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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!



Choosing Stones for Rock Tumbling

The type of stones you use for rock tumbling is largely personal preference. But whether you collect them on your own or buy rough material, for best results stick to stones of similar hardness but of various sizes when tumbling together. This will ensure they all take approximately the same amount of time to reach the proper smoothness, and that harder stones don't damage softer stones during the tumbling process.



Many types of rock can be successfully polished into stunning gems, especially agates, quartz, and jasper. Agate is the most popular tumbling rough. It is generally inexpensive and can be tumbled with good results by beginners. Agate occurs in a wide range of colors which include: brown, white, red, gray, pink, black and yellow. The colors are caused by impurities and occur as alternating bands within the agate, providing interesting and pretty patterns.

Any rock with a hardness of 5-7 on the Mohs hardness scale will generally take a nice polish in a rock tumbler. Agates have a hardness of 7. Harder rocks usually result in a high-gloss finish. Softer rocks will get smooth and rounded, but they won't take a polish. If the rock looks earthy, it will generally still look earthy when you take it out of the tumbler. Mohs Hardness Scale is named after its inventor, Friedrich Mohs, a German mineralogist. The scale was developed in 1812. He selected 10 minerals of distinctly different hardness (hardness is the resistance of a material to being scratched) that ranged from a very soft mineral (talc) to a very hard mineral (diamond). Since you always want to tumble together stones of similar hardness for best results, it's important to understand this principle. [Rock Tumbling article continued here...](#)

Nugget of Knowledge

How to Set Up a Stream Sluice

Whether you're a beginner or an old pro, setting up your stream sluice just right takes some trial and error. It isn't hard to do, it just takes an understanding of water currents and angles to guarantee success. Try these helpful tips:

Place your sluice in the flow of a stream or river so that the water enters the flared end and flows through the sluice. If the current is strong you may need to lay some stones against the edge of the sluice to keep it from washing away. The sluice should be set at a downhill angle that allows the material to briskly flow through the sluice. The higher the volume of water available, the shallower the angle will be.

Shovel material into the

Rock Tumbling is Family Fun



It takes years and years for nature and its elements— dirt, rock, water, and sand— to smooth a rock's surface. But a rock tumbler can get you those same results in considerably less time. If you're looking for a fun and interesting hobby that the whole family will enjoy, consider lapidary. [Rock tumbling kits, supplies, and articles found here.](#)

Gold Panning Kits: Convenient + Economical

The most basic piece of prospecting equipment is the gold pan. Whether you already own a few sizes (10 inch, 12 inch, and 14 inch are the most popular), or are wondering what you really need to get started, gold panning kits are a convenient and economical way to purchase pans and accessories (snuffer bottle, vials, tweezers, diggers, how-to books, etc.) all in one convenient box. [Browse a variety of gold panning kits here.](#)



48" Highbanker Kit = **FREE Shipping!**

Sometimes called a power sluice, a highbanker is a very flexible piece of equipment when you're gold mining in areas with a good amount of water. This highbanker kit, which is made in the USA, includes everything you need: 10" wide x 48" long x 3" high sluice made out of strong .080 gauge 5052 aircraft aluminum with unique elongated 45 degree z-riffles that are great for trapping gold.



In the bottom of the sluice is 12 inches of black matting for fast gold ID, followed by 36 inches of miner's carpet. Expanded metal riffles helps keeps the gold in the box and prevents the rocks from knocking it loose. Sluice stand has 18" high legs. Aluminum Hopper Dredge Box is 14" x 14" x 10" deep and has a 2" dredge inlet, a spray bar with built-in adjustable water flow and pressure port controls. Grizzly bars inside the hopper keep out big rocks and sticks and other debris. Hoses and Adapters also included: 6 feet of clean up hose with valve, 25 feet of 1.5" layflat house, 8 feet of intake hose. Also includes 1.5" female pin lugs, 1.5" x 1" bushing, 1.5" adapter, and 4 hose clamps. [Details here.](#)

History Nugget: Gold and Ghost Towns — Driving Oregon's Elkhorn Scenic Byway

sluice at the flared end as close to the end as possible so that the material is washed over the entire length of the sluice. Do not overload the sluice with material. Pace your shoveling so that the sluice box has time to clear before you add more material. [Tips continued here...](#)

Rattlesnake Protection!



Protect yourself against snake bite, painful cacti needles, thorns, and other dangers while in the desert or woods! No treasure hunter, gold prospector, hunter, or hiker should be without comfortable leg armor that protects against snake fangs and more. Sizes for adults and kids! [Browse rattlesnake protection.](#)

Portable Highbanker Trommel Ships **FREE!**



Looking for a versatile gold mining machine— classifier, highbanker, trommel all in one— that will get the gold? Want one light-weight machine that will do it all? Made in the USA!

• 13" x 13" x 6" hopper so you can feed it with a shovel

Does a scenic loop drive filled with gold mining ghost towns, historic sites, and gorgeous countryside sound like a fun way to spend a day? Then driving the Elkhorn Scenic Byway (Route 7) in eastern Oregon is for you! This 106-mile paved loop winds through the Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur National Forests, Elkhorn Mountains, passes beautiful lakes and rivers, and encompasses an abundance of gold mining history. Prospectors, photographers and history buffs alike will be delighted with the diversity along the route. This scenic drive begins and ends in Baker City, so gas up the rig, grab your gold pan, and buckle up!



BAKER CITY, OR: Baker City's gold rush heyday was sparked by the discovery of gold in nearby Griffin Gulch in 1861. Henry Griffin's find led to decades of placer and lode mining in Baker County—producing more than 2,000,000 ounces of gold! In fact, Baker County alone is responsible for two thirds of the gold found in the entire state Oregon. Whet your appetite for the area's golden history with a walking tour of the downtown area, officially recognized as a National Historic District. Of the 110 turn-of-the-century Victorian buildings here, about 60 have been restored to their original elegance, including City Hall and the famous Geiser Grand Hotel. Don't miss the interesting collection of nuggets at the US Bank on Main Street. The whopping 80.4-ounce "Armstrong Nugget" unearthed in 1913 by George Armstrong is on display during regular banking hours and stored safely in the vault at night. If you found this huge lump of placer gold today, it would be worth about \$136,000!

Visit the Chinese Cemetery on the edge of town and learn how this group of hard workers was in large part responsible for the success of the gold mines and railroads in Baker County. For members of Gold Prospectors Association of America, check your Mining Guide for directions to the Baker County claims in the area. The Lost Dutchman's Mining Association Burnt River Camp property is also in the vicinity. [Article continues here...](#)



There has never been a better time to get involved in the Modern Day Gold Rush! Visit GoldRushTradingPost.com today to find great prices on equipment and supplies that make gold prospecting, metal detecting, and rock hounding easier, faster, and much more fun! **FREE SHIPPING in continental USA when you spend \$350!**

- 5" diameter x 16 inch length trommel barrel with classifying screen
- Top box is 21" x 7" x 3" with 1/4" classifying plate
- Bottom sluice box is 36" x 8" x 3" and includes light weight leg attachments with four corner adjustments; inside the sluice are 5 different Gold Hog brand mats
- 12 volt 2000 GPH pump includes 3 feet of 1 1/8" flex hose.
- MORE!

Check out this [Portable Highbanker Trommel](#).

Considering a Big Purchase?



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