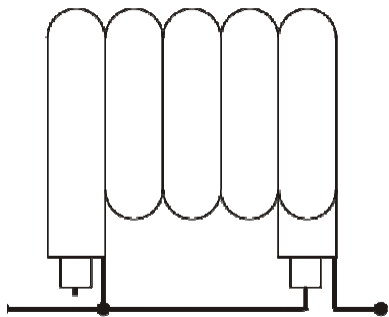


### ***This Weeks Construction Project - A Coaxial Cable Antenna Trap:***

I was reading some information on the weekend about the Rig Expert AA-600, and I noticed in the manual that they suggested making a coaxial trap. I've looked at doing things like that before but, you know, you just set it off in the background and forget about it till something jogs your memory. What jogged mine was that I needed to do a repair on some traps that a fellow ham had brought over for evaluation, and I thought to myself that maybe there are better ways to make traps than to try and find 50pf 5,000volt doorknob capacitors and coil stock to make them with.

So I took a piece of RG-8X and wound it on a form and voila, a trap was born. The shield on the coax is used as the inductor and the centre conductor is used as the capacitor. Here's the schematic...



So how do you check the resonant frequency of the trap you ask? As many of you know I love to go to flea markets. Swap and Shop's are not only fun but you can pick up some pretty neat stuff there for reasonable prices. At one of them I picked up a Heathkit HD-1250 Solid State Dip Meter with all the coils in a nice little case for about \$10. It works perfectly and is fairly accurate. Certainly, accurate enough to show me whether the trap was within range of being resonant on 40M. It just so happened that it was and I double checked it with the AA-600. It was dead on and I made another and have two traps for a future antenna project I want to build in the spring. I also bought some heat shrink to keep the whole coil stable and to protect it all from the elements.



What a fun project and it looks pretty good too. Why not try it and get building things that are truly useful either in the shack or for your antenna farm. By the way this trap will be for an 80/40 M dipole that I want to experiment with this coming spring. Maybe it will work or maybe it won't we will see.

73

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