

# EmComm Report – BuddiPole a portable Antenna

By Krissy KI7GJJ

I've received several inquiries lately about BuddiPole since I have one that I use mostly for portable. Before I share my limited experience with BuddiPole with you, let me qualify. First, I have no relationship with BuddiPole other than I bought one. I am not antenna smart. There are many club members who are a lot smarter about antennas than me. In this writeup I'll explain what BuddiPole is and share my experience with it.

The BuddiPole is basically an Erector-set for antennas. It helps you build various antennas and has lots of doodads (a technical term 😊) that you can purchase to extend the kit. Alternatively, you can purchase things from your local hardware store and electronics source to augment the kit at a lower price. It depends if you are a plug-and-play type person or one that likes to save money. The portability and flexibility of the BuddiPole makes it useful for EmComm situations (and camping!). The website for BuddiPole is:

<https://www.buddipole.com/>. They also sell a BuddiStick, but I have no personal experience with the

BuddiStick.

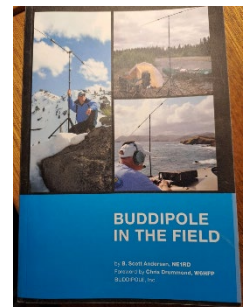


I purchased the deluxe package (being a plug-and-play person), but I've purchased additional parts to allow me to build additional antennas. One of the key components to the BuddiPole is the Coil Tap system that makes it easy to reconfigure the antenna for different bands.

Personally, I avoid using the Coil Tap system when possible since it creates a shortened & compromised antenna. When possible, I build a full-sized antenna;

thus, the need to purchase additional parts.

If purchasing a BuddiPole, I recommend also purchasing the book: "BuddiPole in the Field" by B. Scott Andersen NE1RD. This is a good starter book complete with "recipes" for building different antennas and the pros and cons of each configuration. And it includes SmithCharts! Check the internet & YouTube for other configurations people have built. I would recommend purchasing the longer mast for the most flexibility or go to your local hardware store to create/extend your mast.



I used to deploy BuddiPole in my backyard, but given my preference for Full-Sized antennas and the limited amount of backyard space, I now use it mostly camping where I have a large area to setup and lots of trees to help with guy wires and radials.

The most basic antenna you build is a Di-Pole using the Coil Tap system. This will get you started quickly. But using other parts, you can build verticals and even a Yagi. The key to the Di-Pole with the Coil Tap system is the deployment. I had the best results with it when I put it up high on a friend's roof or on the edge of a cliff.

My entire BuddiPole kit fits in one small case including all my extra pieces, but not including the radial kit I made (one item I chose to make rather than purchase). But it is a tight fit! I hope this short write-up clarifies the BuddiPole for some of you.



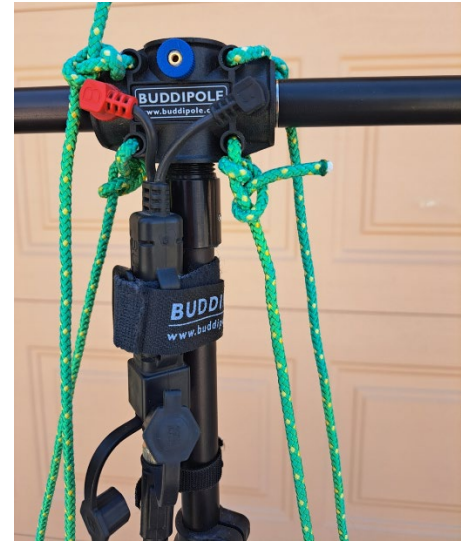
## Unpacking the BuddiPole

Here is everything that fits in the carry bag. There is a tripod, mast, coax, versa tee, and an inner bag. I added the compass and the guy wires.

Inside the inner bag are accessory arms, whips (long and short), coil tap system, rotating arm kit, counterpoise wire adapter and the pigtail you use to attach the coax.



Not all these pieces come in the standard deluxe kit. I purchased separately additional accessory arms and the long whips to build full-size antennas. I also added the rotating arm kit and the counterpoise wire adapter. The rotating arm kit enable you to point the di-pole elements at any angle you want. The counterpoise wire adapter is for attaching radials.



## Building an Antenna

These pictures show how to build the basic dipole. Note the mast and whips are not extended so I can fit everything in the picture. You connect the versa tee to the mast and attach the pigtail and coax. You add as many accessory arms as needed, the coil tap system and then the whips. The recipes in the book will tell you how many arms you need, how far to extend the whip and where to tap the coil for each band.

The basic kit contains extra taps that you can use to the coil to make it easy to switch bands.

The versa tee has a socket on the top that you would use to build a vertical antenna. Just attach the desired number of accessory arms and the whip to achieve the desired height. But then you will need to attach radials. The recipe book tells you how you can make your own radial kit or you can purchase one from BuddiPole.

