



FT-817 Brackets 2.0  
(CHA FT-817 BRACKETS 2.0)  
Operator's Manual

California - USA

[WWW.CHAMELEONANTENNA.COM](http://WWW.CHAMELEONANTENNA.COM)



***VERSATILE – DEPENDABLE – STEALTH – BUILT TO LAST***

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## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing and using the Chameleon Antenna™ FT-817 Brackets 2.0 (CHA FT-817 BRACKETS 2.0). CHA FT-817 Brackets are built exclusively by the skilled machinists of Chameleon Antenna™. They are a military-style pair of precision fabricated aluminum brackets and high quality carrying strap for the popular Yaesu FT-817 series portable QRP transceiver. The brackets have built-in folding legs to tilt the front panel of the FT-817 toward the operator during use. There is also a custom-made microphone holder. As shown in plate (1), the CHA FT-817 Brackets will ruggedize and help protect your FT-817 from the many hazards of field operations and increase the portability and useability of this outstanding radio.

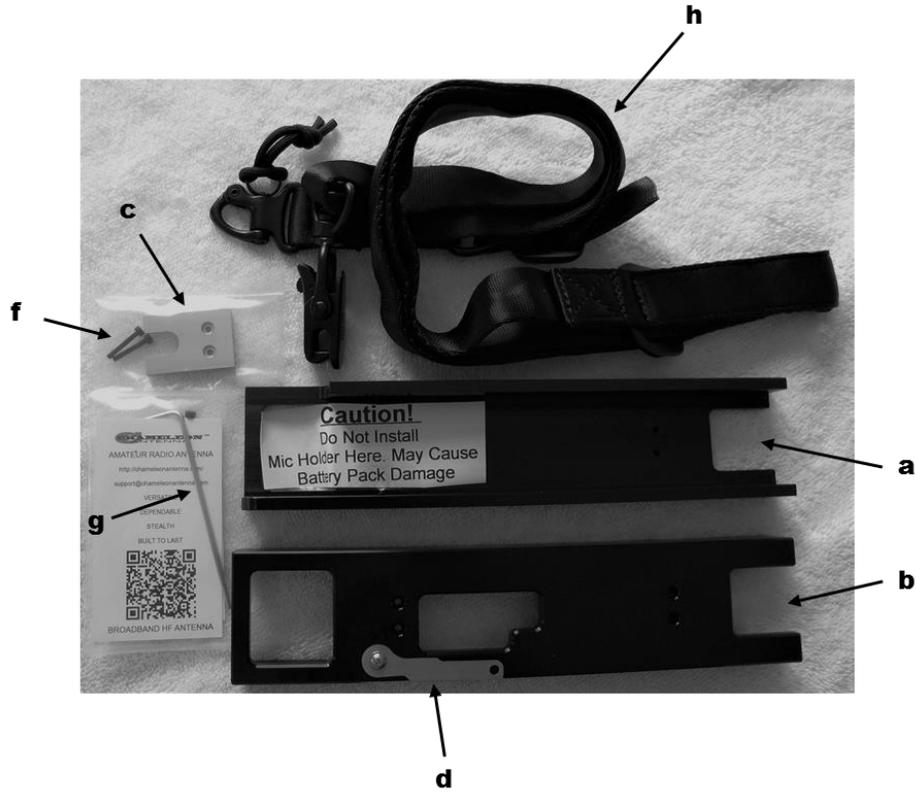


Plate 1. Yaesu FT-817 Transceiver with Chameleon Brackets.

## Parts of the Brackets

The CHA FT-817 BRACKETS are comprised of the following components, see plate (2):

- a. Right Bracket
- b. Left Bracket
- c. Microphone Holder
- d. Folding Legs
- e. Short Hex Bolts (quantity 6)
- f. Long Hex Bolts (quantity 2)
- g. Allen Wrench
- h. Shoulder Strap



**Plate (2). CHA FT-817 BRACKETS Components.**

## Brackets Installation

The CHA FT-817 BRACKETS 2.0 are easy to install. *You will need a good quality #1 Phillips screwdriver.*

1. Select a flat, well lit, work area.
2. Cover the work area with a large towel to protect the Yaesu FT-817 from being scratched.
3. Position the transceiver on the work surface, left side up.
4. Using a #1 Phillips screwdriver, unscrew the four screws on the left side of the transceiver, as shown in plate (3). This will also remove the left bracket for the original shoulder strap.

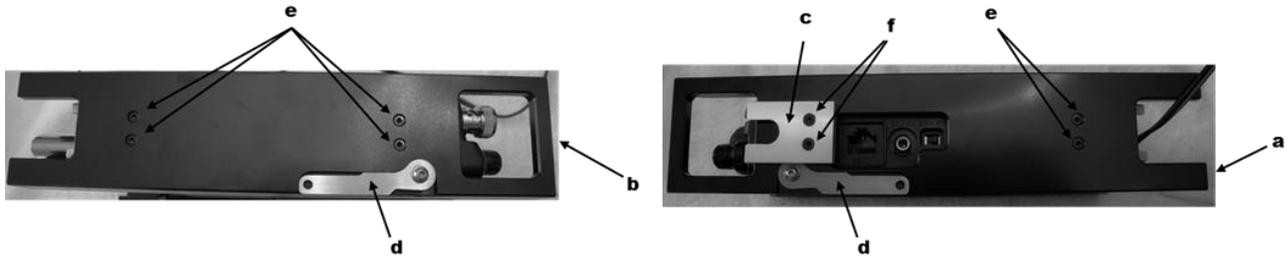


**Plate 3. Yaesu FT-817 Disassembly.**

5. Store the removed screws and bracket in a plastic bag in case needed in the future.

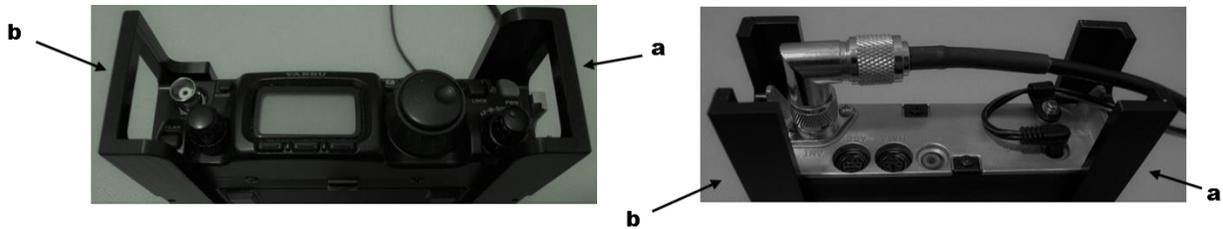
Refer to plate (4) for the following steps:

6. Place the Left Bracket (a) over the left side of the transceiver, such that the four holes in the Left Bracket are aligned with the four empty screw holes in the transceiver.



**Plate 4. Installed Left and Right Brackets.**

7. Using four of the Short Hex Bolts (e) and Allen Wrench (g), fasten the Left Bracket (a) to the left side of the transceiver. Tighten the Short Hex Bolts snugly, but be very careful not to overtighten them. *Caution: Over tightening the Short Hex Bolts could strip the screws and damage the transceiver.*
8. Position the transceiver right side up on the work surface.
9. Using a #1 Phillips screwdriver, unscrew the four screws on the right side of the transceiver. This will also remove the right bracket for the original shoulder strap.
10. Store the removed screws and bracket in a plastic bag, from step (5), in case needed in the future.
11. Place the Right Bracket (b) over the right side of the transceiver, such that the four holes in the Right Bracket are aligned with the four empty screw holes in the transceiver.
12. Using the remaining two Short Hex Bolts (e) and Allen Wrench (g), fasten the bottom of the Right Bracket (b) to the bottom right side of the transceiver. Tighten the Short Hex Bolts snugly, but be very careful not to overtighten them. *Caution: Over tightening the Short Hex Bolts could strip the screws and damage the transceiver.*
13. Position the Microphone Holder (c) over the top two holes of the Right Bracket (b).
14. Using the two Long Hex Bolts (f), fasten the Microphone Holder (c) and top of the Right Bracket (b) to the top right side of the transceiver. Tighten the Long Hex Bolts snugly, but be very careful not to overtighten them. *Caution: Over tightening the Long Hex Bolts could strip the screws and damage the transceiver.*
15. If used, clip the Shoulder Strap (h) the handles of the Left Bracket (a) and Right Bracket (b), as shown in plate (1).
16. This completes installation of the CHA FT-817 BRACKETS 2.0. Your installed brackets should look like the installed brackets shown in plate (5).



17. Plate 5. Installed Brackets Front and Back.

## Chameleon Antenna™ Products

The following products are available for purchase at Chameleon Antenna™.

Go to <http://chameleonantenna.com> for ordering and more information.

**CHA SKYLOOP** - The CHA SKYLOOP is a 250' full wave loop antenna cut for 80M. With the help of an antenna tuner, the CHA SKYLOOP will cover all the bands between 80M and 6M.

**CHA EMCOMM II** - The CHA EMCOMM II Antenna has been specially designed for backup emergency HF system or permanent installation. The integral broadband impedance matching network allows broadband antenna tuning.

**CHA WINDOM 40** – The CHA WINDOM 40 Antenna is designed for 40, 20, and 10 meters. Amateur Bands from 60 through 10 meters can be operated using an antenna tuner. Built with the portable operator in mind, it is very light weight, easy to set up, and comes with a military-style pouch.

**CHA HYBRID Vehicular Base** - The CHA HYBRID Vehicular Base is designed to enhance the capabilities of the common HF radio application by allowing faster tuning operation across the HF bands including MARS/CAP frequencies. This antenna base has an integral broadband impedance matching network allowing broadband antenna tuning. The CHA HYBRID can be used mobile with the CHA V1L and V2L mobile antennas or stationary with the provided 30' wire.

**CHA V1 Mobile Antenna** - The CHA V1 antenna is our first and classic broadband HF mobile antenna

that we designed. It has been updated from fiberglass to 7075 alloy and stainless steel.

**CHA V1L Mobile Antenna** - The CHA V1L antenna is a rugged multiband HF mobile antenna that can be erected in a minimum of time and space.

**CHA V2L Mobile Antenna** - The CHA V2L is a rugged multiband HF antenna designed for smaller vehicles.

**CHA VHF/UHF Magnetic Mount Mobile Antenna** - The CHA VHF/UHF is a simple but great dual band antenna for 2M and 70CM.

**CHA Hybrid Mini – Portable HF Antenna Base** - The CHA HYBRID-MINI Base is the portable version of the regular HYBRID. The unit can be differentiated by the color of the lid and the base connector, which is black instead of gray. The HYBRID-MINI is also smaller and about 50% lighter than the regular HYBRID. An external antenna tuner is required to provide a low VSWR. The connector provided with the antenna is a SO-239 sealed. The entire unit is also waterproof. The HYBRID-MINI will serve as impedance transformer matching network (transformer 5:1) and will greatly reduce the VSWR at the load for the following antennas: V1, V1L, V2L and MIL.

**CHA Hybrid Micro - Portable HF Antenna Base** - The CHA HYBRID-MICRO is a lightweight highly portable broadband antenna system designed to

offer maximum portability and performance. The antenna weights about 1 lb. The antenna will operate at all frequencies in the 1.8-54 MHz band without any adjustment with most modern external antenna tuners. No masts or guying are required. The antenna will work successfully supported by trees, masts, the tops of vehicles or any convenient object or structure. The antenna works most effectively when elevated at a reasonable height.

**CHA MIL Whip** - The CHA MIL whip is a broadband (28 to 54 MHz) monopole antenna designed for portable or man-pack radios requiring compact but rugged antenna systems. Its design has been borrowed from similar antennas utilized by many armies all over the world. The CHA MIL is very hardy, sturdy and portable (being collapsible). Un-mounted the entire antenna length is less than 29". The 5 aluminum sections are hold together by a piece of 1/8th inch US GI MIL SPEC shock cord. The CHA MIL Whip and a CHA HYBRID-MINI Base perfectly complements the capability of the CHA P-LOOP 2.0.

**CHA MIL EXT Whip Extension** - The CHA MIL EXT whip has been designed to offer maximum portability and performance for those already using the portable CHA MIL whip for man-pack antenna system. This collapsible antenna extension needs to be used with the CHA MIL to create a 17'4" long portable antenna. When combined with any HYBRID

series antenna bases the CHA MIL EXT will operate at all frequencies in the 1.8-54 MHz band without any adjustment with most modern external antenna tuners.

**CHA TD Tactical Dipole LITE** - The CHA TD LITE (Tactical Dipole LITE) is a HF broadband antenna specially designed for portable HF communication where rapid deployment and simplicity of operation is essential but compactness is primary. The antenna will operate at all frequencies in the 1.8-54 MHz band without any adjustment with most modern external antenna tuners. No masts or guying are required.

**CHA TD Tactical Dipole** - The CHA TD is a complete multi-configurable HF broadband antenna system specially designed for portable HF communication where rapid deployment and simplicity of operation is essential. The antenna will operate at all frequencies in the 1.8-30 MHz band without any adjustment with most modern internal antenna tuners. It is ideal for use in conjunction with modern, digitally configured, HF communication transceivers where features such as ALE and frequency hopping require true broadband capability. No masts or guying are required. The CHA TD can also be used without antenna tuner, as the SWR will stay under 2.5:1 between 10M and 80M and under 2.75:1 on 160M.