

# My Satellite Tracking Software for the Elk Antenna

My favorite satellite tracking program for S0-50 is the one I use on my phone. It's easy to use and you may have seen it in my videos. Below are some of my other favorites. On another note, a couple of Hams mentioned the PVC pipe used with the Elk antenna. I have some nice closeups of the antenna below so you can see for yourself, the PVC pipe really isn't an issue. It is working FB in my opinion and I like that it lays flat and stores easily. I can even hang it on my wall when it's not in use!

## Elk Antenna Closeup

The PVC can be painted if the white color turns you off. It doesn't bother me personally.

I have learned to leave about 8 inches of coax hanging from the connector. This helps with the SWR and I might even remove the tie downs so it hangs further away.

I am very happy with the quality of the antenna.



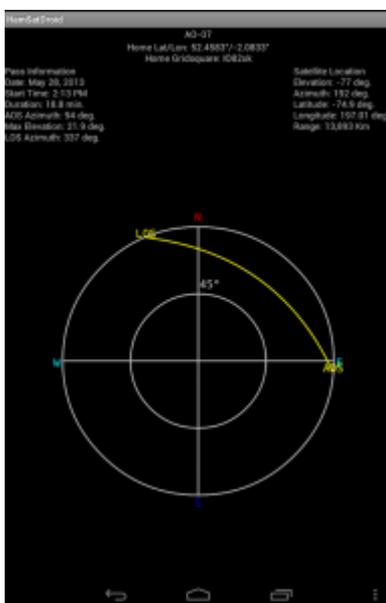




## Satellite Tracking Programs

The best free satellite tracking program I have found is the one I use on my Android phone, [AMsatDroid](#). It will predict the passes and I can visually track SO-50 while outside. I found it eliminates a lot of guess work.





The next favorite application would be the one that comes with [Ham Radio Deluxe](#), HRD SatTrack , because it's so easy to use.

And then there is [SatPC32](#). It works great, but took longer to figure out how to use. It's free to use, but will not save your location information until it's paid for.

[Gpredict](#) is pretty simple. I used [Gpredict](#) on my Raspberry Pi last year and it works good. I think once I get my Raspberry Pi up and running in my new shack I'll be using it more.

Those are my favorites so far. Of course there are many others

available.

## Baofeng Programming

You can find the info in my article here: [Programming Your Baofeng for S0-50 with Chirp](#).

## Up Next

Coming up next I'll have some pictures and information on my ham shack table (desk). The table top is solid oak and the entire table was less than \$150 to make.

Thank you for subscribing to this website. I appreciate the comments, questions and suggestions. Please comment below and follow me on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) if you have those.

Stay in touch and best 73,

Rich, K0PIR

## Links

[Programming Your Baofeng for S0-50 with Chirp](#)

[AMsatDroid](#)

[Elk Antenna](#)

[Ham Radio Deluxe](#)

[SatPC32](#)

[Gpredict](#)

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# Handy Mini60 SARK100 Antenna Analyzer Overview

I purchased a Mini60 antenna analyzer a few months back. You can buy one of these [for around \\$109 on E-bay](#). Mine is a bluetooth model. They come with and without bluetooth and the Mini60 (or SARK100 clone) without BT is less expensive. In Yellowstone I used it to check my wire antennas and also to tune my Tarheel 200A when my mobile rig wasn't attached to it. At home I have used it to analyze my Hy-Gain TH-2MK3 tribander and on my work vehicle to tune my Hustler antennas. It comes in real handy!



## Mini60 SARK100

Very small, lightweight antenna analyzer for Ham radio operators used to test and evaluate HF antennas.

Has a re-chargeable internal battery, long battery life, mini-B USB connection for connecting to a PC and you can also buy one with bluetooth (BT) capability.

Using free software applications either on a PC or Android device, this little antenna analyzer can become a valuable tool at home or in the field.

## **Mini60 Bluetooth Problems**

Users have reported issues with the bluetooth. Either they cannot pair it with their Android device or they cannot connect after it is paired. Some have trouble finding the Android software. I have software links below.

I had a problem in the beginning with BT and found that with some persistence, it finally did show up on my phone (at first it was just a MAC address) and I was able to pair it. After that it took a few times to connect, but today (for some reason) it connects quickly.

To avoid BT issues there is the option to connect a USB cable (Mini-B) and use a PC instead. I like this much better and have used it with my new [HP Stream](#) with my home antennas. See the video below for a sample of the WinPCC software.

If you purchase a BT model and cannot get bluetooth to work, I would send it back!

## **Inexpensive and Small Package**

The small size is very nice and that makes using it in the field and outdoors easy. I normally do not use the BT outdoors because I have all I need on the Mini60 LCD screen. I can see the SWR, scan and check impedance of the antenna very quickly.

Another Ham uses it with BT and tablet while tuning a portable magnetic loop. It comes in very handy for him in the field.

I picked mine up from a [Chinese seller on E-Bay \(excellent feedback\)](#). This particular seller was very responsive to my questions and I received mine sooner than I thought I would.

There are now some Ebay sellers in the US. I stick with sellers that have high ratings.

I've even found the Mini60 and other clones on Amazon.

Compared to other analyzers, it's so inexpensive, if I drop it (I have) and it breaks, I'm not hurting too bad.

## **Mini60 Bluetooth Setup, Pairing and Connecting Checklist**

1. Power on the Mini60. Press the SET button, Press the DOWN button, You should see "PC Link Waiting Link" in the LCD.
2. On your phone or tablet. Go to the bluetooth settings, Scan for a new BT device. At first it may show up as a MAC address, but after a few seconds you should see MINI60S. Select it to pair with your Android device. It will ask for a PIN, use 1234.
3. Download and install one of the MINI60.apk files. There are a few out there and the link below has the ones that I have used.
4. After installation you can open the MINI60 app, tap Connect and then tap the MINI60S. After a few seconds you should see "succeeded".
5. You can attach your antenna at any time, but if you haven't, go ahead and then press the Start button in the application. Your Mini60 will start scanning.



Waiting for Link



Connected



Mini B and Power

## Mini60 with USB cable

At home this is the easiest option. Even in the field with a small laptop ([like a HP Stream](#)) this is quite doable.

Just download and install the WinPCC application, attach a Mini B usb cable to the MINI60, power it on, press SET, then DOWN and you should see "Waiting for Link".

Open WinPCC, select the correct COM port and click the Connect button. Select the Band and then Start Scan. Easy!

## Caveats/Final Words

You can adjust the Center Frequency and DIV or scan step. I have found when stopping a scan I have to wait until it ends. If I rush it, it hangs.

Sometimes I have to Stop, Quit and restart the application. I notice the Mini60 will show it is still scanning in the LCD, so I power cycle it and start over.

You'll see why I like using it as a stand alone device when in the field! ☐

The current application I have on my Samsung Galaxy S7 hangs a bit. It is probably just my S7 overloaded, so I've been using my Kindle Fire to test the bluetooth capability at home and outside.

On my Kindle, the application is missing the frequency labels at the bottom of the screen. It's not a big deal and others have mentioned it too. It's caused by the application and the devices screen settings.

Although I haven't had it long (since July 2018), I really like it and would purchase it again without hesitation. It is much smaller than anything I have ever used and the rechargeable battery is a big plus. Battery life is impressive. Using it as a stand alone (no BT) is quick and effortless.

If something should change I will update this article.

## Videos

## Comments

Thank you for subscribing to this website. I appreciate the comments, questions and suggestions. Please follow me on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) if you have those.

Stay in touch and best 73,

Rich, K0PIR

Resources:

[Download Link For All the Applications \(use at your own risk\)](#)

[Mini60 on Ebay \(the one I have\)](#)

[Mini60 on Amazon \(looks like it still ships from China\)](#)