

Appendix X

(Taken from “Icom IC M802 Starting from Scratch”)

Home Made DSC Emergency Reception Antenna (DERA)

Not having an antenna connected to the DSC antenna connections could result in someone being in grave danger a short distance away and you being totally un-aware of the situation. You can create your own simple wire dipole antenna that may not capture DSC emergency calls around the world, but should enable you to receive calls within a range you might be able to help.

All you need is a piece of coax long enough to get to where you want to string your home made antenna, some vulcanizing tape or preferably shrink tubing, and a PL259 UHF connector to match up to the one on the transceiver near the center labeled DSC.

Make your antenna:

1. Measure the distance from your transceiver to where you want to install this antenna.
 - a. The antenna can be strung in a closet or for best reception exterior to the boat.
 - b. Be sure and allow for some extra cable length for routing.
 - c. Add six (6) feet to the measurement and cut the coax to length.
2. Cut approximately six (6) feet of outer insulation and the shield off of the coaxial cable.
3. Use shrink tubing (or tape) over the end where insulation and shield were removed to keep moisture out.
4. Install shrink tubing (or tape) over the end of the coax center conductor to keep moisture out.
5. Install and solder a PL259 on the other end
6. Connect the PL259 to the DSC connection on the transceiver.
7. Install a ferrite core consistent with the diameter of the cable at the transceiver end.
8. String the other end with the shield removed vertically.

While this is clearly a “poor man’s antenna” and not even tuned for the HF frequencies, you should be adequate to copy DSC messages from vessels near enough that you might be able to assist. It should be an OK solution until you can get the proper antenna installed.