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### Inbox

I was more than happy to receive a letter from **Simon**, who, after some initial set up problems, now reports that he is fully operational and getting some fantastic results with his SBS unit. Simon reports that in an effort to get some extra range, he purchased a COA-1 090 clip-on external antenna from [www.airbandonline.co.uk](http://www.airbandonline.co.uk) who offer this antenna as an alternative to the fixed external antenna available from Kinetic Avionics.

The antenna is designed for people who do not have the luxury of being able to fit a permanent external antenna such as those living in a flat or perhaps spending some time in a caravan. Simon used this antenna with a three piece tubular kit from an old uplighter, which just happened to be the same bore as the short tube supplied with the antenna and the two sections of this gives protection to the cable plus the height needed.

With the mast sorted out, Simon then needed to be able to get the antenna set up outside at the back of the house so that he could get the signals from traffic inbound towards London as well as outbound to Europe. The antenna comes with five metres of cable but the USB cable is a lot shorter and restricted how far away Simon could place the antenna. He has now bought a five metre USB cable so that the SBS-1 box can sit halfway between the two. With this new setup, Simon can now get the tripod mount outside onto an area of flat roof.

The difference has been described by Simon as '**fantastic!**' For a start, the number of contacts rose dramatically and all four blue LEDs on the unit quickly became active. Furthermore, from his location in Ashford, Kent, Simon is now able to log flights into Gatwick and Heathrow down to a level of 2700ft. He says that he finds this very exciting, especially as he can listen to the Directors for both locations on his Yupiteru VT-225 airband receiver, which feeds via an externally mounted wideband antenna. Well done to Simon for persevering until he was able to enjoy the benefits of an outstanding system that is performing beyond his wildest dreams and expectations.

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