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Subject: AM antenna update

Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Fri, 05 May 2006 04:25:41 GMT

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Well, I was very unhappy with the non performance of a commercial AM antenna I purchased. The one I had bought claimed to be a "loop" but opening up the sealed black plastic case show it was not. And it didn't work. At all. I made a quicky trash can parts loop antenna that is working great. Simply wrapped 5 turns of magnet wire around a rectangular piece of plastic cut from the bottom of a detergent jug. I found this article (link below) about "The Ultimate AM Loop Antenna". As I was about to gather parts for it I found both a kit version and assembled version on eBay. These "Ultimate Loop Antennas" are made by Jeff Burns. He has them on eBay quite often. They sell for \$22 plus \$7 shipping for the kit, and \$33 plus \$20 shipping for the assembled version. This antenna is 17" wide x 21" tall. There is also a smaller assembled version for \$26 plus \$12.50 shipping. These prices are US Dollars. 9" wide x 11" tall. These are assembled. I ordered the kit version. It just arrived today. All the wood was cut to size, edge of the base attractively routed, all holes drilled, and the wood nicely sanded. Screws and other hardware have an attractive bright brass or gold colored finish. Also included is wire for the loop, a terminal strip for connecting wiring, and a piece of 300 ohm twinlead to connect to your tuner or receiver. There are some clear plastic feet to go on the bottom of the base. There is even an instructional DVD. All you need for the kit version is to stain and varnish. I checked the fit of the parts, and they fit perfectly. Right now the stain is drying overnight (I used Minwax stain). In the morning I will use a spraycan type poly acrylic varnish to seal it. This stuff dries in 30 minutes between coats. After the poly coating dries it won't take 15 minutes to assemble. I'll be listening to AM by the time I finish my second cup of coffee. If it works as well (and should work better) than my "Jug-tenna" I will be a VERY happy camper!

[http://members.cox.net/rwagoner/columns/am\\_antenna.html](http://members.cox.net/rwagoner/columns/am_antenna.html)

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 05 May 2006 13:58:22 GMT

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Great link, Paul, thanks! I'm amazed that a commercial product would be anything else since loops work so well for the AM band.

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update

Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Fri, 05 May 2006 15:29:41 GMT

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Have the Ultimate AM Loop kit assembled, hooked up to my tuner and... SUCCESS! Pulling in daytime AM stations I have not heard before. Will see what happens tonight... but with what I am

pulling in now, am very optimistic.

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 05 May 2006 16:37:36 GMT

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Yeah, I have the C Crane Select-A-Tenna which is a tuned loop. It pulls in radio from several hundred miles away. On many of my tube radios, I hand wound a loop similar to yours and placed it on a cardboard form. Works great! Most of my radios have a loop built-in, but a couple of them have a connector for an external antenna. I always put a loop on them. Best deal for the AM band.

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update

Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 01:30:32 GMT

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Here is the finished antenna:

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update

Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 01:31:35 GMT

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Try again...

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 06 May 2006 05:45:57 GMT

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Looks great! I know that works well!

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Sun, 07 May 2006 03:51:06 GMT  
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All that work and you could have bought one for \$500. Scroll down link. (Sorry, just pulling your chain.) Do you Dx? What AM receiver are you using?  
<http://www.olderadioparts.com/pg22.htm>

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update  
Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Sun, 07 May 2006 04:29:22 GMT  
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You bet! And it WORKS and WORKS WELL!! I have an Onkyo T-4500 tuner. Mainly wanting to hear some FM stations in the 45-60 mile range, but also wanted to get more than 2 AM stations. I couldn't understand why I had a dial full of AM stations in my car, but could only pick up two, and very poorly, in the house. The Godar Model 10 AM just did not work. But the "Ultimate AM Loop Antenna" works like a charm. At night I am pulling in stations from all over... Atlanta, Georgia, Houston and Dallas area, even San Antonio, Tx. St. Louis, MO, Chicago, IL, and more. Go to eBay and search for "ultimate AM antenna".

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update  
Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 01:21:17 GMT  
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With the "Ultimate AM Antenna", from here on the Gulf Coast I am picking up at night: KLVI-AM 560 Beaumont, TX 5,000 watts (day & night) 190 miles WSB-AM 750 Atlanta, GA 50,000 watts 550 miles KBAP-AM 820 Ft. Worth, TX 50,000 watts 440 miles WWL-AM 870 New Orleans, LA 50,000 watts 90 miles (so clean it sounds FM day or night) WLS-AM 890 Chicago, IL 50,000 watts 980 miles KMOX-AM 1120 St. Louis, MO 50,000 watts 730 miles KXKW-AM 1130 Shreveport, LA 50,000 watts 270 miles WOAI-AM 1200 San Antonio, TX 50,000 watts 470 miles And many closer stations. This loop antenna certainly exceeds all expectations I had for AM.

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update  
Posted by [colinhester](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 14:00:10 GMT  
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Audio magazine, now defunct, had an article in the early 90s on how to build FM antennas. The simplest mod was to cut down the noraml t-type dipole included with reseivers. This consisted of cutting some length off to match 1/4 wavelength (and a little bit more for transmission factor through the plastic casing) of a particular station. There were other desings for an extended dipole with phasing loops every 1/4 or 1/2 wavelenght. There was also a DIY on the Sterba curtain. See: <http://www.hamuniverse.com/sturba.html> This is a fantastic antenna if you have attic space and can string between rafters. VERY high dB gain. Check out the local libraries and see if you can find this issue. Well worth it! I have a TAB book on HI-FI from the early 80s that details other types (chicken wire if you don't have a HOA ) and one made from a bicycle wheel.....Colin

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update 2

Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Sat, 27 May 2006 12:15:19 GMT

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More on AM antennas: Yesterday I received a new and improved Godar Model 10 AM Antenna after returning the previous Godar 10 to the manufacturer. <http://users.mcleodusa.net/m/mgodar/MDL10.html> The original Godar Model 10 is described as a "Loop" antenna on the website, instruction sheet, and in conversation with Mike at Godar. It is not a loop design. I opened it up. It is at most, a base loaded bent whip. There is no "loop". This new Godar AM antenna (also labeled Model 10) has a different cable, with the connector removed from one end for connection directly to your receivers AM Ant and Ground posts. New instructions warn not to use a regular cable and transformer (as supplied with the previous version). The instructions that came with this new Godar 10 describe it as a ferrite loop. While I have not yet opened it, a quick check with my multimeter shows there is no continuity back to ground... so it is NOT a loop. The new Godar works exactly like the previous one... it doesn't. There is no difference in signal with or without the cable screwed into the Godar antenna. As with the previous Godar antenna, signal increased if I held the antenna, and increased even more if I touched the outside of the connector. While touching the connector on the end of the cable there was no difference in signal whether plugged into the Godar 10 or not. This antenna was tested on an Onkyo T-4500 tuner, Onkyo TX-850 receiver, and Onkyo TX-901 receiver, all with the same poor results. HOWEVER, this tuner and receivers work very well with a true loop, the "Ultimate AM Loop" antenna... which is simply four turns of wire around a simple wood frame. [http://members.cox.net/rwagone/colums/am\\_antenna.html](http://members.cox.net/rwagone/colums/am_antenna.html) The Ultimate Loop described in my previous post is the superior unit by far, and one I can recommend to everyone. Here is a kit version of the Carver Ultimate loop: [http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?Pr3\\_PcY\\_BIN\\_IT](http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?Pr3_PcY_BIN_IT) The photo below is my actual kit built Ultimate. There is also available a finished version and a small finished version. ---Update: I returned the Godar antenna to the seller, who is giving me a full refund. He stated that these antennas work well for some, and don't work for others, he did not know why. So, what I have done is sent Mike (Godar) schematics of my tuners so that he can see what might be different about my gear from others for which the Model 10 AM antenna do work with. All of this has been frustrating, especially since I have a Godar FM1-A in the attic that works quite well. Not as well as a previous outdoor antenna (a Channelmaster, don't remember the model) that was on a mast about 10' above the peak of my roof, but still gives acceptable performance for an indoor antenna.

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Subject: Godar product alert  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 31 May 2006 16:11:54 GMT  
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That's embarrassing for Godar. With the loop antenna so effective and easy to manufacture and use, Godar has no excuse. They probably should stop selling antennas, 'cause that's pretty bad.

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update  
Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Tue, 06 Jun 2006 02:25:48 GMT  
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I made one of the small 9" loops... nowhere near as good as the larger version. If you order a kit from Jeff, get the large one.

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 06 Jun 2006 03:33:07 GMT  
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Good info, thanks! This is a good one to make purely DIY too. A loop antenna is easy to build with a minimum of materials and effort, and it works great!

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Subject: Re: AM antenna update  
Posted by [Paul C.](#) on Wed, 07 Jun 2006 02:18:32 GMT  
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Materials needed to make your own: Base- decoupage plaque from a craft store 4 Rubber or plastic bumpers- self adhesive type, for feet, need to be about 1/4" thick 1/2" x 3/4" x 18" long pine- cross arm 1/2" x 3/4" x 20" long pine- upright #6 x 2 1/2" wood screw- to secure upright to base 4 brass "shoulder hooks"- to hold wire loop on upright and cross arm #8 brass machine screw, 2 washers, nut (all must be brass)- to connect the cross arm to the upright terminal strip 18' of #22 insulated wire, stranded or solid, does not matter 300 ohm twin lead - length as needed to go from terminal strip to your tuner or receiver. The shoulder hooks are screwed into the ends of the cross arm about 3/8" from the ends. Also on the upright, 3/8" from the top, and one about 2" from the bottom. A 5/32" hole is drilled in the center of the base (plaque), and another drilled 1/2" in front of it. A third hole is drilled to one side coming out next to the terminal strip. See photos. The upright and cross arm are notched (1/4" deep, 3/4" wide) so that they may be assembled and be flush. A hole is drilled through them and the machine screw, washers, and nut are used to hold it

together. Before assembly of wood parts, sand and stain, varnish, or finish as you wish. I used Minwax stain, let dry overnight, then a few coats of spray on water based finish. A 3/32" hole is drilled in the bottom of the upright. The #6 2 1/2" screw is screwed in from under the base and into the upright to hold it to the base. 6" of wire is pushed down through the hole just in front of the upright, under the base, and out the hole beside the terminal strip and secured to the terminal strip. Pull out the excess slack from the top by the upright. Pass the wire over the lowest shoulder hook, then up around one of the crossarm shoulder hooks, up to the top, down to the other side, back down to the bottom shoulder hook, and around again. Total of four loops. At the bottom loop the wire around the bottom shoulder hook and then down through the hole in the base. Pull it snug. Up through the hole by the terminal strip, and secure to the terminal strip. Then run 300 ohm twinlead from the terminal strip to your tuner or receiver. Connect to the AM and Ground terminals. Both leads must be connected. Listen to the AM stations roll in!

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