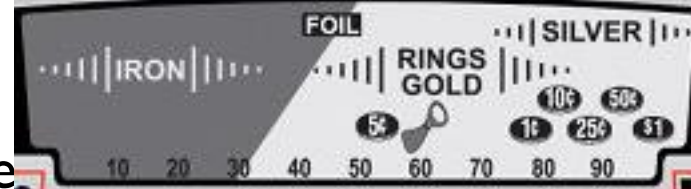


Module 5: Detecting & site strategy

Your detecting strategy will determine the type of settings you'll use.

Coin and jewelry hunting

▶ Dig all signals from foil up, just be



Pros

- Chance of finding gold jewelry
- Find a variety of interesting objects
- Gain a solid understanding of how your detector reacts to a variety of targets.
- Less discrimination which usually offers better depth and improved ability to hear good targets next to trash.

Cons

- Lots of trash
- Hard to focus on any one type of target
- Reduced coin finds



Coins shooting

Seek out old coins

Pros

- High ratio of coin finds
- Less trash dug (cherry picking good targets)
- Train your mind to focus on coin signals so it will become easier to find them (like arrowheads).

Cons

- Reduced chance of finding gold jewelry
- Some US gold coins could be discriminated out (1 dollar, 2 1/2 dollar, 5 dollar gold)

Variations:

- High conductive coins + Nickels
 - High conductive coins only
 - Silver range only
-



Jewelry Hunting

Beach or water hunting is most productive

Pros

- Highest ratio of jewelry to trash
- Chances of finding gold pretty good
- Not much trash depending on the area

Cons

- Mostly modern finds
- More time to retrieve targets

Relic hunting

Typically done with little discrimination to dig a variety of targets.

- Deep seeking detector (highly sensitive)
 - True all metal mode
 - Threshold
 - Manual ground balance
-



The Discrimination settings I use:

- ▶ Most of the time I have everything above foil accepted but I don't dig all the lower signals

Typical sites:

- Dig coins signals from Indian head/half dime and up
- Ignore all other signals

Very old sites with modern trash

- Same strategy except I dig nickel up signals more than 6" deep

Very old sites with little modern trash

- Dig all signals above foil.
-



Site Strategy

Don't hunt blindly, observe and adjust!

- ▶ Be aware of conditions such as the amount of trash and mineralization. Even the amount of moisture in the ground can affect how your detector acts.
- ▶ Use the proper coil, settings, and swing speed for peak performance at each site.
- ▶ Seek out sites where you have the greatest advantage



High trash sites:

- Use smaller coils and sniper coils to get in between the targets
- Detect very slowly to allow your detector to recover between targets.
- Detect the site in multiple directions including diagonally and at odd angles that others might not have hit.
- Use a combination of high and low discrimination.
- Possibly grid the site

Pros

- A lot of detectorists avoid these areas because they are a challenge.
- You can gain a significant advantage over the average user by getting a sniper coil and having some patience.
- As long as the site is old, there will be old objects.

Cons

- Takes a lot of patience
- Reduced depth ability because of surface targets and smaller coil size.



Low trash areas:

- Use large coils to increase depth performance and ability to find coins on edge.
- Swing faster to cover more ground.
- Run higher sensitivity and less discrimination to find very deep targets.

Pros

- Deep coins present that others have missed and aren't masked by surface trash
- Not as much noise because of low trash
- Ability to cover more ground by detecting faster + large coil covers more ground

Cons

- Not as many targets because not as much traffic or hunted hard (determined by type of finds)



Medium trash areas:

-
- Use stock coil or larger coil
 - Swing at a medium sweep speed

Pros

- Great for general detecting
- Good for stock coils
- Great for beginners

Cons

- None really except no significant advantage



Important Settings


Sensitivity

- The higher the sensitivity the deeper the detector will detect targets
- More falsing and chatter
- When you get to a site turn the sensitivity to max, then adjust it down until there is little chatter.
- You'll eventually be able to start increasing sensitivity to include more chatter and still distinguish the falsing from good targets.

Discrimination

- Depends on your detecting strategy
- The less discrimination the more depth and chance of hearing good targets next to bad ones but also more noise.
- Use a combination of high discrimination and low discrimination to learn signals and give the mind a break.

Threshold

- Maintain a slight buzz and pay attention to it
 - Threshold can tell you a lot about a site and the conditions
 - Allows you to hear faint and deep targets
 - The threshold will go silent "null" when the detector is discriminating a bad target
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Ground balance

- Find a spot on the ground with no metal
- Put detector in all metal mode
- Set threshold to a quiet buzz
- Hold the coil a few feet off the ground. Push the coil down **toward** the ground and listen to the audio signal when it's moving **toward** the ground.
- If it gets louder: turn the ground balance down slightly
- If it gets quieter: turn the ground balance up slightly
- Pull the coil up a few feet and repeat the process.
- Continue this until there is no change in sound volume when pumping the coil up and down. Your detector is now ground balanced!



Mastering the hunt

- ▶ First learn your detector and experiment with different settings in various conditions. With practice you'll learn the best settings for each type of condition you'll encounter.
- ▶ Observe your environment and then using the best coil, detector settings, and hunting method for optimal performance.

