

# KIWA vs. Quantum Loop Comparison

## by Elliot R. Straus

Mark Connelly suggested that I write a short article comparing the KIWA and Quantum loops. I have been using the two loops now for well over 200 hours of DXing so I guess that could qualify me to compare the two loops.

First, let it be said that I like both these antennas very much. I use them with a Collins R-390A and an MFJ-959B antenna tuner/preamp.

I am not technically inclined. I'll leave that to Mark and others and will look at these two antennas strictly from a user's point of view.

The KIWA loop is available from KIWA Electronics, 612 South 14th Ave., Yakima, WA 98902 for a list of \$330. This is an excellent and extremely well constructed antenna. There is a 5"X5" control box with attenuator, regeneration, fine tuning, and main tuning controls. The fine tuning is very precise and peaks the antenna nicely. When used in conjunction with the regeneration control it can produce a very narrow signal band eliminating a lot of co-channel interference. I can take local 1160 WOBM (5 miles away w/5KW.) from S-60 to S-20 on my signal meter. I can get the signal down to the point where I can hear audio underneath. It can also get a strong null on most of the N.Y.C. 50 kw'ers. The obtainable null is sharper and stronger on the KIWA than the Quantum. For example, the aforementioned WOBM can only get down to S-40 using the Quantum loop.

The KIWA's loop unit is 17X18" on a base. You will be using two hands with this loop and wishing for a third hand because when you are band scanning, the main tuning has to be constantly adjusted. What I've tended to do when TA DXing is to search out the carriers using the BFO and my A-D Sloper wire antenna and then when a likely carrier appears switch to the loops.

The Quantum loop is available from Gerry Thomas, 3635 Chastain Way, Pensacola, FL 32504 and priced at \$145. I also like this antenna very much. The base is approx. the size of the KIWA's and the ferrite bar antenna plus into the top of the control box. Controls are simpler with only the main tuning needing attention. The nulls on the Quantum are not as sharp as on the KIWA and the signal output is not as strong. The KIWA's signals are usually about 15 db stronger, but for some reason the Quantum is superior on certain signals. The Quantum basically can be used with one hand, making for easier operation. It is also very portable for those DXpeditions.

The main question about the two loops is: Is the KIWA loop worth 2+ times the price of the Quantum loop? Yes and No! At \$145 the Quantum loop is excellent, and I have no reservations in recommending this antenna. It has performed very well for me and I think that at the price it is a real bargain. For its performance I think the Quantum loop is a steal. The KIWA loop is definitely a better antenna but is it twice as good? No. I had no problem justifying the price because I want the best equipment I can have without going broke. If I was to compare them on a quantitative basis I would say that the KIWA is about 25-33% better in performance, but does that justify the expense? I'll have to leave that up to you.

Two items that I use in my shack may also be of interest. I use an MFJ-959B antenna tuner/preamp. that boosts all BCB signals by at least 10 db. I wouldn't do without this item. Just turn it on in all its lowest positions and it works wonders on the BCB although it is considered a shortwave tuner/preamp. I also use an MFJ-1700B antennas switch. It can handle up to 6 different antennas, without any bleed-over from one antenna to the other. I can easily switch from the Quantum to the KIWA to the A-D Sloper quickly to figure which has the best signal. I find all this an excellent combo because I don't have the area for really long wires. Now all I have to do is hit the lottery so I can get one of those Watkins-Johnson receivers!