



The Goldenrod Spyder A+ mobil CB antenna features two identical 19-inch formed loops that fit snugly into a nut assembly. Simply insert the ends of each loop into the nut, tighten and fire up the rig!

Installing the 45 A+ onto a standard 3/8 inch x 24 stud magnetic-mount was quick and easy.



## The Goldenrod 45 Spyder A+ Mobile CB Antenna

The Goldenrod 45 Spyder A+ is a top-loaded mobile CB (and 10 meter amateur) antenna. Its total height is 4 feet, 3 inches and it requires a 3/8 x 24 stud mount. Some things in life that work well can't always be explained, at least by most of us mortals. Such is the case with the Goldenrod 45 antenna by Signal Engineering. Here's a superior-performing mobile antenna that simply screws into a standard stud mount; mirror, trunk lip, magnetic or ball-mount. Arriving on our doorstep well packaged to protect from the rigors of transit, the antenna comes nearly ready-to-use. It took only about five minutes to insert and tighten the two 19-inch formed oval loops into the nut assembly at the top of the whip. It might look a little strange; a lot like a four-foot mobile TV antenna with a loading coil at the top, along with the two loops. Constructed of aircraft alloy aluminum with a gold alodine finish and a tightly fitting rubberized cover near the screw mount, the Goldenrod antenna looks like it would last for years – it may well indeed. And if it proves as durable as it looks, it certainly will!

Advertised gain is 4.5dB with a frequency range of 26.5 to 28.5 MHz. Also claimed is a 1.5:1 max VSWR. Guess what? They're right. In checking the SWR on channel 40, it was just above 1.5:1 progressively getting lower on the other 39 CB channels. My first thought was that this couldn't be; or more accurately, how could this be, especially considering the fact that the two loops can each be individually adjusted for best SWR? Our test model was near perfect without further adjustment. So like they say if the darned thing works, leave it alone.

### How It Performs

I've got to admit, I was a bit skeptical at first, simply given past problems I've had with obtaining a good SWR and performance with different mobile antennas, and even digesting claims made by some antenna folks. The Signal Engineering brochure for the Goldenrod 45 A+ claims a "One to two S-unit increase in signal strength over base and top-loaded antennas... (it) responds to horizontally polarized signals unlike any standard vertical whip, thus extending the useful range of a mobile station enormously."

We don't use any sophisticated test equipment other than what a typical CB operator would use, an off-the-shelf legal mobile CB radio. What I found with the Goldenrod 45 Spyder A+ was a substantial increase in range over a half-wave fiberglass whip on a magnetic mount from my base to my mobile. We all know CB range depends on lots of things, but there typically comes a point when driving away from the base that it gets downright difficult, if not impossible to hear your base (or even be heard). When I used the Goldenrod antenna on the same magnetic mount, located in the same place on my vehicle, I was able to keep driving almost another full mile! I couldn't believe my ears. But I had to prove to myself that I wasn't somehow dreaming, so I had brought along my 1/2 wave fiberglass whip, and changed antennas. At that location in the pizza parking lot my base could not be heard with the basic fiberglass antenna, period. I called and called, but it was useless, so I drove to the point where I normally begin to lose my base – about a mile back down the road – and there it was.

### On the Highway

If you've ever been to a CB jamboree, hamfest (especially a larger event, like Dayton) you'll see mobile antennas that make the Goldenrod 45 look like a rubber duck! Most of the vehicles look more like porcupines than vehicles. So, driving the highway with this antenna will get you a few strange looks, but let's face it, it's worth the stares! Signal reports on channel 19 were as good as any other antenna I've used. And at least one of the few bases I normally work reported my mobile signal with the Goldenrod 45 Spyder A+ to be, "...really good... better than many other mobiles on channel 19." (Except of course those fearless souls running a kilowatt into co-phased antennas!)

I like this antenna a lot. It's not the sort of antenna you'd leave permanently attached to your vehicle. It's certainly eye-catching to Arthur the Antenna Rip-off Artist who just might want to relieve you of your new antenna or CB. The solution is simple; a sturdy trunk or magnetic-mount assembly for a few bucks that's easily removed or an assembly that tilts inside the trunk when you're away from the vehicle. Be prepared to hear some wind noise at highway speeds; not loud, but noticeable; (of course that too depends on the antenna placement and style of your vehicle – a 102-inch whip can give the same wind noise). Also be prepared for better signal reports and extended range – "Enormously" as the Goldenrod 45 Spyder A+ brochure states? You be the judge; an extra mile or so where I was able to effectively test the antenna just might be more than a mile in the open country. "Greatly" or "significantly" increased range might be more the case, but regardless, I'm certain you'll be pleased at the ease of assembly, great SWR and solid construction of the Goldenrod 45 Spyder A+ antenna. It retails for \$53 from Signal Engineering, 1172 Aster Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, Telephone: (408) 247-2300.

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