

WA3WSJ Bead-Wire Antenna

Hello all,

I backpack the AT here in the US and I've always wanted a small, lightweight HF antenna that won't break the bank. I finally have designed one that works great for QRP portable use.



I call it the "WA3WSJ Bead-Wire Antenna." It made from bead wire, yes jewelry bead wire that is used to make bead jewelry!

I take one 40' spool and tie on around 50 feet of 30lb test fishing line to one end. This is used as my radiator wire. I tie a small 1" loop on the end of the fishing line. This loop just slips thru a 1oz. sinker and this is used to throw up into a tree etc.

I also purchase two more spools and cut three 16 foot ground radials using the bead wire. I now have one 40' radiator wire and three 16' ground radial wires that I throw out around to operate. I use a BNC to two binding-post adapter that plugs into the antenna bnc connector on my Elecraft KX1. The whole antenna fits on one small spool and weights-in at 2oz!

Parts supplied for the WA3WSJ Bead-Wire Antenna:

- 3ea. 40' bead wire spools
- 1 set solderless banana jacks - Radio Shack # 274-721
- 50' of 30lb fishing line
- 1ea. 1oz sinker

Extra parts needed:

- 1ea. BNC to twin binding post adapter

You'll have a very nice compact and lightweight qrp antenna that will tune on 20m,30m and 40m. I have worked Europe with this antenna using my KX1 @ 3w on 30m.

- * *strip plastic coating off the wire on both solderless banana plugs*
- * *be careful when unwinding the three ground radials as they easily tangle*

72,
Ed, WA3WSJ