

[Another eBookWholesaler Publication](#)



Proudly brought to you by

[Richard Tong](#)

[Email](#)

Recommended Resources

- [Web Site Hosting Service](#)
- [Internet Marketing](#)
- [Affiliate Program](#)

Disclaimer

The advice contained in this material might not be suitable for everyone. The author got information from sources believed to be reliable and from personal experience, but does not imply nor offer any guarantee of accuracy. The author, publisher and distributors never give legal, accounting, medical or any other type of professional advice. The reader must always seek those services from competent professionals that can review their own particular circumstances.

The author, publisher and distributors particularly disclaim any liability, loss, or risk taken by individuals who act on the information here. All readers must accept full responsibility for their use of this material.

All pictures used in this book are for illustration only. No link or endorsement between the people pictured and the book, author or publisher is implied and should not be assumed.

None of the pictures may be used for anything apart from this book without the rights holder's prior written permission.

Terms of Use

No alteration by anyone to the appearance, format or content of this ebook is allowed. All rights are reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means; electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the copyright holder(s)

Please Read This **First**

Terms of Use

No alteration by anyone to the appearance, format or content of this ebook as supplied by eBookwholesaler is allowed. This electronic [book](#) is Copyright © 2014 eBookwholesaler. All rights are reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means; electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the copyright holder(s).

You must not distribute any part of this ebook in any way.

eBookwholesaler Members are the sole distributors and must abide by the [eBookwholesaler page for Terms of Use](#). No-one may offer or distribute this book through eBay or any type of [auction](#). This book is published by eBookwholesaler and no-one else may claim to be the publisher.

Disclaimer

The advice contained in this material might not be suitable for everyone. The author got information from sources believed to be reliable and from personal experience, but does not imply nor offer any guarantee of accuracy.

The author, [publisher](#) and distributors never give legal, accounting, medical or any other type of professional advice. The reader must always seek those services from competent professionals that can [review](#) their own particular circumstances.

The author, publisher and distributors particularly disclaim any liability, loss, or risk taken by individuals who act on the information here. All readers must accept full responsibility for their use of this material.

All pictures used in this book are for [illustration](#) only. No link or endorsement between the people pictured and the book, author or publisher is implied and should not be assumed. None of the pictures may be used for anything except this book without the rights holder's prior written permission.

Contents

Please Read This First	2
<i>Terms of Use</i>	2
<i>Disclaimer</i>	2
Contents	3
About the Author	5
Introduction	6
How Much Should You Pay?	7
<i>Should You Buy Second-hand?</i>	7
Perils of Comparing Detectors	8
Detector Basics	9
<i>Arm Rest</i>	9
<i>The Shaft</i>	10
<i>The Coil</i>	10
Important Features	11
<i>Sensitivity</i>	11
<i>Discrimination</i>	11
Using G.P.S.	12
Using a Test Bed	13
Cutting and Replacing an earth plug	14
The Disappearing Signal	15
Insurance	16
Health	17
<i>Dealing with Health Risks</i>	17
Clothing	18
Using Your Metal Detector	19
<i>Keep the coil close to the Ground</i>	19
<i>Don't swing the detector</i>	20
<i>Go Slow and steady</i>	20
Keep Lists	22

The Law and Metal Detecting 23

Get Permission..... 23

Make Your Approach 23

When you Find Something! 25

Pinpointing a Find..... 25

Pinpoint Detectors..... 25

Using a Probe..... 26

Got It!..... 26

Accessories Make it Much Easier 27

Cases for equipment..... 27

Storing your Finds 27

Be Careful when Retrieving Your Finds 28

Quick Tips to Help You..... 29

Keep Quiet about Good Finds 29

Check your Trash..... 29

Watch the Weather..... 29

Not all the Metal you Find is Safe..... 29

Don't Give Up..... 30

Joining the Fraternity..... 31

Resources..... 32

 U.K.32

 U.S.A.....32

Happy Hunting..... 33

About the Author

Mark Carnell said that using a metal detector to find treasure and other valuable things is a great hobby with [health](#) benefits as well as the possibility of finding a fortune!

Mark said, "Everybody has some chance of doing that. I [hope](#) the information in this book will help to smooth the way through the early stages of my readers' treasure hunting and make their progress faster with less risk."

"This is one of the most popular hobbies in North [America](#) and around the world!"

Mark said, "Treasure hunting is a great [hobby](#) even when you do it alone, but it's even more fun with your family or a friend or two."

"My book can get you started right so you don't waste time, effort or [money](#)."

Mark said that rapidly improving technology is great but not everyone needs the latest and most expensive machines.

He said, "The old pirates would be very envious of the results we can get with even a basic machine and some practice!"

He added, "And I've covered many of the risks as well as the rewards."

"People often want to start looking tomorrow! But, my [book](#) will help you get started by doing the essential preparation to avoid later problems, whether you are seeking treasure, lost valuables or relics!"

"And you'll have a lot of fun at the same time!"

Introduction

The “Easy Guide to Finding Treasure” will help you start on a hobby that can be rewarding in many ways.

Almost anyone can be a treasure seeker (detectorist).

You will have to navigate through a lot of junk but the modern machines make that easier to recognize so you do not waste much time on it.

You might also find valuable items, precious metals or historical relics.

This could happen as easily on your first time as your fiftieth!

My “Easy [Guide](#)” gets you started without wasting time, effort or [money](#)!

This hobby requires some [investment](#) when you start. I show you what’s essential for each type of treasure detection but I have avoided getting too technical – you don’t need that yet.

I’ll point you to sites and other resources for when you want to delve into the more technical aspects yourself.

Treasure hunting is a healthy hobby and a great activity for families.

I also mentioned some pitfalls to be aware of to help you avoid them.

Most treasure hunters are friendly and willing to help those with less experience. But, you need to be a little cautious when you are hunting and carrying valuable finds.

I wrote this [book](#) to help you get on your way smoothly. I’ll pass on what I’ve learned from experience, research and the generosity of other hobbyists and advisors who shared with me!

Your detector will give you a lot of fun, but the greatest treasure can be sharing the experience and the [memories](#) with your family, friends and other treasure seekers. You will find something every time you seek treasure! It might be riches, relics, lost jewelry, someone’s car keys or soda cans!

Mark Carnell

How Much Should You Pay?

Only you can decide how much you can pay for your first venture into treasure detecting.

I strongly suggest you don't put too much [money](#) into your first detector.

Remember that buying the detector is just one part of your set-up expense.

You will probably need accessories, insurance and other items before you progress very far.

And, there is still a possibility that you might decide to give up treasure detecting and hide all your gear in the basement.

What is cutting edge today may be quickly superceded. I recommend you get some experience with a more affordable machine and then buy something more powerful based on your greater knowledge of your actual needs. Machines from all the major suppliers are good value.

I am very biased in favor of this activity but am trying to be even-handed about all aspects of treasure detecting so you make your own decisions.

But, I hope this [book](#) will give you enough encouragement to give it at least several months and a few serious trips so you get a good [idea](#) of the potential.

Should You Buy Second-hand?

Some people buy second hand and get a bargain.

Others get nothing but trouble.

One problem with getting a 2nd hand detector from a private seller at a [garage](#) sale or over the Internet is that there is no way of properly testing the equipment without a field trip and, even then, the results may vary each time.

I would not buy a second hand machine over the Internet unless I had some information about the seller.

You also need to know that parts are available from the producer or their agent for the older machine.

Perils of Comparing Detectors

I won't pretend that I can say which is the best metal detector for each reader. It is almost impossible for anyone to work that out.

The best you can do is, over time, work out whether the first detector you buy is giving you results you want.

Although there are comparisons being done all the time in [clubs](#), magazines, and wherever detectorists [meet](#), the fact is that all detectors vary in the results that you get from them in different conditions or even when you do two or more sweeps over the same part of an area on the same day.

That's why you should always do two passes over an area even if the first did not give anything you [thought](#) promising.

Remember that even areas where you get a lot of junk may have significant finds within the junk. It's up to you to decide whether you will give the area another sweep or not.

Metal detectors which are designed mostly for detecting gold are set up to locate gold even when the soil has a high content of magnetic iron or conductive salts (or both) which will heavily reduce the effectiveness of less sensitive detectors.

Some detectors are designed for other specific types of searches for particular targets or eliminating the effect of particular unwanted materials.

There are machines which are used for different materials just by changing settings and maybe the particular coil.

But, these machines are, of course, more expensive to buy and have settings which favor certain types of materials.

Detector Basics

I'll just cover the essential features which you really need when you start. And, yes, people do find valuable treasure with fairly basic detectors from the quality suppliers.

Most detectors have a control box near the top of a shaft and a circular coil at the other end.

Arm Rest



Some machines offer the arm-rest as an option but it is essential.

There may be an arm-rest coming up from the control area which helps reduce the strain on your [arm](#) of supporting the detector while you are moving it over the ground. This may seem to be less important but it will

reduce tension and other possible effects on your arm. A friend broke his armrest and said it reduced the time he could use his detector significantly. Check the condition of your armrest and the strap around it after each trip. You may want to replace the padding, if it has any, with stronger foam.

The control box will be where you can see or hear indications of what is being detected.

There will also be buttons or knobs which you can adjust to fine-tune your search.

Different manufacturers have their own ways of setting up these controls and indicators and their own special features which they believe will make their particular machines more useful or appealing to you.

Different people may find some displays easier to understand and even read in some weather conditions where they will be searching.

If you have audible signals from your machine, you should get headphones so that the signals are not partly blocked by background [sounds](#) which can be loud and distracting. They might obscure the signal from a find which could pay many times over for your headphones!

The Shaft

The shaft is usually metal and may be bent or straight.

It may be extendable so that you can scan a wider area. This needs to be done carefully because stretching out to cover a wider area will require that you change the angle of the coil so that it is still parallel with the soil surface or your signals will not be as [clear](#) or reliable.

Be careful about stretching if that puts more [weight](#) on your arm.

There will usually be wires running from the battery compartment and the control box to the section containing the coil.

Those wires can become tangled or even broken. It is worthwhile to [check](#) their condition before and after each detecting trip to reduce the possibility of breakage when you are in the wild.

There are a few wireless enabled detectors available which don't have that problem.

The Coil

The coil is the section where the machine sends its signals into the soil, [sand](#) or [water](#) you are investigating. It also receives the returning signals which will help you locate any interesting objects.

Most machines offer different sized coils as optional purchases. You may switch to a small coil for locating an item after your large coil signaled the wider area where a target is.

If the supplier offers a coil cover for your machine, it's essential to protect the coil when you are sweeping it within an inch of uneven and usually rocky ground.

Replacing a cover is much cheaper than replacing a coil and damaging the main coil would probably mean the end of that expedition.

Important Features

Every manufacturer will explain why theirs is a great choice.

These are some of the main features which are important for particular areas of metal detecting.

Use the manual which comes with the machine you buy for specific instructions. My notes here will help you to understand what they mean.

Sensitivity

Sensitivity controls help you to get better indications from slightly deeper in the earth.

But, the signals may be a bit distorted when you push the control into the higher sections.

The only [way](#) to improve is more practice in the field. Of course, each area you search will give different signals but you will learn to understand what it's telling you as you do more searches.

Discrimination

Discrimination controls will help you reduce the indications you get from junk items such as foil and nails.

The downside of this is that some of the trash sends a signal similar to some valuable materials.

Just remember to adjust it before each new search, so that it will signal the type of item you want. People who are looking for mementos around their [family's](#) home and archeologists often want to find [nails](#) and such common items.

When you are starting, I would dig more than I would ignore.

The experience of digging carefully without causing damage to the target item and replacing a plug has great value.

You will also start to learn to associate the visual or audible signals of your detector with the sort of items it is signaling.

The next section is about using a test bed for getting familiar with your detector's operation and the [results](#) you might expect from it.

Using G.P.S.



The metal detector enthusiasts are willing adapters of new technology.

One of the most popular devices for us is the G.P.S. units for checking and recording our location.

Recording as closely as possible where we found something can be important if it is someone's [property](#) or if it is an item of historical significance.

If you have a fairly recent smartphone or similar device, you will be able to find a growing [number](#) of apps which relate to using G.P.S. with your metal detecting.

Some are put out by the manufacturers but the good news is that many of these apps have features you can use even if you don't have that particular brand of metal detector.

Of course, there will be some premium features only usable by people that have that brand of machine.

An app for a different brand of detector still might let you record the coordinates of the find, a brief description and the location.

I look forward to more [developments](#) in this area to make our great hobby even safer and more enjoyable.

Using a Test Bed

When you buy your first metal detector, you probably want to [try](#) it out as soon as possible. That's human nature!

They usually take a little time to set up. The battery pack may need to be fully charged and all the bits carefully put on the right way at the right place.

Some people set it up, switch it on and wave it over items they put on their [floor](#). That is called an "Air Test". It will [show](#) if you get a signal but does not indicate how well it might perform "in the wild".

You can give it a basic test using your lawn or other ground you have. This won't give you information that is much more reliable than the air test, but it will be an outlet for some of that "new toy" excitement and it's especially great fun for your [kids!](#)

If you don't own the property, don't do anything which might get you into any trouble.

You make a test bed by burying some odd items like coins, metal buttons etc., at various depths around the area.

I wouldn't use anything of much value because you might misplace it or it could be damaged.

But, you can add a little insurance by tying a piece of [fishing](#) line to the item with a non-metallic button or poker chip on the other end which you lay on the soil roughly above the location of the item.

Now you can make your first hunt.

You may find some items which you didn't [plant](#). You may not find some of those which you did.

There are many possible reasons for the varying results.

Don't blame the detector. It's more likely your inexperience or other factors which we'll discuss as we continue this adventure in metal detecting.

One thing you can practice on your own ground is [making](#) and replacing plugs.

Cutting and Replacing an earth plug

That's a vital skill to [master](#) if you want to be able to get continued access to use your metal detecting skills on properties which you don't own.

You need to be able to leave areas where you have been given permission to explore in similar condition to how they were when you came there.

That's one mark of a professional TD.

If you don't, you cause a bad impression of yourself and all Treasure Detector enthusiasts as well.

The owner may revoke your permission and be unwilling to allow anyone to detect on any land they [control](#) any time in the future.



If the ground is left uneven or with an actual depression it might cause a person, a [horse](#) or other valuable [animal](#) to stumble and be injured. Some animals had to be euthanized because of this sort of event. That is tragic and you could expect the owners to sue you for compensation.

Add a shallow bowl to your [kit](#). Put all the loose material you take out of the hole into the bowl. When you've explored the hole and retrieved your find, you put back what you took out except for any rubbish, like ring-pulls.

Take all the cans and other trash from the bowl and put the good earth back in the hole. Then, lever the plug back into place at the top. Use the sole of your boot to level the plug with the surrounding [grass](#) so it looks as even as possible. Check that there is no [depression](#).

Put the trash in a [bag](#) to be disposed of when you get back.

The Disappearing Signal

Metal detecting will require patience and perseverance.

We all get our share of disappointments.

One common one is when you may get a fairly strong signal which disappears when you repeat the same sweep.

Don't give that spot away. There is a good chance you can get the signal back with this [tip](#). But, it's not guaranteed as I explain later.

Before fiddling with any of the controls on your [machine](#), leave the controls set as they were when you got the signal.

Keep the coil above the spot where you believe the signal came from.

Imaging that point is the center of a circle and move around to one side of that circle.

Then, move the coil in a sweep at right angles to the previous one.

This will often get another signal from the same spot though it may not be the same [strength](#) as before.

I believe the signal disappears because the detectorist makes their second sweep on a slightly different line to the one which gave the signal.

When you turn 90 degrees and do the third sweep, you get closer to the original target.

Another reason that a signal may disappear is when the earth is in a loose condition and the target is more vertical rather than laying parallel with the surface of the soil. Your movements above the item may cause the target to slip further down into the soil so there is a weaker signal or none at all on the subsequent sweeps.

Insurance

[Insurance](#) may not be required but it is something which you should seriously consider.

Some of the policies you have, like [life](#) or [income](#) replacement insurance, may not cover you when you are in remote areas or putting yourself in risky situations.

You should insure your equipment and yourself. Check the policies you are offered for exemptions and exclusions.

[Check](#) with your Insurance [company](#) or salesman and get the information from them in [writing](#).

You must also get third party insurance to cover any damage which you may be accused of causing to other people or their [property](#).

In the U.K., the NCMD has insurance included with its membership fee.

The F.I.D. had insurance cover for Members. But, it is apparently being re-organized after the Founder passed away. It may be worth checking their website (listed in my resources section) to see if they have started up again and if they can offer insurance to their members now if you are in the U.K.

I regard insurance as essential for the peace of [mind](#) of yourself and your [family](#) as well as the people who generously allow you to practice treasure detecting on their property.

Health

This is a very good form of outdoor activity which people of any age can enjoy to some degree.

You can start with short trips to areas near your [home](#) to get experience with your new gear and possibly finding treasure as well as new friends.

I think that treasure seekers are almost as good a way of attracting interest of passersby as [dogs](#) and they don't have to be fed!

The advantages are many. Using your gear, [planning](#) your moves and recording everything [exercises](#) your [mind](#) as well as your [body](#).

And, you can choose your own level of effort and involvement.

Although a few detector enthusiasts over-reach themselves when they are getting good results, that can happen with any popular activity.

Dealing with Health Risks

Get a thorough check-up before you do any treasure detecting.

No amount of riches is worth serious injury and there are both obvious and obscure risks which you could be affected by.

You must have up-to-date immunization for **tetanus** and also **rabies** if you will be in any area where it may occur. These injections take a few weeks to start protecting you, so allow for that before setting off on your detection trip.

If you are going into rural areas, you need to have enough of your personal medication with you in case what you take regularly is not available in those areas.

The Internet has made it much easier to do a lot of the preparation and [research](#).

Make sure that you leave clear notes and tell those close to you where and when you [travel](#) and how they can contact you while you are away.

Always carry a photo I.D. and all your medical details in a waterproof envelope when you are traveling.

Clothing



Forget about shorts and sandals. You need to cover up with strong but comfortable clothing and have anything with you which you might need if there is a sudden [change](#) in the conditions!

Footwear needs to be strong and comfortable. Avoid steel-capped boots because they will probably interfere with the quality of signals from your detector.

Footwear needs to be non-slip as much as possible.

Socks need to be strong but allow your feet to [breathe](#).

Remember that you will be digging through lots more trash than treasure and you will need protective gear to minimize risks of injury and infection.

Trousers which resist tears are fairly cheap.

[Camping](#) suppliers probably have many suitable items but look for defense surplus gear which has proved itself and is usually cheaper.

[Knee](#) and elbow pads can help.

Kitchen-grade rubber gloves are not intended to protect you from rusty cans, pieces of [glass](#), wire and other things which people have left behind when enjoying the area!

If you are outside, you will need suitable headgear. I'm told that heat can be lost from our [head](#) as easily as we get sunburned.

If you wear spectacles, carry a spare pair in a strong case.

Using Your Metal Detector



You may think there's a lot here about preparation. That's because careful preparation will make your field work much easier and reduce the time and effort when you are actually detecting.

I'll assume that you are using a metal detector which is the type with a control box, shaft and coil.

After setting up your machine described in the manual, you will set the face (open side of the coil) parallel with the surface of the area you will search.

This looks easy but there are a few simple errors which might reduce your effectiveness.

It will take some practice for you to get used to carrying the detector at the same [height](#) while you move it slowly across your [body](#) over the soil.

Keep the coil close to the Ground



The first thing to check is that you have the head, where the coil is, as close to the soil surface as you safely can.

You must not let it strike anything on the surface. That would interfere with the signal quality and possibly damage the coil.

But, if the coil face is not within about an inch (about 2 cm) of the earth, your detector may not be giving you the best information it is capable of.

If you find this hard to fix, extend the shaft of your detector a little.

But, make sure you don't let it hit any obstructions as you sweep it around.

To reduce the possibility of damage to the detector coil and the assembly which holds it, always use the cover supplied with your detector and visually check the area just ahead of where you have the detector before you move forward.

Don't swing the detector

Many people swing the detector from side to side which causes the coil to move down when you [start](#) your sweep and then upward as you finish.

That takes the detector coil off the flat level track you need to follow for consistent results. It wastes effort and means the ends of each sweep will not produce true [readings](#).

It's not hard to get the right movement for making a good sweep but it takes practice and concentration.

Go Slow and steady

Because you are excited about actually starting to search and thoughts of potential riches are in your [mind](#), you might start with a fairly fast motion.

That will reduce the effectiveness of your search because you are still getting used to focusing partly on making a smooth flat sweep and also, equally importantly, on [listening](#) to the audio or watching the display on your detector control panel.

If you move too hastily at this early stage, you will not fully benefit from the information your detector is getting for you.

Remember that the detector is not just retrieving an indication of something being in the ground. Detectors will analyze to a varying degree what might be there. And, the machine needs a few seconds to do that.

Most important to remember is that you're not in a race, you're [goal](#) is to get good finds. If that takes a few extra [minutes](#), it will still be better than missing some special find!

When you get signals in an area, you should first mark the area.

Then, do a short sweep and [try](#) to narrow the area where the signal is strongest.

Sometimes, you will lose a signal which was fairly strong.

Don't worry.

This happens to almost everyone at times.

You may have changed the direction you were moving in without noticing.

Many seekers tie their shovel to the back of their belt so that the [blade](#) makes a track in the dirt or grass behind them.

When you [try](#) this for the first time, you find that, instead of the straight line you thought you were walking, the [track](#) marked by the shovel will wave from side to side.

I have got a separate chapter which will help;

“When You Find Something” later in the [book](#).

Keep Lists

You soon learn that treasure detecting involves a lot of details and it's important to keep records for tax purposes and if there are any questions about what you find.

The details of where you have searched and the conditions there become valuable if you want to go over the area again.

Getting them right can be the difference between being a successful detectorist and throwing your gear in the back of a cupboard forever.

You can keep a notebook with lists of tasks, gear and other important information which you check before starting a trip.

Then, it's easy to ensure you haven't lost anything and know what you need to restock your [kit](#) with because you use those same lists when you get back.

While you are in the field, you might put something important in a pocket instead of the container it usually is stored in.

Then, that piece of clothing is quickly dumped in the washing machine and your meter or whatever is ruined. Using a checklist will ensure that you have everything and that you remember to clean it before you [store](#) it away.

But, you can keep your lists on your smart device which makes it accessible and easier to remember to keep up to date.

The Law and Metal Detecting

There are a number of legal aspects to metal detecting which you need to check before starting to do your searches.

The first is to check local, State and Federal current regulations which could affect and even ban you from using your detector in specific areas.

These are constantly changing which is why I haven't spent a lot of words on them in this basic [book](#).

The best way to keep up with the [changes](#) is to become a member of one of the larger metal detecting organizations in your country.

They routinely monitor the events which could affect our hobby and can exert some influence at times because of the rising numbers of people detecting part or full-time.

A basic rule is to assume that someone has ownership of any area you don't.

Get Permission

Whatever you want to do on any land, beach or waterway, check who owns or [controls](#) it before even taking your gear onto it.

In some government controlled areas, you may be fined and even have to forfeit your gear just because you were on the wrong land!

Make Your Approach

Always prepare yourself for a positive discussion when you seek permission.

Don't start with a negative view of the possible result or you will subconsciously make that more likely to happen. And, your negativity could affect the way the other person responds to your request.

If you treat the other person as you would want to be treated, you are on the right track.

If you don't get permission, try to leave a positive impression with the other person to make a later approach possible either by you or another treasure seeker.

Start by finding out the details of ownership and control through official

records or by approaching the local land office.

Dress well for your visit. Leave your treasure seeking gear at [home](#) or, at least in your [vehicle](#).

They may not appreciate your eagerness which could be seen as [overconfidence](#).

[Making](#) a good impression will have many benefits even if you don't get an agreement for your current quest.

You are the front-line representative of the whole metal detector hobby.

Have some [cards](#) produced similar to [business](#) cards with your contact details on them.

Mention that you carry insurance and that you will give them a written confirmation that you will put everything back to at least the standard it was when you started on the area.

Sometimes, it might be worthwhile to do a short demonstration on the actual area.

When you Find Something!

Pinpointing a Find.

Metal detectors cannot be set up to give you an exact location for every valuable item you get a signal from.

Your [machine](#) may have special features which allow you to get closer after you have used the machine for the first approach.

You can usually buy a smaller coil for more precise locating once your machine has indicated there's something worth checking in the area its coil covers.

Before you change the coil, or if you don't have that option, you can drop a colored marker where the signal seemed strongest.

Then, make another sweep at right angles to your previous line so you can get a signal from it that way. Sometimes you will not get anything – don't worry.

If your detector has a discrimination feature you can do another sweep with that turned up. Some are more effective, some less. A lot depends on the conditions in that area.

Then, you can switch to a smaller optional coil which you can fit to the machine to reduce the area you need to dig or probe.

Some machines have a “pointer feature” which is like a smaller built-in detector. Read your instructions carefully and [try](#) to do some [practice](#) at [home](#) before you need to use it in the field.

Pinpoint Detectors.

There are also small detectors called pinpointers. They are usually shaped like a sausage and direct a more tightly targeted beam into the likely area.

It's probably worthwhile to add one of these to your equipment if you are using a fairly basic model as your main detector.

It could pay for itself in the time you save and mean that you use your probe less.

Using a Probe.

Be as gentle as possible when using your probe because this is the time when a lot of damage is done to valuable items.

You can dig an earth-plug as I described in an earlier Chapter.

But, [try](#) your probe first to get an [idea](#) of the size of the item and what depth it is at.

Whether or not you find something with your probe, you will have to cut and lift a plug.

Don't be concerned if you only find poor quality trash. If it [shows](#) people were using the area, you will still have a chance of finding more valuable items.

Got It!

When you have lifted the item, examine it and then pack it away. Use your detector in the open hole to [check](#) if anything else is there.

Then, replace the plug and put any trash in a bag to dispose of later at [home](#).

Don't try to clean your finds on the spot. This also causes lots of damage and loss of value.

Store them safely and check them when you are home with all necessary materials at hand.

Accessories Make it Much Easier

There are many accessories which can make your metal detecting experiences much safer, easier and interesting.

Cases for equipment

If there are waterproof cases available for any of your equipment, get them.

You may not expect a sudden shower but weather conditions are getting less predictable and the case is cheap insurance.

Storing your Finds

You need a bag of some kind to put all your finds until you get home.

Some seekers have a pouch which they attach to their belt. That can work well but it's very visible and I prefer to have a second pouch out of sight for anything of potential value.

Use sticky labels on Ziploc bags to record details of the find at the [time](#).

Be Careful when Retrieving Your Finds

New detectorists tend to think their finds are more valuable than they really are.

Another common trait is to mishandle what they find and reduce its value even more.

Always be very careful when you are retrieving a find.

If you hit an item with your digging tool, you will probably reduce any value it has.

This can also happen if you use a long knife or a metal skewer to probe into the area where you have detected something but don't know what it is.

A wooden skewer is probably better even though it isn't as strong.

Many experts advise that you don't try to clean your finds unless you have studied the right way to do it for each type of item or material.

The dirt and other matter clinging to your find may actually be protecting its value .

So, wait until you are [home](#) and have plenty of help available in [books](#) or through other contacts.

Quick Tips to Help You

Keep Quiet about Good Finds

You should not jump around or yell when you find something good.

It's natural to want to tell others about your good luck but wait until you get home or that luck might become bad real quick.

You cannot be sure who is watching or what they might do.

Check your Trash

When you are just starting to explore with your detector, you will not be aware of the forms which some valuable items may take after years or even centuries in the soil or a river.

You are likely to discard valuable items because of that or you may also think something is more valuable than it really is.

If you are unsure about something, put it away in a [box](#) or a special shelf at home until you have time to do proper research or can get the advice of a reliable, more experienced treasure seeker.

Watch the Weather



Even experienced people can be injured or worse if they ignore imminent [changes](#) in the weather conditions.

This can happen because they believe they are almost on to a valuable

find or they become tired and don't keep the necessary level of alertness.

Whether you are in the wilderness or near the sea or other open [water](#), always watch the weather.

Not all the Metal you Find is Safe

Many areas where we find treasure, there can be danger lurking as well.



[Weapons](#), bullets and other explosive devices are usually found in areas where there have been battles long ago. Unfortunately, the residue of these clashes can become much less stable and more dangerous as each year!

If you find a buckle from a military uniform, you can be sure that other, possibly more dangerous items could be nearby.

Don't Give Up



A lot of successful treasure seekers [credit](#) their [success](#) to going back over areas which have been heavily searched in the past.

Some people give up because they only find a lot of modern low-value items. But, we learn that these recent deposits can be masking older and more valuable items which only become detectable

when the newer stuff has been taken away again.

Keep going and you'll keep [winning!](#)

Joining the Fraternity

One of the best things about the treasure seeking hobby is the opportunity to associate with other treasure seekers.

Most are very willing to help you improve your skills and avoid some of the many traps you may encounter in your treasure seeking.

Check for a local [club](#).

If you can't find one, connect with the national organizations and ask the secretary to put you in touch with members in your area.

Another source of contacts are local museums and historical societies. These organizations often have members who use treasure seeking gear to look for relics. Many are also willing to work with treasure seekers cooperatively and are a great [source](#) of background information about events and [buildings](#) in your area.

Resources

U.K.

National Council for Metal Detecting

<http://ncmd.co.uk/>

From their website: "Here you will find information on [clubs](#), membership, the Treasure Act, in fact everything you will need to know about the hobby and the National Council for Metal Detecting.

Federation of Independent Detectorists

<http://www.fid.newberry.net>

This organization is in the process of reorganization (June 2014) after the death of the person who previously ran it.

U.S.A.

The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

<http://www.fmdac.org/>

The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc. (FMDAC) is a registered non-[profit](#) established to encourage metal detecting and archeological interaction and education.

The FMDAC has their own page of links to other Clubs and [Resources](#) for Metal Detecting enthusiasts at <http://www.fmdac.org/links/index.html>

DMOZ directory.

DMOZ is a reputable directory of many interesting things. This list covers U.S.A. local organizations. I am not sure how up-to-date it is.

http://www.dmoz.org/Recreation/Outdoors/Metal_Detecting/Organizations/

Happy Hunting

I hope that we might [meet](#) along the Treasure Trail sometime.

Or, maybe I will read about your future [successes](#) with this wonderful hobby!

But, I know that my [book](#) will help you to have some great times with your detector. Most treasure seekers are truly fine and friendly people. And, the rapidly improving [technology](#) will mean greater finds are not far away even in areas which have been searched a lot before.

Keep your gear in good shape and your [smile](#) as well.

Although you will have to deal with upsets at times, this is a great way to spend your time and there's the ever-present potential of a good find.

Mark Carnell

[Another eBookWholesaler Publication](#)