



## TransWorld Adventurer Antenna

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The TransWorld Adventurer, formerly sold as the TW2010, is a capacity-hat-and-inductance-loaded vertical dipole for five bands from 20 through 10 meters. What makes the Adventurer stand out is its compact and rapid assembly. With its optional *quadrapod* mounting stand, the antenna can be set up anywhere that has room for its 5 foot long perpendicular legs, although it is recommended that it be 33 feet from trees and large metal objects. The assembled antenna is a bit over 8 feet tall (see Figure 1).

### Putting it Together

The Adventurer collapses into three 2.5 foot pieces of black powder-coated aluminum. The top and bottom sections have folding capacity hat elements secured by hand-tightened plastic wing nuts with solid aluminum inserts. The middle section includes the remotely controlled band switching and matching box. The three sections telescope together and are secured by bolts with the same kind of wing nuts. The assembly can be completed without tools in less than two minutes. I was impressed with the solidness of all the materials and the rigidity of the completed assembly widow.

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The Adventurer comes equipped with a permanent mounting post intended for mounting in concrete. This post is also usable with U-bolts on a patio rail support. For its more likely use as a travel antenna, consider the *quadrapod* option. It makes deployment literally a snap for any surface that is approximately horizontal.

All the Adventurer components, including the control unit and 65 foot control cable, fit in the carry bag.

### Operation

The heart of the Adventurer is in the matching unit located at the center of the midsection. It contains a pair of loading coils for each band as well as a center matching inductor and relays for remote switching. A weatherproof connector for the supplied control cable and an SO-239 coax receptacle complete the package. The unit is specified to cover the entire 17, 15 and 12 meter bands with less than a 1.5:1 SWR. On 20 meters, it will cover a 200 kHz portion and on 10 meters a 1.21 MHz portion with the same SWR. Our review model seemed to be centered in the phone portions of the bands. As described in the manual, you can adjust the SWR bandwidth by slightly squeezing the loading coils, shifting it more toward the CW/data frequencies, if you desire. See Figure 2 for an interior view of the matching unit.

If you have a recent Yaesu or ICOM radio, optional cables are available that will switch bands at the antenna automatically based on radio supplied BAND DATA signals. I didn't have a cable or radio set up to try this feature. If the control box is

not connected or powered on, the antenna defaults to 20 meters.

### The Adventurer on the Air

In keeping with the spirit of the antenna's application, I brought my Elecraft K3/100 transceiver and a compact power supply to a patio table and put the antenna up in the backyard. I was on the air in minutes and quickly connected with Don, WV4X, in Virginia on 17 meter SSB. He was booming in at 10 to 20 dB over S9, and said I was doing the same his way. On the other hand, he was using a three element Yagi and running high power.

For a more objective performance assessment, I moved the radio back to its usual location and set it up so I could switch between the ground-mounted Adventurer and my other antennas. The one I thought best for a fair comparison was a 20, 15 and 10 meter trap dipole at about 30 feet — about as high as I can usually get a vacation antenna.

EZNEC antenna modeling software predicted that the Adventurer would perform about one S unit below my dipole. This turned out to be true in my on-air testing. Even so, the single S-unit difference was barely noticeable.

### In Summary

I found the Adventurer a surprising performer considering its footprint and ease of transport and assembly. In addition to its prime role as a portable antenna, it would be a great candidate as an antenna for stealth operation — it's easy to bring out to use when on the air, especially as the long-anticipated sunspots come back and make the HF bands 20 meters and above even more useful. In addition, it would make a natural antenna for inclusion in an emergency communications go-kit, or for use in ARRL Field Day. Also available is the Backpacker antenna. This is similar to the Adventurer, but has a manually switched matching and band switching box.

*Manufacturer: Trans World Antennas at 756 Mountain Top Ln, Cookeville, TN 38506-6323, [www.transworldantennas.com](http://www.transworldantennas.com), tel 931-537-2601. Price: Adventurer antenna with controller, permanent mount and control cable, \$399.95 plus shipping; quadrapod base \$89.95 plus shipping. The Adventurer antenna system package adds the quadrapod and carry bag, \$549.95 including shipping in the US; Backpacker system package with same accessories, \$399.95.*

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**Figure 1** — The author tightens up the last thumb screw of the Adventurer mounted optional quadrapod.

**Figure 2** — Interior view of the Adventurer matching unit.

