

SOTA Beams

Congratulations on choosing the SOTABeams Multi Function Dipole (MFD)! It is a versatile aerial that has been extensively tested in a variety of difficult condition on hills and mountains in England and Wales. Using it is simplicity itself but before heading outside, take a few minutes to fully understand its use and learn a few tips!

The first step is to gently extract the top conductor of the dipole element. This is simply done as shown on the left. Once the conductor is pulled out, slide it into the dipole top-section. This is the tube with a black bung in one end. The conductor should slide in easily and the top section can then be gently slipped into the plastic connecting sleeve. That completes assembly of the dipole.



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When this is done you can configure your aerial for your intended use. There are many options, some of which are illustrated on our website.

For use as a rucksack antenna we recommend using a single extension section. Note: do not slide

connecting sleeves over the end of the dipole with black bung.

When you have finished using the aerial disassemble and slide the conductor back inside the tube with just a finger-loop remaining outside.

We can supply an optional top-cap to stop water running down inside the dipole element (the element itself is sealed inside the tube).

A note on the use of the plastic connecting sleeves

The sleeves can be damaged by misuse. Never use excessive force to join sections of the aerial together. Use the MINIMUM force that allows a firm connection.

Sideways forces such as those exerted by strong winds can damage the connecting sleeves. In strong winds always use the minimum aerial height and attach a guy above the top plastic coupler. The guy should be run out into the wind to avoid sideways stress on the coupler.

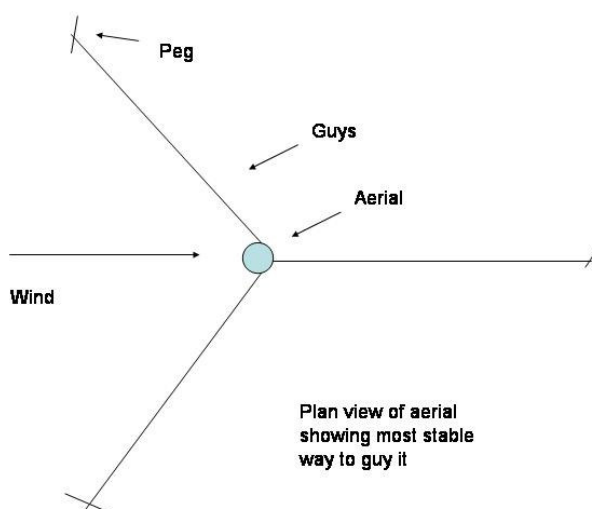
These simple precautions will ensure that your aerial lasts for a long time!

Safety warning. Take care not to use the aerial in such a way that it presents a risk to you or others. It must not be used in exposed situations where there is a risk of lightning. Although the power rating of the aerial is 100 watts, care must be taken to ensure that exposure to radiowaves is at levels within the relevant guidelines on public or occupational exposure.

The Optional Guying Kit

If you have purchased our optional guying kit, the first thing you should do is to cut the cord into three equal lengths.

Tie a figure of eight loop in one end of each of the three guys. <http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-tie-a-figure-of-eight-loop>
This loop can be quite small—it is to provide a pegging point.

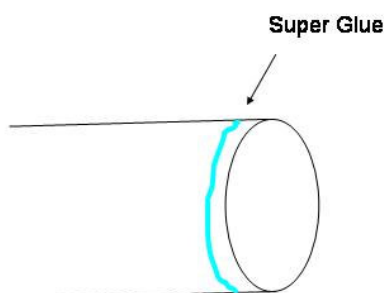


At the other end of each cord, tie a simple slip knot. To use the guys, slide them over the aerial, tighten the slip knot and peg. Always try to attach the guys to a point above the top plastic connecting sleeve or above the plastic T-piece (whichever is higher).

The diagram on the left shows the most stable guying configuration for use in strong winds.

Replacing the Plastic Sleeves

If you are unlucky enough to damage one of the sleeves, don't panic. We have spares. Simply remove the damaged sleeve and clean off any residue from the glue. Put a thin line of "super-glue" round the plastic pipe (about 2mm from the end) and slide on a replacement sleeve. Only slide it on enough for it to be firm. If you force it on, it may split!



Need more help? Give Richard, G3CWI a call! 01625-425700