

WILSON VERTICAL CB ANTENNAS ON THE HAM BANDS?

Get a lot of bang for your buck!

By John Reisenauer ~ KL7JR

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Every now and then I stumble on a fabulous antenna at a really cheap price that works well on the ham bands. What would you say if I told you for about \$20 you could work a lot of DX on 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters with one Wilson FGT-2 vertical CB antenna?



The FGT series of verticals come in red, white or blue!

**We all know of Wilson's antenna reputation.
Their website www.wilsonantenna.com rates the FGT-2 with some**

impressive figures (as tested against other CB antennas) including a relative db gain of 3 (FGT-3 was rated 4.5 db gain)!

I read in a past issue of the [TCA Magazine](#) (Canada's equivalent of QST) where a ham, *Tom - VE1TWB /VE1DC*, used this antenna for mobile use on 10, 15 and 20 meters, so I decided to try it and see if it would also work the WARC bands as well. See Tom's comments below in the updated information.

The Wilson FGT series antennas, FGT-2 through FGT-5, (FGT-2 is two feet long, the FGT-3 is three feet long, etc. etc.) are top loaded 3/8 inch fiberglass rod construction with standard 3/8 inch x 24 inch thread mounting.

They are available in red, white or black and have "an exclusive impedance matching transformer lead" which you attach to the antenna mounting connector, (I simply let it dangle as in photo #1 below, as I found it doesn't make any difference if it's attached or not).



PHOTO #1 Cousins Island, Maine

The results of my use of this antenna are as follows.

It was during the winter of 2000 when I really got hooked on this antenna for mobile or portable use. I had racked up over 60 countries on 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters from **Cousins Island, Maine**, in my rental car (see photo #1 above).

The FGT-2 was bolted to a short mast which was sitting in the trunk and duct taped to the lid hinge. I didn't want to drill holes or leave connection marks on the rental car, so I found another use for duct tape!

From St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, I worked HB9, OM5, 7X5, PA3, AZ4, EA8, EA7, EA1,5Z4, FS, G0, YV4, 8R1, DF3, DJ4, I8, PW7, F6, PY2, IR4, 9A7 and many others on 10, 15, 17 and 20 meters in the winter of 2003/2004. The FGT-2 vertical was mounted on a CB mirror mount connector bolted to a five foot length of pipe stuck in the sand with 3 ground radials spread out.

From near Bear Glacier in BC, Canada, I worked KH6, KL7, HK3, VE7, VE6, VE4, VE2, ZL1, VK2, VK4, JA1 thru JA7 and all over the lower 48 states on 10, 17 and 20 meters in the spring of 2002. The FGT-2 vertical was on a tri-magnet mount on the roof of my truck (see photo #2 below). Put on your parka, the photo is very cool!



Photo #2 Bear Glacier, Br. Columbia, Canada

From Galveston Island, Texas, I worked VE4, VE2, VE7, VE3, XE1, XE2, IK7, IK8, JI3, DL8, LY2, VP2, CO8, TG8, 6Y5, IW1 and a few others plus 45 states during 4 weekends of poor band conditions on 15, 17 and 20 meters in the summer of 2006.

I used the same mag mount as above but with a FGT-4 vertical. With a 48 inch stinger, the FGT-4 is resonant across the entire 20 meter band. For now, I use an auto-tuner and the 20 meter tip and have good results on most bands. Further experimenting with the FGT-4 is required.

Tip lengths for a Wilson FGT-2 Vertical CB Antenna:

28.300 to 28.700 MHz 2 and 5/16 inches

24.930 to 24.990 MHz 6 and 1/2 inches

21.200 to 21.450 MHz 13 and 3/8 inches

18.100 to 18.168 MHz 28 and 1/2 inches

14.200 to 14.325 MHz 40 and 3/4 inches

Tip length for a Wilson FGT-4 Vertical CB Antenna:

14.100 to 14.325 MHz 48 inches

Above measurements are for the whip set all the way in the antenna. Just tighten the set screw and go for it. An MFJ antenna analyzer was used and the measurements should be close for most uses.

Wilson's FGT series of vertical antennas may be available through your local CB dealer (shop around for a good price), or check Wilson's website for dealer locations and antenna specs (<http://www.wilsonantenna.com/fg.htm>).

I've seen ads for the FGT-2 for \$18.95 and the FGT-4 for \$23.95 on the web.

For the whip tips, you can buy them (make sure they'll fit the FGT verticals first!) or simply use stiff wire (a metal clothes hanger works good!) to save money.

You'll want to purchase an extra allen wrench as they are lost easily (one comes with each antenna).

I highly recommend the Wilson FGT antennas for mobile, portable or perhaps for low profile fixed station use ON THE HAM BANDS!

73 de Yukon John, KL7JR/KL7USI