

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: Chameleon Antenna
CHA LEFS 8010 End Fed 8 Band Wire Antenna

First look

Looking for a well made, easy to hang, extremely portable multi band antenna?

Take a look at the Chameleon CHA8010



There are many articles on radios, antennas, and other tips and tricks for operating away from your home station. See <https://www.radioclub-carc.com/resources/> for more articles.

Chameleon Antenna [CHAMELEON ANTENNA - Ham Radio, Loop Antenna, Portable Antenna](#) is a manufacturer of a line of portable antennas for the amateur, emergency communications and military communities. While their products may seem expensive, each product reviews well in the amateur radio hobby press and websites such as eham.com.

One of Chameleon's newer offerings is the CHA LEFS 8010. It is sold as an end fed, 8 band wire antenna used in a sloper configuration.

The LEFS acronym stands for Lightweight End Fed Sloper. It is an End Fed Half Wave on some of the covered bands.

Chameleon's website says it covers 80M, 40M, 30M, 20M, 17M, 15M, 12M and 10M without a tuner and 60M with a tuner. It is rated for 500W SSB, 250W CW and 150W digital - far in excess of what most users will need for their field use. The basic 40-10M antenna is 63 feet. There is a wire extension which easily plugs in to double the length to 130 feet for 80 meters. The manufacturer sells this antenna for trail use. A line winder (nice feature!) and 50' of paracord are included. All you need to add to the basic package is coax cable and something to attach the bottom end to. As well as something to get the top end up as high as needed.

You can download the manual from the Chameleon website before purchase.

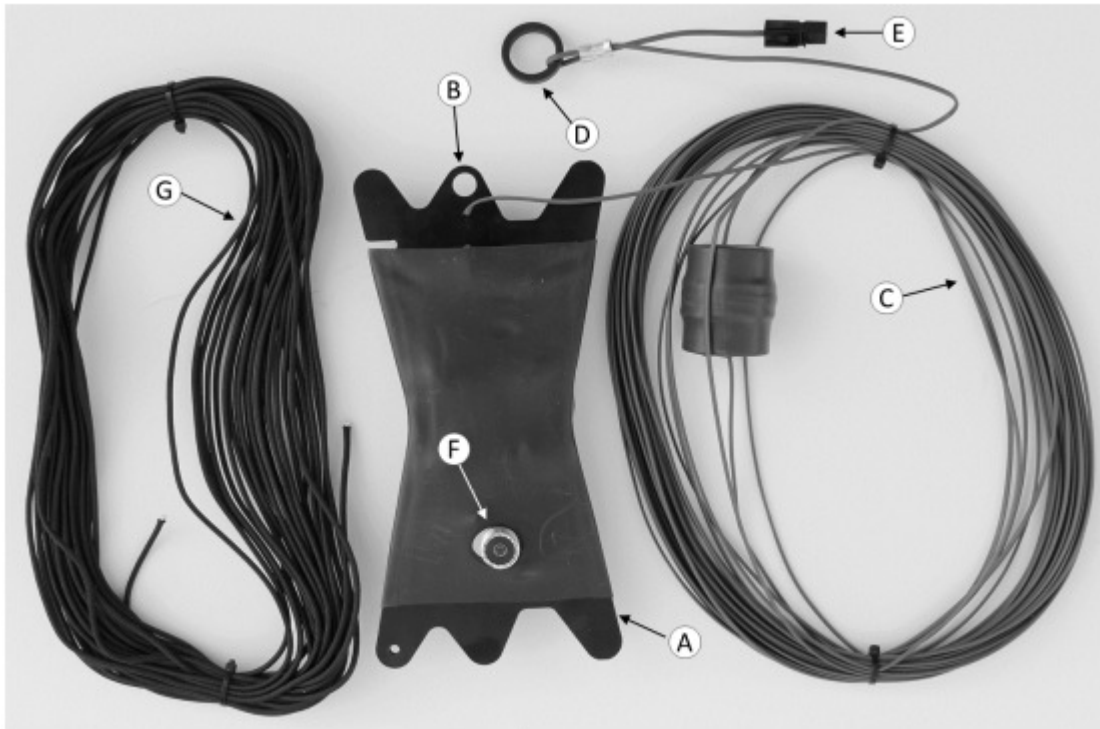


Plate 2. Components of the CHA LEFS 8010 Antenna.

B is the suspension point. B ensure it is facing up when installed.

F. Is the UHF connector, Attach the coax before lifting! I use the Chameleon 50' coax with RFI choke simply because it is light and portable and I already had it. Any good quality 50 Ohm coax from ABR or Cable Experts should be fine.



**CHA 50' COAX with
integrated RFI Choke**

\$94.00

The antenna can be installed as sloper

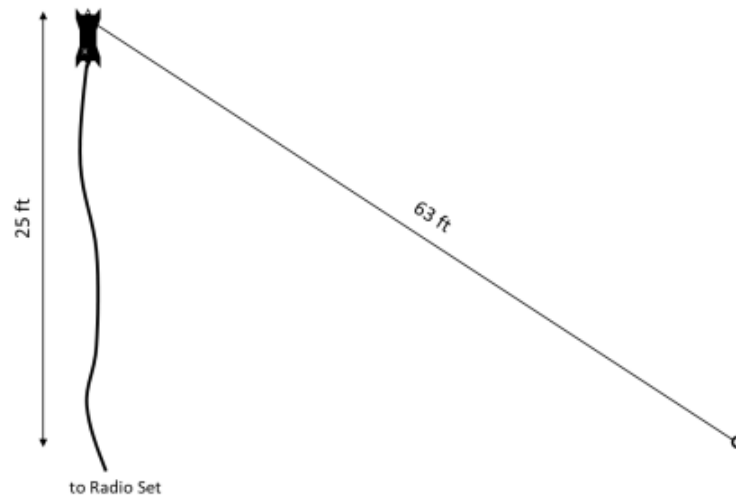


Figure 1. CHA LEFS 8010 Sloper Configuration.

Or for NVIS (near vertical incidence skywave, a horizontal)

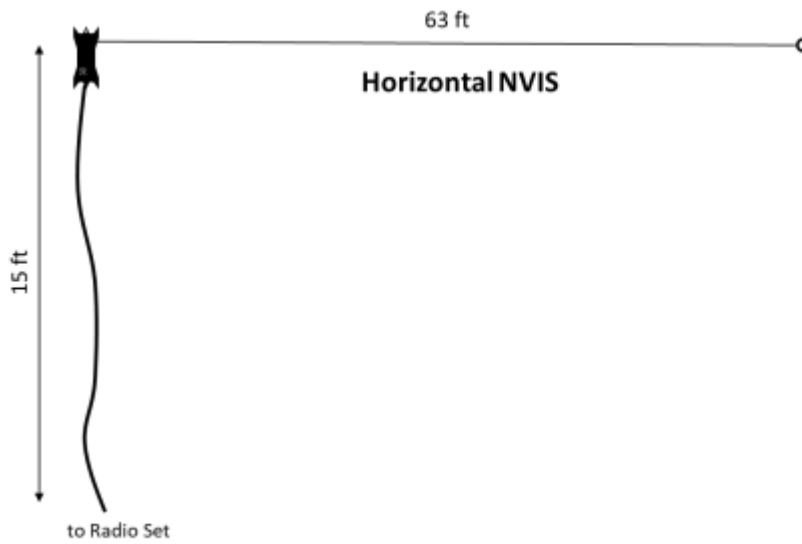


Figure 2. CHA LEFS 8010 Horizontal NVIS Configuration.

For 80M, add the extension cable and make sure you have a larger site.

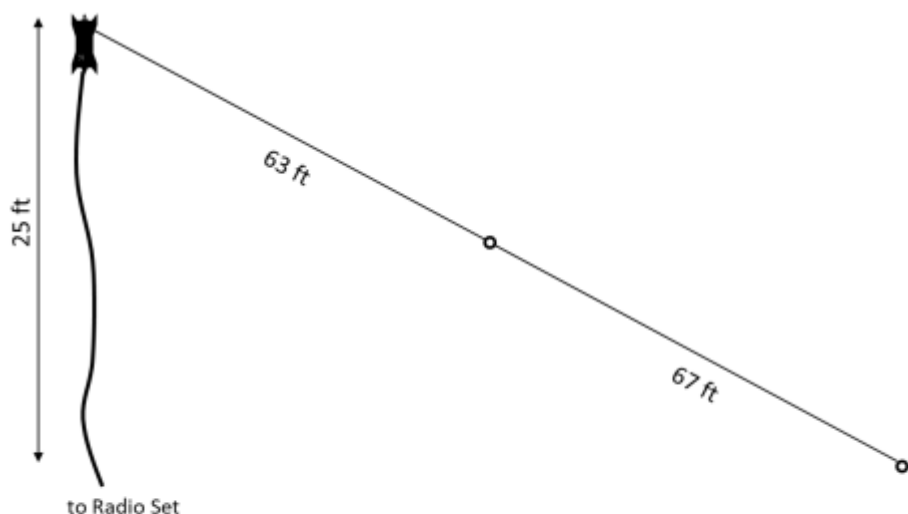
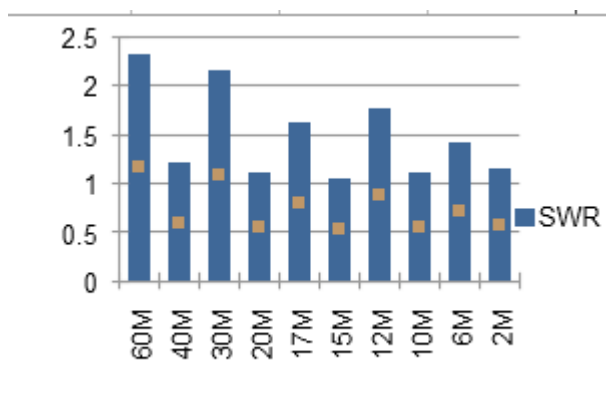


Figure 3. CHA LEFS 8010 80 Meter Sloper Configuration.

To get the top up 25 feet or more, use your favorite line throwing device (Chameleon also sells a 14 ounce throw bag that appears borrowed from the tree trimming folks), get a line over a limb, add the Chameleon paracord and hoist away. For the bottom end, you can secure it with a Chameleon spike mount or with a simple tent peg.



CHA SPIKE MOUNT



Wait! I thought you said this was an 80-10 meter antenna, with 8 bands. Well, the antenna analyzer on the 40 meter section found very good VSWR on 10 bands. Remember, a low VSWR does not mean it's a great antenna, but at least the VSWR is good.

I have not measured the 80 meter section, but I suspect we will find a good VSWR on 160M as well.

All in all, of the types of Chameleon antenna's I have owned, I think this is the one I was the most satisfied with right out of the box. One of the things about Chameleon Antenna is the interchangeability of parts. Being somewhat modular, instead of spending \$\$\$\$\$\$ for a complete package, you can use parts from other packages and bring the overall cost down while increasing play value.

Catch 'ya on the air!