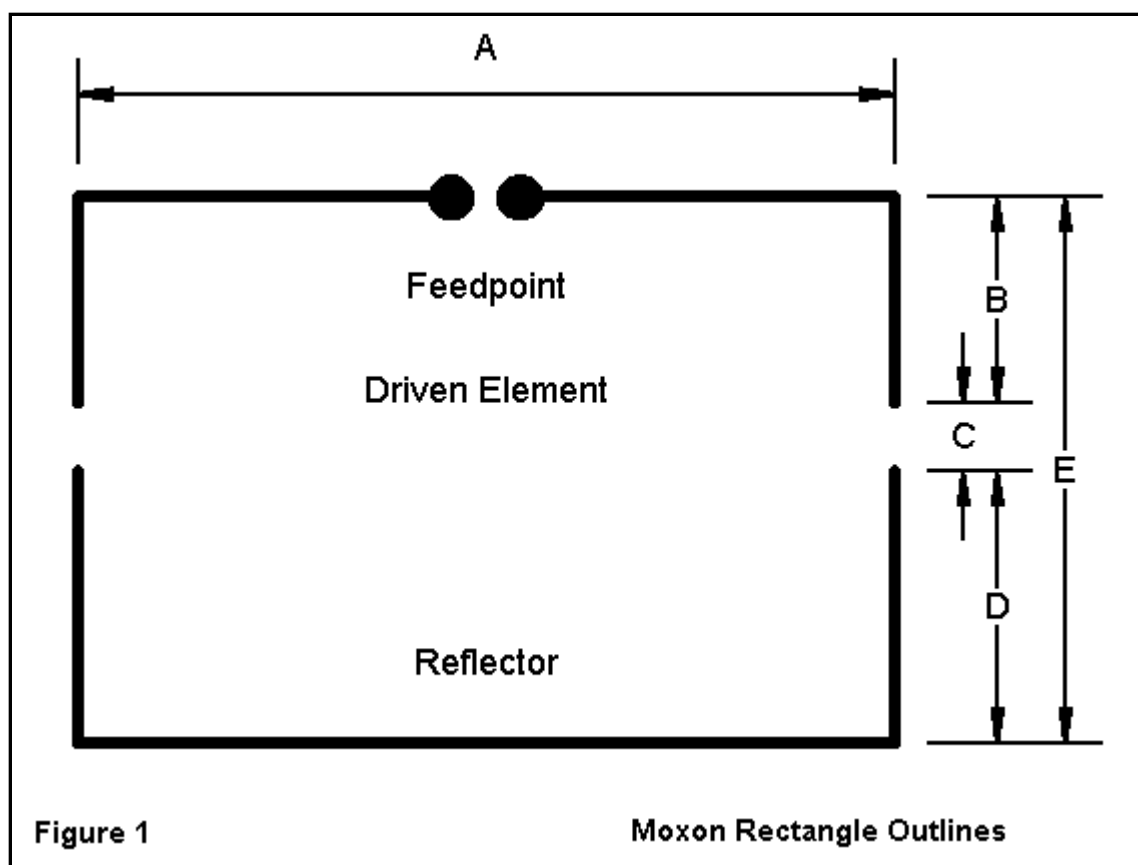


Wire Moxon Rectangles for 40-10 Meters



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Since a posting on QRP-L, the Moxon rectangle has drawn considerable attention. A full analysis of the antenna appears in the Spring, 1995, issue of *Communications Quarterly*. Basically, the Moxon rectangle is a wire antenna that can be fix-mounted or rotated. It is directional with about the gain of a 2-element Yagi (6 dBi in free space) and has an outstanding front-to-back ratio (greater than 30 dB in free space), with a very broad frontal lobe (-3dB beamwidth = 70 degrees, usable beamwidth = nearly 180 degrees forward). The basic outline of the antenna appears in **Figure 1**.



Since the article and the posting appeared, I have heard of successful constructions of Moxon's, one for a Field Day Novice station. I have also had two types of requests. One has asked for dimensions for other bands. The other inquiry wondered if the feedpoint impedance might be brought closer to 50 ohms. The original design showed a feedpoint impedance close to 80 ohms.

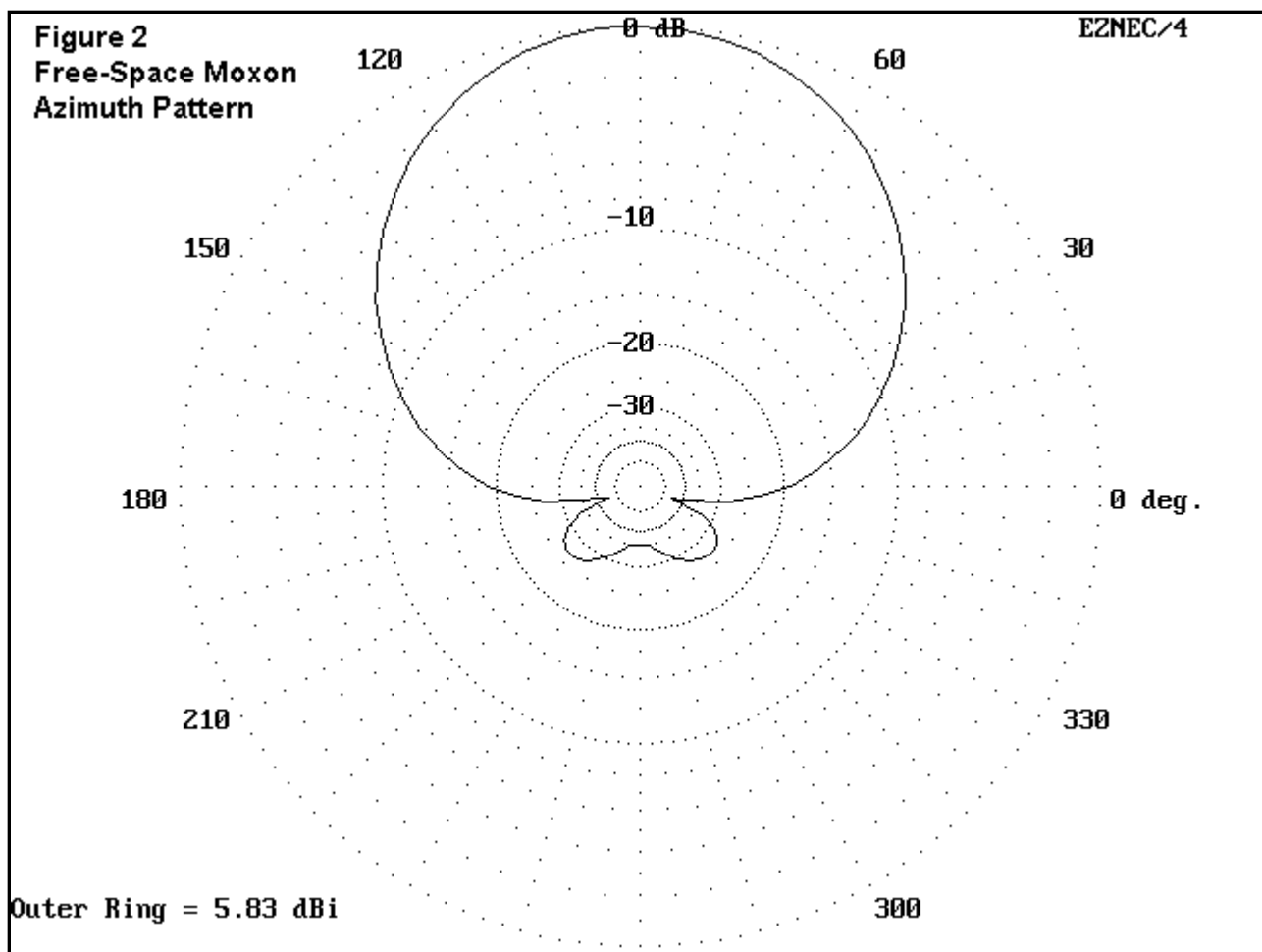
I remodeled the antenna with good results on both counts. **Table 1** provides dimensions for the Moxon rectangle for 40 through 10 meters. The dimensions are not perfect simple scalings, because the length-to-wire-diameter ratio changes for each ham band.

Table 1. Moxon Dimensions for 40 - 10 Meters

Band	Design Frequency (MHz)	Dimension (feet)				
		A	B	C	D	E
10	28.50	12.44	1.94	0.41	2.41	4.76
12	24.94	14.22	2.22	0.46	2.76	5.44
15	21.20	16.72	2.63	0.52	3.25	6.40
17	18.12	19.56	3.10	0.59	3.80	7.49
20	14.17	25.00	4.00	0.72	4.85	9.57
30	10.12	35.00	5.60	1.00	6.80	13.40
40	7.15	49.56	8.01	1.33	9.63	18.97

Note: all models composed of #14 copper wire.

All of the antennas exhibit feedpoint impedances between about 56 and 58 ohms, a close match to the standard amateur 50-ohm coaxial cable. Free space gain and front-to-back ratio are consistent for all the models, averaging 5.8 dBi and greater than 32 dB in free space, respectively, at the design frequency, centered in each band. **Figure 2** shows a typical free space azimuth pattern for the antenna.

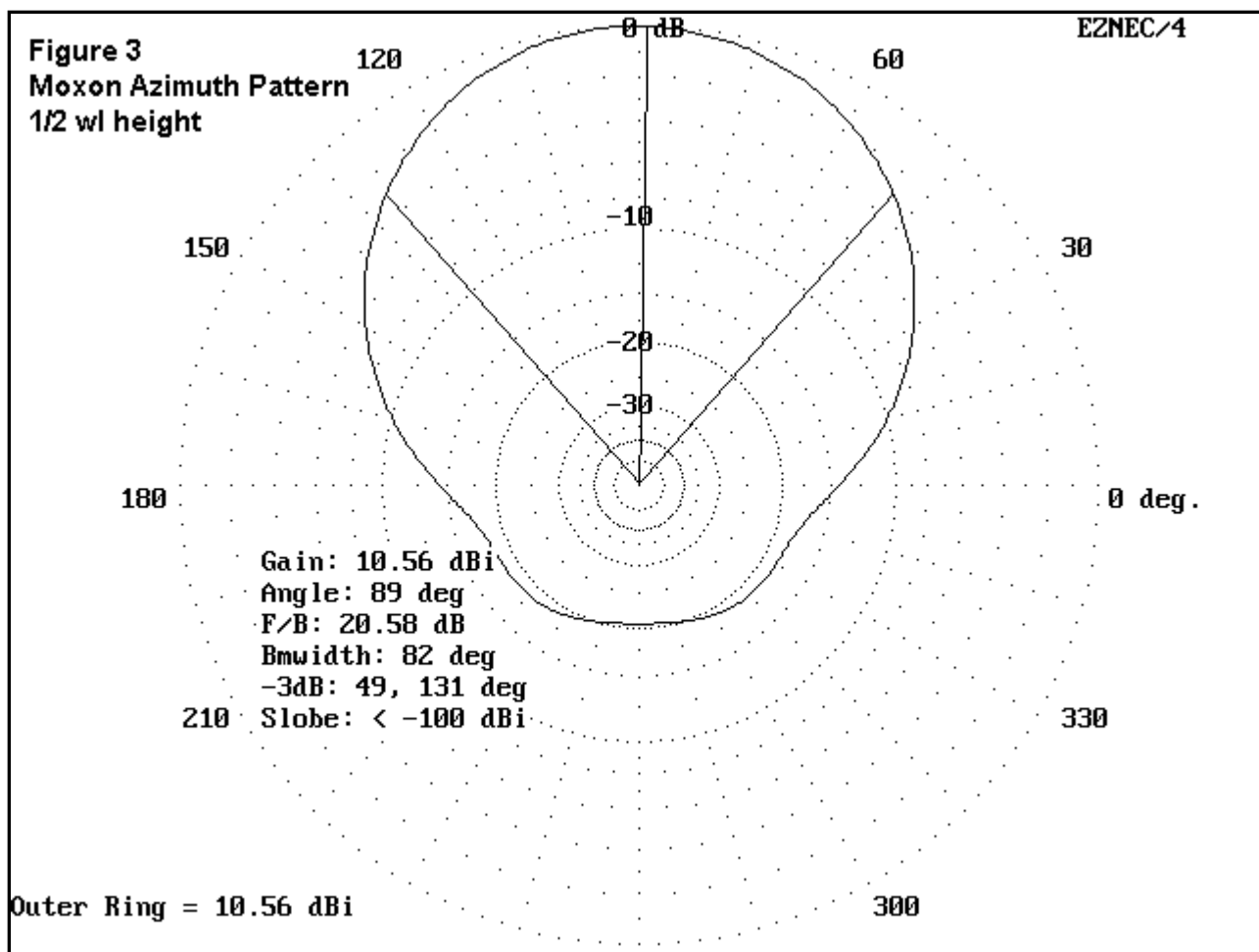


All of the models use #14 copper wire, although the various factors that contribute to the Moxon pattern tend to cancel out as wire size increases. Hence, a tubing model will have

dimensions close to those for a thin wire model. However, it will exhibit a broader SWR bandwidth. The models were constructed on EZNEC Pro, a NEC-4 implementation by W7EL.

At heights below 1/2 wavelength, the front-to-back ratio will deteriorate somewhat, but usable values can be obtained. **Figure 3** shows the azimuth pattern of a Moxon Rectangle at the elevation of maximum radiation, with a height of a half wavelength above real, medium ground. The pattern (especially front-to-back ratio) improves toward free space values as the antenna is further elevated. Elevation angle of maximum radiation is the same as a 2-element Yagi at the same height, for example 25° at 1/2 wl up, 14° at 1 wl up. etc.

The bandwidth for 2:1 SWR is only about 100 kHz on 40 with #14 wire. Above 40, the 2:1 SWR bandwidth covers the entire amateur band. For 30 and up, the front-to-back ratio is better than 15 dB across the band.

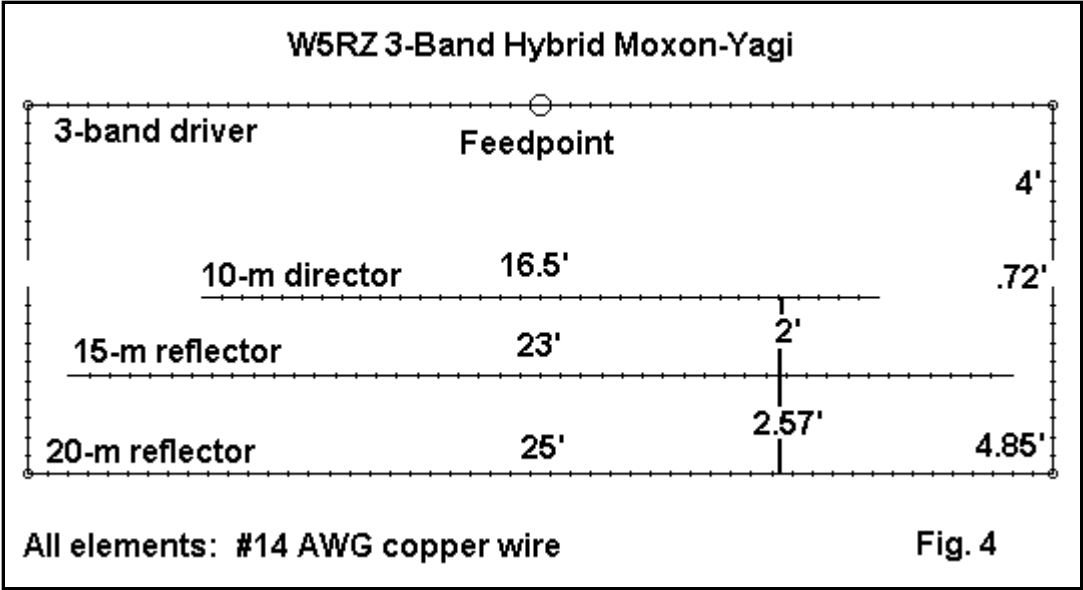


The original article showed one construction technique for 10 meters. Many others are possible, whether the material is wire or aluminum tubing. I shall leave the exact methods to the reader's ingenuity.

A Hybrid Wire Moxon-Yagi for 20-10 Meters

Although the Moxon rectangle does not lend itself readily to nesting in a single plane without careful trapping (as described in Moxon's account in his classic *HF Antennas for All Locations*), ingenuity has produced some interesting variants for multi-band use. Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, has designed a hybrid Moxon based on the 20-meter wire dimensions shown above. Inside the rectangle, he added elements for 10 and 15 meter operation. The 15-meter element is a

reflector, but the 10-meter element turns out to be a director, reversing the antenna pattern. The dimensions are sketched in **Figure 4**.



The design frequency performance for each band is summarized in **Table 2**. All values are based on free-space models.

Table 2. Modeled Tri-band Performance of the W5RZ Hybrid			
Frequency	Gain (dBi)	F-B (dB)	Feedpoint Impedance
14.15	5.8	34.0	60 - j 2
21.2	6.4	9.7	180 + j 935
28.4	5.8 (rev)	16.9	2100 + j3060

The antenna is designed to be fed with parallel transmission line and to be matched by a balanced antenna tuning unit. Free-space modeling of the antenna design shows that on 15 meters, the drive provides a double-humped current distribution, with a high reflector current on the 15-meter element. Current on the 10-meter element and the 20-meter reflector is low. On 10-meters, the current distribution is typical of a 1-wl element, with high director current on the 10-meter element.

This is just one possible direction of exoanding the capabilities of the Moxon Rectangle, and the future is likely to see additional examples of antenna design ingenuity, using the rectangle as the foundation.

Conclusion

The standard of comparison for the Moxon is the 2-element Yagi. While a Yagi has marginally more gain, the Moxon's front-to-back ratio is very much superior. It will likely improve your ears much more than it will diminish your voice. And, as the old but true saying goes, if you can't hear 'em, you can't work 'em.



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