

Newcomers and Elmers Net: Accessories for HTs, Mobiles, and Bases

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Speaker Mikes for HTs

Camera/GPS mikes for specialized HTs

Battery Packs for HTs

external power supplies for HTs

Pig Tail connectors or HTs to protect antenna mount

Programming software/cables for HTs and mobiles – very useful, but should not replace knowing at least the basics of how to program a frequency in your radio when in the field

case/clips/belt hooks

headsets for HTs

ear pieces with clip-on mikes - you can look like a secret service agent!

alternative antennas for HTs - stock antennas are good for local events where everybody is pretty close, but the typical antenna on an HT is ~6" which is about 1/8 to 1/16th wavelength depending on design -- an 18" antenna will give you 1/4 wavelength on 2m and 1/2 wavelength on 440

charging station options for HTs - quick charge, stands

Digital Voice modules for certain Alinco Mobiles

desktop microphones for mobiles

external speakers for HTs or mobiles (particularly useful in the car or at a base station)

Intermod filters especially for the pager range – e.g. Par model which notches between 152-154 MHz, especially useful for HTs and mobiles

Bluetooth options for HTs – allows you to talk hands-free and works with Bluetooth headsets e.g. RPF Talksafe Ranger

Cup holder design for GPS/Cell Phone/HT/Mobile head
detachable faces for mobiles or replaceable front-ends so as to take up smaller spaces

alternate battery sources for HTs and Mobiles - build-your-own; batteries which work in spotlights/security cameras /fish-finders/ R/C planes
mounting brackets for mobiles

power cord connecting options such as Anderson power poles, ring terminals, clamps

voice modules for some mobiles
voice in some Chinese HTs and mobiles

power supply options for mobiles such as linear or switching power supplies

both- data accessories for packet/digital modes and computer control
extension cables for mobiles

both - adapter cables for using a soundcard such as a Signalink USB or Rigblaster for digital modes

Line noise filters

TNCs and GPSs

both - cloning cables

cooling fan for mobile radio

Go kit carrier/configuration

Portable antennas/supports/tools

SWL Analyzers – you can get meters just for the VHF/UHF range which are much less expensive than the ones which include HF, but not such a good value if you intend to move into HF later

Dummy Load for testing rigs – everyone should have a dummy load if you have a mobile or HF rig; there are numerous times when you want to test your radio but should not be broadcasting a signal over the air

Battery chargers/conditioners for rechargeable AA/AAA batteries for HTs and other devices

Pre-amp for receiving satellite signals (this works only in a system where receive is isolated from the transmit side); Yagi or log periodic style antenna for tracking satellites

Base Units

Speakers – it is likely you will need an external speaker for your HF rig as most built-in speakers are too weak or tinny sounding

- A mid-range speaker from a home theater system often works well, and you might have one of those lying around the house
- I have leaned toward passive speakers just to cut down on possible interference, but you can use powered speakers as well – just try to keep the cable lengths as short as possible in any case, and if powered, you might need some ferrite beads on hand to eliminate or reduce RFI

Audio DSP filters or speakers

Amplifiers – QRP/High Power

Tuners – external needed for hi-power amps –

Morse code accessories – electronic Keyer, paddle, straight key

Foot or hand switch for transmitting

Headset with VOX and/or footswitch/handswitch

Antenna switches

Polyphasers

Antenna Analyzers – Power Meters – RFI Meters – Frequency Counters

- There can be specific meters for specific radios like the Yaesu 857/897 rigs which measure power, voltage, SWR, ALC etc.
- Analog and Graphic analyzers for SWR, Coax testing, testing Filters; some of these also act as a frequency counter and signal generator
- Field Strength meters for testing antenna configurations, or for testing between antennas, and you can check for RFI in the shack
- Combination SWR/Power meters, some with peak reading capability and peak hold, forward and reflected meter readings
- Step attenuators are useful for a number of projects; these basically reduce your signal by known quantities to reduce noise, limit signal strength, test between antennas, use with oscilloscopes and spectrum analyzers, and much more
- Power line noise meter identifies sources of interference from power lines around the neighborhood as you drive around; you should check out to several miles because a bad transformer or leaky circuit can cause that much interference
- RF current meters measure current along coax, antenna lines, radials etc. – clamps on and reads induction current
- SDR dongles with/without the HF upconverters can be handy in the shack as secondary receivers as well as test instruments; you can use these to observe your signal to check for out of band harmonics or RFI, as well as sources of RFI coming into the shack or the rig
 - – they can make a great inexpensive spectrum analyzer
 - The waterfall is particularly useful for seeing what is happening to your signals over time
- Noise cancelling antenna accessory for eliminating/reducing local noise sources – uses a secondary antenna for cancelling out phase of the noise in the shack or in the neighborhood

Weather station – usually tracked through APRS but can also provide links over the internet to your tablet or phone

- Peet
- Davis

Spare antenna supplies: guying rope – UV resistant; 1:1 and 4:1 baluns; ferrite beads and/or cores; antenna insulators; coax sealants; UV resistant zip ties