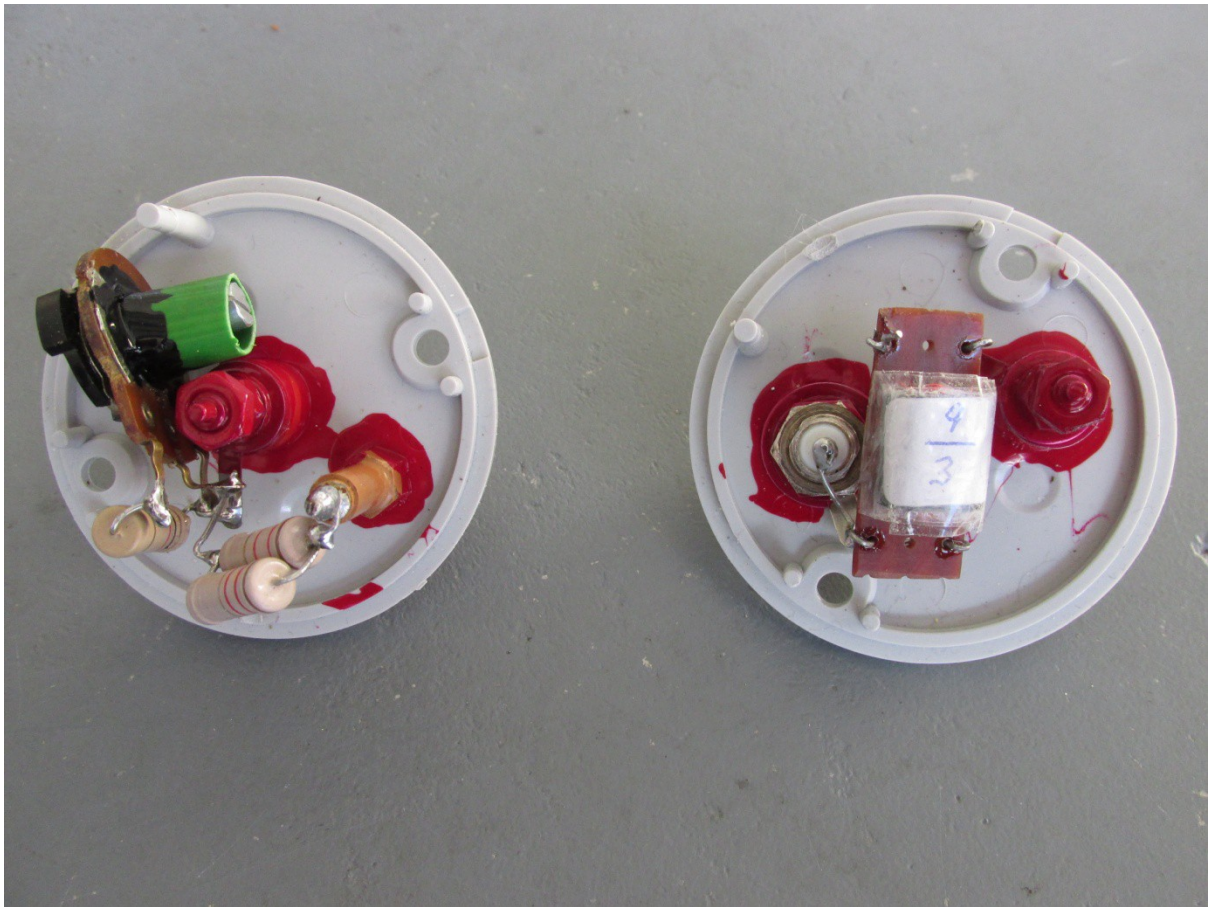
A PORTABLE “EWE” ANTENNA

Bill Marsh

With the sunspot cycle on the downward cycle and an expected increase in medium-wave activity, I thought it would be appropriate to make a portable EWE antenna. One that was easy to erect to take to a great DX spot I have found at the Wairau Bar just half an hours drive from Blenheim. The spot looks out over “Cloudy Bay” towards the Americas. The antenna described here can be erected in 10 minutes with two people and a little longer when you are on your own. The EWE uses a ground wire rather than earth rods which makes it extremely easy to change direction if required. There is a permanent 7 strand copper wire attached to each and terminations are via belling lee terminals and spade connectors. The terminating resistor on this setup is approximately 500 ohms for best null. The poles are made from locally sourced bamboo and are 4.1 M long (13.5 ft). The length of the ground and overhead conductor is 15 M (50ft). The conductor is highly flexible multi-strand appliance wire which is very light and withstood the test of high winds.

The purpose of this article is to give others ideas for making portable EWE antennas and the like. It is hoped that the following pictures will give enough detail for this purpose.

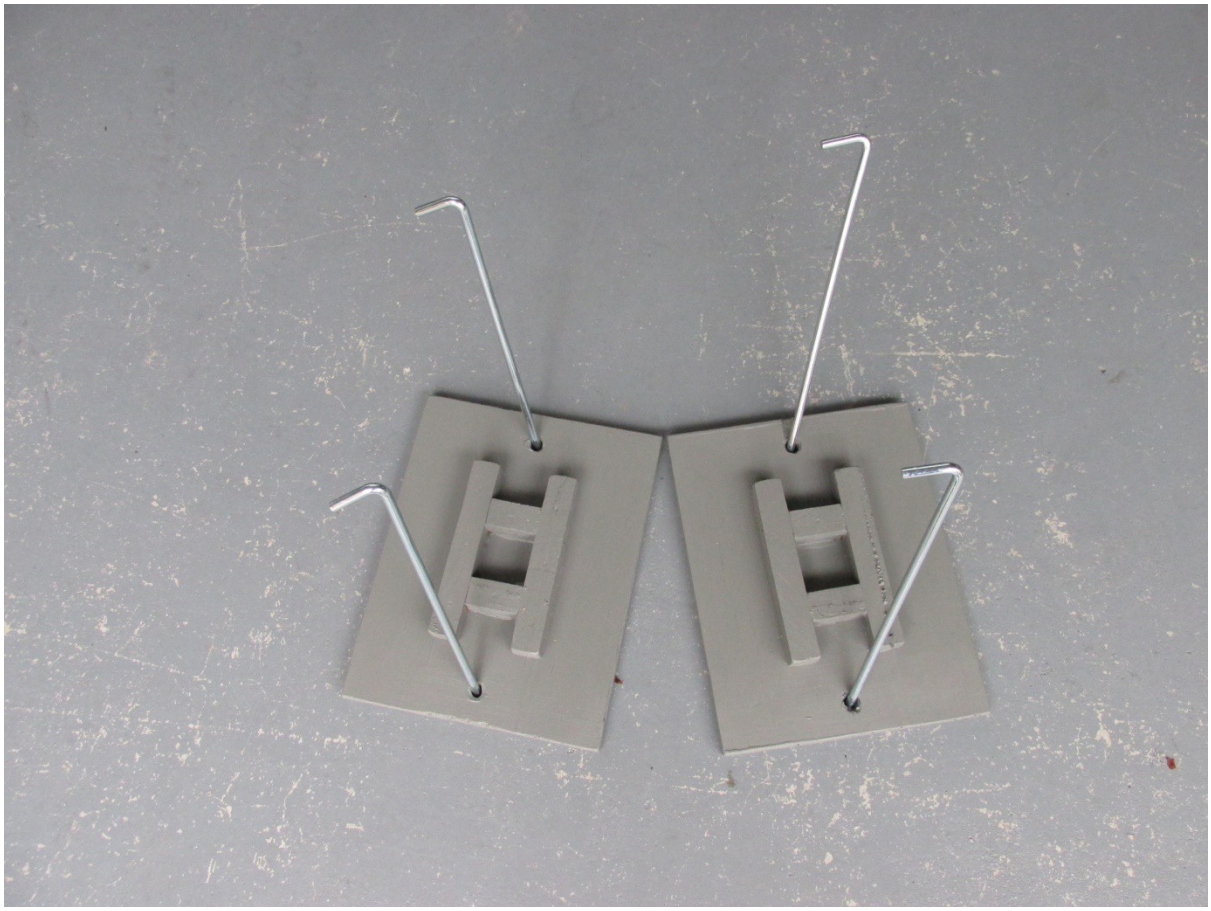
Erected antenna.



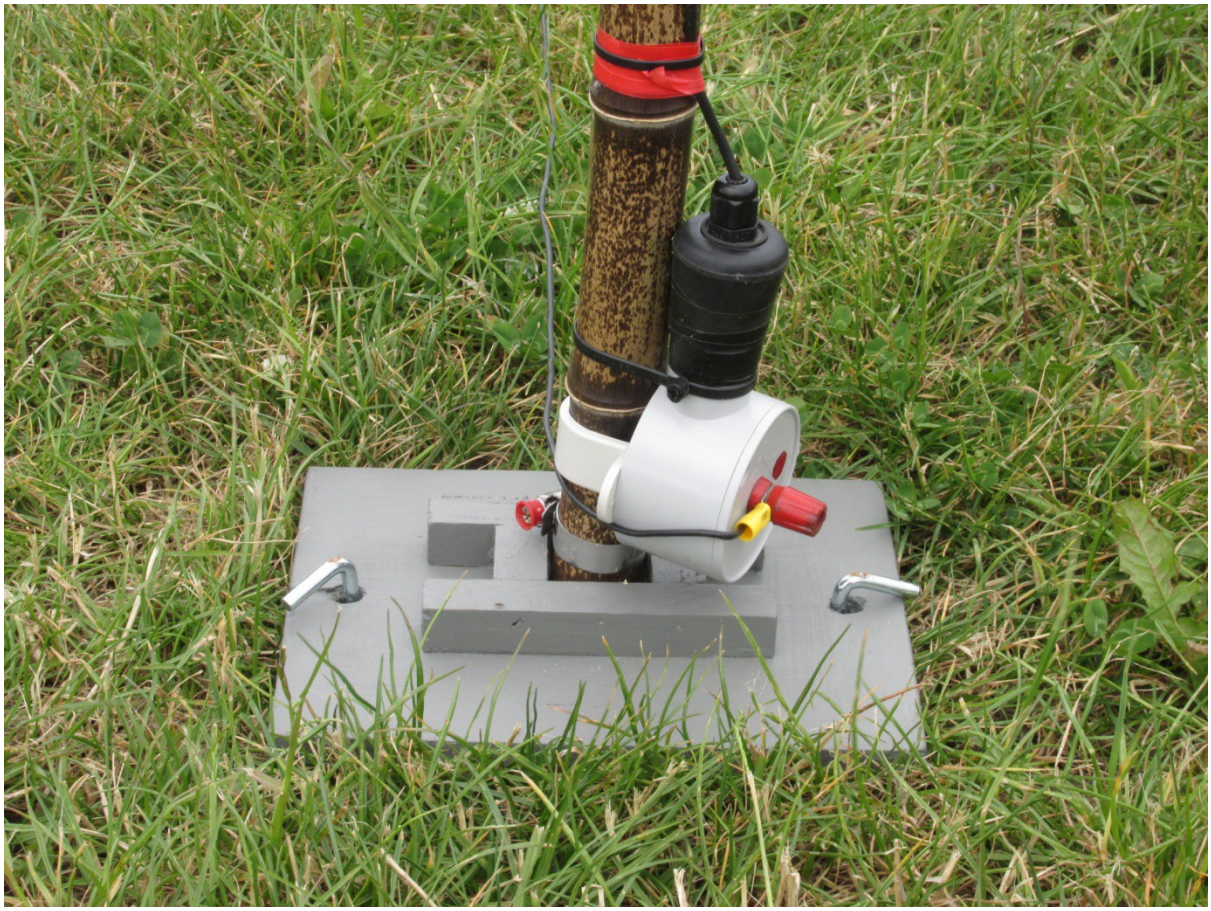
3:1 Binocular Balun & Terminating resistor.

Attachments at Bottom of poles.

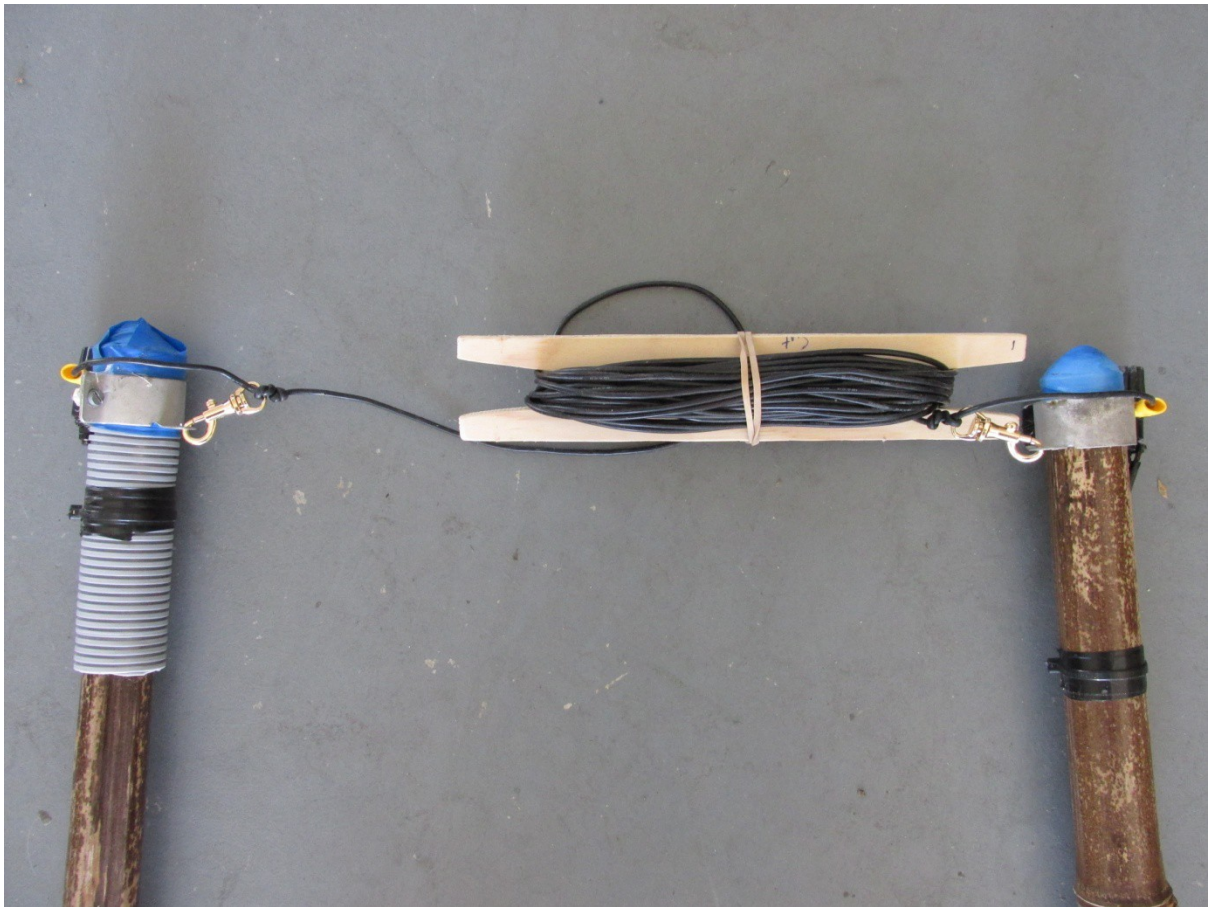
Finished terminations.



Bases for poles.



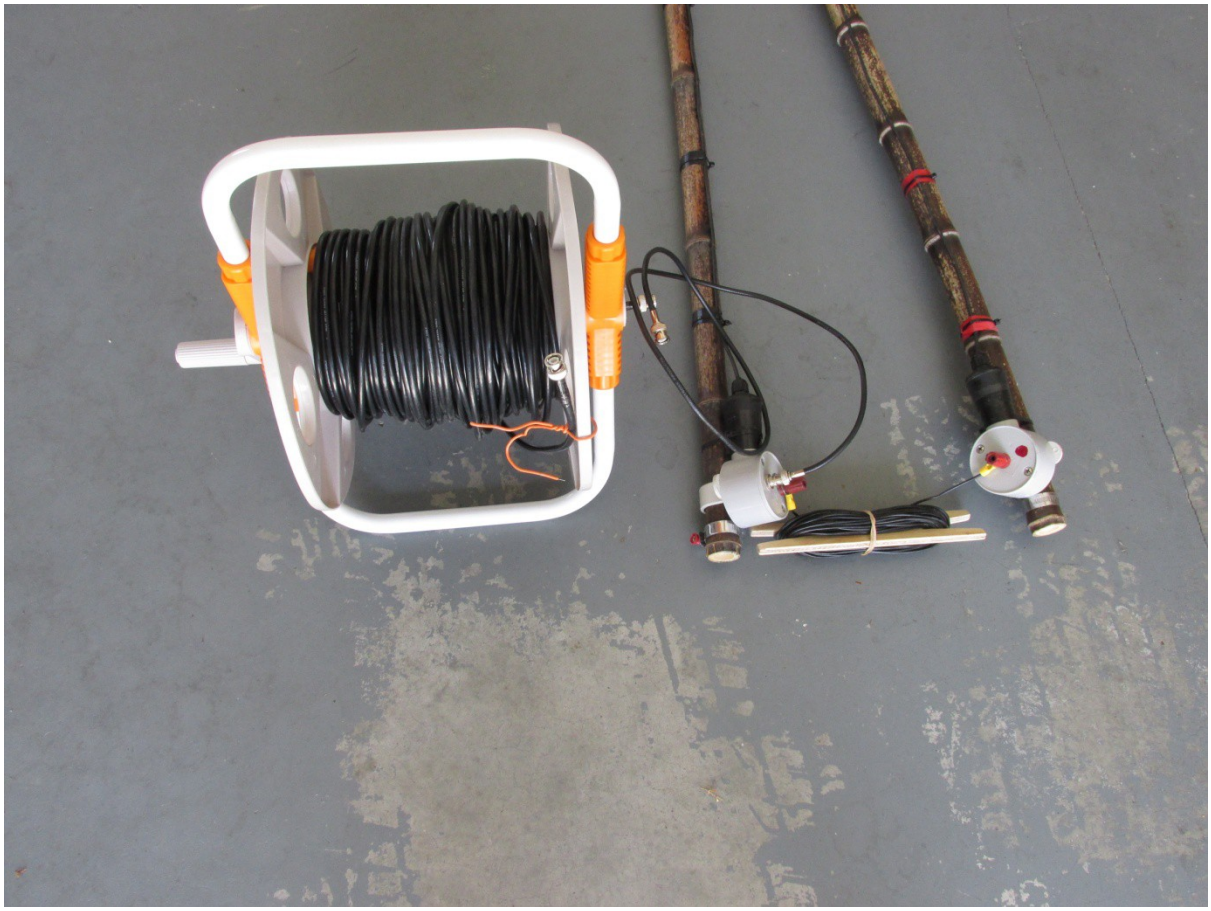
Seating of poles in bases.



Pole top and interconnecting wire.

Guy ropes at 2/3 mast height.

Adjusted guy rope.



Ground wire and coax cable drum.