

# Metal Detecting Tips

## As we are going to Rye Patch this info should be of interest.

Metal detecting is a long term commitment and takes mucho time and practice to master, if ever one can master it.

#1) You've got to be in a nugget area. Gold is found where it has been found before and it has been found at Rye Patch before.

#2) Obvious: Nuggets have to be close enough to the surface that the surrounding mineralization will allow you to hear the signal of gold.

Not only are you going to be dealing with scrap iron from previous gold rushes, but the next biggest problem is hot rocks. Hot rocks are rocks that have higher iron content than the surrounding area and they can mask the gold when metal detecting.

On that we will start at the beginning.

**GROUND BALANCE:** After a machine is properly balanced (check your instructions), it will make either a positive or negative sound when it is moved over varying degrees of mineralization in the ground you are hunting as you walk along. Every machine is balanced with a little different method. Ground balance is where your machine is electronically balanced with the mineralization in the ground you are hunting. Generally when you move your coil up and down from surface to 2 feet above surface a few times there should be no difference in the sound of the machine. Now it is balanced. It is important to check your ground balance every so often because ground mineralization changes. Also remember to check it before you dig a target. 50% of your digging can be eliminated if you do this because many sounds are false sounds based upon improper balance of the machine.

**DISCRIMINATION:** In hunting for gold this one is easy. **Don't use ANY** and dig every target until you are comfortable with being able to identify targets without digging.

Dealing with iron, trash, false targets, and using all metal setting (no discrimination). For that carry the strongest magnet you can find. This will save you hours on your knees. Remember the first thing to do when you get a signal is re-ground balance your machine. If you have a true target signal it will still be there, the second thing to do is pinpoint the target. This is done by moving your machine in an "X" pattern or "+" pattern and locate the location of the strongest signal. Then turn over the first few inches of dirt with your pick, toe of your boot or whatever and run a magnet over the dirt. (A great idea I heard about a magnet is to place the strongest magnet you can find into a 6 " piece of plastic pipe with a cap on both ends. That way the black sands and junk don't get on the magnet. To get rid of the junk that attaches to the end of the plastic pipe just jerk the magnet to the other end of the pipe and the stuff falls off.) After several attempts with the mag, if you don't pick up the target, it is time to retrieve target as if it were

gold. (You know – on your knees, hand to hand to hand.) To see what I mean throw a .22 bullet down and check it against a piece of gold. There isn't much if any difference between a .22 bullet and a nugget about the same size. So **dig all targets** until you are sure what sound the non-gold targets make. I have not been able to accomplish that yet so I dig all targets.

TARGET ID: Get a small piece of gold, brass, aluminum, iron, and various hot rocks. Spread them out and study the various sounds, practice, practice and practice, did I mention practice. As for the other target signals you get - **dig them all**. If you only find one ounce of nuggets out of 1000 digs, would it be worth it?

SENSITIVITY: This is an easy one also. On most machines you can operate at 3/4 to full sensitivity depending upon ground mineralization. Always operate at the Maximum sensitivity that you can without causing "fuzzy" interference to the sounds you receive.

HEAD PHONES: I seldom use head phones unless I am near a river or some other loud outside noise. True, you may be able to hear those faint sounds better with headphones, but they are hot to wear, block other sounds you may want to hear (like snakes or a charging bear, badger or kitty cat and for John and Jim charging horses), and if you can't ID the loud sounds - you certainly won't be able to ID the faint sounds.

VOLUME AND THRESHOLD: If you have a machine that you can adjust the volume and threshold, turn the Volume to max and the Threshold to minimum. You want to be able to just hear a faint hum.

MODE: Various machines have various modes of operation. In searching for gold we should mainly use an "**all metal**" mode. A discrimination mode can be used at its' lowest setting after you have experimented and satisfied yourself that you won't lose your targets. It can also be used after you locate a target. The best advice is to "**DIG ALL TARGETS**"

TECHNIQUES: One thing holds true for almost every location - Your biggest nuggets are going to be close to bedrock or in bedrock crevices. And since no machine will detect flakes through other mineralization yet - **YOU'VE GOT TO GET TO BEDROCK** to find the best gold.

BEDROCK: Carry a small pry bar; metal pick/chisels because most exposed bedrock has crevices that will split wide open with a little smack, and most everybody else will walk right over the best crevices. Human nature, too much work.

Don't search any dirt or gravel bar with more than a foot of overburden. Exception: If you have a gravel bar or bench that you want to work, don't just run the detector over the top and move on. Detect the top then take your shovel, rake or foot and remove the top four or five inches of dirt and go over it again. Keep doing this until you get to bedrock and then look for any crevices in the bedrock that should be split.