

*How do I?*

*An occasional series*

*This week:* Chameleon Antenna  
MPAS 2.0 Follow up  
Even more portable fun!



*Whether its ARRL Field Day, The PA State QSO Party, activating a Park for Parks on the Air, or just operating from someplace new, it's fun to get outside.*

Longtime readers of this space will see 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.

We first looked at Chameleon Antenna's Modular, Portable Antenna System 2.0 a while ago – March 28, 2022 to be specific. But over time things change, so let's take another look.

The Chameleon MPAS 2.0 reviews very well and has been well covered in the amateur radio hobby press. It is a very versatile, very portable antenna system. As provided right out of the box, it can be configured as: Manpack Vertical (think of the US Army field radios used in Vietnam); a Portable Vertical; Horizontal NVIS; Sloping Wire; Inverted L; Inverted End Fed V and a Dipole. Can your Buddipole or hamsticks do all that?



Plate 1. MPAS 2.0 Core Components.

Since I acquired my first Chameleon MPAS 2.0 there have been a few changes. The military style bag has been changed. This allows the Antenna Extension to be carried internally. I like it! The Military Whip is subject to having the internal cord break. This is apparently frequent enough that they changed the take down instructions in the manual.

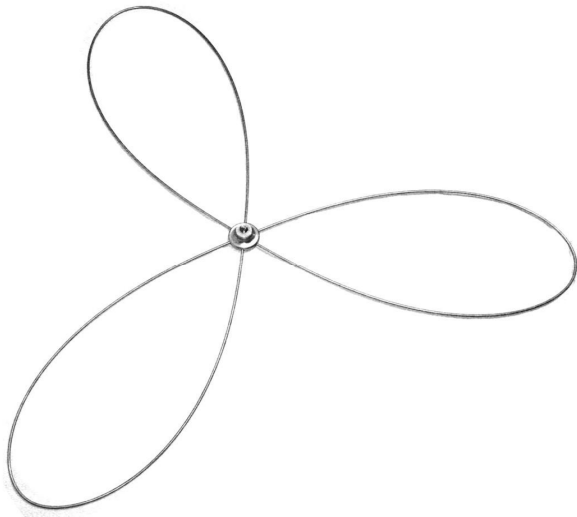
10. If used, take down the CHA MIL WHIP 2.0. VERY IMPORTANT! Starting at the top, pull the section apart from the section below and fold the section above over the section below. Repeat until all sections are apart. Secure the sections together with provided sticky strap. It is very important to take down the CHA MIL WHIP 2.0 beginning at the top. Failure to begin at the top may cause premature failure of the internal connection

Mine broke. It seemed simple enough to take the end caps off and attach a new cord, but I could not figure out how to get it back together or what type of cord they used. I emailed them to ask and never got a reply. I hoped I could if needed ship the broken one back and either get it repaired or get core credit for a refurbished one, but neither seems to be an option. I found one of my favorite retailers had a new one cheaper than expected so I simply bought a new one and figure that some day I can get the old one repaired and I will have a spare.

They have also added new components, err toys to buy. My favorite I think is the **SSI7 Extendable Whip**.

No, it's not a Russian intercontinental ballistic missile. It's a stainless steel whip 17 feet tall. It uses the spike mount from the MPAS 2.0 and the Hybrid Micro. I also use the counterpoise from the MPAS 2.0 or some users use 11' radials. It also be used with the MPAS 2.0 MIL Extension to create a 25' antenna. If you do so, add guy ropes! The collapsed whip is only 27" and easily stores inside the MPAS 2.0 carry bag.

**The capacity hat:**



This comes as a bag with 3 rods about the diameter of electric fence wire or small woven wire and a center fastener. The user assembles it. The capacity hat is about 32" in diameter. The hat screws inline between the MIL EXT and the MIL WHIP and increases the bandwidth of the antenna. You may have a very small fraction of 20 meters available with the stock antenna. The CAP HAT extends that. Not saying it is a must have, and it does make the antenna less portable, as once assembled, do not take the cap hat apart. I am wondering if someone could make an L shaped adapter to hang the cap hat from the MPAS 2.0 and create a loop antenna, either for receive only or for transmit as well? Something like a low budget, low performance version of the Chameleon F Loop 3.0.

## 2 meter add on kit:



I was surprised a few years ago to find a decent 2M SWR on the MPAS. I don't want to say the Dual Band VHF/UHF kit is a must have, but I already had the rest of the system and the price was reasonable. It is a dual band, 2M/70cm antenna. It can be mounted as a vertical or a horizontal. 150W SSB, 150W CW. For an SSB rig like a Yaesu FT857 or FT817/818, operating 2M SSB Domino-EX from a decent elevation can make you marvel at what VHF simplex can do!

What have you and your MPAS 2.0 done?

Catch 'ya on the air!