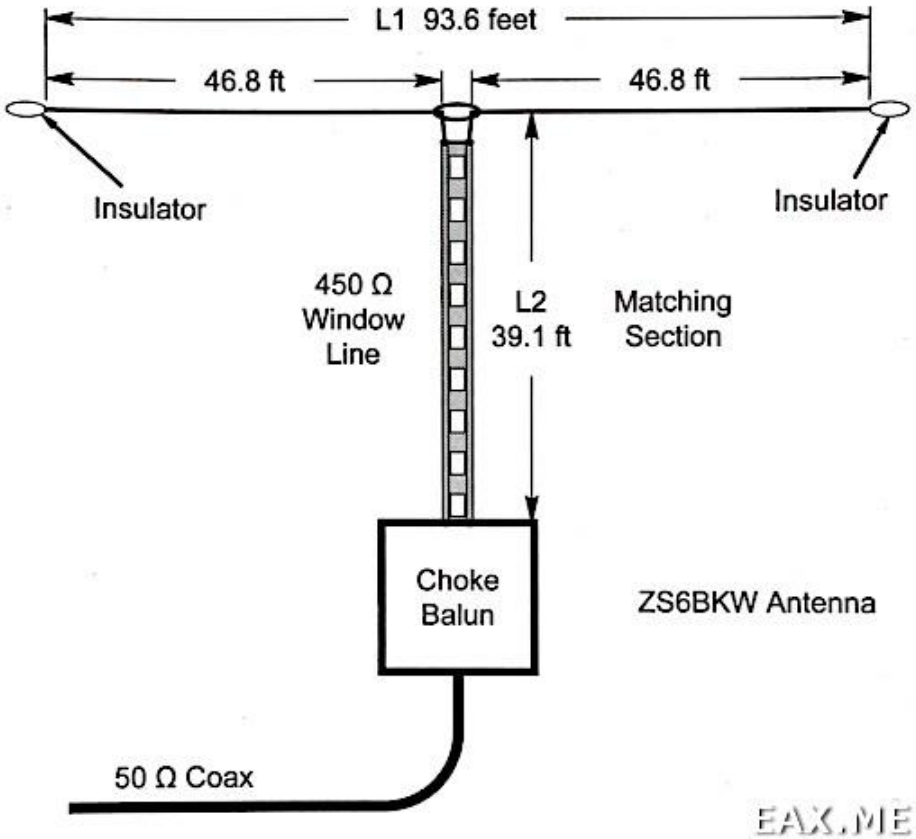
KL7JR's Version of the ZS6BKW Dipole

As advertised the **ZS6BKW** antenna is an improved version of the venerable G5RV. I've used many G5RV's over the years all over Alaska, Yukon, Hawaii, many different states and the Caribbean with great results. Both antennas are not only multi-banded but simple to build and easy on the pocket book. I've seen the ZS6BKW/G5RV dipole advertised on the internet from $100-$135. I built mine for less than half of that.

I like to use #9 (yes, 9) solid aluminum clothes line wire, the green insulated stuff that comes in 100-foot rolls from the home improvement stores costing less than $15. Its heavy-duty/ outdoor use works for most of my wire antennas.

For connecting aluminum wire to copper twinlead or coaxial cable, I use copper and aluminum rated mechanical connectors by Southwire (#65180440 packs of 2 cost less than $5). I put the aluminum wire in the set-screw end and bolt a soldered ring connector (copper) on the other. Be sure to weatherproof all outdoor connections. These are the dimensions I used for my ZS6BKW type G5RV 10-80 meters. There are different design dimensions if the builder wants to use 300-ohm twinlead.



Mechanical lug by Southwire.

For the choke balun, I used 6-8 wraps coax in 6-inch diameter roll. Be careful that the first and last wrap do not touch each other.

Close up of Ladder line termination point with coax seal over lugs. PVC pipe and fittings used.

Choke balun at feed point. Soldered connections with coax seal and electrician's tape. Yellow rope is for strain relief. Ready to hoist up.

Antenna easily tuned on 40, 75 and all other HF bands except 160m. My dipole apex is at 50 feet and the legs at about 40 feet high each.

[Several 5x9 reports on the 40 and 75m nets on 6 July testing. I'm happy with the new aerial!]