

2016 PDF edition

Old Familiar Strains

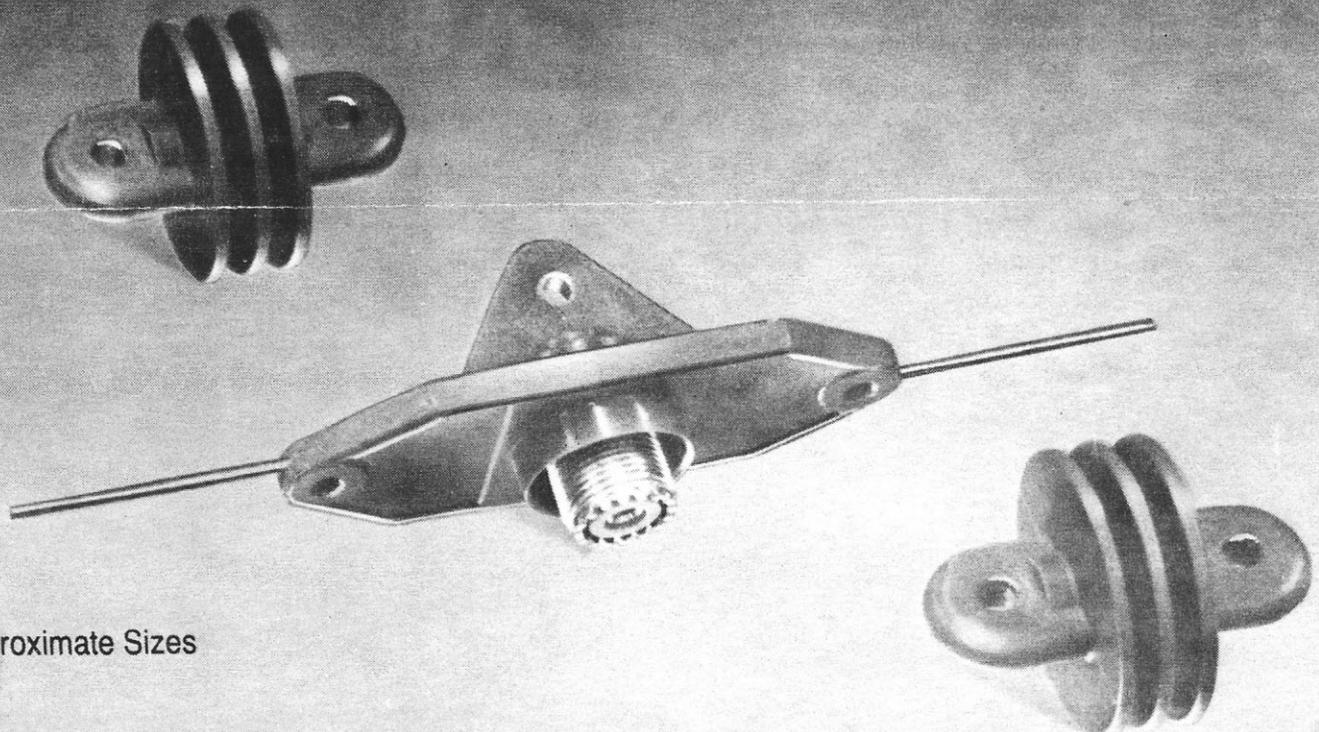
A newsletter for Collectors of Radio Strain Insulators and related items
Volume 1 No. 5

December 1994

BUDWIG

HYE-QUE

antenna connector
and insulators



Approximate Sizes

Editorial

by Dan Howard

Several of you have written requesting copies of the first issue. Although Keith no longer had one in his file, he said that Jim Overstreet probably had one. Since I had been meaning to call Jim anyway about the horde of insulators that he has for sale, I took the opportunity to combine pleasure with pleasure and called him up. Jim still has lots of duplicates (measured in terms of pounds) for sale or trade. Since our conversation, Jim has sent me several copies of his 1st issue and I have passed them along to those who have asked for them. Thank You Jim!

If you have information on Pyrex insulators, Jim Singleton would like to hear from you. Jim has provided a partial copy of a Corning catalog from 1930 and we intend to distribute it in conjunction with an article in a future issue. Jim Overstreet also would be interested in hearing from someone who can help him identify an odd Pyrex piece that he recently acquired.

Both Jim Singleton and Dick Mackiewicz have glass insulators made by "B.G. Co., Brilliant O." From the pictures that they sent me, each is different and each is gorgeous. We would like to do a feature article on this company in a future issue. Again, anyone with information to share, please get ahold of the Jim or Dick (and carbon me if you like).

Bob Puttre, a new participant that I met through Antique Radio Classified magazine, sent me a nicely detailed list of his lightning arrestor collection. He has offered to compile an inventory of radio Lightning Arrestors for publication in OFS. Please drop Bob a line if you can help.

I appreciate the letters, photos, and other information that has been sent in so far. I am

already planning out the 1995 issues and intend to use as much of the information as I can. Due to space limitations, it may be a while before your information is printed. However, it is all saved and filed. Please keep sending it in.

Several donations that were received in the last month provided sufficient funds to pay for this issue without dipping into the 1995 donations. I appreciate your willingness to help in this way.

With the fifth issue, we conclude our first year in print and I look forward to starting Volume 2 with a late January /early February issue. Keith Roloson inquired about the frequency of the newsletter. I have to find free time to assemble each issue so I don't want to commit to specific deadlines. However, if our readers continue to support the project, I believe that we will have sufficient resources to provide at least 5 more issues in 1995.

Finally, I want to tell you about one of my favorite ads. I have been going through a lot of old magazines recently, in hopes of finding insulator ads. On the back cover is an advertisement for an antenna cleaner that I had copied for my files. During the 1920's there was great concern that dirty old antennas would not receive as well as clean new ones. So, viola! A wind-powered, rotary antenna cleaner! While it is true that dirty insulators can create problems, I believe that the debate over dirty antenna wire was concluded years ago.

Budwig Manufacturing Co

by Dan Howard

Budwig Manufacturing Company is located in Ramona CA, a small town in the foothills northeast of San Diego. The company is currently owned by Gary and Lee Cochran who bought it from its founder, "Bud" Budwig, in February 1978.

Budwig specializes in making injection-molded plastic parts. At the time of my visit to their factory/office/shop, they were making rubber "feet" for equipment cabinets.

Among other products, the company currently manufactures two antenna insulators. Budwig's HQ-1, is a center insulator. The HQ-2, is an end insulator. (See figure 1) Both products are molded from ABS plastic with 20% glass filler.

Gary Cochran believes that Bud Budwig designed the HQ-1 and HQ-2 insulators himself and was an active amateur radio operator.

Both insulators were originally molded in tan brown plastic. In 1980, due to customer request, the color of the insulators was changed from tan brown to olive drab, the current color. Although we were unable to confirm it, Mr Cochran believes that the insulators may have been tried in other colors during early production.

The HQ-1 center insulator (antenna connector) is 3 1/2" long and 1 1/4" wide. Unlike most center insulators, the HQ-1 has "built-in" wiring. A SO-239 coaxial cable fitting is molded into the insulator and copper wires run from the connector, through the body of the insulator and out the ends. The amateur passes the end of his

antenna wire through the hole in the end of the HQ-1, wraps it around the insulator lead, and solders it. By doing so, a simple but effective, weather-resistant connection is made. The SO-239 fitting mates with the PL-259 plug that is commonly used with amateur feedlines.

The HQ-2 end insulator is 2 1/32" long, and has three 1 1/2" dia. ribs. Although the HQ-2 is compact, its deeply-cut ribs provide a much longer electrical path than might be achieved with other insulators of comparable size.

The HQ insulators are still made and are available through ham radio and electronics stores. You may also find Budwig insulators in some ready-made wire antenna kits.

Although their unique design makes them easily recognizable, both insulators are clearly marked "Budwig Mfg" "Ramona CA" and carry model numbers.

"HQ" stands for Hye-Que (High-Q) which is a technical reference to the superior electrical properties of the insulators.

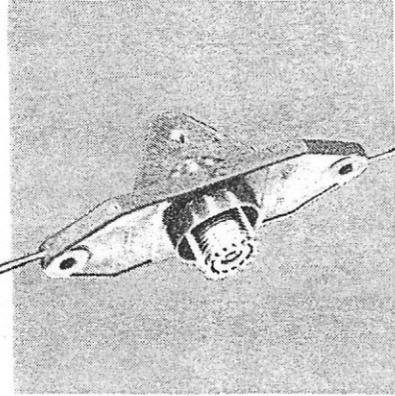
Sources:

Amateur Radio Relay League, *The ARRL Antenna Book* 15th edition, Hartford CT, 1988.

Cochran, Gary: Personal interview
5/26/94.

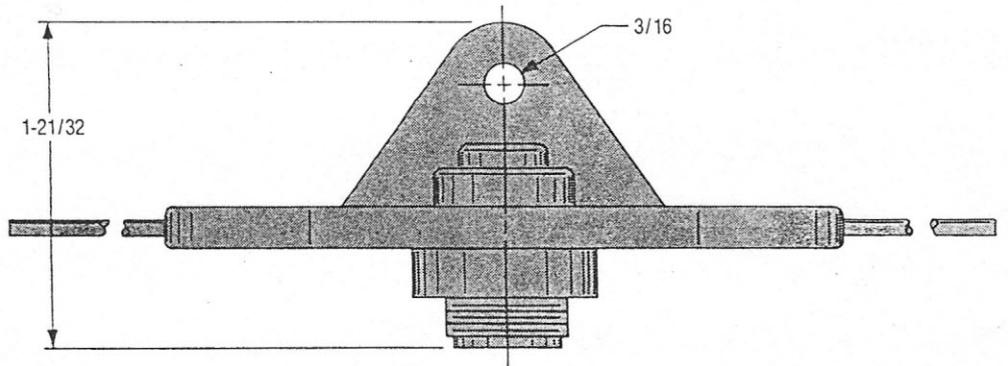
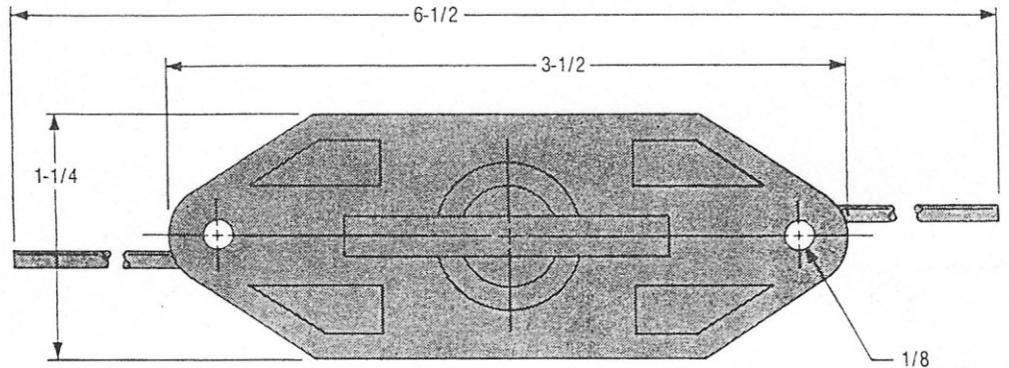
Cochran, Lee: Telephone interview
5/22/94.

Budwig Antenna Connectors

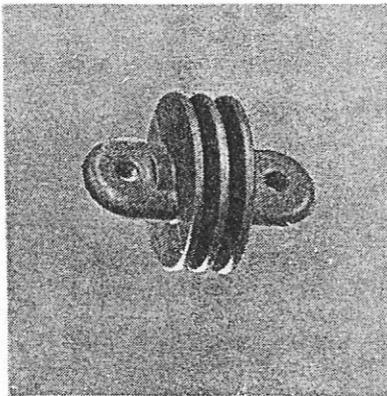


For use by ham radio operators and others in fabricating an inexpensive and efficient dipole antenna. Designed for durability and light weight, this connector provides a coax SO-239 socket for accepting a PL-259 feedline plug. The one piece molded body offers weather tight construction and provides a drip shield to protect the coax fittings. Full legal power capacity.

MATERIAL ABS Copolymer, 35% Glass filled
STOCK COLOR Green (Olive Drab)

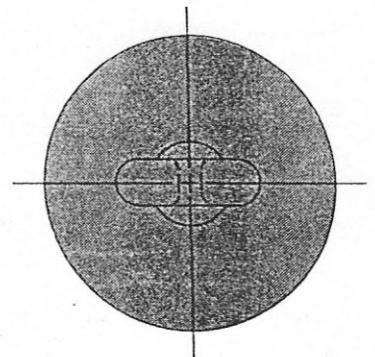
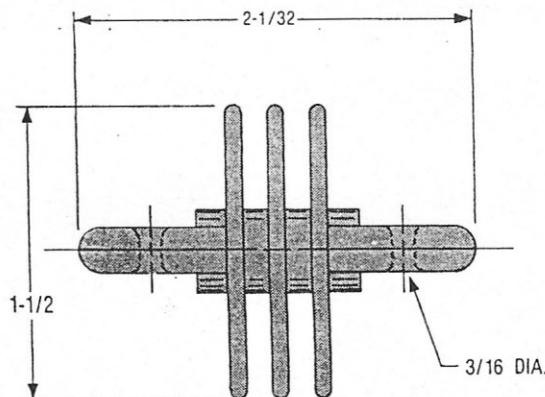


Budwig Antenna Insulators



Designed for use with the Budwig HQ-1 connector when constructing a dipole antenna assembly. Deep ribbed construction provides increased surface path to reduce power leakage. Light weight and durable.

MATERIAL ABS Copolymer, 35% Glass filled
STOCK COLOR Green (Olive Drab)



A Shattering Experience

by Jack Foote

A few weeks ago, I received a note from a gentleman in North Dakota with insulators for sale. He also mentioned that he had a lightning arrestor in his collection. \$5.00 was his asking price for everything plus whatever postage was involved. This sounded too good to be true! A mystery box for \$5.00 plus postage! I wrote back and said, "Let's go for it!"

Well, about a week later, the mail carrier came to our house complaining about how heavy the package she had for us was. And it was! I knew that something was wrong when the weight in the box shifted as I brought it into the house. Needless to say, there was something VERY heavy in the box and it was moving!

When I opened the package, the first thing noted was a large amount of broken porcelain and glass. In the center of the box was a very large object wrapped in a single layer of newspaper. I unwrapped the object and found the biggest lightning arrestor I have ever seen! It is a brown porcelain object that weighs at least 10 pounds. From its design, it appears to be for power pole use to prevent lightning strikes from damaging the pole.

During its journey from North Dakota, it creamed every other insulator in the box! Fortunately, none of the glass or porcelain pieces were of much value. I did gain, however, a major appreciation for lightning arrestors from the experience!

How I Got Started

By Glenn Ross

My first strain was acquired in 1978. I found a pair of lemon-colored pieces of glass with a copper wire suspended between them in an attic. I didn't know what they were called or what they were used for.

A few days later in another attic I found a clear one hanging from a nail. I just threw these in my tool box.

Buzzing through some yard sales a few weeks later, I spotted another one of these "things." Curious if this one was different than the three I had in my tool box, I purchased it for 10¢.

When home I compared it to the others and it was indeed different. I decided to just save these little guys to see how many different ones I could accumulate. After all, they were easy to find and cheap. I remember telling my wife, "Who knows, maybe there is a dozen different ones out there." How little I knew.

Though I have not been a very aggressive collector, I have nevertheless been enthusiastic with my collection.

At the 18th Annual Show & Sale of the Huron Valley Antique Bottle & Insulator Club, Ann Arbor, Mich., I picked up three more pieces for my collection.

This brings my total number of pieces to about 121. I have 71 glass, 47 porcelain, and 3 composition. These are divided under 21 manufacturer names/embossings. I have 14 colors in glass and 6 colors in porcelain.

Classified Ads

For Sale:

L.S. Brach Type 300 Non-Air gap Lightning Arrestor Brown Bakelite. New old stock. Five available, four with OK (not mint) boxes. Best boxes going to earliest orders. \$6.00 each post paid. Dan Howard

Lots of antenna insulators. Jim Overstreet

Antenna Insulators, sell or trade for other strains or advertising and patent information on strains. Glenn Ross

Wanted:

Early Composition or hard rubber insulators. Catalogs or ads for insulators and lightning arrestors (clear copies OK). Dan Howard

Information on Corning Glass (Pyrex) insulators. Jim Overstreet

Scarce colored glass radio pieces to add to my collection. Please write soon or call collect. Keith Roloson

Why not write us a letter and include your ads? Please see page two for advertising policy.

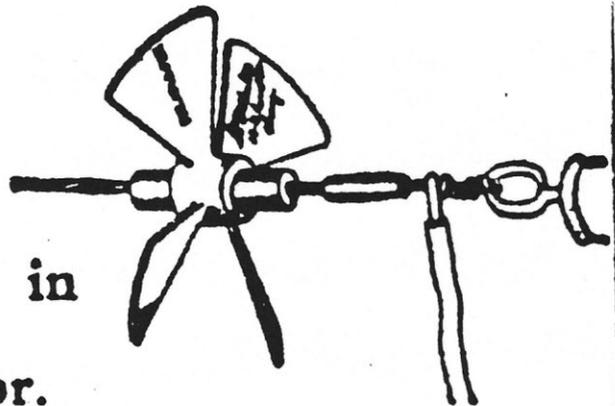
ANTENNA CLEANER

Operates by wind.
Travels from end to end in
rotary motion.

Mfd. and sold by inventor.

Price \$1.00 Post Paid

G. P. McINTIRE, 17 N. Crawford Ave., Chicago



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