

This Article was provided by: Gold Rush Trading Post which can be found at <http://www.goldrushtradingpost.com>

Gold Mining Equipment

Prospecting for gold can be done in various ways, thanks to a wide variety of **gold mining equipment** on the market today. The most basic method is to use a gold pan. Although the old time prospectors used heavy metal pans, plastic gold pans are lighter and nearly indestructible. Today, pans come in a variety of sizes, colors, and even shapes. Not all gold pans are round anymore. You can still buy steel or copper pans if you prefer, but plastic pans are inexpensive and light-weight so your arms don't tire too quickly.

Another piece of gold mining equipment that the old-timers used is a sluice box. Back in the days of the California '49ers, [gold sluices](#) were homemade, heavy, and built of wood. Not any more! A gold sluice is essentially a long, narrow "box" that water passes through when put in a creek or stream. The idea is to position a sluice box in a running stream so that the water does the work— separating the dirt and rocks away from the gold. Since gold is heavy, it will stay in the bottom of the sluice, trapped in the miner's moss or ribbed matting. Today's gold sluices are available in a variety of lengths, usually constructed of aluminum, and are found in a variety of sizes— from [folding sluices](#), which can be carried in a backpack, to solid body models up to 48 inches long.

A highbanker (also called a Power Sluice) is basically a sluice box with mobility and added height. It is mounted on a 4-legged stand that gives the sluice box the correct slope. Instead of being put right in the creek like a sluice, an engine with a water pump and some hoses transports the water up from the stream into the highbanker. Gravel is then shoveled into the hopper, which is mounted at the top end of the sluice box. Inside the hopper is a "grizzly" which is a series of sloping rods that filter out larger rocks. Also in the hopper are spray bars that shoot water onto the gravel that is shoveled into the hopper. In addition to the ability to go just about anywhere, the [highbanker](#) also is able to run more material in less time than a regular sluice. With power sluices, you have several choices of riffles, spray bars, carpets, miner's moss, engine-pump combinations, hoses, and frames so you can find the highbanker that meets your needs. The smaller models often come with a pack frame so it can be backpacked if your gold claim or favorite stream is in a remote location— making it a versatile piece of gold mining equipment that you don't want to be without. If you're not concerned with size and really want a workhorse, check out the [CC690 Power Sluice](#). This power sluice comes on wheels so you can easily transport it down to your river or stream.

Drywashers are like highbankers but they do not use water. [Drywashers](#) are excellent gold mining tools for use in areas where water is not available, such as arid and desert areas.

The [Mountain Goat Gold Trommel](#) is a reverse helix system built on the same principle as the huge mining trommels used by large mining companies all over the world, but this is portable and weighs just 18 lbs. Spiral riffles inside the tube turn and bring the heavy materials up to the high end of the tube while allowing the lighter materials to flow out the back of the tube as tailings. This system makes the [trommel](#) self-cleaning, which eliminates the need to break down for clean-up as is necessary with gold

mining equipment such as a sluice. The [Pro Gold Trommel](#) is a full-size, professional trommel that allows you to move more material faster... enabling you to recover more gold faster.

An [automatic spiral gold panning machine](#) helps you separate the gold from your concentrates and black sand much more quickly and easily than just panning. It's the ideal machine if you don't have the muscle power or time to separate your fine gold concentrates by hand. Deep cut spirals with sharp edges are key for gold recovery. The [Gold Cube](#) is also an excellent fine gold recovery tool. It is a super concentrator that will take your buckets of dirt down to a cup worth in no time!

The [Catch-It II Water Table](#) is designed as the ultimate tool for fine gold recovery! The aluminum table has a unique green surface that attracts gold. Just sprinkle clean gold concentrates onto the water-covered table. The flowing water stratifies the material, allowing the gold to separate and stick to the green surface while the blond and black sands float away. Simply brush the gold to one spot and snuffer it up!

This list by no means all of the great pieces of [gold mining equipment](#) available today, but it's a good representation if you're [new to prospecting](#). To find out what might best suit your needs, attend a gold show to see a live demo, watch product videos, and ask questions. And the best part is that with gold prices on the rise, you don't have to find much to pay for your gold prospecting equipment, and make a profit!