Dipole Center Connector

You can build an inexpensive dipole center connector that takes little effort and few tools. You can use an insulator but the SO-239 coaxial connector is exposed as well as the solder joints involved. For this project, I picked up a ½ inch plastic conduit T-junction box from Home Depot for a little over $2.00. The other parts came from my junk box.

Photo 1 ▶

◀ Photo 2

Photo 1 shows the original and the box with stub for the T cut off. I used a table saw but a handsaw or tubing cutter will work as well. Photos 1 & 2 also show the holes drilled in the connections on either end of the box. These holes are to pass the wires through for support. Also, it shows the hole for the SO-239 and the holes for securing the SO-239. I only used two of four mounting holes.

Photo 3 at right shows the wire that goes to one of the corners of the SO-239. It's a standard crimp-on lug. Attach the lug to one of the bolts used to secure the SO-239 to the box.

Photo 3 ▶

◀ Photo 4

Photo 4 shows the wire being wrapped through one end of the box. Pass the wire through twice to relieve the strain on the wires.

Photo 5 shows the connections to the SO-239 and Photo 6 shows the completed dipole center connector.

Photo 5

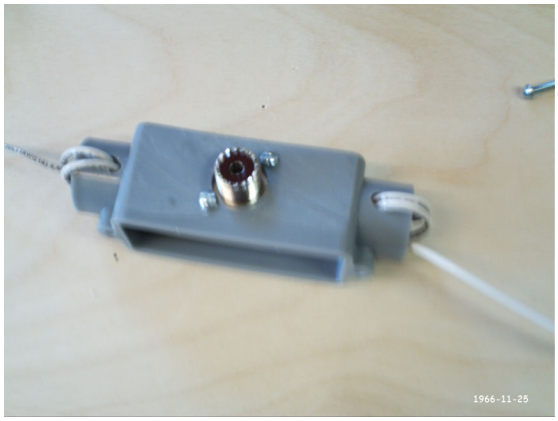

Photo 6

This connector should work for dipoles cut to any frequency. Google "dipole calculator" to find several free programs online that can be used to determine the length of the wire for each leg of a dipole for the desired frequency. For those technicians out there who want to try HF, this is an ideal way to build either a 6 meter or a 10 meter dipole. Both of these dipoles are short enough to place on a balcony.

The other item you will need is an antenna analyzer to trim the wires to the resonant frequency. Several members of the club have analyzers and they would be glad to assist you in trimming your antenna.

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