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Nuggets of News and Knowledge

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Whether you are new to gold prospecting or an experienced old-timer, whether you have just started swinging a metal detector or have been digging targets for years, get the most out of treasure hunting with these nuggets of news and knowledge— tips, ideas, new products and more!



Sluicing Techniques and Tips

Gold concentrations are spotty, even in known gold-bearing areas, so most prospectors sample and test often using a simple [gold pan](#).

They keep moving until they get good results. Once you find a spot with fairly large amounts of gravel that yields good gold, then it's time to bring in a [sluice box](#).



A sluice is simple to operate and has been used all across the world for thousands of years. A sluice is often the first large-scale concentration device purchased by miners. The advantages include low cost, versatility over a wide range of material and water conditions, and ease of setup and use. There are many different types of gold sluices and brands from which to choose. Sluices come in a variety of sizes, most with gold-catching [matting, carpeting or miner's moss](#) in the bottom that you need to clean up at the end of the day. Other models contain no matting or carpets but can still catch fine gold. Whichever sluice box you use, sluicing techniques are overall fairly straightforward and it's open design allows you to see how the material is being processed and recovered.

As you get started sluicing, or begin to improve your technique and results, you can maximize your gold recovery by keeping in mind proper selection and setup, material classification and processing. Learn how material and water speed affect gold capture, and how fine-tuning your techniques to match material type and water conditions can lead to increased recovery. Proper setup of your sluice is by far the most important aspect of gold separation and recovery. Some common mistakes too watch out for include:

Improper sluice angle is probably the most common error that gold miners make. The old rule of thumb is to set sluice angle to one inch per foot, but that

NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE: What is an Electroscope?

An Electroscope is a different kind of metal detector technology. It is an electronic locator that will recognize the presence of metals from a long distance, up to two miles away on sizeable targets. These fine instruments can aid treasure hunters by providing a direction and an approximate location where treasure might be buried, then you can finish off your recovery of gold, coins, relics, and more using a conventional deep seeking metal detector. Hunting for nuggets, veins, and paystreaks in highly mineralized areas is a natural application for these custom designed instruments. Cover more ground in less time and increase the chance of making a recovery-- after all, the goal of all treasure hunters is to be productive! [More about electroscopes here.](#)

usually results in too much water velocity, resulting in improper breakdown and separation of heavy concentrates and material moving through the box too quickly. Instead, focus on water velocity, not so much of the angle. Measure 12 inches down your sluice box and make a mark prior to going out to a stream. Feed your material into the sluice in a side-to-side motion. As the material moves through the box, count a slow "one thousand one" and your material should be passing your mark. Only if it needs to be faster should you increase your rear angle. If it needs to be slower, decrease it. This is solely dependent on your classification. If you change classification, you might need to change the angle of your box. [Article continues here...](#)

Quick Clean Up — No Matting, Moss, Carpet!

If you've been prospecting for a while now, you're probably familiar with the Le Trap sluice originally made in Canada from durable ABS plastic, otherwise known as the River Robber Sluice. Well, now it's even better because it's made in the USA using original molds! This sluice cleans out in seconds -- no matting, miner's moss or carpets -- and is an amazing gold trap! These sluices run well in faster water as well as in low pressure water flows. Ideal for fine gold recovery and stream sluicing. [Choose from a wide variety of sluices and highbankers featuring the Le Trap sluice.](#)



Fine Gold Recovery Using a Spiral Wheel

The Desert Fox is a compact, light-weight automatic spiral gold panning machine you can take anywhere. Weighing under 10 pounds even with a rugged folding stand, it folds up and stores neatly in its Action Packer tub. Operate it right out of the tub, or remove it from the case and use it in a stream. The Desert Fox gets its name because it will operate on just three gallons of water. It sets up quickly and easily and can run 70 pounds of concentrates in an hour-- it's both a separator and a concentrator in one self-contained panning machine. The Desert Fox recovers an amazing amount of flour gold so you never lose even the smallest pieces (which all add up!). Operates on any 12-volt automotive battery or even a 35 watt solar panel (not included). Comes with an owner's manual and a small bag of sand containing real placer gold so you can practice with your new machine and see how efficient and easy it is to use before you take it into the field. [FREE SHIPPING on Desert Fox Automatic Gold Panning Machine + accessories.](#)



Fine Gold Recovery Using a Gold Cube

Gold Pup Mini Highbanker Priced Right



The NEW Gold Pup Mini Highbanker is a two stage high banker that really catches the fine gold and will help you get the gold. Includes a 12 volt 1100-gph pump, 3 feet of recirculating hose, built-in spray bar and adjustable legs for easy slope control. Sluice is 26 inches long x 6.5 inches wide with miner's carpet and hinged Hungarian riffles for easy clean up. Top hopper is 14.5 inches long x 6.5 inches wide. Perfect size to fit in a plastic tub (not included). All you need is a 12 volt lawn mower battery and a small pail to catch the waste rock and you'll be ready to use the [Gold Pup Highbanker](#) in the desert, in your favorite stream, or at home in your garage or shop. This sturdy aluminum unit is built in the USA and costs less than \$270!

Exclusive Kit with Dream Mat Pocket Sluice + More



This 7.5 inch long x 2.25 inch



If you've got lots of paydirt to process, the Gold Cube can run a yard of material (classified down to 1/8 inch) in about two hours. You can also run half a ton of material through it before you have to stop for a clean up. Small enough to fit into the trunk of your car, the Cube consists of stacking trays made of indestructible low density polyethylene plastic. How does it work exactly? In mining, the low pressure zone behind a riffle is called an eddy. The eddy rolls horizontally and the vortex churns vertically like a tornado. The vortex is the tornado effect that stirs up the dirt— similar to shaking a pan with gold in it and the gold sinks to

the bottom. The vortex acts like quicksand and buries your gold so you don't lose it. The churning material is really soft in the water, so the gold sinks to the bottom and stays there until something heavier wants to displace it. With the Gold Cube, you're ready to clean up your concentrates QUICKLY— process tons into ounces! [FREE SHIPPING on Gold Cube and accessories!](#)

History Nugget: Ruins of Rhyolite, Nevada

Winding throughout the rich and colorful Silver State, Nevada's highways and byways are ideal for discovering America's history. Route 374 is a prime example and leads to the much-photographed ghost town of Rhyolite. Located four miles



outside the city of Beatty, 120 miles from Las Vegas, and about five miles from the California border of Death Valley National Park, Rhyolite is easy to reach and worth a stop. The town's Cook Bank, constructed in 1907, is said to be the most photographed ruin in the state of Nevada..

As far as boomtowns go, Rhyolite is a "newer" ghost town, having been born and busted between 1904 and 1920. What's also special is that its crumbling yet photogenic buildings are mostly made of concrete, not wood. Since lumber was scarce in the desert, one creative miner even built his home out of mud and 30,000 assorted liquor bottles! But perhaps what is most unusual here is that you are guaranteed to see ghosts as you head into Rhyolite— yes, even in broad daylight!

As you turn off Route 374 onto a gravel road heading toward Rhyolite, you'll be surprised to find a 15-acre outdoor sculpture park. Goldwell Open Air Museum is free and open to the public. Among the unusual pieces of art are life-size ghosts, a 25-foot high pink woman made of cinder blocks, a 24-foot high steel

wide (3.5 inch wide flare) Mini Dream Mat pocket sluice goes anywhere. Not a toy (although your kids and grandkids will want one, too)! Ideal for sampling and to use at the very end of your gold recovery system to make sure you haven't missed any. Mini Dream Mat vortices are ideal for use in sandy areas and black sands and 1/4"-3/8" screened runs in highbankers and trommels. Pocket sluice made of polyurethane (not cheap rubber or silicone!). [6 piece Mini Dream Mat Pocket Sluice Kit](#) includes the sluice, 1 long sharp pointed stainless steel tweezers, and 3 leak-proof 1.5 inch long x 9/16 inch diameter glass vials. Everything fits inside a heavy duty 12.5 inches long x 7 inches tall 20 ounce cotton canvas tool bag with woven handle and smooth glide zipper.

Considering a Large Purchase?



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prospector posing with a penguin, and much more. This discovery is just one more reason to keep your camera handy; folks back home probably won't believe you found all this contemporary art backdropped by a desert landscape. [Article continues here...](#)



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