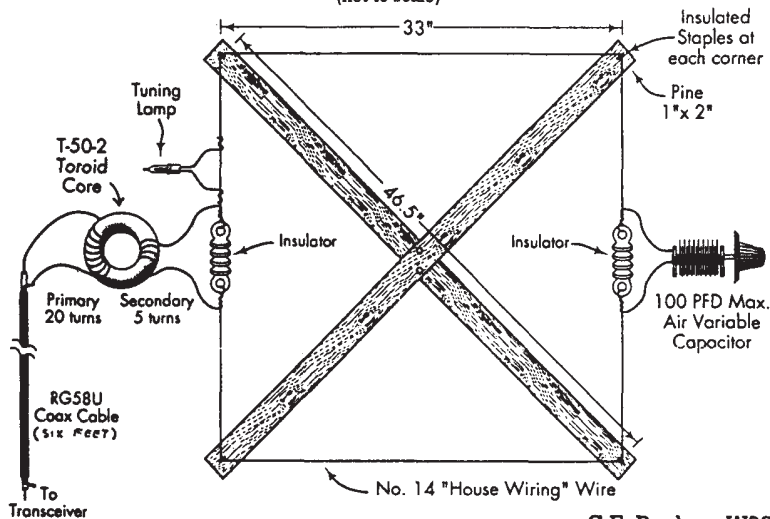


The Rockloop

A Compact Antenna for the 15, 20 and 30 Meter Bands

(not to scale)



(ARTWORK BY JOE ROCKEY)

C.F. Rockey, W9SCH
Albany, Wisconsin

Here is something which I threw together primarily for the benefit of hams living in apartments, etc., where an outside antenna is not allowed. I hope that they can use it!

Using it with five watts of RF power and sitting here in my shack (on the first floor of a frame cottage - not over ten feet above ground-level) I find it easy to work all over the USA, from coast-to-coast, and Canada. On 15 metres (cw, of course), I've also worked OK1HCH and DL1ET and hope for more DX when things improve (they've been quite poor over there lately.)

It seems to have little horizontal directivity but works much better when the plane of the loop is VERTICAL (coincident with theory for low antennas.) It might be more directive for local "Ground-wave" contacts, however. There is no doubt but what "fooling with" the dimensions, and the turns on the toroid, might improve, but this is what I found to be OK. No doubt, also, that the local electromagnetic environment will call for possible minor changes. The SWR runs between 2 and 3 on all bands specified.

It tunes to 15 metres with about 15 to 20 pF, to 20 metres with about 30 pF and to 30 metres with about 60 pF here. To use, just hook it to your rig, put a couple of watts into it and tune for greatest glow in tuning-lamp (greatest current). Then run output up to five watts and "blast away".

It seems truly marvellous to me that five watts into a little square of wire here in the shack can push a signal across four thousand miles of briny ocean, - truly, God's world is a marvellous place!

RADIO BYGONES is a new bi-monthly magazine for the vintage radio enthusiast and will cover domestic radio and TV, amateur radio, commercial, military, aviation and marine communications. Feature will include restoration and repair, history and collections and just plain nostalgia. The cover price is £2.20 for single copies or £12 for a year's subscription. Sample copies of the first issue are available by post for £2.00 from the publisher: G.C. ARNOLD PARTNERS, 8A Corfe View Road, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset. BH21 3LZ. (0202) 658474.