The HANDI-Finder® is a HANDheld Direction Finder which can be used to localize both AM and FM carrier-based sources using a single connection to the antenna input of an FM receiver (including an HT i.e. handy-talky), tuned to the frequency of interest, –in the range of 45-to 470 MHz (with appropriate antennas).

It has been designed for low power consumption, simplicity, and economy. Because it is both an easy-to-build kit for the beginner and a convenient basis for further experimentation by those with more experience, it makes a great club project! Overall, it is a quick, inexpensive way to introduce the principle of direction finding, and provide something ready and compact to keep on hand for locating sources of carrier-based interference.

Except for adding a handle, fabrication is minimal, because the two open-loop "bow-tie" antennas can be made out of coat hanger wire, bent into a square-corner “U” shape and mounted directly to the board, as illustrated, for radio hams to get started in the popular 2-meter band.

The builder also supplies the coax down lead that is fastened to the HANDI-Finder and connected to an FM receiver. The unit is switched on (UP) and rotated for a null in the audio tone heard on the receiver. The direction is perpendicular to the plane of the antennas. The 180-degree ambiguity is not a problem in actual use because multiple bearings must be taken anyway. Refer to the extensive discussion in the manual, and on the web page. The switch is moved DOWN to stop the tone for monitor and standby purposes, or to the CENTER position to shut off the unit.