

Q:

We would like to build an inexpensive antenna to use for satellite passes and possibly fox-hunts. What do you recommend?

A:

The Tape-Measure antenna is a simple, hand-held 2 meter Yagi; that is fun and inexpensive and easily to build. The tape measure antenna is a "home brew" 2 meter antenna made out of PVC pipe and a steel tape measure.

The antenna is useful (especially if you want a portable antenna for back packing etc.) for any radio or satellite use that uses 2 meter frequencies. The picture on the ARRL web site is a good example: <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-on-the-international-space-station>

The teacher is using the antenna for weather satellite imagery. As you can see in the picture they have the antenna connected to an R139 weather fax receiver and a laptop to down load images from one of the NOAA satellites. The image would not look as good as using another type of antenna, but it is great for these types of demonstrations outside of the classroom. Since the antenna is a 2 meter antenna it can be used for just about anything you want for 2 meter work. A principal in Michigan used his to make an ISS contact. He has used it for other activities as well. It is also a fantastic antenna to use for fox hunting as it is very light and very portable. I have seen this used for regular 2 meter voice contacts and for repeater stations. It is a good antenna to have your students build as well.

[http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm)

[http://www.kc0tks.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=42](http://www.kc0tks.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=42)

<http://www.open-circuit.co.uk/tape.php>

<http://www.n2ki.com/HVDFA/Stuff/flexbeam.html>