

CTU Presents

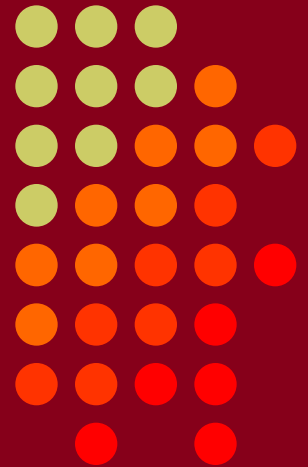
Contesting & Station Optimization

Tim Duffy K3LR

CTU Chairman

• CTU •
CONTEST
UNIVERSITY

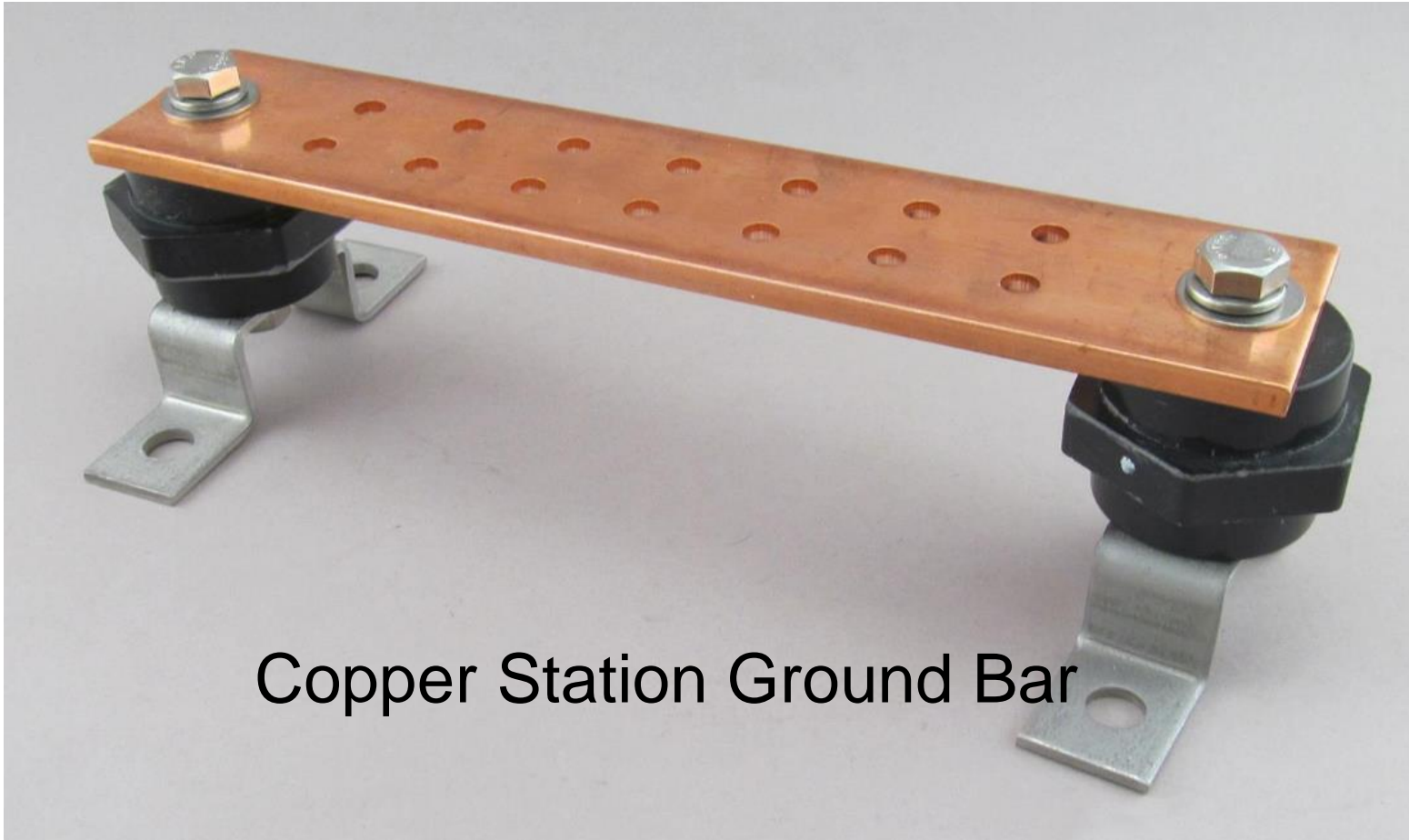
ICOM®



ConTest University Update

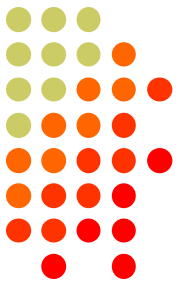


- **12th year for Dayton CTU**
- **Icom has supported CTU - ALL 12 YEARS!**
- **Over 6000 students have now attended CTU**
- **CTU Live Stream thanks Icom America**
- **Strategic Partnerships with the NCDXF & YASME**
- **Support the vendors that support CTU**
- **CTU YouTube and slide decks available on web**
- **N9RV Contesting Terminology – updated for 2018**



Copper Station Ground Bar

Connect radios, amplifiers and switches





Strap connection To ground rod





Thick 1 inch wide – indoor use only



Getting the most out of CTU 2018



There is a note pad in your bag – how many ideas have you written down today? You have access to lots of experience here at CTU – ask questions!

Pick a new area to optimize your operating style or station assembly and focus on it this summer. Commit to research – and improve - enjoy.

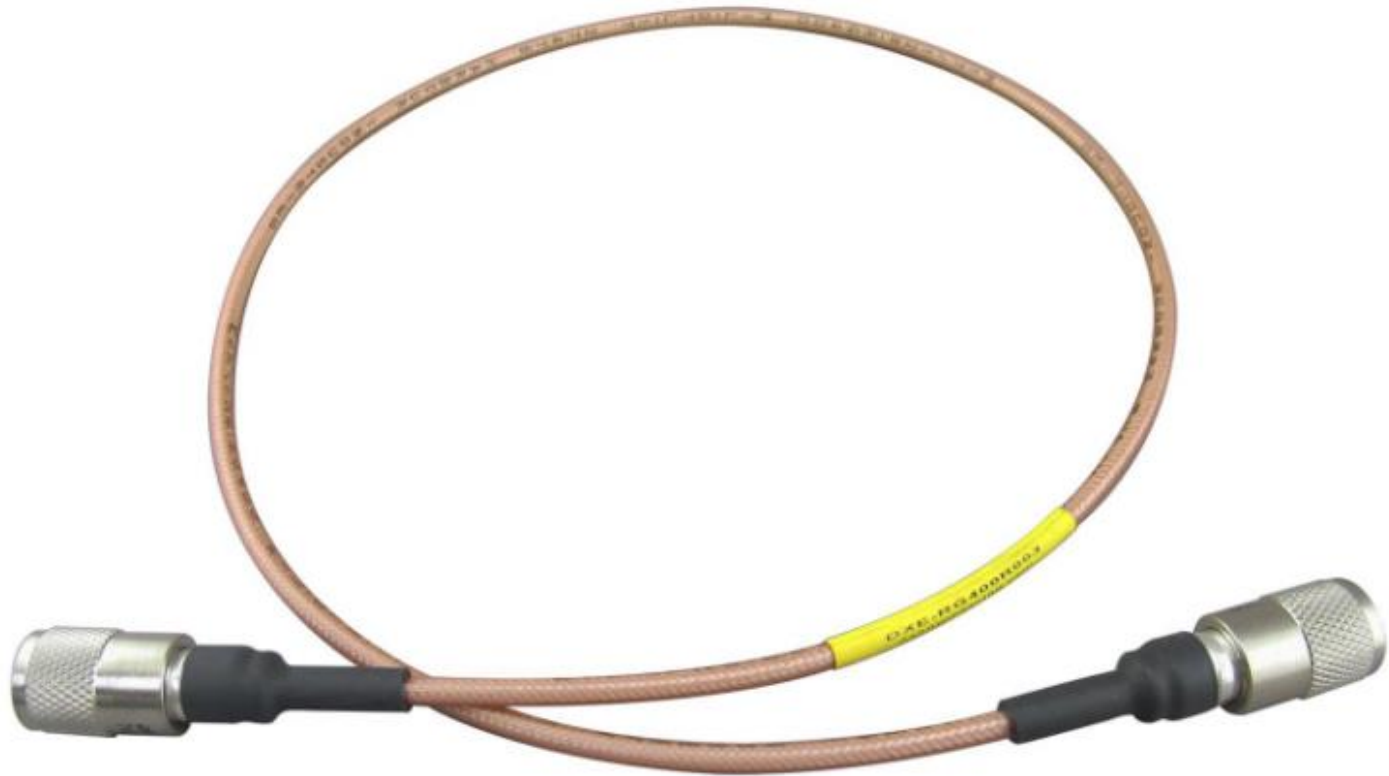
- **Everyone has a contesting story – tell yours and listen to others. Give a new program at your local club in the next 12 months.**

Be a Field Day coach/mentor this year.





High Quality RG-400 double shield



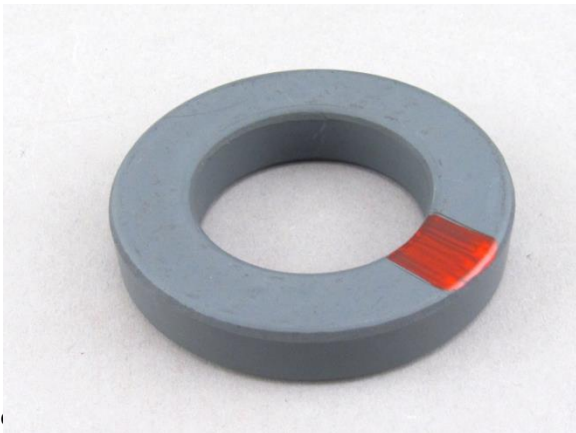
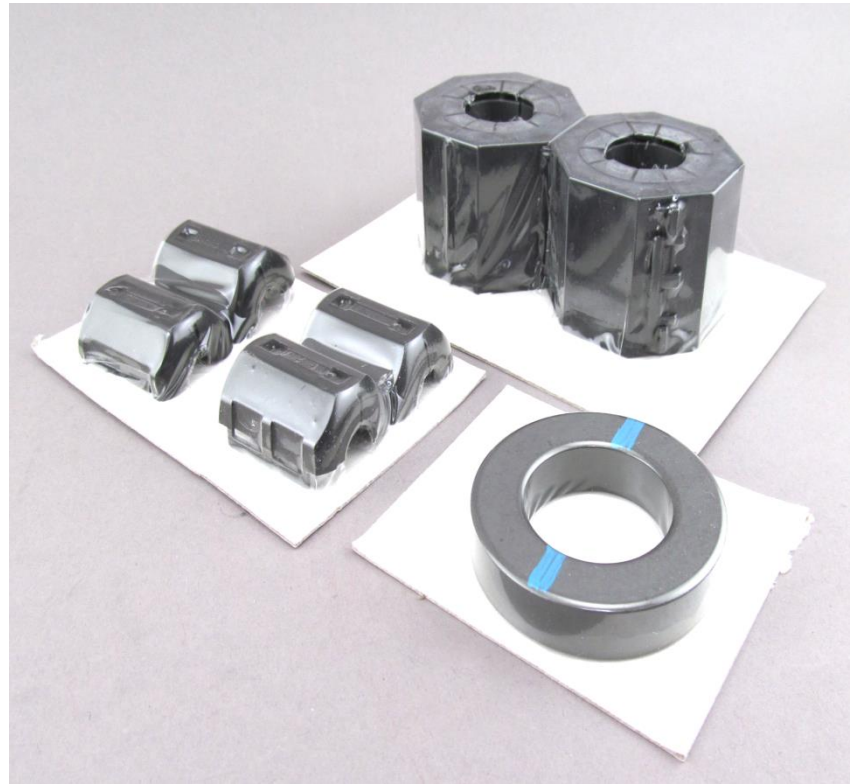


K3LR 2018 Notebook

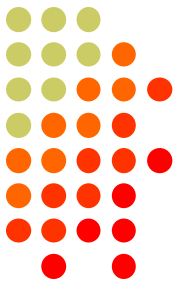
- Make sure you use the best coax connectors possible.
- Keep a notecard during every contest.
- Check, Double Check, Re-Check
- Develop a pre contest “Proof Of Performance” plan – KEEP A NOTEBOOK!
- How many house wall warts are causing RFI which hurts your noise floor?
- Let me introduce you to Mr. Ferrite

DEX Ferrite cores

Color coded







Coax cables
And DC cables
#31 - BLUE



Intel NUC computers - choke RFI

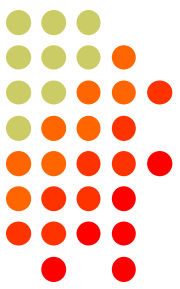


ISO PLUS





What are you doing to improve Contesting?



- **Congratulate the CTU “SCHOLARS” and GOLD stars!**
- **Take an interest in helping new hams to become involved in contests.**
- **Radio contesting’s reputation is important – do the right thing – be a model operator. Lots of SWLs.**
- **Find a way to “give back” to our hobby.**
- **Set goals for your contest self improvement. Set something achievable for you and then go hard after your goal.**
- **Remember as a CTU Graduate you are a mentor!**

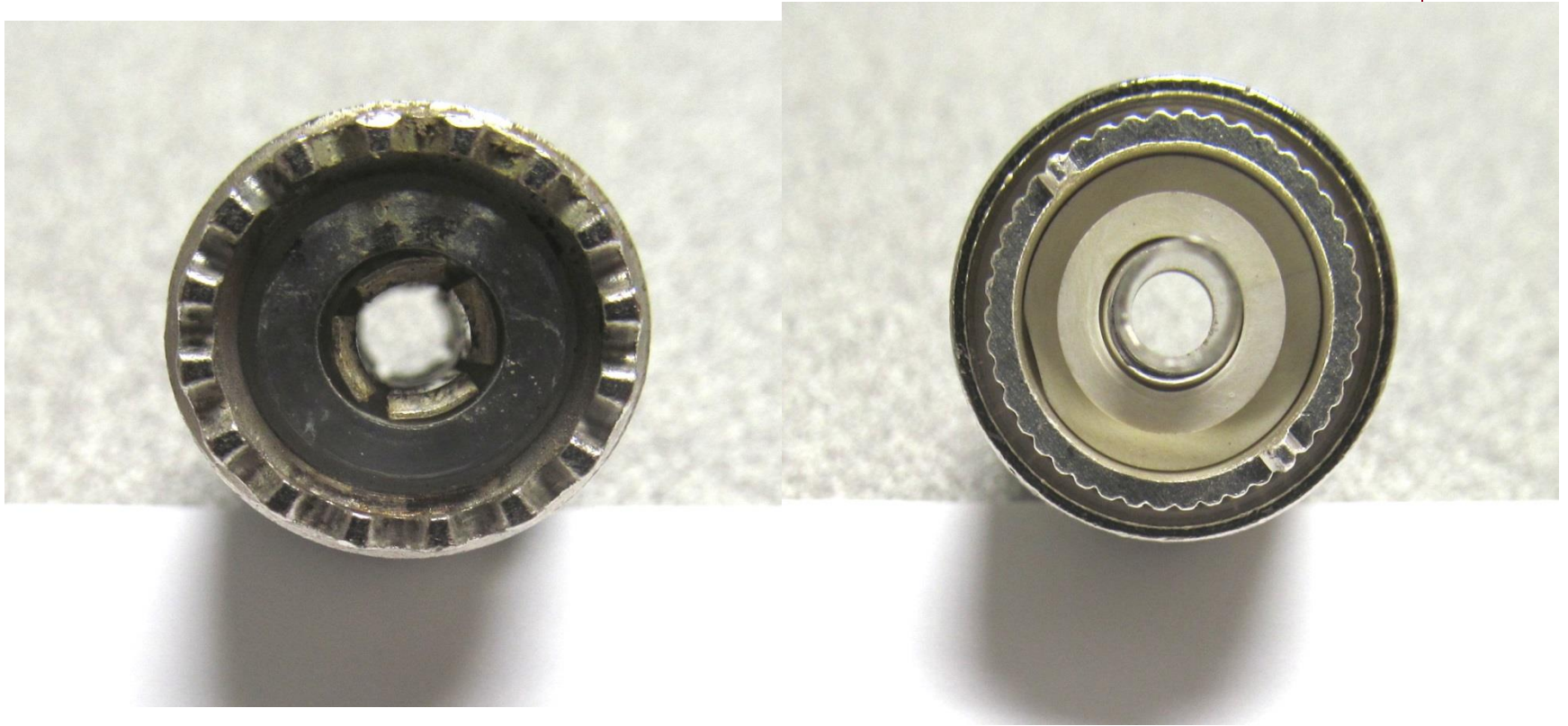


It's 0000 Zulu – Are you worried about your connectors?





Keep the water out!





Even good COAX goes BAD in time



One nick and the water gets in

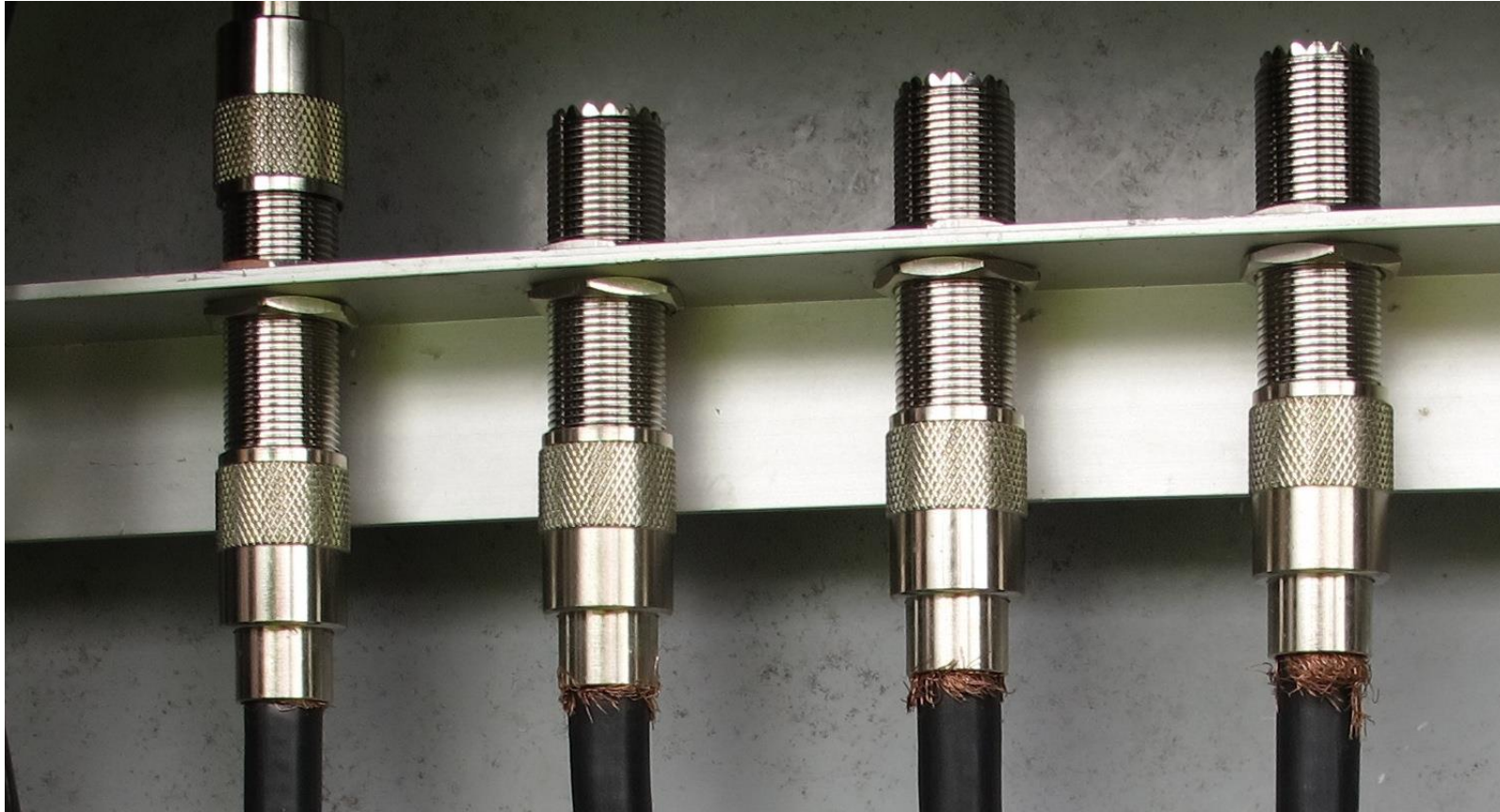


Coax shields will break at the rotation loop





Do your shields look like this?



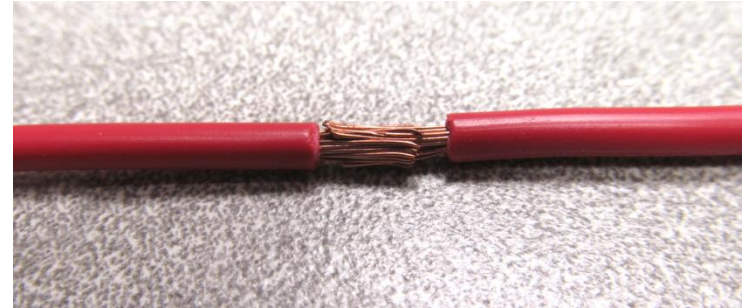
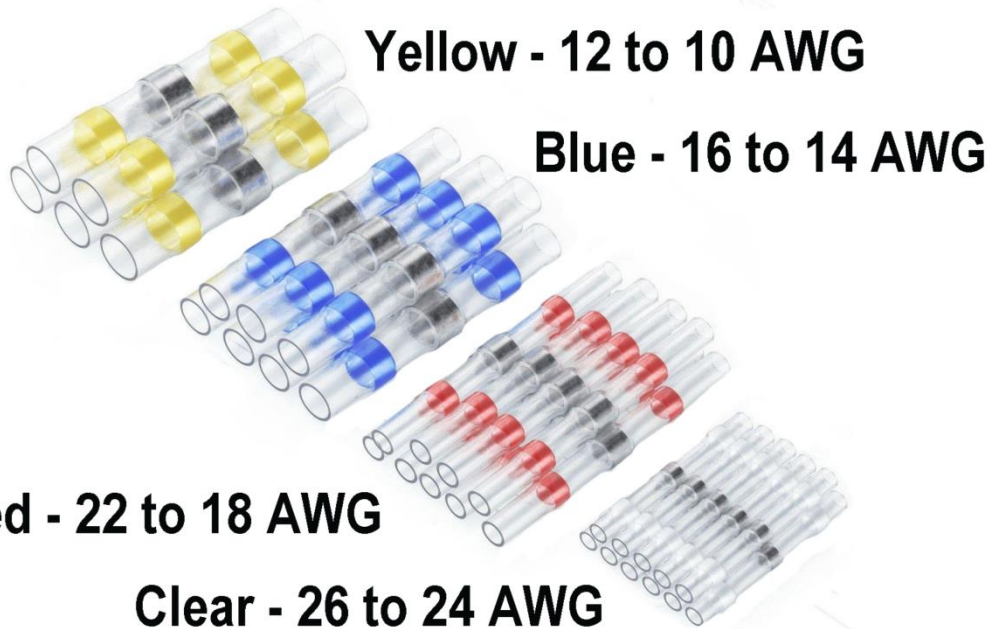


Or this?



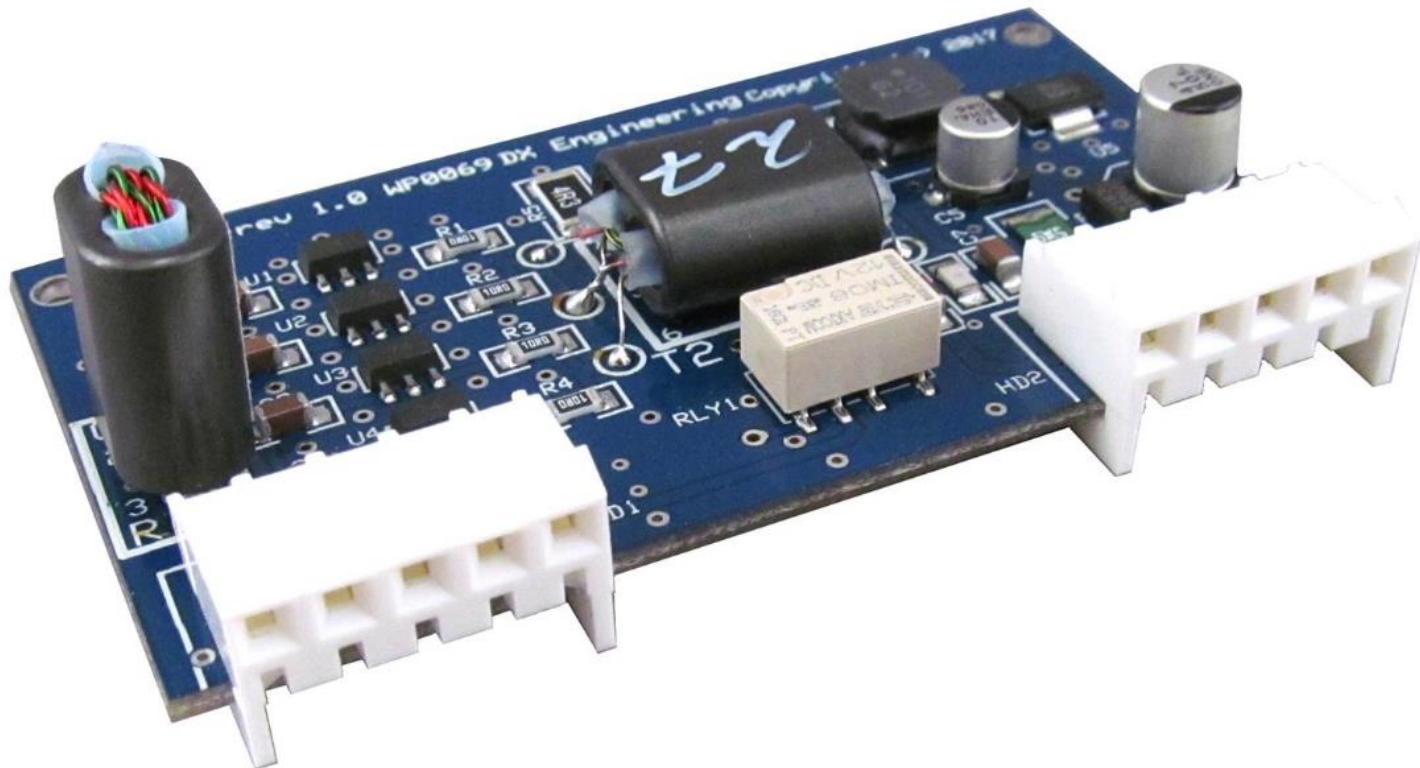


Heat Shrink Self-Solder Butt Splices





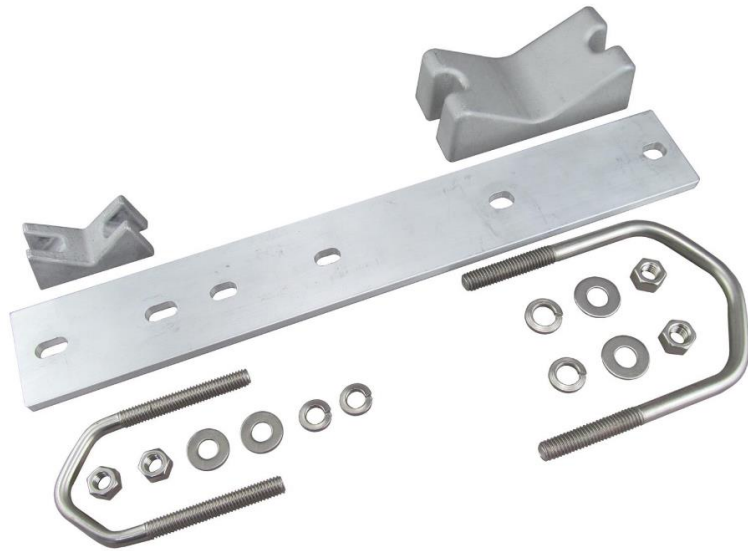
Clifton Labs K8ZOA High Gain HF Preamp

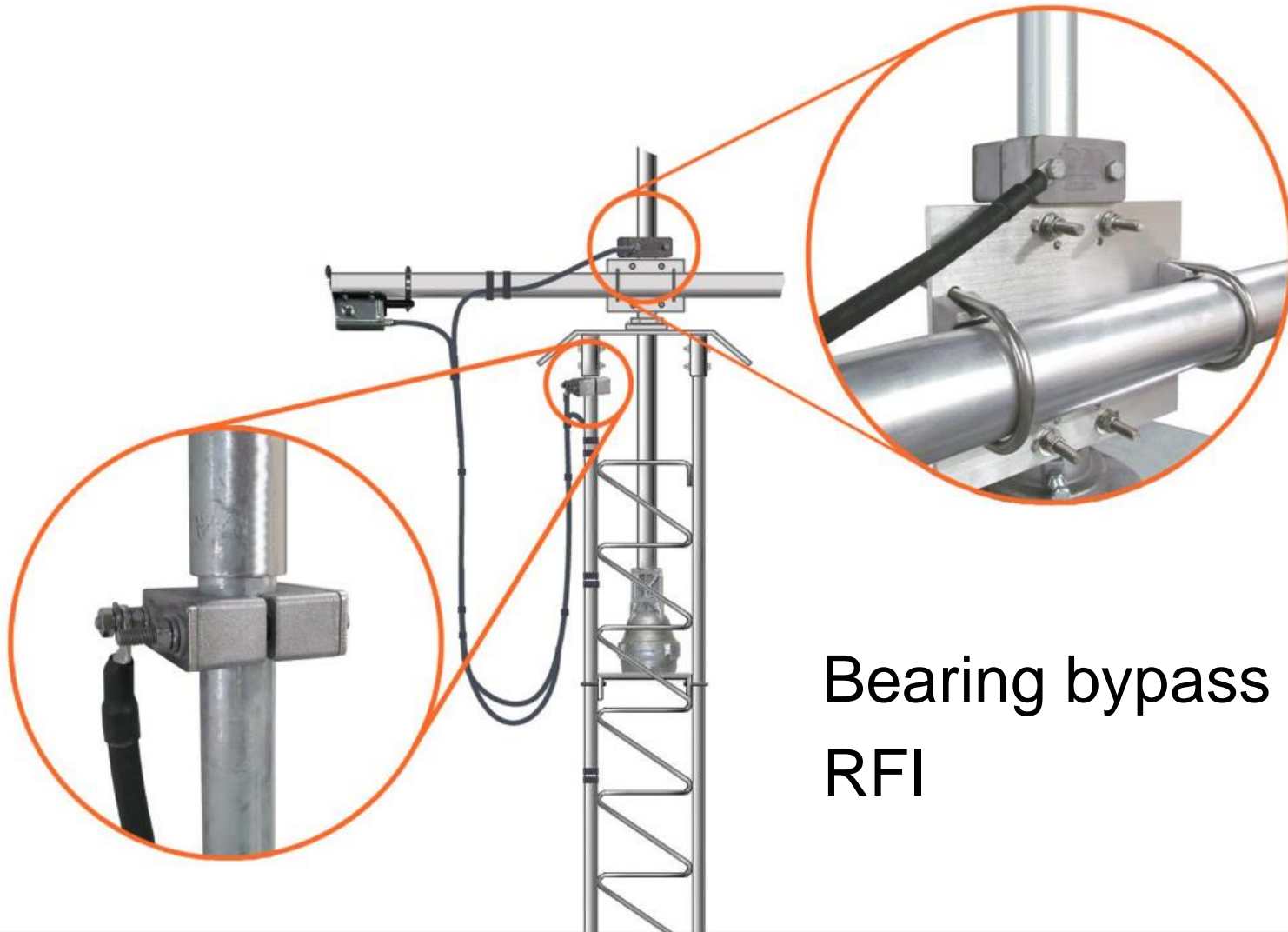


Lightning rod Safety and Static Reduction

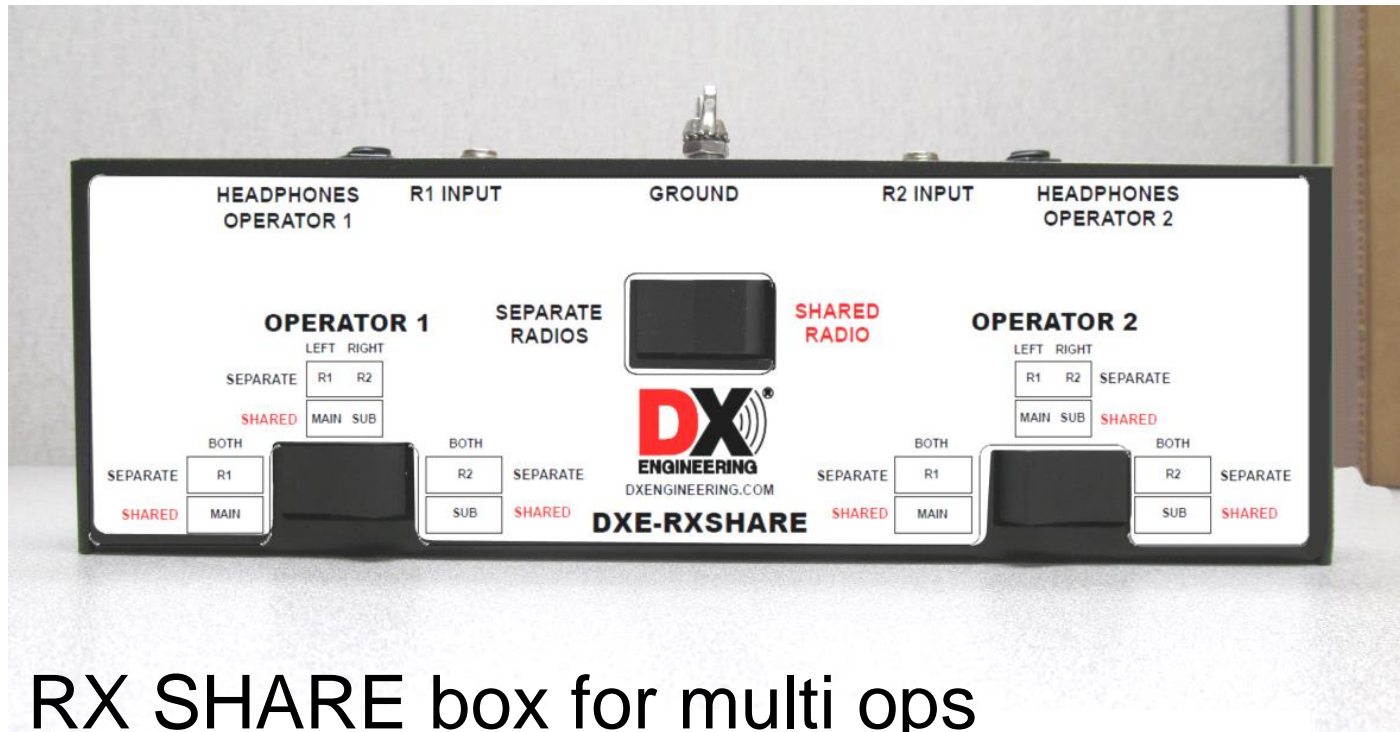


Servicing a rotor? MAST LOCK





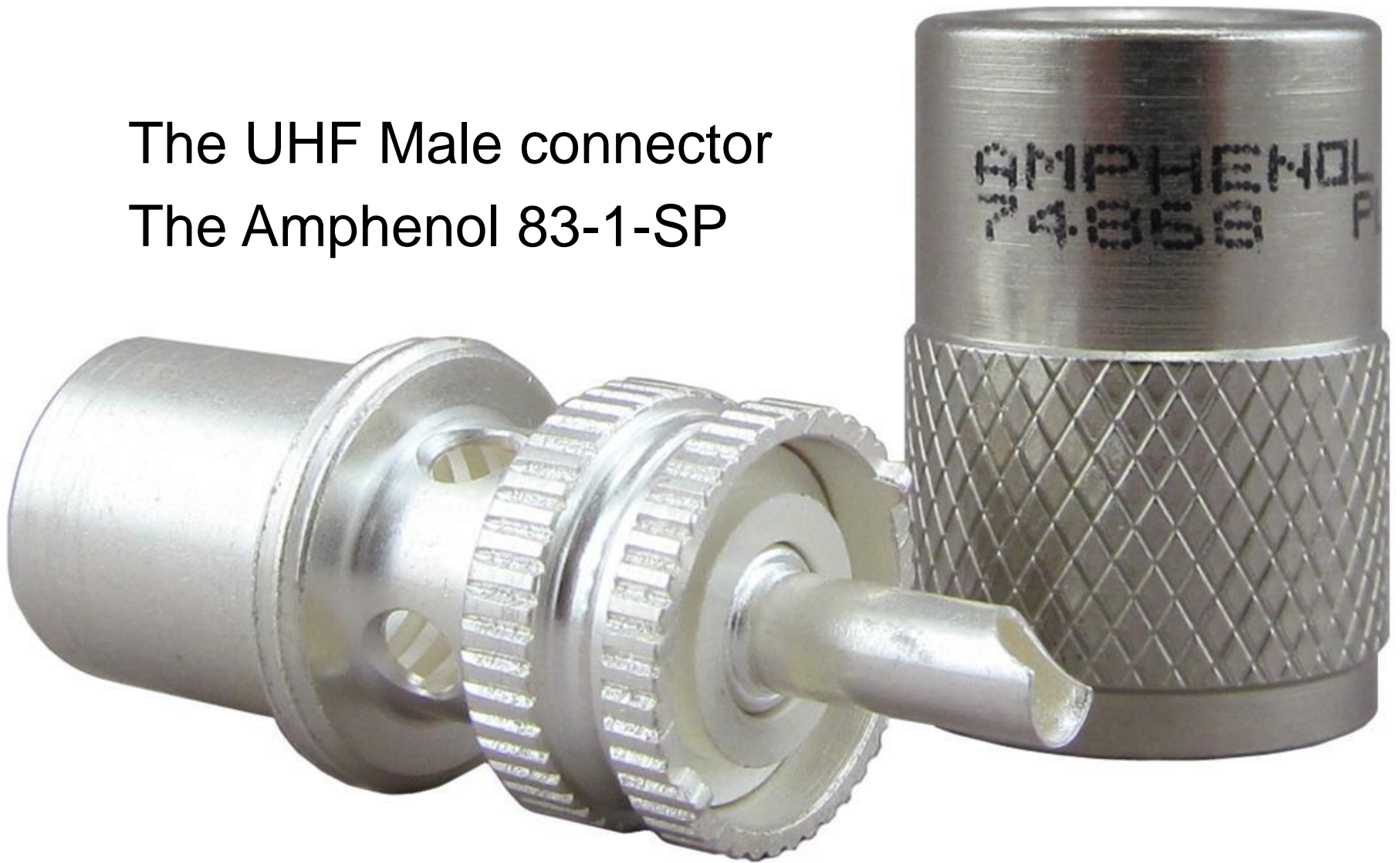
Bearing bypass to reduce
RFI



RX SHARE box for multi ops



The UHF Male connector The Amphenol 83-1-SP



Channel Lock CNL-426

“Tighten Up”







Having Fun with Contesting



- **Be the best example of a model contest operator**
- **Share your contesting passion with others – help THEM put up or fix an antenna. Please be SAFE!**
- **Get on the air and operate. Teach others how to operate in a contest.**
- **Have an open heart to all who are willing to learn – encourage and send congratulations emails.**
- **Be active in your local club – not just Field Day. Join, pay dues and contribute your time and experience!**