## How do I?

An occasional series

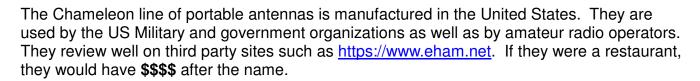
This week: Chameleon MPAS 2.0 update

Two Years Later -- A fresh look at the Chameleon MPAS 2.0 portable antenna system.

https://www.radioclub-carc.com/resources/ for more articles.

https://chameleonantenna.com/ manufacturer web site

https://www.dxengineering.com vendor web site



I had previously purchased a **CHA F Loop 2.0.** My mileage varied from other users and I was looking for something different. It has since been replaced by the 3.0 version, and just looking at the website, it looks very interesting.

The **MPAS 2.0** was introduced in (I think) 2018. It was a significant upgrade from the original. The antenna handles 160 to 6 meters at 100 watts. The military uses it for HF communication, using ground wave, NVIS and Sky-wave.

The antenna comes with a military style backpack so you can put all the pieces in one place.

Table 2 from the CHA MPAS 2.0 User Guides (manual) pretty much says it all.

Configuration	Ground	Short	Medium	Long	Directionality
Manpack Vertical	<b>\$</b>				Omnidirectional
Portable Vertical	<b>\$</b>		<b>1</b>		Omnidirectional
Horizontal NVIS		$\downarrow$	<b>1</b>		Omnidirectional
Sloping Wire	$\downarrow$		\$		Unidirectional
Inverted "L"		$\downarrow$	<b>\$</b>		Bidirectional
End-Fed Inverted "V"	<b>\$</b>		$\downarrow$	1	Bidirectional

Table 2. Antenna Configuration Selection.



I shopped a long time. Read many reviews and watched many YouTube videos before I bought one. All the reviews spoke of the high quality. Two years in, I am not sure. The support tubes use a clever rope system to keep them together. On mine, on the military extension, it broke after maybe eight installations. I am not sure what type of rope. It is not exactly like Para-cord, and I am not sure where to find some, or what it is called. I am also not sure how they fastened it at the top. I emailed them and never heard back. I found a replacement was not only much cheaper than I expected, but also back in stock at one of my favorite vendors, so I bought one. While I was at it, I bought a second MPAS 2.0 system. The second one came with a warning label to fold the Mil 2.0 extension from the top, so I may not be the only one with that issue.

The MPAS 2.0 as shipped comes with a 25 foot counterpoise. It works, but they now sell a 4 piece radial set. I have one of those. I think I prefer the counterpoise. I also have a Capacity Hat assembly, but have not used it. I also carry a plastic mallet and a 3/8 x24 Fine Thread tap and die in the backpack. The brass threads are pretty soft and it is easy to accidentally cross-thread the metal tubes together. I also purchased one of the Jaw Mount antenna mounts Chameleon sells so, if I want to, I can clamp the antenna onto a railing or similar if I am unable to drive the spike mount into the ground. I believe I have some Para-cord and a couple tent stakes in the backpack as well.

I use the antenna as a portable vertical. It takes maybe 10 minutes for one person to set up.

I have not made a lot of QSOs on it. A good wire antenna seems to outperform it, but is not as portable and takes a lot more time to erect. But on a good day, it receives well and gets 59 signal reports. Band changes are easy: Simply tune the rig to a new frequency. Some bands require a tuner, but for most, the SWR is 2.0 or less without an antenna tuner.

If you are looking for a portable, multi-band, multi-configuration, easy to erect and tear down antenna system, take a look at the **MPAS 2.0** from Chameleon.

If I didn't have one, I would take a look at the **Buddipole** <a href="https://www.buddipole.com/">https://www.buddipole.com/</a>. For me, the main difference between them is the **MPAS 2.0** will get on 80 and 160 meters. The **Buddipole** stops at 40 meters. The **Buddipole** also seems to require guy wires.

I own an **EagleOne** portable vertical from S&G Engineering out of Proctorville, Ohio, but they seem to have gone out of business in the last 9 months or so. If you find an EagleOne on Ebay, or from a private seller, for around \$140-ish, they are a good antenna, and a lot cheaper than any of the options discussed here.

MFJ <a href="https://mfjenterprises.com/products/mfj-2982">https://mfjenterprises.com/products/mfj-2982</a> sells a clone of the **EagleOne** as the **MFJ-2982** for \$200 without a tripod.

Catch 'ya on the air!