QJS

Good



TH-F6 Antenna
Ed, KD7TUN

Bad





3. Get adapters! SMA to BNC adapters

for Japanese HTs: Diamond or Signalstuff
(BNC female / SMA male)



for Chinese HTs: Amazon or Signalstuff
(BNC female / SMA female)

Benefits:

- Reinforcement for the HT SMA connector,
- Quick release for antennas
- Antennas interchangeable across your HTs.





3. (cont.) One more adapter you should have



BNC Male to SO-239 UHF Female jumper cable

Benefits:

- Easily connect your SMA/BNC-adapter-equipped HT to PL-259's on coax cables for external antennas
- Stress relief on the HT connectors



4. Favorite after-market HT antennas

SmileyAntenna.com Tri-band w/ BNC

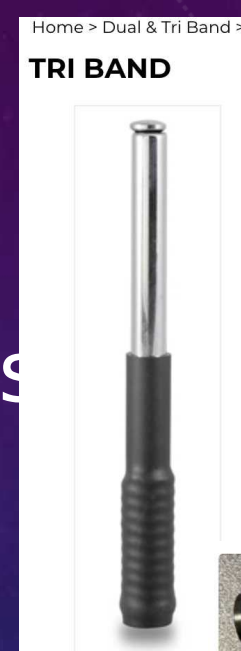
- Collapsible & tunable

Signalstuff.com Signal Stick w/ BNC

- Practically unbreakable in fun colors

Benefits:

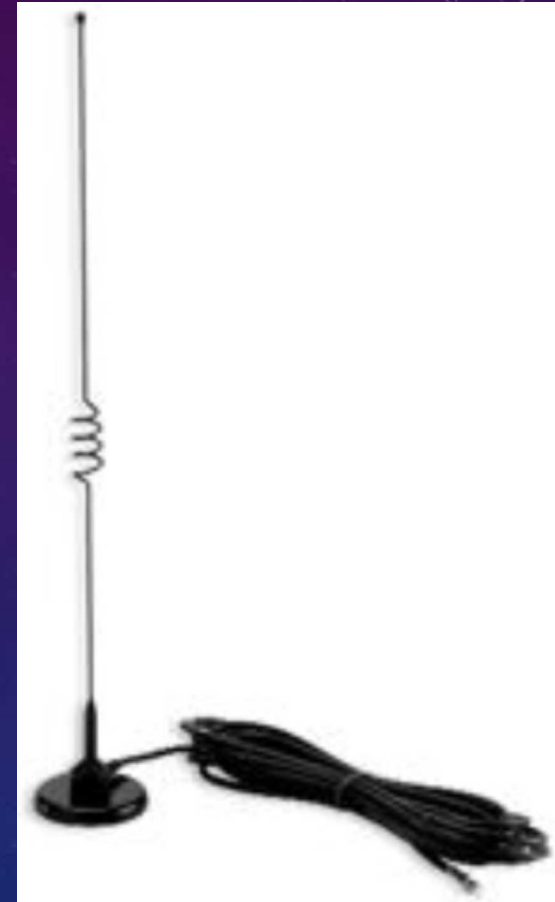
Longer, improved-performance HT antennas
Quick release fittings





5. External to-the-HT antennas

5.1 Mag-mount on filing cabinet or pizza pan (or vehicle!) w/ cable and PL259 plug





5.2 Ladder-line Slim Jim Antenna or J-pole Such as N9TAX on eBay or Ed Fong J-Pole (Hamradio2.0)

- You will need RG-8X coax cable to run from H, jumper cable to antenna, and maybe a window-pass-through for outside installation





5.3 “Jungle antenna” Reference KM4ACK & The Tech Prepper



- Three pieces of wire, Binding post w/ BNC male connector, BNC female to UHF female adapter, and a stick, plus coax cable w/ connectors to length





6. “Tiger-tail” counterpoise
 - 19” wire connected at base of antenna or on case screw
 - Anecdotal improvements





7. Improve listening on Baofeng HT (HT's sensitive to breaking squelch from RFI on receive)

- Program the frequency using Tone Squelch, to only open squelch when receiving from the target repeater





HT TOPICS ... FOR ANOTHER DAY

- Programming & cable: frequency, offset, tone, use of CHIRP
- VFO mode vs Memory mode
- Vendor offered accessories:
 - Extra batteries
 - Speaker-mic or ear-piece (helpful for on-the-ground AuxComm support)
 - Charging dock, et al
- Digital modes: Winlink, FSQ on your HT
- HT's mounted in vehicles



SUMMARY: IMPROVING YOUR SIGNAL AND YOUR RECEIVE

1. Microphone technique & positioning
2. Evaluate bent rubber duckie
3. Get adapters
4. After-market HT antennas
5. External antennas
6. Tiger-tail counterpoise
7. Use of “Tone Squelch” on receive

RESOURCES

- Adapters

- HT Japanese:

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-009346>

<https://signalstuff.com/product/smam-to-bnc-adapter/>

- HT Chinese:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00CVQK466/?coliid=IHLF22AI9UJGM&colid=1AO9FTN625TE6&psc=1&ref=list_c_wl_lv_ov_lig_dp_it

<https://signalstuff.com/product/sma-f-to-bnc-f-adapter/>

- Jumper, BNC Male to UHF female

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-006196>

- Binding post, BNC male

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-016327>

- UHF Female to BNC Female

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-011144>

RESOURCES

- Slim Jim antenna (or J-pole, close cousin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hG7dva9VIs&t=890s>

<https://grapevineamateurradio.com/products/ed-fong-j-pole-antennas-dual-band-220-and-roll-up>

- Jungle Antenna

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_fG7CVs3Dc

- Tiger-tail

<https://hackaday.com/2014/02/08/improve-your-ht-ham-radio-by-adding-a-counterpoise-antenna-wire/>