

TARG Tips 3

Putting up Mast - single handed

Convention says that with any antenna system, height is might and this is very true. When working in the field, I always use as a minimum a 40' pole for my HF antenna, but how do you erect a 40' pole when there is only one of you to do it?

Well, you could lay the pole on the ground and fix your antenna to it and then lift the whole assembly into the air against a pair of back guys, but that puts undue stress on all the joints of your pole. Belinda M6JNX came up with the answer after seeing the Spiderbeam webbing centre guy belt used to guy a Spiderbeam mast. Using a length of webbing obtained from a camping and caravan outlet, she made a webbing belt for the bottom section of the pole, it's held in place with a hose clip which has a soft rubber lining on the inside which is held in place with heat shrink tubing. Four guy lines allow you to hold the pole in an upright position while you deploy the remaining pole sections straight up in the air which reduces the strain on the pole joints.

