

Rotary Washing line antennas

You can only consider yourself as being a real radio amateur if you view every object around you as being a potential antenna !

Rotary washing lines can be obtained from re-cycling centres for a few pounds, and can almost be considered as a 'Stealth' antenna.

They can be used for all sorts of purposes.

I've used Petlowany loading

<http://www.n0lx.com/petlowany.html>

<http://dt.prohosting.com/hacks/antenna/petlowany.html>

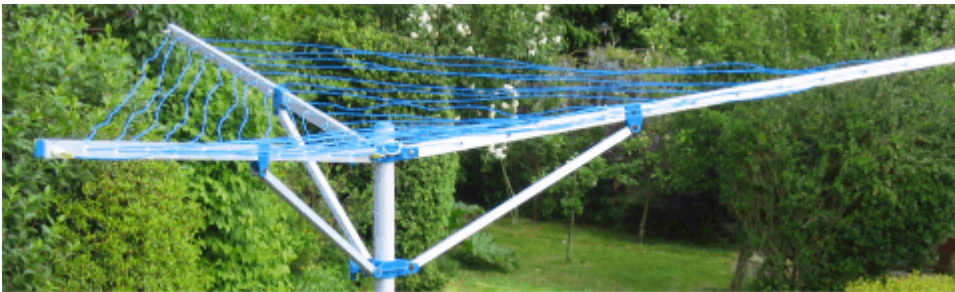
for this vertical I made for 3.6MHz which was built from two washing lines back to back.

The base is a four arm drier made by 'Hozelock', this company seems to manufacture some of the better types I have acquired.

The top drier is of unknown manufacture, but it is very light weight and both of the fastenings to the centre pole can slide up and down and be locked in position with large nylon screws.



I used three wire spirals in this design which made it resonant at around 5MHz, however I intend to change this to just one long spiral, which should make it tune directly on 3.6MHz. Here's a closer view of the spiral top loading coil.



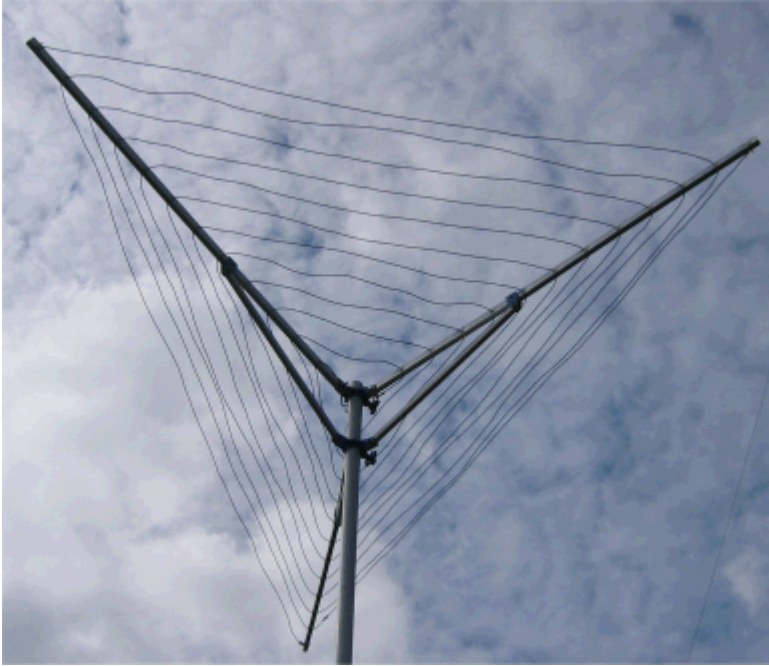
In order to bring it to resonance on 80m, I had to cut the aluminium support tube at the base and insert a short length of PVC water pipe to add a matching coil.



Note the bonding straps made from coax braid which I added to ensure all the metal bits were at the same potential.

Tent pegs at the ends of the arms help stabilise it in high winds, and improve the grounding. Adding additional counterpoise or radial wires further improves the performance

Hmmm. I think I could turn this into a small rotatable loop by adding some fishing pole spreaders.



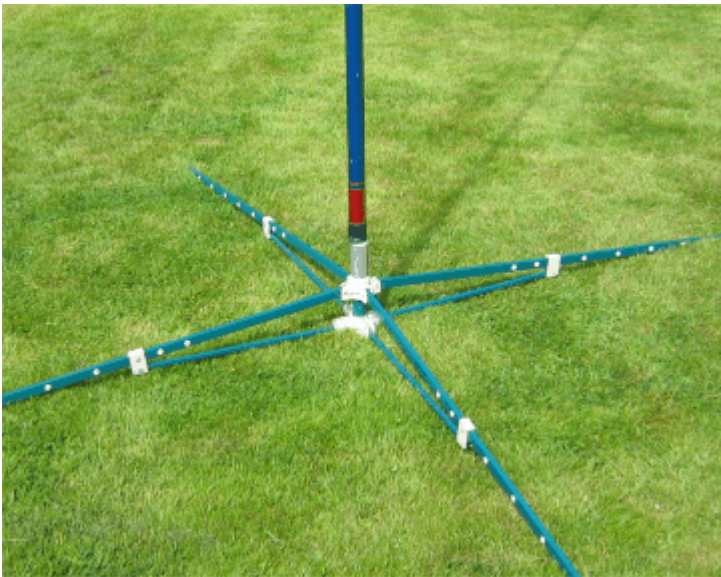
Perhaps a

GM3VLB http://www.gm3vlb.com/general/pdf_files/62_64_radcom_sep03.pdf

Cobwebb <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/m.rabel/CB1.pdf>

or [Hexbeam](http://www.karinya.net/g3txq/hexbeam/) <http://www.karinya.net/g3txq/hexbeam/>

You can also use them as bases for other antennas, such as this 10m fishing pole vertical.



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