

# APPENDIX

This appendix contains a glossary of terms, a list of common abbreviations, length conversion information (feet and inches), metric equivalents and antenna-gain-reference data.

## Glossary of Terms

This glossary provides a handy list of terms that are used frequently in Amateur Radio conversation and literature about antennas. With each item is a brief definition of the term. Most terms given here are discussed more thoroughly in the text of this book, and may be located by using the index.

**Actual ground** — The point within the earth's surface where effective ground conductivity exists. The depth for this point varies with frequency and the condition of the soil.

**Antenna** — An electrical conductor or array of conductors that radiates signal energy (transmitting) or collects signal energy (receiving).

**Antenna tuner** — A device containing variable reactances (and perhaps a balun). It is connected between the transmitter and the feed point of an antenna system, and adjusted to "tune" or resonate the system to the operating frequency. It does not "tune" the antenna, only transform impedances.

**Aperture, effective** — An area enclosing an antenna, on which it is convenient to make calculations of field strength and antenna gain. Sometimes referred to as the "capture area."

**Apex** — The feed-point region of a V type of antenna.

**Apex angle** — The included angle between the wires of a V, an inverted-V dipole, and similar antennas, or the included angle between the two imaginary lines touching the element tips of a log periodic array.

**Azimuthal pattern** — The radiation pattern of an antenna in all horizontal directions around it.

**Balanced line** — A symmetrical two-conductor feed line for which each conductor has the same impedance to ground.

**Balun** — A device for transferring power between a balanced and unbalanced system while isolating the two systems, such as feeding a balanced antenna with an unbalanced coaxial feed line, or vice versa. Often used in antenna systems to interface a coaxial transmission line to the feed point of a balanced antenna, such as a dipole. Current baluns create equal currents in the output terminals and voltage baluns create equal voltages at the output terminals. Baluns may or may

not effect an impedance transformation between the balanced and unbalanced systems.

**Base loading** — A lumped reactance that is inserted at the base (ground end) of a vertical antenna to resonate the antenna.

**Beamwidth** — Related to directive antennas. The width, in degrees, of the major lobe between the two directions at which the relative radiated power is equal to one half its value at the peak of the lobe (half power =  $-3$  dB).

**Beta match** — A form of hairpin match. The two conductors straddle the boom of the antenna being matched, and the closed end of the matching-section conductors is strapped to the boom.

**Bridge** — A circuit with two or more ports that is used in measurements of impedance, resistance or standing waves in an antenna system. When the bridge is adjusted for a balanced condition, the unknown factor can be determined by reading its value on a calibrated scale or meter.

**Capacitance hat** — A conductor of large surface area that is connected at the high-impedance end of an antenna to effectively increase the electrical length. It is sometimes mounted directly above a loading coil to reduce the required inductance for establishing resonance. It usually takes the form of a series of wheel spokes or a solid circular disc. Sometimes referred to as a "top hat."

**Capture area** — See aperture.

**Center fed** — Transmission-line connection at the electrical center of an antenna radiator.

**Center loading** — A scheme for inserting inductive reactance (coil) at or near the center of an antenna element for the purpose of lowering its resonant frequency. Used with elements that are less than  $1/4$  wavelength at the operating frequency.

**Choke balun** — A balun that works by presenting a high impedance to RF current.

**Coaxial cable or coax** — Any of the coaxial transmission lines that have the outer shield (solid or braided) on the same axis as the inner or center conductor. The insulating material can be air, helium or solid-dielectric compounds.

**Collinear array** — A linear array of radiating elements (usually dipoles) with their axes arranged in a straight line. Popular at VHF and above.

**Common-mode current** — Current that flows equally on all conductors of a group or that flows on the outside of the shield of a coaxial feed line.

**Conductor** — A metal body such as tubing, rod or wire that permits current to travel continuously along its length.

**Counterpoise** — A wire or group of wires mounted close to ground, but insulated from ground, to form a low-impedance, high-capacitance path to ground. Used at MF and HF to provide an RF ground for an antenna. Also see ground plane.

**Current loop** — A point of current maxima (antipode) on an antenna.

**Current node** — A point of current minima on an antenna.

**D layer** — The lowest layer of the ionosphere that forms during daylight hours and acts primarily to absorb RF at MF and HF.

**Decade** — A factor of ten or frequencies having a 10:1 harmonic relationship

**Decibel** — A logarithmic power ratio, abbreviated dB. May also represent a voltage or current ratio if the voltages or currents are measured across (or through) identical impedances. Suffixes to the abbreviation indicate references: dBi, isotropic radiator; dBic, isotropic radiator circular; dBm, milliwatt; dBW, watt.

**Delta loop** — A full-wave loop shaped like a triangle or delta.

**Delta match** — Center-fed technique used with radiators that are not split at the center. The feed line is fanned near the radiator center and connected to the radiator symmetrically. The fanned area is delta shaped.

**Dielectrics** — Various insulating materials used in antenna systems, such as found in insulators and transmission lines.

**Diffraction** — The bending of a wave by the abrupt edge or corner at a change in the medium through which the wave is traveling.

**Dipole** — An antenna, usually a half wavelength long, with opposing voltages on each half. The term “doublet” refers more generally to a symmetrical, center-fed antenna.

**Direct ray** — Transmitted signal energy that arrives at the receiving antenna directly rather than being reflected by any object or medium.

**Directivity** — The property of an antenna that concentrates the radiated energy to form one or more major lobes.

**Director** — A conductor placed in front of a driven element to cause directivity. Frequently used singly or in multiples with Yagi or cubical-quad beam antennas.

**Doublet** — See dipole.

**Driven array** — An array of antenna elements which are all driven or excited by means of a transmission line, usually to achieve directivity.

**Driven element** — A radiator element of an antenna system to which the transmission line is connected.

**Dummy load** — Synonymous with dummy antenna. A nonradiating substitute for an antenna.

**E layer** — The ionospheric layer nearest Earth from which radio signals can be reflected to a distant point, generally a maximum of 2000 km (1250 miles).

**E plane** — Related to a linearly polarized antenna, the plane containing the electric field vector of the antenna and its direction of maximum radiation. For terrestrial antenna systems, the direction of the E plane is also taken as the polarization of the antenna. The E plane is at right angles to the H plane.

**Efficiency** — The ratio of useful output power to input power, determined in antenna systems by losses in the system, including in nearby objects.

**EIRP** — Effective isotropic radiated power. The power radiated by an antenna in its favored direction, taking the gain of the antenna into account as referenced to isotropic.

**Elements** — The conductive parts of an antenna system that determine the antenna characteristics. For example, the reflector, driven element and directors of a Yagi antenna.

**Elevation pattern** — The radiation pattern of antenna at all vertical angles along a fixed direction.

**End effect** — A condition caused by capacitance at the ends of an antenna element. Insulators and related support wires contribute to this capacitance and lower the resonant frequency of the antenna. The effect increases with conductor diameter and must be considered when cutting an antenna element to length.

**End fed** — An end-fed antenna is one to which power is applied at one end, rather than at some point between the ends.

**F layer** — The ionospheric layer that lies above the E layer. Radio waves can be refracted from it to provide communications distances of several thousand miles by means of single- or double-hop skip.

**Feed line, feeders** — See Transmission Line.

**Field strength** — The intensity of a radio wave as measured at a point some distance from the antenna. This measurement is usually made in microvolts per meter.

**Front to back** — The ratio of the radiated power off the front and back of a directive antenna. For example, a dipole would have a ratio of 1, which is equivalent to 0 dB.

**Front to rear** — Worst-case rearward lobe in the 180°-wide sector behind an antenna's main lobe, in dB.

**Front to side** — The ratio of radiated power between the major lobe and that 90° off the front of a directive antenna.

**Gain** — The increase in effective radiated power in the direction of an antenna's major lobe.

**Gamma match** — A matching system used with driven antenna elements to effect a match between the transmission line and the feed point of the antenna. It consists of a series capacitor and an arm that is mounted close to the driven element and in parallel with it near the feed point.

**Ground plane** — A system of conductors placed beneath an elevated antenna to serve as an earth ground. Also see counterpoise.

**Ground screen** — A wire mesh counterpoise.

**Ground wave** — Radio waves that travel along the earth's surface.

**H plane** — Related to a linearly polarized antenna. The plane containing the magnetic field vector of an antenna and its direction of maximum radiation. The H plane is at right angles to the E plane.

**HAAT** — Height above average terrain. A term used mainly in connection with repeater antennas in determining coverage area.

**Hairpin match** — A U-shaped conductor that is connected to the two inner ends of a split dipole for the purpose of creating an impedance match to a balanced feeder.

**Hardline** — A type of low-loss coaxial feed line with a rigid or semi-rigid outer shield.

**Harmonic antenna** — An antenna that will operate on its fundamental frequency and the harmonics of the fundamental frequency for which it is designed. An end-fed half-wave antenna is one example.

**Heliac** — Trade name for a type of hardline coaxial cable with a center insulator wrapped helically around the center conductor.

**Helical** — A helically wound antenna, one that consists of a spiral conductor. If it has a very large winding length to diameter ratio it provides broadside radiation. If the length-to-diameter ratio is small, it will operate in the axial mode and radiate off the end opposite the feed point. The polarization will be circular for the axial mode, with left or right circularity, depending on whether the helix is wound clockwise or counterclockwise.

**Image antenna** — The imaginary counterpart of an actual antenna. It is assumed for mathematical purposes to be located below the earth's surface beneath the antenna, and is considered symmetrical with the antenna above ground.

**Impedance** — The ohmic value of an antenna feed point, matching section or transmission line. An impedance may contain a reactance as well as a resistance component.

**Impedance Matching Unit** — see Antenna Tuner.

**Inverted-V (dipole)** — A half-wavelength dipole erected in the form of an upside-down V, with the feed point at the apex. Its radiation pattern is similar to that of a horizontal dipole.

**Isotropic** — An imaginary or hypothetical point-source antenna that radiates equal power in all directions. It is used as a reference for the directive characteristics of actual antennas.

**Ladder line** — see Open-wire Line.

**Lambda** — Greek symbol ( $\lambda$ ) used to represent a wavelength with reference to electrical dimensions in antenna work.

**Line loss** — The power lost in a transmission line, usually expressed in decibels.

**Line of sight** — Transmission path of a wave that travels directly from the transmitting antenna to the receiving antenna.

**Litz wire** — Stranded wire with individual strands insulated; small wire provides a large surface area for current flow, so losses are reduced for the wire size.

**Load** — The electrical entity to which power is delivered. The antenna system is a load for the transmitter.

**Loading** — The process of transferring power from its source to a load. The effect a load has on a power source.

**Lobe** — A defined field of energy that radiates from a directive antenna.

**Log-periodic antenna** — A broadband directive antenna that has a structural format causing its impedance and radiation characteristics to repeat periodically as the logarithm of frequency.

**Long wire** — A wire antenna that is one wavelength or greater in electrical length. When two or more wavelengths long it provides gain and a multi-lobe radiation pattern. When terminated at one end it becomes essentially unidirectional off that end.

**Marconi antenna** — A shunt-fed monopole operated against ground or a radial system. In modern jargon, the term refers loosely to any type of vertical antenna.

**Matchbox** — see Antenna Tuner

**Matching** — The process of effecting an impedance match between two electrical circuits of unlike impedance. One example is matching a transmission line to the feed point of an antenna. Maximum power transfer to the load (antenna system) will occur when a matched condition exists.

**Monopole** — Literally, one pole, an antenna that operates with a single voltage with respect to ground, such as a vertical radiator operated against the Earth or a counterpoise.

**Null** — A condition during which an electrical quantity is at a minimum. A null in an antenna radiation pattern is a point in the radiation pattern where a minimum in field intensity is observed.

**Octave** — A factor of two or frequencies having a 2:1 harmonic relationship.

**Open-wire line** — Consists of parallel, symmetrical wires with insulating spacers at regular intervals to maintain the line spacing. The dielectric is principally air, making it a low-loss type of line.

**Parabolic reflector** — An antenna reflector that is a portion of a parabolic revolution or curve. Used mainly at UHF and higher to obtain high gain and a relatively narrow beamwidth when excited by one of a variety of driven elements placed in the plane of and perpendicular to the axis of the parabola.

**Parallel-conductor line** — see Open-wire Line.

**Parasitic array** — A directive antenna that has a driven element and at least one independent director or reflector, or a combination of both. The directors and reflectors are not connected to the feed line. Except for VHF and UHF arrays with long booms (electrically), more than one reflector is seldom used. A Yagi antenna is one example of a parasitic array.

**Patch antenna** — A type of microwave antenna made from flat pieces of conductive material suspended above a ground-plane.

**Phase** — The relative time relationship of two signals.

**Phasing lines** — Sections of transmission line that are used to ensure the correct phase relationship between the elements of a driven array, or between bays of an array of antennas. Also used to effect impedance transformations while maintaining the desired phase.

**Polarity** — The assigned convention of positive and negative for a signal or system.

**Polarization** — The sense of the wave radiated by an antenna. This can be horizontal, vertical, elliptical or circular (left or right hand circularity), depending on the design and application. (See H plane.)

**Q section** — Term used in reference to transmission-line matching transformers and phasing lines.

**Quad** — A parasitic array using rectangular or diamond shaped full-wave wire loop elements. Often called the “cubical quad.” Another version uses delta-shaped elements, and is called a delta loop beam.

**Radiation pattern** — The radiation characteristics of an antenna as a function of space coordinates. Normally, the pattern is measured in the far-field region and is represented graphically.

**Radiation resistance** — The ratio of the power radiated by an antenna to the square of the RMS antenna current, referred to a specific point and assuming no losses. The effective resistance at the antenna feed point.

**Radiator** — A discrete conductor that radiates RF energy in an antenna system.

**Random wire** — A random length of wire used as an antenna and fed at one end by means of an antenna tuner. Seldom operates as a resonant antenna unless the length happens to be correct.

**Reflected ray** — A radio wave that is reflected from the earth, ionosphere or a man-made medium, such as a passive reflector.

**Reflector** — A parasitic antenna element or a metal assembly that is located behind the driven element to enhance forward directivity. Hillsides and large man-made structures such as buildings and towers may act as reflectors.

**Refraction** — Process by which a radio wave is bent and returned to earth from an ionospheric layer or other medium after striking the medium.

**Resonator** — In antenna terminology, a loading assembly consisting of a coil and a short radiator section. Used to lower the resonant frequency of an antenna, usually a vertical or a mobile whip.

**Rhombic** — A rhomboid or diamond-shaped antenna consisting of sides (legs) that are each one or more wavelengths long. The antenna is usually erected parallel to the ground. A rhombic antenna is bidirectional unless terminated by a resistance, which makes it unidirectional. The greater the electrical leg length, the greater the gain, assuming the tilt angle is optimized.

**Shunt feed** — A method of feeding an antenna driven element with a parallel conductor mounted adjacent to a low-impedance point on the radiator. Frequently used with grounded quarter-wave vertical antennas to provide an impedance match to the feeder. Series feed is used when the base of the vertical is insulated from ground.

**Sleeve balun** — A type of choke balun consisting of a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -wavelength metal tube or sleeve around a coaxial feed line that acts as an open-circuit to RF current.

**Stacking** — The process of placing similar directive antennas atop or beside one another, forming a “stacked array.” Stacking provides more gain or directivity than a single antenna.

**Stub** — A section of transmission line used to tune an antenna element to resonance or to aid in obtaining an impedance match.

**SWR** — Standing-wave ratio on a transmission line in an antenna system. More correctly, VSWR, or voltage standing-wave ratio. The ratio of the forward to reflected voltage on the line, and not a power ratio. A VSWR of 1:1 occurs when all parts of the antenna system are matched correctly to one another.

**T match** — Method for matching a transmission-line to an unbroken driven element. Attached at the electrical center of the driven element in a T-shaped manner. In effect it is a double gamma match.

**Tilt angle** — Half the angle included between the wires at the sides of a rhombic antenna.

**Top hat** — See Capacitance hat.

**Top loading** — Addition of a reactance (usually a capacitance hat) at the end of an antenna element opposite the feed point to increase the electrical length of the radiator.

**Transmatch** — See Antenna tuner.

**Transmission line** — A cable that transfers electrical energy between sources and loads.

**Trap** — Parallel L-C network inserted in an antenna element to provide multiband operation with a single conductor.

**Tuner** — see Antenna Tuner

**Twinlead** — A type of open-wire line encased in plastic insulation for its entire length. See also open-wire line.

**Uda** — Co-inventor of the Yagi antenna.

**Unun** — Unbalanced-to-unbalanced impedance transformer.

**Velocity factor** — The ratio of the velocity of radio wave propagation in a dielectric medium to that in free space. When cutting a transmission line to a specific electrical length, the velocity factor of the particular line must be taken into account.

**Vivaldi antenna** — A type of microwave antenna that uses an exponential cutout as the radiating element, similar to an exponential horn.

**VSWR** — Voltage standing-wave ratio. See SWR.

**Wave** — A disturbance or variation that is a function of

time or space, or both, transferring energy progressively from point to point. A radio wave, for example.

**Wave angle** — The angle above the horizon of a radio wave as it is launched from or received by an antenna. Also called elevation angle.

**Wave front** — A surface that is a locus of all the points having the same phase at a given instant in time.

**Window line** — A type of open-wire line with regular rectangular holes or “windows” in the insulation between conductors.

**Yagi** — A directive, gain type of antenna that utilizes a number of parasitic directors and a reflector. Named after one of the two Japanese inventors (Yagi and Uda).

**Zepp antenna** — A half-wave wire antenna that operates on its fundamental and harmonics. It is fed at one end by means of open-wire feeders. The name evolved from its popularity as an antenna on Zeppelins. In modern jargon the term refers loosely to any horizontal antenna.



# ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations and acronyms that are commonly used throughout this book are defined in the list below. Periods are not part of an abbreviation unless the abbreviation otherwise forms a common English word. When appropriate, abbreviations as shown are used in either singular or plural construction.

## A

A — ampere  
ac — alternating current  
AF — audio frequency  
AFSK — audio frequency-shift keying  
AGC — automatic gain control  
AM — amplitude modulation  
ANT — antenna  
ARRL — American Radio Relay League  
ATV — amateur television  
AWG — American wire gauge  
az-el — azimuth-elevation

## B

balun — balanced to unbalanced  
BC — broadcast  
BCI — broadcast interference  
BW — bandwidth

## C

c — centi (prefix)  
ccw — counterclockwise  
cm — centimeter  
coax — coaxial cable  
CT — center tap  
cw — clockwise  
CW — continuous wave

## D

D — diode, ionospheric layer  
dB — decibel  
dBd — decibels referenced to a dipole  
dBi — decibels referenced to isotropic  
dBic — decibels referenced to isotropic, circular  
dBm — decibels referenced to one milliwatt  
dBW — decibels referenced to one watt  
dc — direct current  
DE — driven element  
deg — degree  
DF — direction finding  
dia — diameter  
DPDT — double pole, double throw  
DPST — double pole, single throw  
DVM — digital voltmeter  
DX — long distance communication

## E

E — ionospheric layer, electric field  
ed. — edition  
Ed. — editor  
EIRP — effective isotropic radiated power  
ELF — extremely low frequency  
EMC — electromagnetic compatibility  
EME — earth-moon-earth  
EMF — electromotive force  
EMI — electromagnetic interference

ERP — effective radiated power

E<sub>S</sub> or Es — sporadic E

## F

f — frequency  
F — ionospheric layer, farad  
F/B — front to back (ratio)  
ff — index abbreviation for topic appears on subsequent pages  
F/R — worst-case front to rear (ratio)  
FM — frequency modulation  
FOT — frequency of optimum transmission  
ft — foot or feet (unit of length)  
F1 — ionospheric layer  
F2 — ionospheric layer

## G

G — giga (prefix)  
GDO — grid- or gate-dip oscillator  
GHz — gigahertz  
GND — ground

## H

H — magnetic field, henry  
HAAT — height above average terrain  
HF — high frequency (3-30 MHz)  
Hz — hertz (unit of frequency)

## I

I — current  
ID — inside diameter  
IEEE — Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers  
in. — inch  
IRE — Institute of Radio Engineers (now IEEE)

## J

*j* — vector notation

## K

k — kilo (prefix)  
kHz — kilohertz  
km — kilometer  
kW — kilowatt  
kΩ — kilohm

## L

L — inductance  
lb — pound (unit of mass)  
LF — low frequency (30-300 kHz)  
LHCP — left-hand circular polarization  
ln — natural logarithm  
log — common logarithm  
LP — log periodic  
LPDA — log periodic dipole array  
LPVA — log periodic V array

LUF — lowest usable frequency

## M

m — meter (unit of length), milli (prefix)  
M — mega (prefix)  
m/s — meters per second  
mA — milliamperere  
max — maximum  
MF — medium frequency (0.3-3 MHz)  
mH — millihenry  
MHz — megahertz  
mi — mile  
min — minute  
mm — millimeter  
MPE — maximum permissible exposure  
ms — millisecond  
mS — millisiemens  
MS — meteor scatter  
MUF — maximum usable frequency  
mW — milliwatt  
MΩ — megohm

## N

n — nano (prefix)  
NC — no connection, normally closed  
NiCd — nickel cadmium  
NiMH — nickel metal hydride  
NIST — National Institute of Standards and Technology  
NO — normally open  
no. — number

## O

OD — outside diameter

## P

p — page (bibliography reference), pico (prefix)  
P-P — peak to peak  
PC — printed circuit  
PDF — Portable Document Format  
PEP — peak envelope power  
pF — picofarad  
pk-to-pk — peak-to-peak  
pot — potentiometer  
pp — pages (bibliography reference)  
Proc — Proceedings

## Q

Q — figure of merit

## R

R — resistance, resistor  
RF — radio frequency  
RFC — radio frequency choke  
RFI — radio frequency interference  
RHCP — right-hand circular polarization  
RLC — resistance-inductance-capacitance  
r/min — revolutions per minute  
RMS — root mean square  
r/s — revolutions per second  
RSGB — Radio Society of Great Britain  
RX — receiver

## S

s — second  
S — siemen  
S/N, SNR — signal-to-noise ratio  
SASE — self-addressed stamped envelope  
SINAD — signal-to-noise and distortion  
SPDT — single pole, double throw  
SPST — single pole, single throw  
SWR — standing wave ratio  
sync — synchronous

## T

tpi — turns per inch  
TR — transmit-receive  
TVI — television interference  
TVRO — Television Receive-Only  
TX — transmitter

## U

UHF — ultra-high frequency (300-3000 MHz)  
US — United States  
UTC — Universal Time, Coordinated

## V

V — volt  
VF — velocity factor  
VHF — very-high frequency (30-300 MHz)  
VLF — very-low frequency (3-30 kHz)  
Vol — volume (bibliography reference)  
VOM — volt-ohm meter  
VSWR — voltage standing-wave ratio  
VTVM — vacuum-tube voltmeter

## W

W — watt  
WPM — words per minute  
WRC — World Radio Conference  
WVDC — working voltage, direct current

## X

X — reactance  
XCVR — transceiver  
XFMR — transformer  
XMTR — transmitter

## Z

Z — impedance

## Other Symbols and Greek Letters

° — degrees  
 $\lambda$  — wavelength  
 $\lambda/d$  — wavelength to diameter (ratio)  
 $\epsilon$  — permittivity  
 $\epsilon_0$  — permittivity of free space  
 $\epsilon_r$  — relative permittivity or dielectric constant  
 $\mu$  — permeability, micro (prefix)  
 $\mu\text{F}$  — microfarad  
 $\mu\text{H}$  — microhenry  
 $\mu\text{V}$  — microvolt  
 $\Omega$  — ohm  
 $\phi, \theta$  — angles  
 $\pi$  — 3.14159  
 $\rho, \Gamma$  — reflection coefficient

# Length Conversions

Throughout this book, equations may be found for determining the design length and spacing of antenna elements. For convenience, the equations are written to yield a result in feet. (The answer may be converted to meters simply by multiplying the result by 0.3048.) If the result in feet is not an integral number, however, it is necessary to make a conversion from a decimal fraction of a foot to inches and fractions before the physical distance can be determined with a conventional tape measure. Table 1 may be used for this conversion, showing inches and fractions for increments of 0.01 foot. The table deals with only the fractional portion of a foot. The integral number of feet remains the same.

For example, say a calculation yields a result of 11.63 feet, and we wish to convert this to a length we can find on a tape measure. For the moment, consider only the fractional part of the number, 0.63 foot. In Table 1 locate the line with “0.6” appearing in the left column. (This is the 7th line down in the body of the table.) Then while staying on that line, move over

to the column headed “0.03.” Note here that the sum of the column and line heads, 0.6 + 0.03, equals the value of 0.63 that we want to convert. In the body of the table for this column and line we read the equivalent fraction for 0.63 foot,  $7\frac{7}{16}$  inches. To that value, add the number of whole feet from the value being converted, 11 in this case. The total length equivalent of 11.63 feet is thus 11 feet  $7\frac{7}{16}$  inches.

Similarly, Table 2 may be used to make the conversion from inches and fractions to decimal fractions of a foot. This table is convenient for using measured distances in equations. For example, say we wish to convert a length of 19 feet  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches to a decimal fraction. Considering only the fractional part of this value,  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches, locate the decimal value on the line identified as “7-” and in the column headed “ $\frac{3}{4}$ ,” where we read 0.646. This decimal value is equivalent to  $7 + \frac{3}{4} = 7\frac{3}{4}$  inches. To this value add the whole number of feet from the value being converted for the final result, 19 in this case. In this way, 19 feet  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches converts to  $19 + 0.646 = 19.646$  feet.

**Table 1**  
**Conversion, Decimal Feet to Inches (Nearest 16th)**

	<i>Decimal Increments</i>									
	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
0.0	00	0 $\frac{1}{8}$	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 $\frac{3}{8}$	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 $\frac{5}{8}$	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 $\frac{7}{8}$	0 $\frac{15}{16}$	1 $\frac{1}{16}$
0.1	1 $\frac{1}{16}$	1 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{7}{8}$
0.2	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 0	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{5}{8}$
0.3	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{8}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{3}{8}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{5}{8}$	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
0.4	4 $\frac{1}{8}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 0	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{5}{8}$
0.5	5 0	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	6 0	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{3}{8}$
0.6	6 0	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{3}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{5}{8}$	7 0	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{8}$
0.7	7 0	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{8}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{5}{8}$	8 0	8 $\frac{1}{8}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{8}$
0.8	8 0	8 $\frac{1}{8}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{8}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{5}{8}$	9 0	9 $\frac{1}{8}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{8}$
0.9	9 0	9 $\frac{1}{8}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{8}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{5}{8}$	10 0	10 $\frac{1}{8}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{3}{8}$

**Table 2**  
**Conversion, Inches and Fractions to Decimal Feet**

	<i>Fractional Increments</i>							
	0	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{7}{8}$
0-	0.000	0.010	0.021	0.031	0.042	0.052	0.063	0.073
1-	0.083	0.094	0.104	0.115	0.125	0.135	0.146	0.156
2-	0.167	0.177	0.188	0.198	0.208	0.219	0.229	0.240
3-	0.250	0.260	0.271	0.281	0.292	0.302	0.313	0.323
4-	0.333	0.344	0.354	0.365	0.375	0.385	0.396	0.406
5-	0.417	0.427	0.438	0.448	0.458	0.469	0.479	0.490
6-	0.500	0.510	0.521	0.531	0.542	0.552	0.563	0.573
7-	0.583	0.594	0.604	0.615	0.625	0.635	0.646	0.656
8-	0.667	0.677	0.688	0.698	0.708	0.719	0.729	0.740
9-	0.750	0.760	0.771	0.781	0.792	0.802	0.813	0.823
10-	0.833	0.844	0.854	0.865	0.875	0.885	0.896	0.906
11-	0.917	0.927	0.938	0.948	0.958	0.969	0.979	0.990



## Metric Equivalents

Throughout this book, distances and dimensions are usually expressed in English units—the mile, the foot, and the inch. Conversions to metric units may be made by using the following equations:

$$\text{km} = \text{mi} \times 1.609$$

$$\text{m} = \text{ft (')} \times 0.3048$$

$$\text{mm} = \text{in. (")} \times 25.4$$

An inch is 1/12 of a foot. Tables in the previous section provide information for accurately converting inches and fractions to decimal feet, and vice versa, without the need for a calculator.

## Gain Reference

Throughout this book, gain references are as follows:

- to a dipole in free space (dBd)
- to an isotropic radiator (dBi)
- to an isotropic radiator with circular polarization (dBic)

Gain in dBi is converted to dBd by subtracting 2.15 dB and gain in dBd is converted to dBi by adding 2.15 dB. Comparisons of gain for antennas over a reflecting surface such as ground must include the effects of ground.