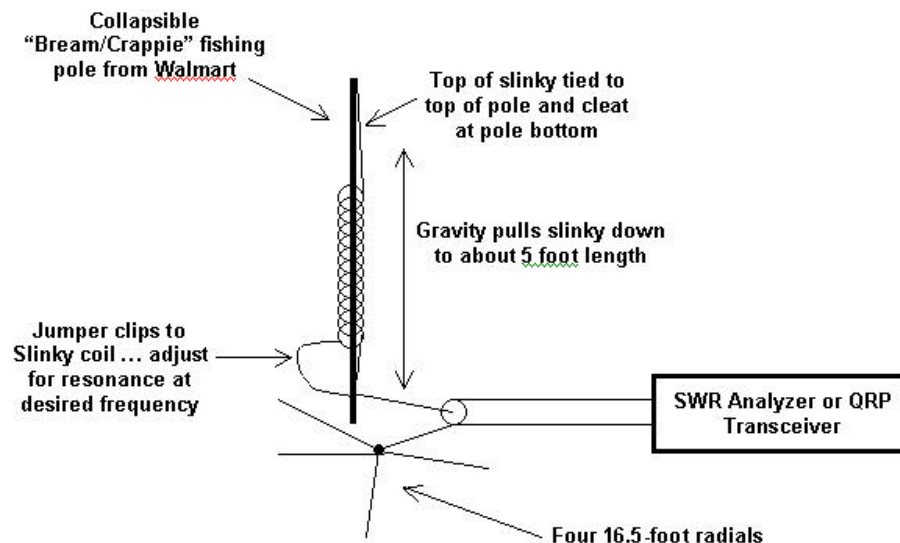


The NJQRP "Slink-ette"

A Slinky™-based Doublet or Loaded Vertical QRP Antenna

A "Vertical Slink-ette" ... de N2CX



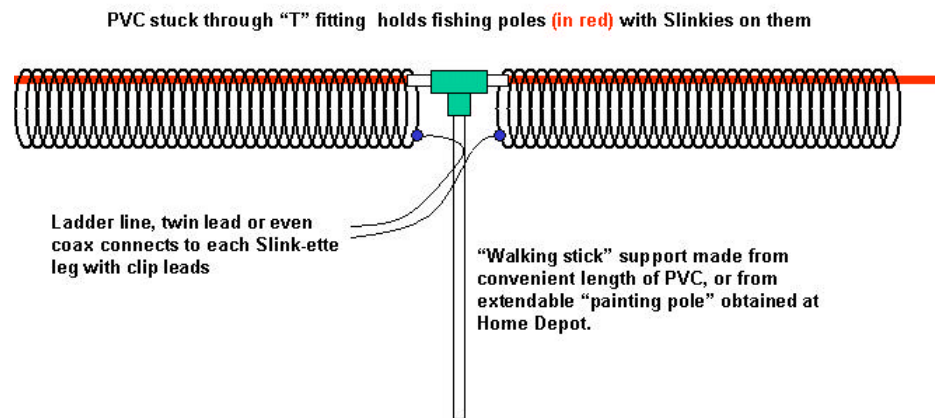
The pole is simply a \$7.50 "Bream & Crappie" fishing pole found on close-out sale at WalMar. It's similar to the South Bend and Cabela's 20-foot fiberglass poles, though only 10 feet long. Using some nylon fishing line the Slinky is tied to the pole top and to a cleat near the bottom so that it is five feet long. 50 ohm coax serves as a feedline with the center conductor going to a clip lead that is positioned along the coil until SWR is minimized. I found a 40 meter resonance about 5 turns from the bottom, though your results may vary.

As with any short vertical antenna a good ground system is needed for efficiency. I found that four 16.5 foot radials were needed before I could get stable SWR readings on my antenna analyzer. SWR in this setup was about 1.5 to 1. For on-the air use I recommend at least 8 to 10 such radials although that number is manageable if they are only 16.5 or so feet long.

The efficiency is likely to be no better than the similar Hamstick antennas. A couple of simple measurements indicate that the material used for the coil turns has about the same resistance as 24 gauge copper wire. A simple means of improving efficiency would be to use a 4-foot copper wire as the top support and tap up on the coil for resonance.

For the ambitious, two Slinky's™ in series and stretched out to 10 feet should be just about right for 80 meters. Of course this would need a longer pole than the WalMart special.

A "Slink-ette Doublet" ... de N2EI



- 1) Take two equal diameter Slinky™ toys (Check them as well to see they have the same number of "turns")
- 2) Attach your feedline of choice in the middle as you would with any doublet design.
- 3) Suspend the extended coils of the doublet with sturdy rope or other non-conductive material (W7CZB used wooden dowels)
- 4) Adjust the antenna to resonance on the desired frequency by adding or subtracting an equal number of turns at the ends of the two legs of the doublet by means of drawing the unneeded coils together and shorting them out to one another.

Special thanks to Al Owen, WA3OWT for finding the club a "Slinky deal" from a local distributor!