



How to get radio louder, clearer, better

If you don't get clear, crackle-free reception on your chosen radio station here's how to improve matters.

If your radio has a telescopic aerial:

A telescopic aerial sticks out of the top of the radio and can be extended and swivelled. To get the best reception of your chosen radio station, extend it to 80cm (31.5 inches), or if it won't go that long extend it as much as it will. Then try moving it and the radio around to get the best reception. It may help if you put the radio near a window, and you should keep it as far as possible from machines and from your TV.



That will work for most people, but if you want a better signal, you need an external aerial.

Making and fitting an external aerial:

You can buy an aerial which may look like this picture but it's quite possible to make your own. This is how.

First get some two-core wire, like the sort you use to wire up loudspeakers or to connect a doorbell. It needs to be long enough to reach outside your house to a high place (the roof is ideal).

The aerial itself is made by splitting the two cores for a length of 80cm (31.5 inches) and spreading them out to form a T shape, like this:

You then fix this up as high as you can, preferably with one end sticking up and the other down, as shown. If your type of wire allows you to identify which end is sticking up then make a note of this, but if both cores are identical don't worry.

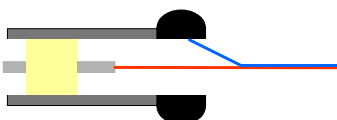
Now run the remaining wire down to where your radio is.

If your radio doesn't have a socket for an aerial, connect one of the cores to your telescopic aerial and ignore the other (if possible connect the core that is the 'up' end on the roof).

If your radio has a socket you need to know if it is a Male-type socket, which needs a Female plug, or a Female-type socket which needs a Male plug. This diagram will help. The Emporium usually has both types available, as do other stores.

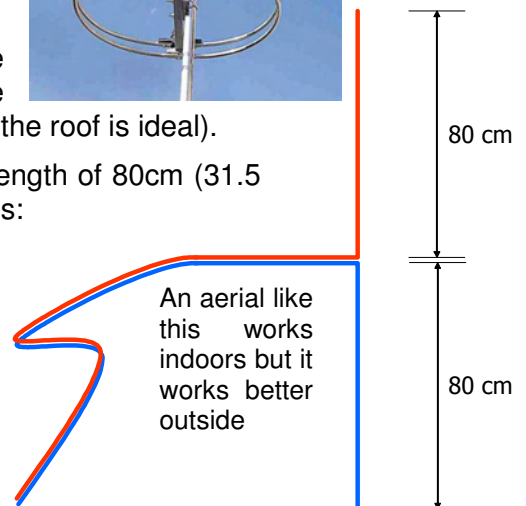
Wiring the plug is easy enough, though it's better if you can get hold of a soldering iron to make the connections.

It wires up like this cross-section diagram:



Note that, if you can identify it, the core that comes from the 'up' part of the aerial should go to the middle pin.

Now tune into your chosen radio station and your reception should be clearer. The dimensions given produce an aerial suited to receiving signals in the normal FM waveband, between 88 and 108 MHz. This aerial won't work for TV sets!



Male socket, needs a Female plug



Female socket, needs a Male plug

