

The Lowdown



Amateur Radio Antenna for 630 Meters

Model 630.PD

A 630-Meter Solution for Amateurs with Limited Space

The Lowdown HAM Radio Antenna offers enthusiasts a convenient way to communicate on 630 meters in a confined area. Designed to be centered above a horizontal groundplane, this antenna is amazingly compact and lightweight – 22 feet long/19 lbs. – making it simple to assemble, take down, transport and store. Its center-loaded, base-fed design and capacitive top hat yield excellent efficiency given its compact size.

Accessories . . .

Dual Insulator Mounts

These convenient, heavy-duty, bulkhead-style insulator mounts will bolt to any flat vertical surface. They are ideal for tilt-up antenna installations. The anodized aluminum straps and stainless-steel hardware allow for ease of antenna attachment and removal with the highest level of safety and stability. Mounting hardware is not included.



THEMATCHBOX

THEMATCHBOX is a broadband multi-tap transmission-line transformer that raises the magnitude of the characteristically low impedances of electrically shortened fed antennas to an impedance suitable for direct connection to 50-ohm coaxial cable without significant loss of standing wave ratio (SWR). Superior to conventional transformers that perform well only above 1 MHz, THEMATCHBOX works well at low frequencies (down to 100 kHz) due to its manganese-zinc alloy composition.



FlexPlane Groundplanes

FlexPlane Preassembled Groundplanes can be deployed on the fly and rolled up for quick storage. High flexibility versions make portable radio rigs easy to deploy efficiently. FlexPlanes come in standard sized but can be custom-created to any dimension required.



Information Station Specialists

PO Box 51, Zeeland, Michigan, 49464-0051, Phone 616.772.2300, www.theRADIOsource.com

Get "The Lowdown," A Case Study

In January 2023, Tom Costa (N9RU) of Marion, Illinois, installed the first 630-meter antenna site using the newly available Lowdown Antenna (630.PD). He was able to work Information Station Specialists and other HAMs during February antenna test nights in which company representative Paul Dobosz (K8PD) transmitted/received via FST4 (with 2-3 watts EIRP) from the company's test site in Michigan.



Tom Costa N9RU
"Pretty impressive for such a small antenna."

Costa: "After watching testing of 'The Lowdown' antenna on the air, I got to thinking [that] if it really is plug-n-play, it would, make a nice backup antenna and maybe portable. I ordered one with mounting insulators."

"All the antenna parts were very well made and machined, no problem assembling at all! Pictures show my progress. Thanks for an easy 630 antenna solution."

"I made a ground radial ring with twenty-four, 25' radials. It took over a month to get this done with the weather and everything. [I trimmed] the top elements according to the instructions. The SWR was 1.31:1 after trimming and after the balun, it was 1.03:1."

"I buried the radials and the feedline. Just limited testing so far but I'm impressed. I will keep it up for a backup to the 350' circumference loop. It actually lets me work north and south better than the loop."

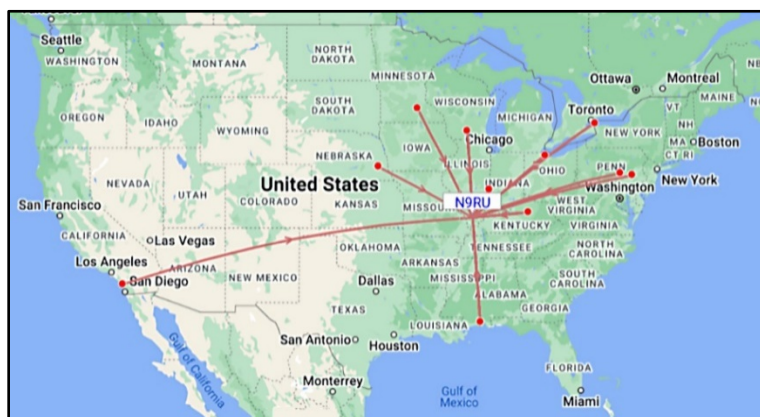
"I'm impressed to see an antenna that is so easy to tune; and the dimensions were very close to their test antenna's."

"Thanks for an easy 630 antenna solution."

Tom Costa later submitted the below WSPR map. He is working as far west as San Diego, despite nearby storms. His evaluation: "A nice omni pattern, even with all the storms to the north. We just need more operators down here. Hopefully this antenna will inspire more to try 630."



At the Antenna Base: THEMATCHBOX Matching Transformer and Costa's Home-Built Groundplane



You can order The Lowdown from ebay.com under search phrase "630 meter antenna." Or contact us directly at 616.772.2300 x102 (9-5 eastern).



PO Box 51, Zeeland, Michigan, 49464-0051, Phone 616.772.2300, www.theRADIOsource.com