

Washing line - wire reel antenna

I found these washing lines in a local DIY store, but they are also available on e-bay.



You can easily open them by holding the reel in the palm of one hand with the winding spool facing upwards. Grip the plastic surround around the reel with the other hand and rotate it anti-clockwise to unscrew the two halves.



Replace the washing line with some thin wire. With care, I can get about 33m / 100ft of 0.7mm dia wire on a single spool.

Keep the wire under tension by running it through your fingers when winding the wire back in. This makes it spool more evenly.

A croc clip on the end of the wire makes it useful as either an antenna or counterpoise.

You can tune it by winding the wire in and out, and then locking it off by wrapping the wire around the tab on the spool.

Two or more of these are very useful for portable operation.

© Martin Ehrenfried – G8JNJ - 2007, 2008 & 2009