

How To Cut The Cable Cord

By Doug Clark

First thing to do is to build or buy an antenna. To buy one go to <http://www.channelmaster.com/> I put mine in the attic. It protects the antenna from the elements and I don't have to climb on the roof. Height is important. The higher the better. I live in a 2 story house so my attic counts as the 3rd floor and it's placed near the top rafter beam. If you live in a ranch this might not work that well. Try it and see. If not, it makes sense to make a one-time investment to get a professional antenna like the one below (it's the same design I used to build my own). It's a high gain, multidirectional, UHF/VHF antenna. You would need to mount it on a pole on your roof or chimney. It's also important to note that depending where you live, a TV antenna may not be your best option. It just worked out well for me.

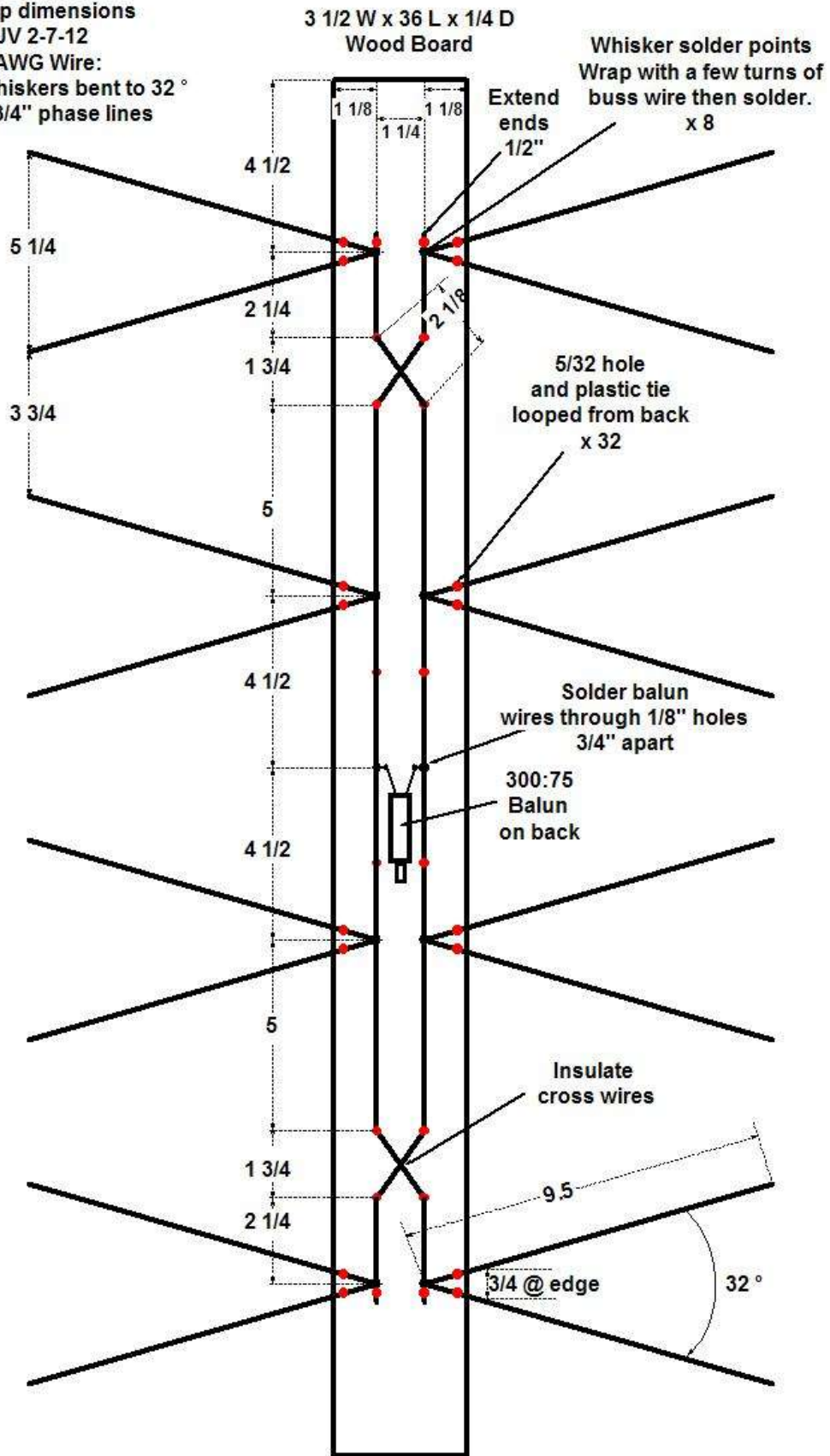
You must have a digital TV or Converter box. All current broadcast transmissions are in Digital format and are mostly UHF transmissions with the exception of WBBZ 67-1 out of Springville which is digital VHF. I changed my TV input from Cable to Antenna and scanned for channels. I got 32 but only about 10 that I consider useful (French TV from Canada was the first to go off my channel list). I watched broadcast TV for a month before I decided it was what I wanted. The image quality is better than cable. I do miss some networks on cable but not enough to keep paying what they're asking. Most people like me, supplement their programming with on line streaming such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Apple TV, You tube and the like.

ULTRAntenna 60



I chose to build my own using 14 Gauge copper house wire I had laying around, a 2x4, & (75 to 300 ohm) Balun antenna transformer . Many people on line use common coat hangers. See the plans below.

**4-BAY BOW TIE High VHF/UHF
TV ANTENNA**
 McLapp dimensions
 RJV 2-7-12
 10 AWG Wire:
 Eight 19" whiskers bent to 32°
 Two 28 3/4" phase lines



Stations for Buffalo, New York. I get all but the channels listed in **red**. The ones I deleted & didn't want are in **green**.

WGRZ BUFFALO, NY

02-1 33.1 WGRZ-HD NBC "Channel 2"

02-2 33.2 WGRZ2.2 Antenna TV

02-3 33.3 WGRZ2.3 Justice Network

WIVB-TV BUFFALO, NY

04-1 39.5 WIVB-HD CBS "WIVB 4"

WKBW-TV BUFFALO, NY

07-1 38.3 WKBW-HD ABC "WKBW 7"

WNED-TV BUFFALO, NY

17-1 43.2 WNED-HD PBS "WNED"

17-2 43.3 Think World Channel

17-3 43.4 WNED-TH

WNLO BUFFALO, NY

23-1 32.3 WNLO-HD CW "CW 23"

23-2 32.4 Bounce Bounce TV

WBNF-CD BUFFALO, NY

26-1 15.3 WNYB-SD TCT

WNYB JAMESTOWN, NY

26-1 26.3 WNYB-SD TCT

WBNF-CD BUFFALO, NY

26-2 15.4 WNYB-HD TCT HD

WNYB JAMESTOWN, NY

26-2 26.4 WNYB-HD TCT HD

WBNF-CD BUFFALO, NY

26-3 15.5 WNYBSD2 TCT Family

WNYB JAMESTOWN, NY

26-3 26.5 WNYBSD2 TCT Family

26-4 26.6 WNYBSD3 ABN

WBNF-CD BUFFALO, NY

26-4 15.6 WNYBSD3 ABN

WUTV BUFFALO, NY

29-1 14.3 WUTV-HD FOX "Fox 29"

29-2 14.4 TCN ZUUS Country

29-3 14.5 GritTV Grit

W30BW OLEAN, NY

30-1 30.1 W30BW-D Retro TV

39-1 29.1 WDTB-HD Daystar

WNED-TV BUFFALO, NY

43-7 43.7 Audio "Classical 94.5"

WNYO-TV BUFFALO, NY

49-1 49.3 WNYO-HD MyN "MyTV Buffalo"

49-2 49.4 Cool TV GetTV

WPXJ-TV BATAVIA, NY

51-1 23.3 ION ION

51-2 23.4 qubo Qubo

51-3 23.5 IONLife ION Life

51-4 23.6 ShopTV Infomercials

51-5 23.7 QVC QVC

51-6 23.8 HSN HSN

WBXZ-LP BUFFALO, NY

56-1 17.1 Cozi COZI TV

56-2 17.2 Retro Retro TV

56-3 17.3 Revn Rev'n

56-4 17.4 THBKTV Classic Shows "Throwback TV"

56-5 17.5 Shop Heartland

56-6 17.6 Soon PBJ

WBBZ-TV SPRINGVILLE, NY

67-1 7.1 WBBZ-TV Independent

67-2 7.2 THISTV This TV

67-3 7.3 METV Me-TV

67-4 7.4 DAYSTAR Daystar

Canada

5-1 CBLT CBC

9-1 CFTO CTV

11-1 CHCH

19-1 TVO

25-1 CBLFT French

CHCH 11, is actually closer to me in Hamilton ON but, because the other Canadian stations broadcast high a-top the CN Tower in Toronto and over lake Ontario, I get them with no problem. If your signal is weak you can get sound drop out, frame freeze or pixilation. The signal strength you want should be above 20dB, with 30dB being the best. Any signal under 20dB and the picture may not be reliable. Roof asphalt sheets can reduce signal strength in some cases as well, depending on what they are made of, so keep that in mind if you're placing your antenna in the attic. Many TV's have a signal strength indicator of some kind. I have a Samsung and theirs is pretty good. For all the stations I can get, I receive a crystal clear picture without any problems. Because the broadcast TV signal is not compressed over a cable, you should notice and even better picture than you had with cable. I use a signal booster/multiplier to send the antenna reception to all 4 of my TV's using just the one antenna.

Internet access

You will need internet access if you wish to use on-line streaming like Netflix and discount internet phone like Vonage. What you choose is up to you. The basic choices are 1) Cable, 2) DSL or 3) Wireless cell phone card. In my location, I have weak cell coverage and the DSL is poor do to the distance from the transmit station, so I stuck with cable for my internet and only my internet. You may have better cheaper options where you live. You can get cable internet for as little as \$14.00/month, but I chose the \$28/Month standard package as I am required to have it for my job and my employer reimburses me for it. The fact that I can also use it for my home is an added perk.

House Phone

There are many discount providers to pick from. From Tracfone to Ooma. I choose Magic Jack because it was recommend by a friend and it is only \$40/Yr. That's about \$3.30 a month. Dirt cheap. I ported my house number over and have been using it for a week. So far so good. We also have cell phones as a back-up if the power ever goes out.

References

Here are some great web sites I found that helped me along the way. You can even get a DVR for Broadcast programs with no subscription fee. Very cool. Hope this helps. Enjoy.

http://www.channelmasterstore.com/Outdoor_Antennas_s/20.htm

<http://www.antennapoint.com/antennas/show?id=14120&commit=Search#map>

http://www.rabbitears.info/market.php?request=print_market&mktid=63

<http://www.remotecentral.com/hdtv/>

http://www.magicjack.com/magicJackGO.html?_ga=1.6447732.718559991.1424991216

http://www.channelmasterstore.com/Antenna_DVR_s/336.htm

<http://rickviola.com/electronics.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWQhlmJTMzw>