1.5 kW Automatic Remote Controlled Antenna Tuner for Verticals and other Unbalanced Antennas

Mod. AT- 615U

Short Form Manual

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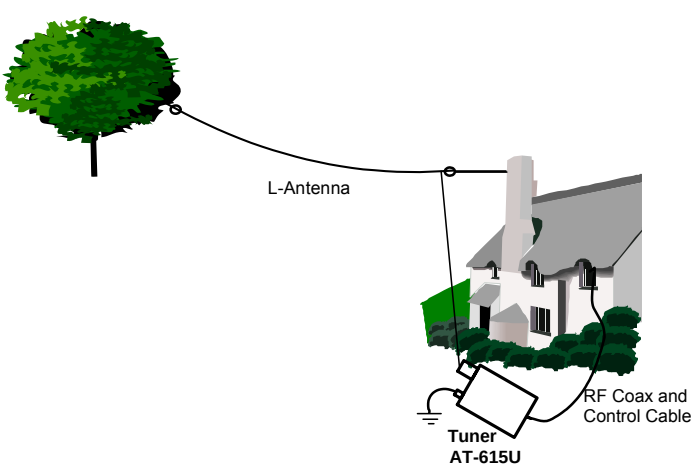
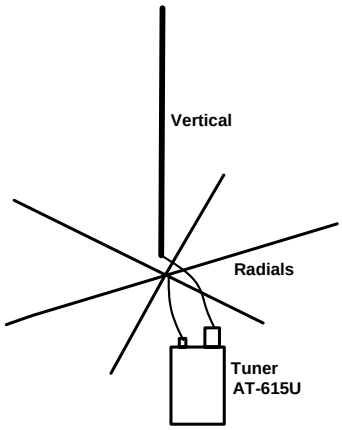
Unbalanced Antennas

Basically all unbalanced Antennas can be matched remotely. Special focus in design of the tuner was set to operate Low Band Verticals. Due to the π-network low antenna impedances can be achieved.
Wire antennas should be designed in such a way that the wire length to the counterpoise should be as short as possible. Water tube systems or regular lightening rods should be avoided. Such counterpoises cause unwanted RF radiations.





Matching Examples of a Vertical with Radials

The height of the vertical is 20.5 Meters. About 20 radials of different length are burried in sandy ground just underneath the surface.

Measured RF Values of Ant.		Controller Settings		
Frequency	**Impedance in Ohms**	**Input**	**L**	**ANT**
1830 kHz	22,3 –j367	112	027	020
3650 kHz	70 –j59	050	011	273
3920 kHz	58,5 –j16,5	065	010	122
7070 kHz	733 +j271	022	007	069
10125 kHz	73,6 –j159	015	003	042

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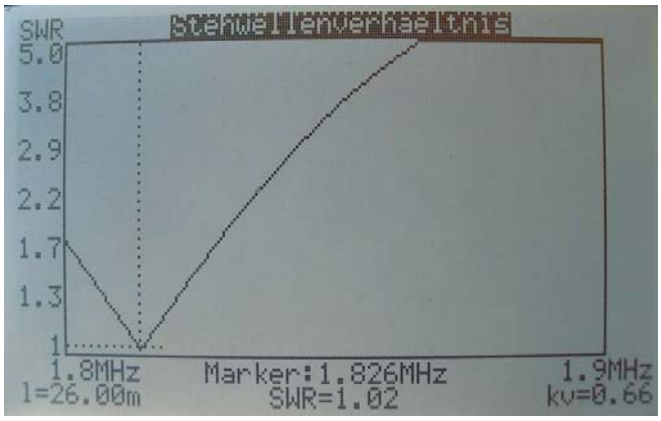
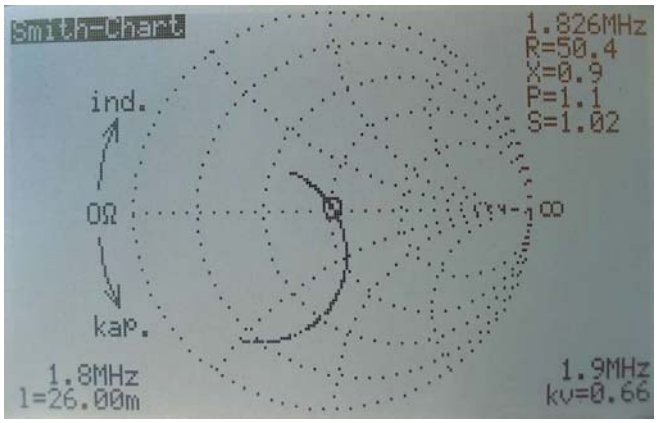
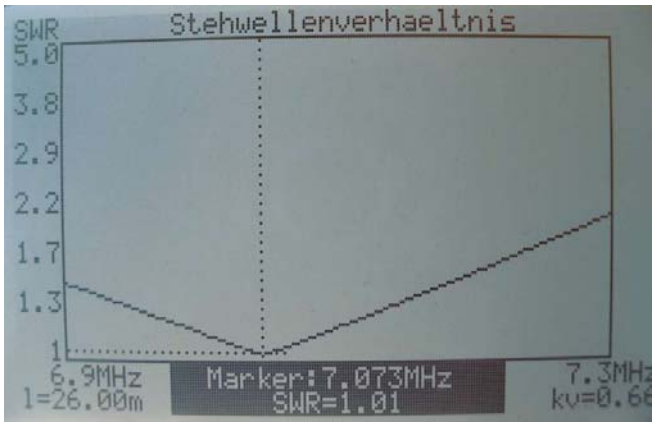
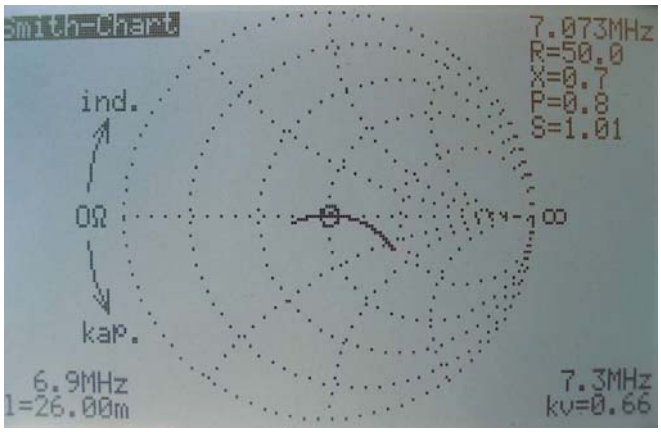
To use this antenna at higher frecuency bands is not to be recommended due to its steep radiation and will not be considered further.

As shown below there are two examples at 1.8 and 7 MHz achieved with the AT-615U. Similar results were achieved on the other frequency bands given in the aforementioned table. (Measured with the antenna analyzer of DL1SNG)









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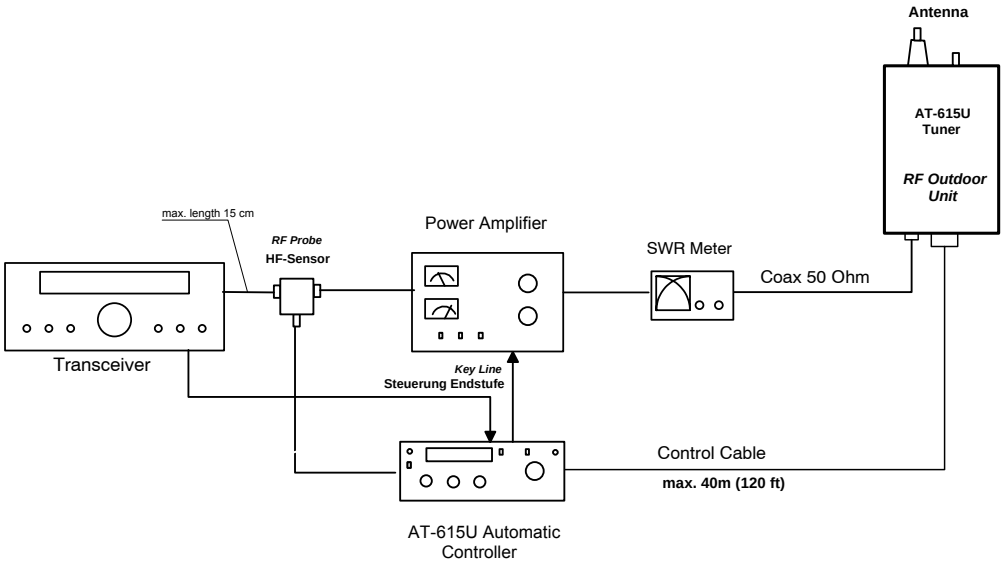
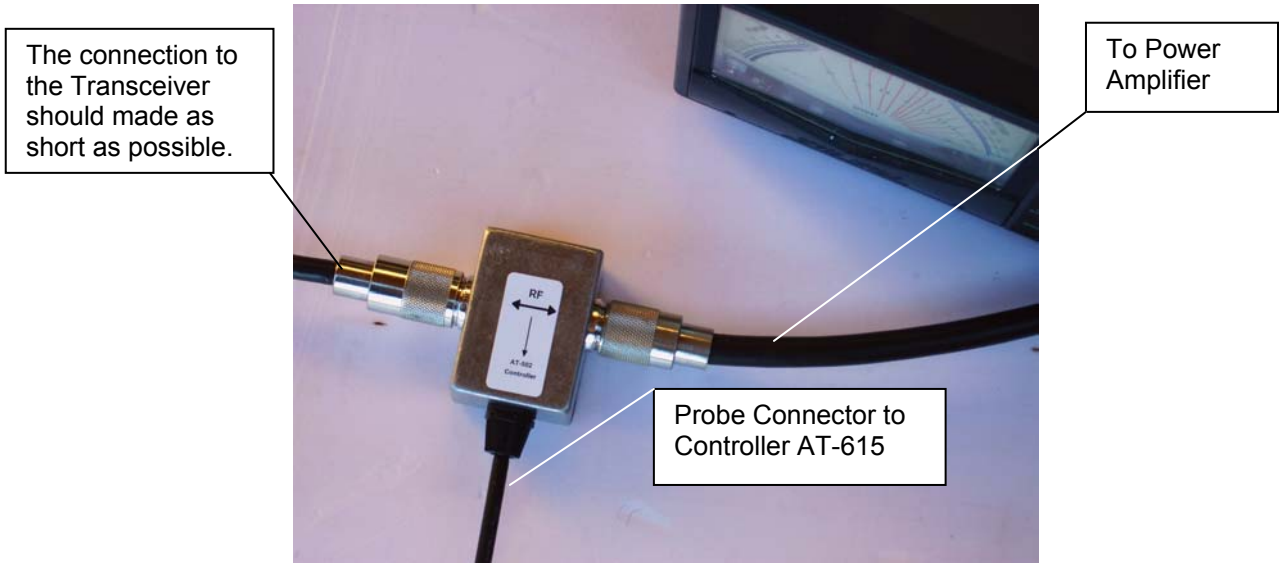
Schematic Block Diagram



RF Probe Installation



If possible, the RF Probe should be attached directly to the antenna jack of the transceiver using an adaptor or a very short cable.

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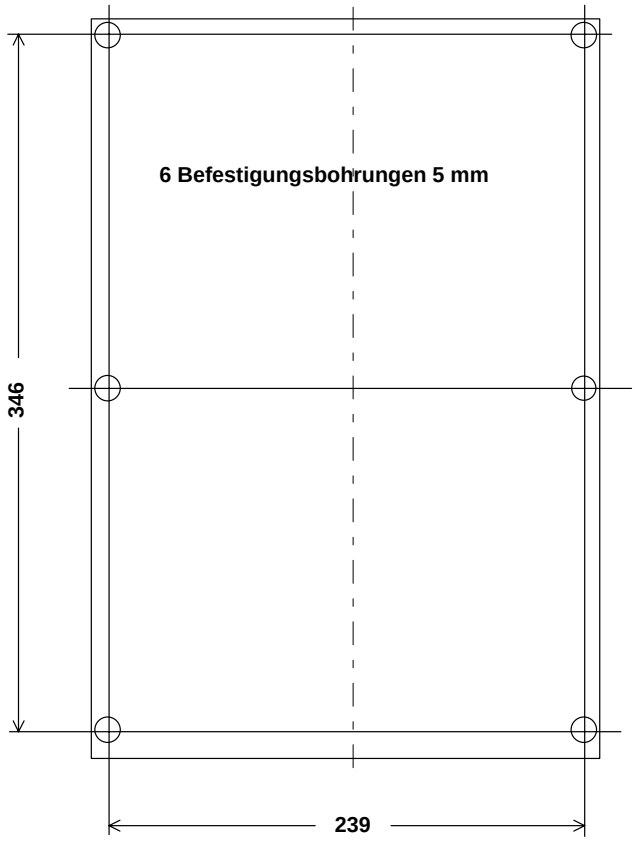
Installation of the RF Unit



The weather proof cabinet has 6 mounting holes.

The backside of the cabinet should be mounted on a flat surface.

Hole spacing is 13.62”H x 9.41”W (346mm x 239mm)

Connect the ground bolt between the two antenna insulators with the lightning rod.

An application example

If the RF Unit is installed outside, a small roof or overhang is recommended to protect the unit from direct sun. If the tuner is not protected, the excessive temperatures inside the cabinet could damage the antenna tuner elements.

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Controller Connections (Rear Side)

RF Probe

25-pin. Control Cable to Tuner Unit

Cinch-Connectors to loop-in the key line of Power Amp

Power Supply

If the Memory Erase Button is pressed, all memory locations associated with the band indicated on the LC Display will be erased

Controller Unit

Memory: Read out of the stored settings in either automatic or manual mode.
Tune: Matching the antenna with the rotary switches Input, L and ANT
Mem In: By pressing this momentary switch down the indicated control settings are stored into memory

Mode switch „Manual“ or „Automatic“ or “Thru”

Yellow LED lights, as long as tuning proceeds. Don’t key the transmitter during this time

LED is lighted when Power Supply operates and Power Switch is off

Power Switch

LC Display
The upper row shows the actual memory location (lower edge frequency with the span)
The lower row shows the actual control settings for the antenna

In „Manual“ mode all memory locations can be selected

Input Capacitors switchable in 256 steps, 17pF each. Steps appear upon LC Display following “Txxx”

L values switchable in 31 steps.
Never switch with full poser! Max. switching power 300W

Control of the variable output capacitor. 1 step corresponds to 0.9° tuning angel. Max. 600 steps

Antenna matches are stored into a bank of 85 memory locations. Each memory location is a fraction of an amateur band. Refer to the technical section for the fractional segments for each band. As shown in the picture below, the upper line of the LCD shows the actual memory location chosen (lower edge frequency 1840 kHz) with its span (20 kHz). The control settings for this frequency are shown in the lower line of the LCD. In the Automatic Mode the memory location and its stored settings is selected by the transmitted input frequency. The input frequency is obtained from an RF probe. The memory location contents can be erased by a push button on the back of the controller.

The controller contains 3 rotary encoders that control the tuner elements TRX, L, and ANT. TRX controls the Input Capacitance, L controls the Inductance and ANT the output capacitance values. The lower line on the display shows these values.

A manual selector switch is provided for memory selection in the Manual mode.

Antenna Descriptions and Design Hints

The remote controlled matching system AT-615B is capable of matching unsymmetrical antennas from a minimum length of 30 ft. within a frequency range of 1.8 to 30 MHz. The antenna length is dictated by the space available rather than the usual resonant length. It easily covers all amateur bands (including WARC) using a single wire dipole without traps. Traps have long been known to induce losses and antenna's designed using them are frequently limited in overall bandwidth.

Antenna Matching (a way to start)

- Set the Mode switch to "Manual"
- Starting in the 14 MHz band
  - Turn the Memory selection rotary switch to the indicated memory location "14000 +30k"
  - Set the transmitter frequency to 14015 kHz (half the span of the memory location).

Do not exceed a power level of 200 Watts.

Note!
Damage to the Tuner caused by RF over voltage is not covered by the warranty!

- Begin with TRX control set to 15 and the ANT control set to 10

1. - Turn the L knob until you note a (possibly weak) movement of the SWR meter's needle in the Reflected position
2. - Try to maximize the forward power with the ANT control knob, the reflected power may increase as well.
3. - Try to keep the forward power at its maximum by tuning the TRX and ANT controls so that the reflected power is minimum
4. - Store the final values by pressing the momentary switch position "Mem In"

- Keeping the same values found, switch to the next memory location (14030+30k, set you transmitter to 14045 kHz (center frequency). Watch your SWR Meter; if little or no change can be found, store this value in memory. If changes are necessary, follow steps 1 thru 4. Go though all memory locations on this band and correct and store the settings.

- Go to an next band and proceed as before. It is a good idea to start with a setting found in the previous band.

NOTE

During SSB operation, the frequency counter may detect the wrong frequency due to the speech frequencies impressed on the signal. This will cause incorrect tuner settings to be selected. Simply place the tuner in manual and select the correct frequency range on the display.

Table of Programmed Memory Cells (Memory Allocations)

160m Band

Memory Cell	Center Freq. kHz
1800+20k	1810
1820+20k	1830
1840+20k	1850
1860+20k	1870
1880+20k	1890
1900+20k	1910
1920+20k	1930
1940+20k	1950
1960+20k	1970
1980+20k	1990

80m Band

3500+30k	3515
3530+30k	3545
3560+30k	3575
3590+30k	3605
3620+30k	3635
3650+30k	3665
3680+30k	3695
3710+30k	3725
3740+30k	3755
3770+30k	3785
3800+40k	3820
3840+40k	3860
3880+40k	3900
3920+40k	3940
3960+40k	3980

60m Band (US and UK only)

5320+40k	5340
5360+40k	5380

40m Band

7000+30k	7015
7030+30k	7045
7060+30k	7075
7090+30k	7105
7120+30k	7135
7150+30k	7165
7180+30k	7195
7210+30k	7225
7240+30k	7255
7270+30k	7285

30m Band

Memory Cell	Center Freq. kHz
10100+30k	10115
10130+30k	10145

20m Band

14000+30k	14015
14030+30k	14045
14060+30k	14075
14090+30k	14105
14120+30k	14135
14150+30k	14165
14180+30k	14195
14210+30k	14225
14240+30k	14255
14270+30k	14285
14300+30k	14315
14330+30k	14345

17m Band

18060+40k	18080
18100+40k	18120
18140+40k	18160

15m Band

21000+50k	21025
21050+50k	21075
21100+50k	21125
21150+50k	21175
21200+50k	21225
21250+50k	21275
21300+50k	21325
21350+50k	21375
21400+50k	21425

12m Band

24890+50k	24915
24940+50k	24965

10m Band

28000+100k	28050
↓	↓
29600+100k	29650

Operating with Power amplifier

- Preferably start with 14 MHz or 7 MHz. To recall the appropriate tuning values from the memory place the Tune/Memory switch in Memory position and select the appropriate frequency cell. Check the adjustment for lowest reflected power.
- Switch on the power amplifier and set the Output power to approximately 200 Watts. If you are using a tuneable (Plate and Load) PA, tune it for max. Output power by reading Forward Power on the SWR meter.
  Increase the power step by step while you readjust the PA accordingly.

- **Keep the On time to less than 30 Seconds during full power tuning**

- For small corrections to bring the SWR to 1:1 use the ANT control knob only.

- **Never change L under full power condition!**

When there is a sudden increase of the backward power while the amplifier power is in

creased, most probably an arcing happened in the RF Unit.
Immediately switch of the transmitter.

The antenna is too short for this band (frequency) or it is resonant.

Technical Specifications

RF Unit

Frequency Range	Amateur Bands 1.8 to 30 MHz
Matching Circuit	unbalanced pi filter
	Input capacitors in 256 steps, 17 pF ea.
	Inductivities 32 steps exponential increasing 0,2 µH to 35 µH
	variable output capacitor 400 pF tuned by stepper motor with 200 steps of 0.9° ea. 2 fixed capacitors 400 pf automatically switched on at step 200 and 400
Input	50 Ω, N-connector
Output (Antenna)	Feed Thru and N-Connecor
RF Power	1500 Watts SSB/CW when tuned
Lightning Protection	2-Electrode-Arrester 2.5 kAmps
Control Cable	25 x AWG22 (0,35mm^2), AMP plug
Outdoor Cabinet	Polycarbonate, water tight, UV resistant
Dimensions	L x W x H = 14 x 10.2 x 6.5 inches
Weight	6 kg (13 lbs)

Controller	3 rotary encoders are used to adjust tuner elements
Tuning Memories	85, automatic or manual selectable
Automatic Mode	Frequency dependent selection of the memory locations. Frequency is sensed by RF probe
Safety Circuit	Power Amp. Key Line Interruption when Input, L, Channel Selector, “Thru” will be changed. 30ms Delay

"Thru" Function	Input switched directly to Output
Displays	- LCD Display indicating single steps for input C, L and output C - Frequency Memory Location - Standby LED - LED while tuner is matching
Power	+15VDC, 1.5A and +36VDC, 0.5A
Metal Bench Cabinet	W x D x H = 11 x 3.5 x 6.9 inches
Weight	1,8 kg (4 lbs)