

# • Minelab • Times •



## is now available!

### The new Safari - accuracy, simplicity, performance!

#### Features:

- 🦋 New 11" Waterproof lightweight Pro coil
- 🦋 Improved target ID in High Trash Density
- 🦋 Improved discrimination
- 🦋 Improved audio response in Trash Density High
- 🦋 Improved depth gauge now updates during and at the end of each detection
- 🦋 New VCO style pin point audio
- 🦋 Better balance
- 🦋 Faster start-up



*Powered by Minelab's ultimate FBS multiple frequency technology, Safari combines deep, sensitive and accurate detecting for anyone who demands simplicity AND performance!*

Compared to other detectors, the learning curve for this detector is really short and is really quick to pick up on as well. Just press the Power button, pick a mode and that's it... sheer simplicity! You will find that targets will give a range of sounds varying in pitch from a low sound to a high squeal. For example, in Coin mode, coins made of copper or silver will give a high pitched sound, whereas modern alloy coins and gold jewellery will give a mid-tone sound.

The Safari has four operating modes to suit different applications: Coins, Coin & Jewellery, Relic, All-Metal. If you are new to the Safari, the Coins mode would be a good mode to start with, as it has been set up to discriminate against most iron, foil and light aluminum. On the other side of the panel you will find the All-Metal mode. This can be used on very clean ground or when operating over salt water beaches. You don't have to press any 'Salt' switches or make any adjustments after coming from a land site to dry sand area - the detector does it all for you - automatically.

For beach hunters who are after good depth and sensitivity to jewellery, the Coins/Jewellery mode is the one to use. However, if you don't mind digging extra signals the use of either All-Metal or Relic mode would be best. If, while land searching, the presence of ferrous junk is heavy, use the High Trash Density option to improve the detectors "see-through" abilities, to find the good target mixed with the junk. Toggling between any of the four modes is quick and easy. Within seconds, you can create your own disc patterns to overcome any trouble junk you may come across.

Safari is an amazing beach machine, and also excels on land sites and provides good depth, sensitivity and accurate information via its very useful and large screen. The Depth Indicator is spot-on and the Pin Point graphic is really useful as you can see when the center of the coil is directly over the center of a target (coin). Pin pointing has never been easier as you can now not only hear the louder response but can see it on the graphic scale feature as well. Through a series of

bars that fill to a black and empty to a clear condition one can estimate the exact location of the target.

The new lightweight "Pro" coil supplied with Safari is much more comfortable in use. It feels better, handles better and distributes the weight more evenly across the forearm making swinging the detector a breeze!

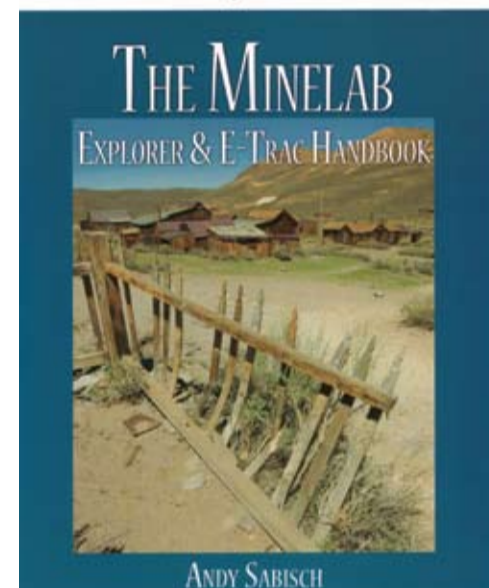
#### CONCLUSION

Innovation and sheer ease of use in a fantastic package! Safari represents a great step up the ladder to FBS technology... Minelab's patented multi-frequency technology, sharing a common platform with the ground-breaking E-Trac detector, allowing a Safari owner to enjoy most of the benefits this advanced system enjoys, and at a very modest price.

So easy to set up and use with the minimum of fuss, you can start searching in just seconds! The all-new MINELAB Safari defines just how good a metal detector can be!

Good Hunting!

Get more out of your metal detectors!



This is the ultimate reference guide for Minelab's full band spectrum (FBS) metal detectors. This handbook contains the information you need to quickly master these high-performance detectors through a solid understanding of their operation. It covers the entire Minelab Explorer line from the original S and XS through to the latest Explorer SE Pro. It also covers in detail the full operation of the latest Minelab E-Trac.

Some of the topics included:

- Learn what every control on these detectors do;
- Discover what new features can be found on the E-Trac;
- Benefit from proven tips & techniques provided by veteran detectorists from around the world to make you more successful;
- How to search for and find lost coins, relics and jewellery;

If you already own an Explorer or E-Trac, this book will show you how simple they are to operate. If you are considering purchasing one, it will answer any questions you might have.

*Available from your Minelab dealer.*

## EUREKA! Rising gold price!

Capitalise on an ever increasing Gold Price with a Minelab detector, one of the few bright spots on an otherwise difficult economy.

Where else in the world can you jump into a car (or your 4WD!), drive a short distance through some of the most magnificent countryside, pull out a Minelab and in a few hours of fun find gold that's worth more than ever.

Anyone who has opened a newspaper, turned on TV or discussed the economy at a dinner party in the last few months would be feeling like 'an Asprin and a good lie-down'. Share prices are plummeting, the real estate market has come to a standstill, and 'doom & gloom' faces you at every turn.

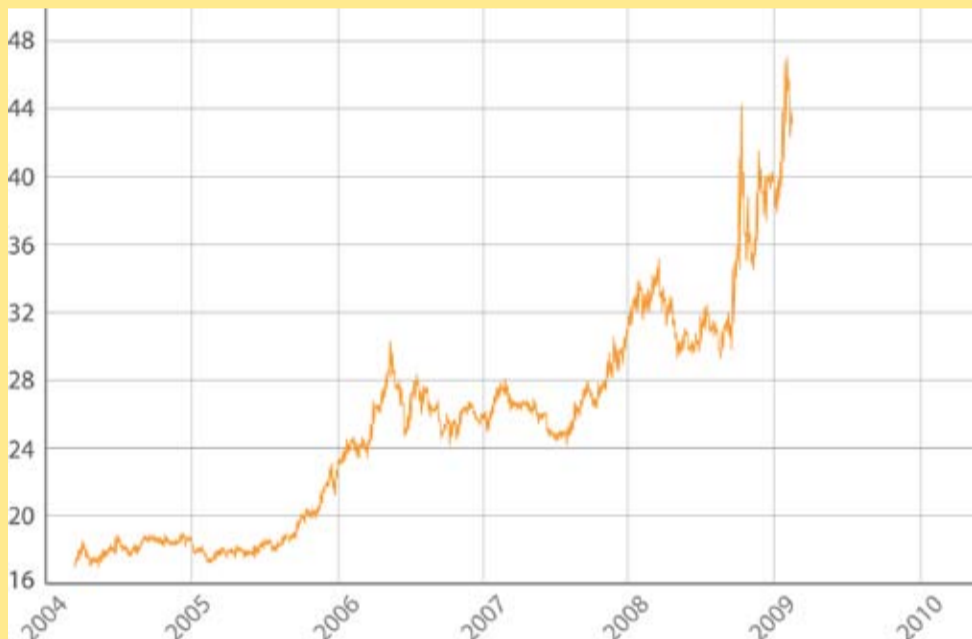
But as the old saying goes, "every cloud has a silver lining", or in this case a Golden lining – take a look at the Gold Price below in Australian Dollars!

Traditionally, in tough times, the world has looked to gold as the safe haven for their finances. With current doubts that exist over the American economy and the true value of the 'greenback', demand for gold is escalating at unprecedented rates. For

years, an ounce of gold was worth between \$500 – \$600, now in the last few months it is selling for around A\$1,400 and all the pundits are predicting further increases.

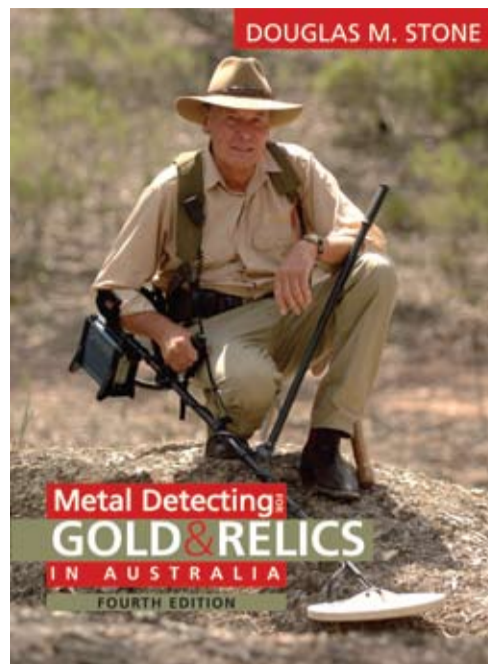
With the current price of gold, you can quickly pay for your trip, pay for your detector and maybe a lot more!! Why, recently two Victorians came across more than \$400,000 worth of gold in only 2 foot of soil. We've also heard of an individual (who wishes to remain anonymous) who recently found over \$700,000 of gold in WA. And unlike shares, and lotteries, detecting is not just about luck – the more you put into it the more you get out of it. That's why we take the same approach in designing and making our super sensitive gold detecting machines like the flagship GPX4500.

And you have a lot of fun at the same time! Australia is still the lucky country with many public areas where you can camp, cook breakfast over a fire, and get out a detector to fossick for gold. Judging by the number of finds still being made right across the country, there will still be plenty of nuggets around for years to come.



Gold Price per gram in Australian Dollars

## Your guide to metal detecting



Announcing a fabulous new book. "Metal Detecting for Gold & Relics in Australia" is now in its fourth edition, BUT this time it is far bigger and better than ever. Size wise it is huge at 280mm x 210mm and 424 pages, this book will quickly become the prospectors bible for anyone in Australia.

Doug Stone, well known author, prospector, geologist and tour guide has spent the last four years, pulling together public and private information to create this most informative reference. Over 300 pages are devoted to detailed maps covering all mainland states.

Other chapters cover an excellent history of detecting in Australia, excellent instructions on using detectors and some of the pitfalls, differences of detectors, etc. Also included are hundreds and hundreds of photos, if you've been into detecting for a while, you could well appear in the book.

Excellent value at \$125.00, available from your local detecting shop.

## Over 400 ounces of gold found with a Minelab GPX-4500



over the years but the last few times they went there, they returned empty handed. All the gold had gone! That is until they bought the new GPX-4500. With the added depth and more stable operation, the 4500 found a reef of gold that all previous detectors had missed.

Steve & Russell are now more than happy to tell their friends how wonderful the new Minelab GPX-4500 is ..... But they still keep the location of their special spot a secret.

Two friends from Ballarat, Vic. have credited the Minelab GPX-4500 detector as the real reason they are now the owners of over 400 ounces of gold, valued at many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Steve Glasson and Russell Sanderson have been weekend detectorists for over 20 years and while they have always done well from their hobby, this is the best result they have ever achieved.

Steve & Russell have an area near Ballarat that has always produced nuggets for them



# A closer look at the GPX Series: tracking, motion, and sweep speed

With the introduction of the Motion settings on the GPX-4000 & 4500, there has been a bit of confusion among some users as to what it actually does, and also how it differs from the Tracking speed selection. I'll start with explaining Tracking speeds.

## Tracking

The Tracking speed function controls the rate at which the automatic ground balance senses the ground, to make adjustments when required. The speed you select should be dictated by how variable the soil mineralisation is, but also how fast you are sweeping the coil. If you are in highly variable ground, but are working at a snails pace, then the detector will most likely keep up with the changes in the ground using a Medium Tracking speed. However, if you are patch finding and swinging at a faster pace, you may require a Fast Tracking Speed. This may be necessary even in slightly variable soils, as with a fast sweep you are traveling faster across the ground, essentially reducing the time between ground changes. The instruction manual states: "The preferred Tracking speed is the slowest speed which keeps up with the variability of the ground mineralisation." To put that another way, don't use a tracking speed that is faster than needed, i.e. the Fixed GB is best, then Slow Tracking, Medium and Fast Tracking as a last resort.

The coil type being used can also change the required Tracking speed, as ground that appears quite mineralized and variable to a Mono coil, may be fairly easy to work using a DD coil. The timing being used also has an affect, so it can be a fine balance with selecting the right combination in different ground types.

In practical terms, after selecting your coil, timing, and search mode, you should ground balance and start to detect in Fixed. If you are

re-ground balancing too often, try detecting in Slow Track. If the level (or variability) of the mineralisation is still not being balanced out, then select the next speed and try again.

## So what does Motion do?



The Motion control adjusts the duration (width) of the internal filtering. You can think of the filter as a gate. In the detector, everything sensed by the coil is passed through the gate, including EM noise, ground and target signals. In simple terms, the Motion control adjusts how wide (or for how long) the gate is opened - the faster the Motion setting, the more the gate is opened, so more information is allowed in. So in quiet conditions, a Medium or Fast Motion speed is the preferred setting, as it allows you to sweep a little quicker and not miss targets. However, in a lot of areas, a Fast Motion speed is going to let in more atmospheric (airborne interference), making the detector threshold unstable, which in turn may mask a faint signal response.

A Slow Motion setting keeps the gate open for a shorter amount of time, reducing the amount

of interference that can get in. This results in a much smoother threshold, but a target's response will also be reduced, so a slow sweep speed is critical to ensure that the detector can produce an audible target signal. Slow Motion gives a good compromise between stability and target recognition, provided the coil is kept nice and parallel to the ground, and slow even sweeps are maintained. The Very Slow Motion option provides a very smooth threshold, and allows the Rx Gain to be slightly increased, so is ideal when searching for deeper targets. However, due to the gate only being opened for a very short duration, a very slow sweep speed is necessary, so is best reserved for working small known gold producing areas or "patches".

The coil being used also has a bearing on the correct Motion setting to use. The Slow and Very Slow options will benefit greatly from the sharper target response that is generated by a Monoloop coil. Double D coils have a weaker signal compared to a Monoloop due to the physical distance of the Tx & Rx windings, so will benefit greatly from the gate being open that bit longer. If you are using a Double D coil, you should try to use Medium motion, even if it means reducing the Rx Gain slightly. If you have to use Slow with a DD coil, due to excessive interference, then make sure you're swinging at a snails pace. Try to avoid using Very Slow with a DD coil, as you could easily miss a small target.

## Coil Sweep Speeds



One of the hardest skills for a new detector operator to develop is a slow swing speed. I've lost count of the number of times I've seen newbies swinging the coil so high and so fast you'd swear they were using a whipper snipper! The gospel of "low and slow" has been preached enough, but the importance of a slow swing speed has never been greater since the introduction of the slower Motion options in the GPX series.

Basically, for maximum stability and to detect targets at the limit of their detection range, a slower sweep speed is best, but what is slow? I have done a number of tests to determine what a slow sweep speed actually is, and on average I would say that it should take you 4 seconds for every left - right sweep. Now, there are several variables to this, which can determine what the optimum sweep speed is:

1. Mono coils can allow a slightly faster sweep speed.
2. If you sweep too slow, a large deep target can sound quite broad, and almost ground noise like, particularly with a large mono coil.

In this instance a slightly faster sweep speed will sharpen the target response, but too fast and you may miss it altogether. If you go too slow, you won't cover much ground, and as mentioned deep targets may be difficult to recognize.

So, the next question is - What about when I am patch finding? Obviously there is a fine line between detecting slow for maximum sensitivity and detecting slightly faster to cover the ground. I guess if you think you are in a good looking area (whether you know there is gold there or not) you should slow your sweep speed down a notch. On the other hand, if detecting in a large open area, with good looking gravels, ironbark trees etc. but no natural or obvious concentrations (i.e. the gold could be anywhere) then opt for a slightly faster sweep. The trick here is to go fast enough to cover the ground, but not too fast so as to potentially miss a 1 grammer buried at 6 inches, that is on the edge of a 40oz patch! A good combination here would be a Mono Coil, Medium Motion, Slow Track, and drop your Rx Gain slightly to keep the threshold nice and stable.

For patch finding and general detecting, about 2 seconds for every Left-Right swing is a good compromise, particularly if using a Mono coil. So what about working a small defined area that has produced gold? I'd say that approximately 5 seconds for every L-R sweep is recommended, and yes that means 10 secs for one full return sweep, from left to right to left. I have seen video footage of operators in WA detecting at a rate of 3 sweeps in 2 secs, and although they do find gold, I'd be very keen to walk behind them and follow their chain lines!!!

Nenad Lonc (Minelab)

### Recommended setting combinations (from extreme to mild mineralisation )

EXTREME SOIL

1. DD coil, Fast Tracking, Normal timing
2. Mono, Fixed GB, Smooth/Enhance timing (suits a variety of goldfields)
3. DD, Medium Tracking, Normal or Sensitive Extra
4. DD, Fixed GB, Sharp or Sensitive Extra timing
5. Mono coil, Fixed GB or Slow Tracking, Normal or Sensitive Extra timing

MILD SOIL

## Standard setup for big finds



A trip to Flat Creek Station had been organized with my detecting mate Henry and my wife Delys, and a friend from Brisbane Stan. I had just brought the GPX 4500 from George at the Miners Den in Cairns, and up to this point I had not even turned it on, so the learning curve was going to be hopefully less than a J curve.

Sunday morning was a ripper of a day with a cloudless sky and 10 degrees greeting us for breakfast. We had worked out the day before where we were going to detect that day, so it was all aboard and away we went to a little area where we had found a few 2 and 3 gramers in the past. After about 2 hours of not getting any targets I started to doubt if this 4500 was working and whether it could

find gold, when all of a sudden it sounded like I had found a horse shoe. I scraped the area clean but the target was still in the ground.

Digging down a further 4 to 5 inches and out popped 7 grams of solid gold with a little iron stone staining; to say that I was excited would be an understatement.

Not to be out done, my mate Henry unearthed 4 beauties not far from my one and I commented that this could be a patch, and he had to go and prove me right pulling another 3 little guys out. It was funny how mine seemed to be the floater.

The wife was rather happy but asked "Is that it, you told me this new one was going to find the big one?" We had been working ground that had been flogged by every man and his dog yet with this new technology we were getting the bits everyone had missed.

It was to be a week before I was to lock on to the next nugget, I got a signal that was just one of them faint ones, that was coming from the rocks on the bank of a well worked creek. I had dug down about 6 inches and the signal now was sounding more like a sardine can than anything else. At a foot deep this thing was screaming and the signal sounded

like it was a foot wide, so it was time to move a few large rocks that were sitting on top of what ever the target was. How the nugget got to where it was is any ones guess, but it was sitting right in a V in the bedrock.



I just sat for a while staring at it, not believing my luck. The nugget came in at 17 grams - ok it's not the biggest nugget found but it was and still is my biggest find with the GPX-4500.

I was hunting an area that I knew held gold with lots of small gutters and 2 larger drains, I started on the little gutters that lead to the larger ones and after about 1 and a half hours I got a faint signal. I am very happy I was running the gain at 12 and I was in Enhanced mode, because I am sure I would have missed this one. Before I even dug or moved anything,

I checked it in the Normal mode and there was no signal, so it was back to the Enhanced mode.... this was highly mineralized ground! 4 inches down and the signal was out and in my hand, a little one that weighed in at point 8 of a gram. Now I know this is not like fishing, so you don't have to throw the small ones back.

For the record I was using the 11 inch standard coil that came with the 4500, using only the setting that are built in, DD on the coil switch, and running in the Enhanced mode. If you are looking for a detector that is easy to learn, can find gold and you don't have to outlay hundreds of dollars on coils, then may I suggest to you, get on to your local Minelab rep so you can start finding gold.

Bobupnorth

## 9 ounces of the good stuff!



The photo shows the results of a small patch found by a prospector in WA.

The largest nugget weighed in at 83 grams, and the total weight came in just shy of 9oz's! The prospector, who wishes to remain anonymous stated that there is more ground to cover, and can't wait to go back and get some more.

IT'S STILL OUT THERE!!

Minelab Customer

## Who says all the big ones are gone?



Here is 14oz of quality gold off old patches and diggings in the Golden Triangle using the GPX-4500.

Bob

## Do you want to be in our next issue?

Minelab are always interested in customer stories and photos to use in the Minelab Times as well as on our website. If you have anything you'd like to share, or suggestions on what you'd like to see in the future issues, feel free to contact our Marketing Department on 1800 637 786 or Email: [ho@minelab.com.au](mailto:ho@minelab.com.au)

Minelab reserves the right to respond to ongoing technical progress by introducing changes in design, equipment and technical features at any time. Certain descriptions and illustrations may differ from the exact model purchased.



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