

Good Morning Bob,

Well, way back at Dalton GA in February/March I purchased an SFP-101 Antenna System from you consisting of the AS-100 Mount, the FP-101 32' Flagpole Antenna Mast and the IMD-105 Antenna. At that time, I promised you that I would give you a report on the operation as well as the construction of the antenna. Well, I am a little later than I had planned, but as promised, here you are.

In preparation for Field Day this year, I set up the antenna in my back yard. This gave me a familiarity with how to set it up and take it down as well as letting me work it a little. Well, setup could not be much easier. The vertical sections go together well, they stay well, they are light and easy to work with. No issues erecting the antenna and getting the IMD-105 package on it. I staked it down and then used four sandbags on the mount which hold it down wonderfully well (yes, I guess buckets of water would work equally as well). It survived several strong thunderstorms in this manner and never even offered to blow over. Worked 20 meters as I love digital modes (PSK). It really did a super job. SWRs were in the 1.4-1.6 range.

As field day approached, I decided that I would take it all down and get ready for the big event. Well, taking it down is pretty much the reverse of erecting it, with a couple of lessons learned. First lesson, if you are by yourself, make sure that you keep the wire from becoming trapped between two sections of the fiberglass pole or you will have a heck of a mess. Yes, I did that. My own fault, nothing to do with the antenna. I wished that I could blame this on someone else, but my own stupidity. Second lesson, when taking it down, just remove ALL of the wire with the smallest section of the antenna pole. You can then easily disconnect it and re-insert the smallest section of the pole from the bottom, slick and clean. (suggest you might want to include that in your instructions).

Alas, field day prep is underway this past Saturday morning. While everyone was shooting ropes into trees and various other places, I backed my truck up, put down the AS-100 mount, secured it as noted above, and extended the antenna. Whole thing, 10 minutes. Once I had the experience of doing it once or twice in the backyard, it gets a great deal easier. I run a Yaesu 857D with a MFJ-929 tuner (yes, it can be bypassed) in my portable setup. We operated on 80, 20, 15, 10 meters mainly. On all of these bands the SWR was very good, in the 1.6 or less range. It was perfect on 80m at 1.0. The performance was as much better than I expected and rivaled that of the wire. In fact the wire ended up with issues and we were really saved by the TN07 for the Field Day event.

The only thing that I have added to the antenna is an 8-wire (50 ft each) counterpoise system that I built. This improves the capacitance coupling (Q-factor) and really helps the antenna work harder for you. I also use a block of foam or plastic bag to elevate the connector an inch or two above the ground. In case of rain, this helps keep out the water.

I guess that the bottom line is that I am quite satisfied with the performance. It really performed well, was easy to transport, erect and take down. It was great on both phone and digital modes and really saved our field day on one of the high power stations. I would have bet that it would not have performed as well as a wire, but I am now convinced the other way. It is a good, solid product, I'm glad that I purchased it and would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone.

Regards,

Richard Shrader, W4RBS







MFJ

SWR

ANT

28.470MHz 1A 1.4
FWD= 43 REF=1.4

MODE

SWR	1	1.2	1.5	2	3	∞
PWR	0	25	50	75	100	200

MFJ IntelliTuner™
AUTOMATIC ANTENNA TUNER
200 Watts SSB / CW