

# CORNER

## How To Tell If Your Reflector Is Still Good

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Have you moved your antenna or worked on it recently? Has a major storm passed through and damaged your antenna? Have you noticed that your picture quality is not as good as it used to be? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you need to do a bit of basic maintenance -- checking your reflector's parabolic accuracy. Before you shy away because it sounds too complicated, this can actually be checked quite easily by three simple tests. Of course, if you don't believe in maintenance, and prefer to buy new things all the time, this wouldn't be for you.

Where the strings cross each other should be a perfect intersection without horizontal or vertical gaps or tension.

A variation in the second or third test of  $\pm 3/16"$  (4.8mm) is enough to seriously compromise your picture quality. If any of these tests indicate poor parabolic accuracy, loosen the ring and rib bolts (and if necessary the hub bolts) and make the necessary adjustments and retighten.

On the Eclipse series, make sure that the ribs are firmly butted into the hub. The Classic and Eclipse series mesh antennas can be readjusted this way if they haven't been too badly damaged. These tests can be used to make your reflector

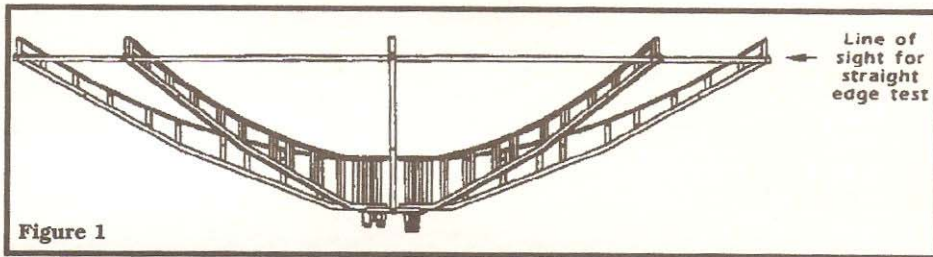


Figure 1

The first and easiest test is shown in figure 1. Look at your Paraclipse antenna from the side, close one eye and check if your reflector looks flat. If you notice any deviation along this edge, you can be sure that your reflector doesn't have an accurate parabolic shape. If you have one of Paraclipse's Classic series, don't forget that there is more than one set of rings. Each of these needs to be checked.

The second test is shown in figure 2. With an accurate measuring tape, measure from the outside of the ring across the reflector to the outside of the ring on the opposite side. Repeat this measurement all the way around the reflector at the same point on each ring. Again, don't forget that the Classic series has more than one set of rings. The third and most accurate test can be done with a ball of string and masking tape. Find at least four identical spots on the reflector and run the string across to the opposite side.

give you the absolute maximum signal. Some even strive for accuracy down to a few hundredths of an inch. The result? You will have your antenna performing as well as before, if not better. Maintenance doesn't have to be difficult to benefit.

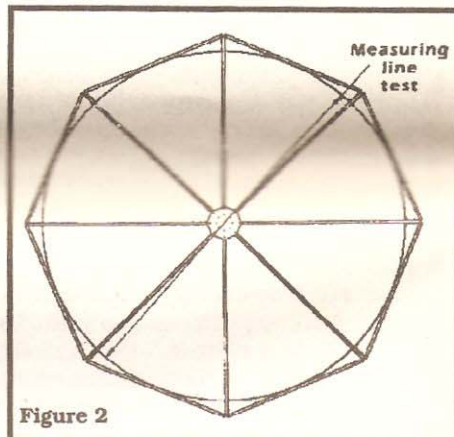


Figure 2

For more information, call Mike McGee at 402-563-3625 or fax 402-564-2109.