

An Emergency or “Quick-Fix” 2-metre Antenna

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Need a 2-metre antenna and all you have is the coax feed-line?

Not a problem – in a couple of minutes and using a length of coax you can make the simple halfwave dipole shown opposite.

Step 1. Remove about 49cm of the vinyl jacket from the coax without damaging the braided outer conductor. Don't have a tape measure – then a bit less than about 2½ hand spans should be close enough. (The whole job will be easier if you use a small diameter coax – say RG58).

Step 2. At the position where the outer conductor is first exposed, carefully spread the braided material apart to make a gap and expose the dielectric material. (It will help at this stage if the cable is bent back on itself).

Step 3. Carefully pull the 49cm length of dielectric (and inner conductor) through the gap. (See diagram opposite). When that's done you have the two elements required for a halfwave antenna which can now be strung up, either vertically or horizontally.

Without a balun there will be some out-of-balance currents, but that should not be much of a problem. The purist will suggest that the first metre or so of the feed line should be at right angles to the antenna. Hopefully there is already a suitable connector on the other end of the coax.

Happy DX'ing on 2-metres.

