



Hi Steve,

Now my small review of the **Vortex Q82 MKII** is finished. What an amazing antenna 😊

As you know I use the USA made **Mr Coily Excalibur 64** antenna, also that I was a bit skeptic that the **VQ82 MK-II** should be better, but I decided to try the VQ82 MK-II anyway as I can't let it be when new antennas pops up claiming they are better than others.

When I did get the 20kg package and started to open it, I was amazed by the aluminum element thick quality and the antenna itself was much more heavier built then the **MCEX-64**, only the GP's is thicker on the **MCEX-64** but that would be totally compensated by the **VQ-82 MK-II's** basket and the stable 2pcs GP's support cross in hard weathers (I live by the sea and get winds that have broken a couple antennas thru the years).

It took a while to assemble the pieces (about 1.5 hrs) it is totally built like a **Caterpillar 789D mining Dumper** (compared to other std vertical antennas like ex Sirio, Solarcon, Procomm, Thunderpole)

Anyway, afterwards I completed testing of the **MCEX-64** with stations to compare against the **VQ82-MK II** and have written that down.

I mounted the **Mr Coily Excalibur 64** and up with the **Vortex Quasar Q82 MK-II** at the same place and same cable 40m Aircom+ with SSB Electronics 7/16 Part no.7380 connector in upper end and one UHF PRO Part no. 7378 in the shack end and 5w output Power.

Started up the radio and used the **27.235 FM** as reference frequency (our Swedish SSB channel). Pushed the PTT and my **LP-700 DSM** did scream and blinked **HIGH SWR** (that was with the Gamma Match measurement settings as per the manual) . The manual does say that it may differ depending on installation so I called my friend **Martin (21AT115)** and gave him a walkie-talkie and sent him up to adjust the Gamma with me monitoring the LP-700 DSM in the shack.

Steve: - Maybe the addition of the 7/16's Teflon connector and additional 8 cms link wire meant the gamma needed a slight re-tune (As shown below).

15 minutes later we had a great SWR and coverage result like this:

Vortex Quasar Q82 MK-II SWR measurement with LP-700 DSM and IC-7300:

26.965 - 27.405MHz SWR: 1 - 1.02 (at the IC-7300 build in SWR dead flat)
27.405 - 27.999MHz SWR: 1 - 1.1 (at the IC-7300 build in SWR dead flat)
28.000 - 29.000MHz SWR: 1 - 2.0 - (at the IC-7300 build in SWR 1.9)
29.000 - 29.700MHz SWR: 2 - 2.5 (at the IC-7300 build in SWR 2.5)
24.590 - 24.999Mhz SWR: 2.5 - 2.3 (at the IC-7300 build in SWR 2.0)
25.000 - 26.620MHz SWR: 2.3 - 0.1 dead flat on both LP-700 DSM and IC-7300

Not bad – Mr Coily MCEX-64 did only cover 26.000 - 27.800 with 1.1 - 2.7 SWR

NEXT THE ALL IMPORTANT ON AIR TESTING:

Station 1 - 65km (40 Miles) away:

Mr Coily Excalibur 64

Received him S1-2 with QSB

My return at him S1 with QSB

Vortex Quasar 82 MK-II

Received him S3 very little noise

My return at him S3.5 no noise

Station 2 - 30km (18 Miles) away:

Mr Coily Excalibur 64

Received him S7

My return at him S8

Vortex Quasar 82 MK-II

Received him S8.5

My return at him S9

Station 3 - 25km (15 Miles) away:

Mr Coily Excalibur 64

Received him S9

My return at him S9+10db

Vortex Quasar 82 MK-II

Received him S9+10db

My return at him S9+25db

With that easy tested and the VQ82 MK-II Caterpillar build, my Mr Coily Excalibur 64 now got a new owner 21AT115 as jumps of joy to change it against his old Sirio 827.

There was a small issue that the VQ82 MK-II caused HF breakthrough in my Yamaha home receiver speakers in the living room on SSB (that did not MCEX-64 do).

Steve: You could have common-mode currents on the feeder. See if a 1:1 choke balun helps or the possibility of higher RF fields could be another reason as the antenna is extremely efficient.

Anyway, Steve had recommended a 1:1 choke balun in the manual, so I did use my COMET TF5000 used before to my 6EL Yagi Beam and that did help 😊

Of course did I also have to try QRO Power handling on the Vortex Quasar Q82 MK-II too, so I hooked up a **QRO HF-2500DX Amp** and gave it a bit over **2000 Watts RMS** in a longer QSO on 10m with ease.

Sure you can buy a bundle of cheap brand base antennas for the cost of one Vortex Quasar 82 MK-II, but I can only say with my many years of test experience that for now and mostly for a long time ahead the Vortex Quasar 82 MK-II are the best vertical antenna possible to buy in build quality and performance.

Mr Coily offers a lifetime warranty but that is no need for the VQ82 MK-II the build quality speaks for itself 😊

So if you are consider a long lasting vertical base antenna that performs far over the cheap brand then buy this one.

Don't even think about crappy fiberglass that a famous brand builder had the most idiot construction idea ever to screw together fiberglass elements with metal hose clamps and think that would stand weather or wind (should be called Break-Master).

Not to mention the thin aluminum brands that will not measure against the Vortex Quasar 82 MK-II what so ever.

Thanks for a super antenna and feel free to use this review on the Vortex Antennas web site and I hope that gives some more buyers experience of the world's best 11m vertical 😊😊😊

73's

Gary SM7ZDR

Sweden