

# Mastrant antenna rope and equipment

**M**astrant is based in the Czech Republic and supplies antenna guy ropes and fittings to the amateur community.

In the UK, the Mastrant range is available from Nevada in Portsmouth, Moonraker in Woburn Sands and Barenco in Nottingham.

Martin Huml, OL5Y/OK1FUA of Mastrant offered to send *RadCom* some samples for a review and Chris, GODWV and I were only too happy to oblige.

What arrived was a 100m roll of Mastrant-S 6mm guy rope (RRP £79) and a selection of cleats and fastenings. This particular rope has the benefit of being reflective, which might be useful for field day installations or special event stations where safety is paramount.

Mastrant says guys and ropes made of non-conductive synthetic fibres have all the necessary qualities: high strength, flexibility, long life, low wet-ability and minimum bending radii, with the ability to tie knots. They also offer excellent UV radiation resistance, weather durability and resistance to acids and alkalis.

Mastrant ropes are made from modern materials such as polyester (Mastrant P) and Dyneema (Mastrant-M, Mastrant-D and D-F2).

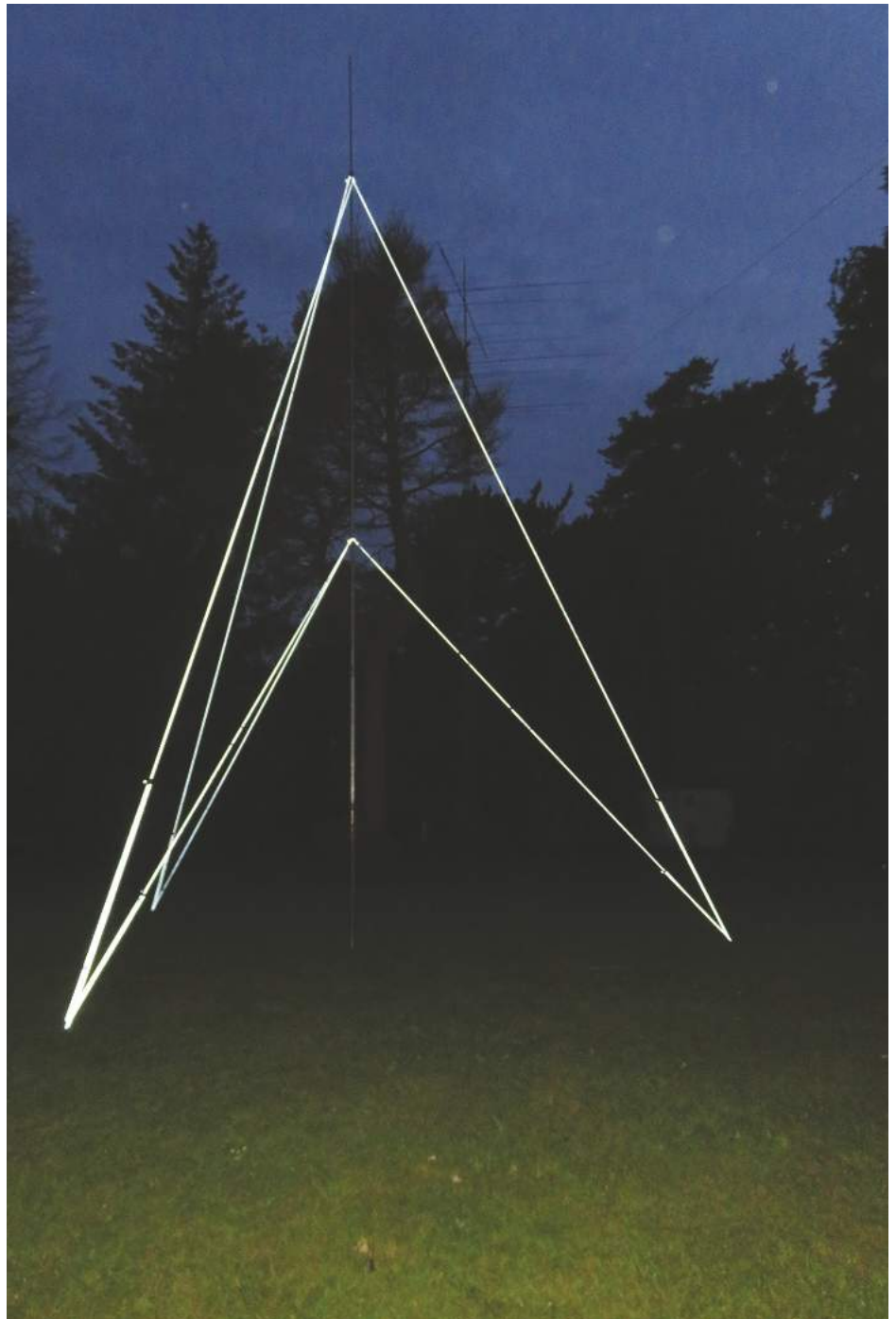
## Under test

We decided that for the test we would erect a 10-metre-long telescopic aluminium mast, with three guys at the top and three at the mid-point. This might be typical of a lightweight portable station's antenna setup.

The 6mm (quarter inch) Mastrant S rope supplied was very tough and has a breaking strain of 750kg. It is suggested that its safe weight limit is 250kg, which is still very impressive.

The rope consists of a white polyester and polypropylene inner, wound with a polyester and reflective tape outer. It can be cut with a Stanley knife, but it has to be a sharp one! Alternatively, we used a butane-powered torch to cut the guys and melt the ends to stop them from fraying. One tip – thread the rope through the ClamCleats first before melting the ends, otherwise it might not fit.

Once we had cut the guys to length we then had to work out how to use the supplied Mastrant ClamCleave Loop tensioners



The Mastrant-S 6mm guy rope is very reflective as this flash photograph shows.

(£2.75 each). These are made of a black, UV-resistant hard plastic and a lot of thought has obviously gone into their design.

After a little head scratching, we finally worked out how the rope has to be fed through the tensioner, but there is actually an excellent set of videos available from

Mastrant on YouTube, which shows it more easily – they say a picture is worth a thousand words!

The supplied CL223 cleats can work with rope that is 3mm-6mm in diameter, but there is also a CL234 variant for rope that is 6-11mm in diameter.

Once threaded correctly they automatically grip the guy line as it is pulled tight but can easily be slacked to release the rope.

We quickly had them in place and had the mast upright. It was then an easy task to let some slack out of one guy or tighten another to get the mast straight.

We were impressed by the ClamCleats as they seemed like a simple, but clever, solution to an age-old problem – what is the easiest way to adjust a guy line once a mast is up? Mastrant says its nylon cleats are completely resistant to salt water corrosion and also resistant to many acid and chemicals, so might be ideal for beach-based /P operations.

Mastrant also supplied some of its CL826-72 ClamClea Aero tensioners (RRP £7.40). These 26g tensioners work in a

similar way to the other ClamCleats, but the rope is threaded through a few more times making them more rigid. Again, the tensioner can be moved along the rope by hand – no tools are required. The company’s ClamClea LineLok tensioners (RRP from £0.34 to £3.10 depending on size) work in a similar way and can be used in conjunction with Mastrant’s steel couplers.

Other products in the Mastrant range include thimbles, rope clips, pulleys and snap hooks.

We particularly liked the stainless-steel duplex wire rope clips (RRP £3.05 each for the 6mm version) that are available in 2.5mm to 10mm sizes. When combined with a thimble they can be used for more permanent installations.

The range covers a variety of applications,

from thin support lines used for tying wire antennas and beams, to guys for supporting small and portable masts and vertical antennas, and anchoring ropes for high antenna towers, tens of metres high.

The product line is supplemented by a wide range of stainless-steel accessories and is available in the UK or direct. Mastrant says it ships many orders directly to UK for very reasonable prices.

Thanks to Mastrant ([www.mastrant.com](http://www.mastrant.com)) for supplying the review materials.

**Steve Nichols, GOKYA**  
[infotechcomms@googlemail.com](mailto:infotechcomms@googlemail.com)



Mastrant says its guys and ropes are made of non-conductive synthetic fibres.



The ClamClea loop tensioners are made of a black UV-resistant hard plastic.



A selection of Mastrant’s other products.



Once fitted the clamps can be very easily adjusted in situ.