## 432 MHz Dish Feed System

## by K4QI

The feed system was derived from a NEC analysis attempting to design a dual feed with identical patterns in both E and H planes and a 10 dB illumination taper for a F/D of .45. NEC indicated that 2 dipoles spaced 0.43 wavelength at 0.25 wavelength above a square reflector 0.65 wavelength on a side would produce such a result. A prototype was built and measured and was found to produce results similar to the NEC prediction.

From the feed point of the antenna, the impedance is 50 + j0 ohms. Going through the 1:4 balun, the impedance transforms to 200 + j0 meaning that each phasing line must present 400 + j0. As an approximation, the phasing lines were constructed for impedance of the geometric mean of 400 and 73 ohms or 173 ohms. Because the phasing lines are shorter than 0.25 wavelengths, the impedance presented to the dipole is approximately 78 - j35 ohm. The real part is very close to the desired value but the reactive component must be tuned out. The susceptance equivalency of this impedance presents a parallel capacitance that can be tuned out by a parallel inductance. This inductance is formed by a "hair pin" built into the support for the dipoles.

Sliding shorts are provided in each dipole support and at the base of the 4:1 slot balun. By adjusting these shorts, the return loss can be trimmed to well below 30 dB but only over a relative over a narrow band. A good compromise is probably around 26 dB, which will give a couple MHz of bandwidth.

With the feed point on the rear of the reflector, a relay and preamp enclosure can be conveniently built in this location. Dimensions are given in inches. With the tuning flexibility of the sliding shorts, dimensions should not be particularly critical within reason. This is especially true of element diameters.



