

# ELECRAFT AX3

## 30-10 METER

## WHIP ANTENNA

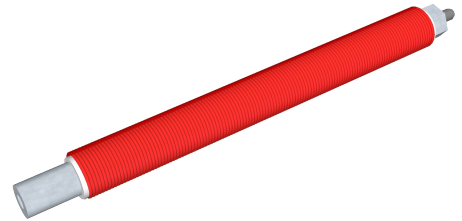
*WITH BUILT-IN MINI-TRIPOD & 1/4-20 MOUNT*

- **Lighten your load!** Working with your rig's ATU (required), the AX3 covers **up to six bands** with one compact, ultralight antenna
- **No need for coil tap adjustments** – select bands with the AX3's low-resistance, 4-position jumper block
- **Includes built-in mini-tripod** for table-top use at parks, campgrounds
- **1/4-20 threaded mount in base** works with taller tripods, hiking poles
- **Easy to pack** – Disassembles into 6" (15 cm) pieces; includes water-resistant pouch for antenna, tripod legs, ground wire, and coax cable
- **Convenient counterpoise wire attachment points** – both a binding post and a mini-banana jack; 13' (3.3 m) radial wire supplied

The AX3 is an extremely versatile whip antenna system. It's ideal for any field outing, getting you on the air quickly with a small table-top footprint.

There are jumper block positions for 10 / 14 / 18 / 21 MHz. The 21 MHz position is used for 21-29 MHz.

**AXE1 40 M EXTENDER**



**AXC3 COAX CABLE**

**3' (90 cm) – Recommended for table-top use**



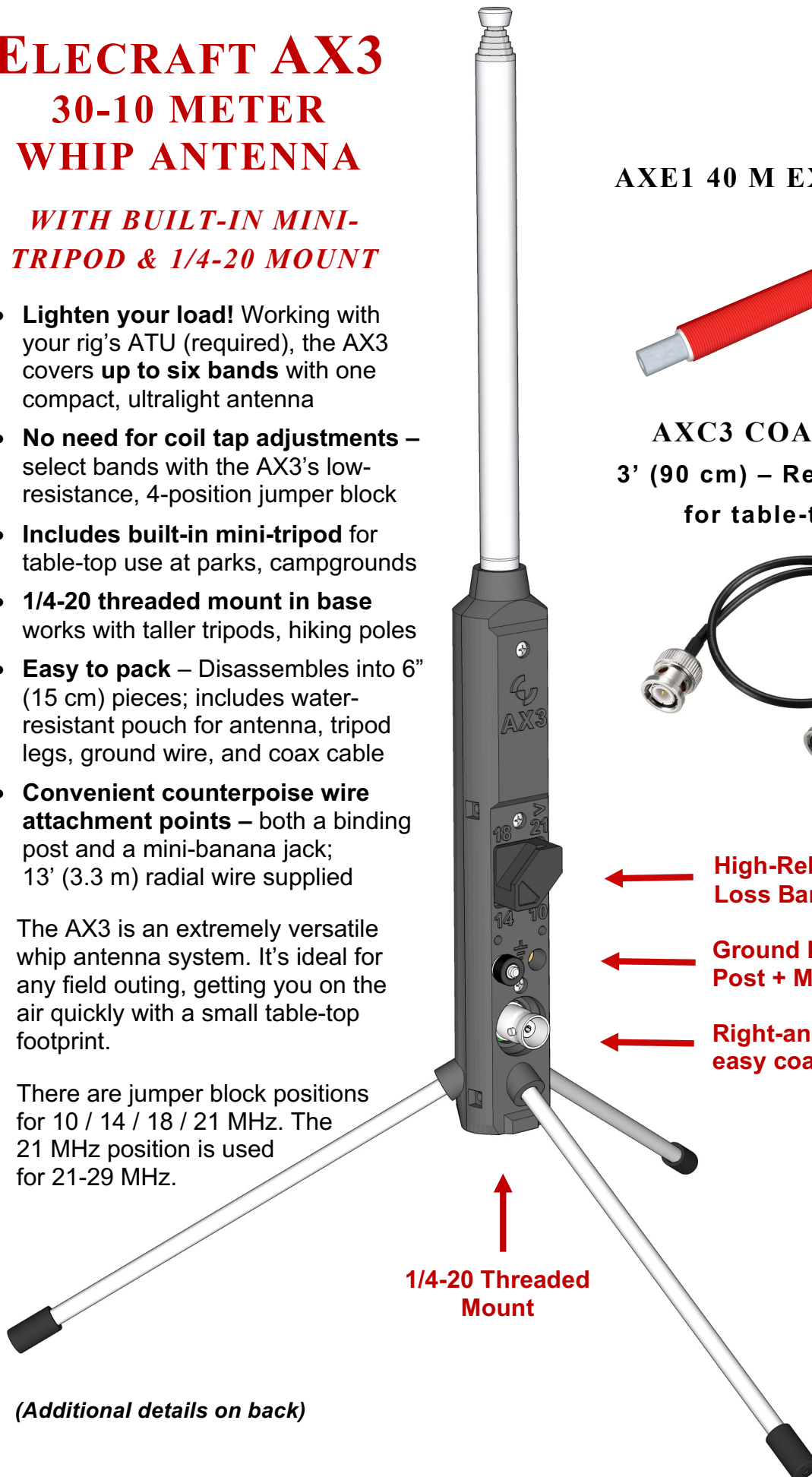
**High-Reliability, Low-Loss Band-Select block**

**Ground Binding Post + Mini-Banana**

**Right-angle BNC for easy coax connection**

**1/4-20 Threaded Mount**

*(Additional details on back)*



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## Elecraft AX3 Specifications

<b>Resonant Frequencies</b>	AX3: ~10 MHz, ~14 MHz, ~16-18 MHz (for 17 m band), ~24-26 MHz (for 15, 12, and 10 meter bands) AXE1: ~7 MHz (using AX3's 14 MHz setting) <i>Resonant frequencies approximate; see below.</i>
<b>Supplied Radial Wire</b>	AX3: 13 feet (3.3 m) long. AXE1: 33 feet (10 m). Wire has pre-installed lug for attachment to the AX3's ground screw.
<b>Max. Power</b>	30 Watts, 50 % duty cycle. <i>If RFI symptoms are observed, reduce power or use a balun.</i>
<b>Construction</b>	Corrosion-resistant whip and hardware; nylon housing; high-Q inductors wound with high-temp enamel wire.
<b>Dimensions</b>	Whip: 6" (15 cm) collapsed, 45" (115 cm) extended. Base and plug-in tripod legs: 6" (15 cm) long.
<b>Weight</b>	AX3: 5.0 oz. (140 g), less coax. AXE1: 2.0 oz. (55 g).

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## Matching (ATU Required)

Short whip resonance may be affected by terrain, height above ground, counterpoise length, and coax length. **An ATU is required to ensure a low-SWR match.**

**Note:** All Elecraft transceivers have optional ATUs compatible with the AX3. External ATUs can also be used, e.g. the Elecraft T1. Recommended coax length is 1' to 3' (60 to 90 cm). Avoid long coax cables or laying coax on the ground.

**To match using an ATU:** Set the AX3's band-select block to the desired band, then tap the ATU tuning switch on the radio or tuner. Use the 21 MHz position for 21-29 MHz. *With most Elecraft transceivers, a 2nd tap tries more L-C settings (see rig manual).*

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## Operating Tips

- **The AX3 is not intended for vehicle use or permanent outdoor installations.**
- **To avoid damage to the telescoping whip, keep it collapsed when not in use.**
- **Always use at least one radial.** This improves transmit efficiency by 10 to 20 dB, reduces RFI, and minimizes the effects of terrain, antenna height, etc. Adding more radials may improve performance.
- **Placing the AX3 on a table or using a tall tripod will improve signal strength.**
- Tune slowly. Answer strong stations who are calling CQ or completing a QSO.
- Try operating during contests, when there's lots of activity.
- At QRP power levels, CW and data modes will have an advantage over SSB.
- If the antenna tips due to wind, add weight to the base or secure the legs.
- **QRP operation with a short whip can be both rewarding and challenging.** For times when conditions are poor, we recommend also carrying a lightweight wire antenna made from two 25' (7.5 m) lengths of #26 "Silky" (thewireman.com). Toss one wire into a tree and lay the other on the ground, or into a second tree. Attach the wires to the rig via a BNC-to-binding post adapter, such as our model BNC-BP. Elecraft ATUs will usually match this antenna on 40 through 10 m.