

# GAM/McKIM Split Lead Antenna

## Installation Instructions

**GENERAL:** The GAM/McKIM Split Lead Antenna is designed for Single Side Band (SSB) Marine radios operating in the HF (3-30 MHz) band. The antenna requires a tuner to operate. **NOTE: This antenna requires a ground connection.** Use the ground lug on your tuner to make the connection. There are other ground systems you can buy but **the best is a direct connection to sea water.**

You will need 34 feet of backstay length. The backstay diameter can be between 1/4" and 7/16". Instructions for different backstay diameters will follow. The center tube of the black housing is split so it can be pressed onto the backstay.

The antenna assembly includes 15 feet of white GTO-15 feedline that will connect to the output of the antenna tuner.

**Step 1.** Starting with the end opposite the GTO-15 white wire, open the split center tube and press it onto your backstay. Once started, it should be relatively easy to slide the entire housing up the backstay. Orient the split side of the housing away from the mast. You may use any of the black wire ties included, evenly spaced on the housing, if there is concern about the ability of the housing to stay in place. If they are used, they should be tightened lightly so as to stay in place on the housing without restricting the movement of the housing. Tighten only after the position of the housing has been found.

**Step 2.** If the backstay diameter is 5/16", please go to Step 3. For a 3/8" or 7/16" backstay, the following is done before mounting the clamp onto the GTO-15 single wire sections. Assemble the two sections of the clamp so that the rounded sides face outward. Insert and tighten the screws of the clamp with the included hardware, being sure the clamp's wire tab lengths remain aligned. Mount the clamp assembly in a vise to steady it. Drill out the center of the clamp to the proper size for your backstay diameter. Be sure to use proper drilling techniques and use eye protection for safety.

**NOTE:** If your backstay is 1/4" diameter, drill the clamp as if for 3/8" and use the small plastic split tube that's included. Place the tube over the backstay and then place the clamp. The tube will act as a shim to take up the space to ensure a proper fit and hold of the clamp. You might also choose, in this instance, to obtain similar plastic tubing from a local outlet to act as shims on the backstay where you have placed the wire ties. They will keep the housing from rattling on the backstay wire.

**Step 3.** Once you are satisfied with the placement of the antenna housing, install the clamp over the bottom end of the center tube on the housing using the four screws and supplied hardware. Make sure any exposed portions of the GTO-15 wire that can be pushed back though and inside the housing is done to allow the clamp to achieve a hold to the housing to the backstay. It is recommended that the heads of the screws on the clamp be placed on the side as the wire relief to reduce the possibility of abrasion to the GTO-15 wires. **Do not over tighten the clamp screws!**

**Step 4.** Proceed with the connection to the antenna tuning unit.

**NOTE:** Even though the active antenna elements are insulated, it should always be maintained that people on deck should not be within reach of it. RF safety rules should always be kept in use. Good radio practices and procedures should always be followed.

Any questions or comments should be directed to [www.gamelectronicsinc.com](http://www.gamelectronicsinc.com) , [sales@gamelectronicsinc.com](mailto:sales@gamelectronicsinc.com) or 207-583-4670.

