

DU-1500L antenna tuner

User's Manual



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DU 1500L Installation

Model DU 1500 L is high power antenna tuner that uses an adjustable reactive network for matching the unbalanced 50 ohm output impedance of transmitters and transceivers to a variety of balanced and unbalanced loads.

It is usable over a frequency range of 1.8-30 MHz. Provision is made for selecting one of three antennas or for bypassing the matching network.

A crossed needles SWR and wattmeter with switchable 200 and 2000 watt scales and selectable peak and average power output reading is included.

Transmitter Connection

The DU 1500 L is designed for connection to transmitters having a 50 ohm nominal output impedance. Connect the coaxial output of your transmitter to the SO-239 INPUT connector on the rear panel of the tuner with a 50 ohm coaxial cable.

Grounding

Connect your station ground system to the GND wing nut terminal on the rear panel of the tuner with heavy braid or wire or a copper strap. The ground connection should go directly to the earth ground system using a lead as short as possible.

Antenna Connections

Connect antenna transmission line(s) to the appropriate terminal(s) on the tuner as follows. For 50 ohm coax-fed antennas (unbalanced transmission lines) use COAX 1, COAX 2, COAX 3.

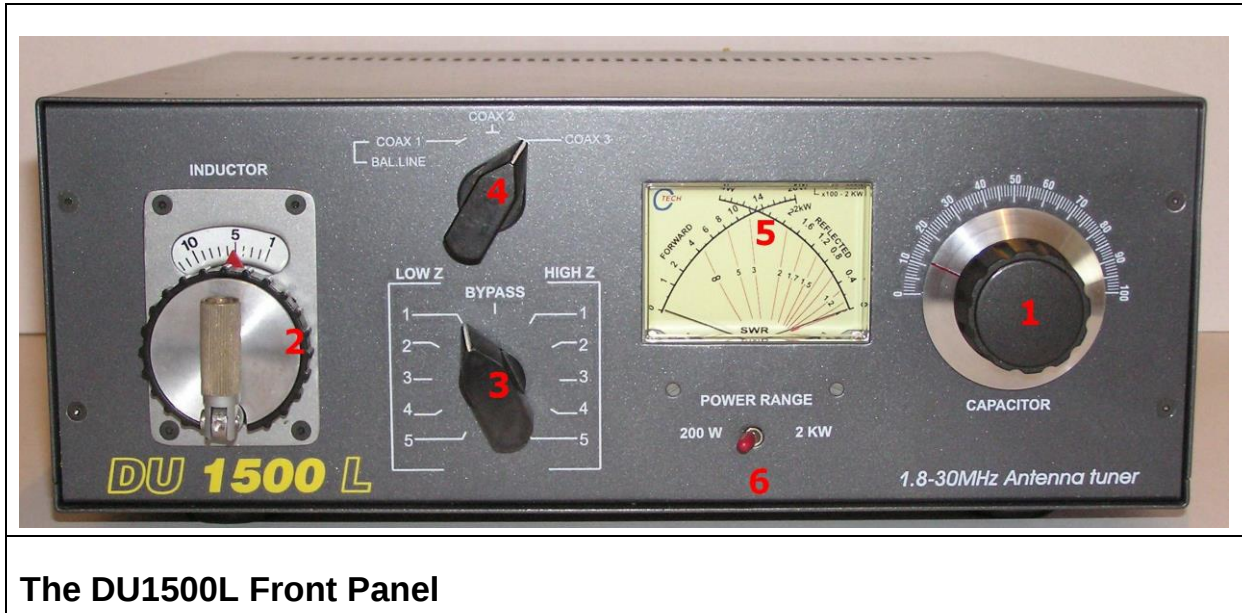
For a single wire antenna connect to SINGLE WIRE terminal. The SINGLE WIRE terminal uses the COAX 1 antenna connection.

For balanced feedline systems, adding a jumper from SINGLE WIRE to one of the BALANCED LINE terminals as shown on the rear panel is required. A tin-plated steel jumper for this purpose has been provided. It is attached to one wing nut connector on the back; if a balanced line will be used, attach the other side of the jumper to the other wing nut. Then connect the open wire or twin lead feedline to the two BALANCED LINE terminals. ANT position 3 can be COAX 1, (BAL line), COAX 2, COAX 3 must be coax only.

In both single wire and balanced line systems, take special care to route the transmission line as far away from the station equipment as possible. Never drape lines over the transmitter. These lines have high voltage points inside the radio shack which can produce strong RF fields.

Operation Instructions

The followings set of instructions will allow the operator to quickly place the DU 1500 L into operation. Included are descriptions of the front panel controls and their functions. This is followed by instructions for antenna matching and selection, and a brief discourse on antenna systems matching theory.



The DU1500L Front Panel

(1) Capacitor

This control connects to the variable tuning capacitor used as one of the elements in the L type matching network. This capacitor has a tuning range of 40-500 pF and it is continuous tuning with no stops.

(2) Inductor

This control is connected to the roller inductor, another element in the L type matching network. This inductor has a tuning range of 0.2 to 18 uH which is covered in approximately 30 revolutions of the control knob. A gear reduction system behind the front panel of the DU1500 L is connected to a concentric turns counter numbered 0 - 29 in a 180 degree arc over the top of this control, to make returning to earlier settings easier and quicker.

(3) Impedance Switch

This 11 position rotary switch is used to change the configuration of tuning network for matching either high or low impedance antenna systems. This switch also selects additional capacitors as needed for matching at lower frequencies. When placed in the 12 o'clock position, the tuner is connected in BYPASS configuration and the network has no effect on the transmission line system (antennas are fed through directly from the transmitter to the antenna without use of the tuner.) The SWR and power metering remains usable even when this switch is set to BYPASS. The purpose of this switch is to set the capacitor either across the input or across the antenna, depending on whether a load of above or below 50 ohms is trying to be matched (this reverses the L network).

(4) Antenna Select Knob

This three position switch is used to select one of up to four antennas connected to the rear panel of the DU 1500 L and corresponds to the COAX1, COAX2, & COAX3 connectors.

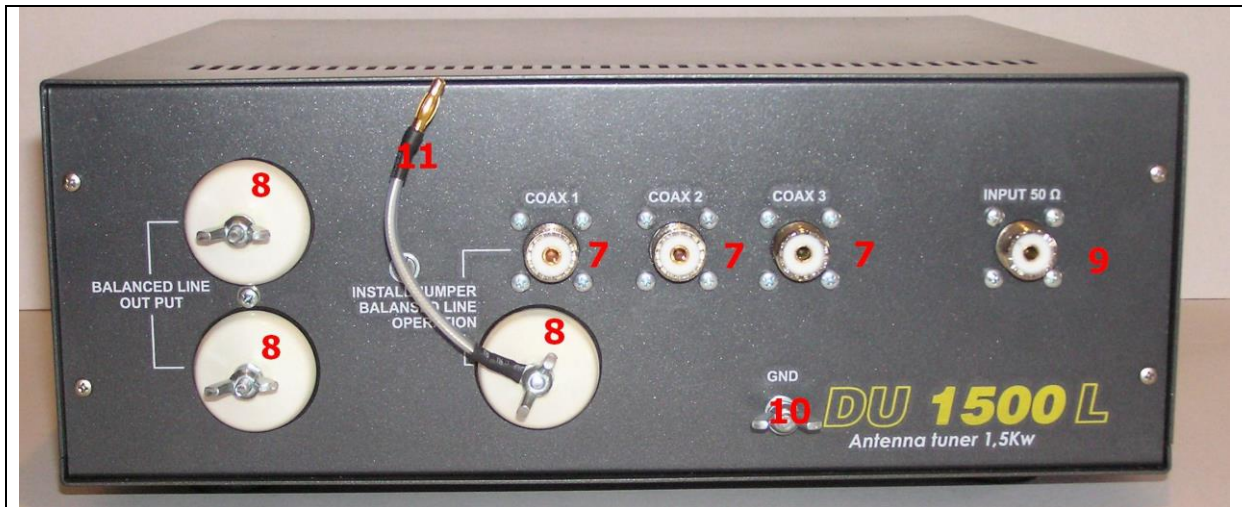
(5) Meter

The meter on model DU 1500 L is a dual crossed needle SWR and wattmeter. Forward power output is measured on the right-hand needle, left-hand scale. Reflected power is read on the left-hand needle, right-hand scale. SWR is read by reading the point at which the two needles cross on the red scale curves on the face of the meter. Power output is read in switchable scales of 200 or 2000 watts.

(6) Power Range Switch

The power scale switch is used to set the power output metering to scales of either 200 or 2000 watts.

Rear Panel Connections



The DU1500L Rear Panel

(7) Main Antenna Connectors

Four SO-239 connectors labeled COAX1, COAX2, COAX3 and Input are provided for the connection of 50 ohm coaxial cables / antennas.

(8) Wing Nut Antenna Connectors

Wing nut antenna connectors are provided on the COAX1 connection for connection of either a single wire or balanced line-fed antenna. Please note that a jumper must be installed between the SINGLE WIRE terminal and one of the BALANCED LINE terminals before balanced line is used. A tin-plated steel jumper for this purpose has been provided. It is attached to one wing nut connector on the back; if balanced line will be used, attach the other side of the jumper to the other wing nut, then connect the feedline to the two BALANCED LINE terminals.

(9) Input

A 50 Ω coaxial cable is to be connected from the output of your transceiver or linear amplifier.

(10) GND

Connect your station ground system to the GND wing nut terminal on the rear panel of the tuner with heavy braid or wire.

(11) Install jumper for balanced (twin lead) line

Antenna or Load Matching

The procedure shown below will enable you to match almost any antenna system. Please note that this does not mean DU 1500 L will match any antenna system you may employ on any given HF frequency. The DU 1500 L's matching range is at least 10:1 SWR

At full rated power output of up to 2000 watts. Some odd length center-fed wire antennas can easily have a transmission line impedance in the thousands of ohms; These antennas cannot be matched by the DU 1500 L or any other antenna tuner.

SPECIFICATIONS

Circuit Type: L network

RF Power Rating: 2000 W

Frequency Range: 1.8-30 MHz continuous

Input Impedance: 50 Ω nominal

Output Matching Range: At least 10:1 SWR, any phase angle.

Input/Output Connectors: Input and four antenna coax connectors are SO-239 (UHF type). Studs with wing nuts for single wire and balanced feeders.

Capacitor Voltage Rating: 3500 volts

Inductor: 0.2-18 μ H silver-plated roller inductor.

Size: H 4.7" (12 cm) x W 13" (33 cm) x D 13" (33 cm)

Depth measurement cabinet only, does not account for knobs or connectors.

Weight: 12 lb (5.5 kg)

Quick Start Guide

Read all the information in the manual leading up to this point, then use the below instructions to start using your tuner.

Set CAPACITOR to '2' and INDUCTOR to fully counter-clockwise ('0') and the center switch to BYPASS.

Turn the center switch to the LOW Z 1 position (immediately to the left of BYPASS). Apply 30 to 50 watts of transmitter power and note the SWR shown on the meter. Unkey the transmitter and then move the switch to the HIGH Z 1 position. Apply 30 to 50 watts or less transmitter power and note the SWR shown on the meter. Depending on which of the HIGH Z 1 or LOW Z 1 settings shows a lower SWR, try more positions on the same side to see if the SWR is lower. Choose the position among all switch positions that shows the lowest SWR.

Adjust the capacitor for lowest SWR. Then turn the roller inductor clockwise to a higher setting and note if SWR changes. If SWR drops adjust the capacitor for a lower SWR value. Go back and forth between these two controls adjusting them for best match and the lowest SWR.

If the capacitor shows best meter null (lowest SWR) at a setting of '0' turn the center switch to the other side of BYPASS. If the best meter null (lowest SWR) is with the capacitor at '100' turn the center switch to the next higher position.

It is possible, depending on your antenna and the frequency in use that a good starting match may not be readily apparent (i.e. all starting positions on the center switch show a high SWR). Try adjusting the roller inductor and/or capacitor to a higher initial setting and repeat the same instructions if this is the case.

WARNING:

While all the components of the DU 1500 L are rated to easily handle continuous duty operation at full rated power, **do NOT adjust the antenna tuner when running high output power**. Adjust the tuner's lowest SWR at less than 50 watts and then enable your linear amplifier. High circulating currents are present when high power is applied to the tuner and adjusting the tuner controls for lower SWR while running high power through the tuner can possibly damage the unit.

WARNING:

In normal operation the DU 1500 L produces very high RF voltages and currents. It is not recommended the operation without the top cover securely installed due to the danger of contact with high RF voltage.

Always be sure that a dummy load or an antenna is properly connected when power is applied. Voltages in excess of ratings can occur if no load is connected.