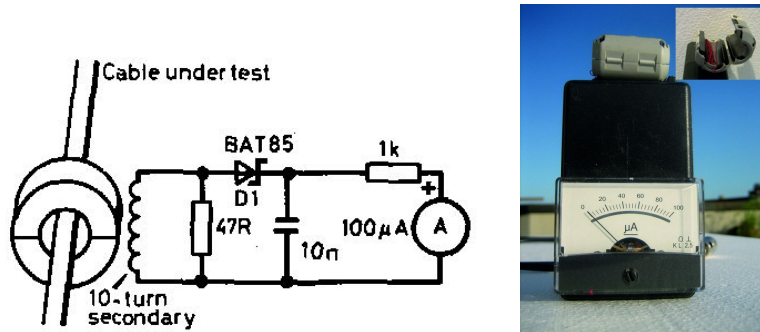


A simple common-mode currents meter - Davide IZ2UUF

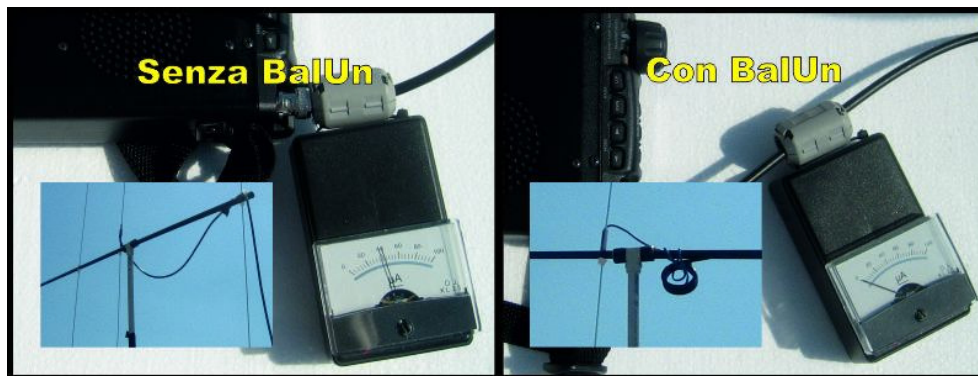
It is one of the most useful ham-tools I have: it tells you the amount of common mode current running on the coax.

Normally people measure the effectiveness of a choke by measuring its impedance at a given frequency. However, they have to guess whether the measured impedance will be enough or not.

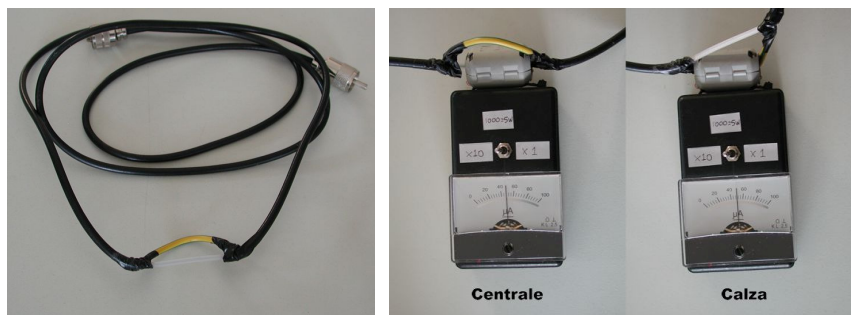
This instrument, instead, measures the amount of common-mode current actually running. In this way you can see how effective is your choke or how many ferrites you need.



This is a test on a 144 MHz antenna without (left) or with (right) balun:



A modified coax cable can be used to calibrate the reading. The cable has a short segment where the two current paths (core and braid) are separate, so they can be measured individually:



With this measure, you can get an idea of how much is the reading for a given power.

I don't know why so many hams wonder whether their balun is good or not and so few have built this cheap and simple instrument.

Vy 73 de Davide IZ2UUF