

Beachcombing with Your Metal Detector

From dry sand to deep salt water, match your detector to the conditions

Water and sunscreen have a sneaky way of slipping rings from fingers of swimmers and sunbathers, making beaches a lucrative location for metal detecting. Recovering an object from sand is pretty easy, too, especially compared to digging in hard ground. Necklaces, watches, and bracelets are also great finds on beaches, along with coins—lots of coins. Although some beaches can yield historic artifacts, most finds will likely be of the modern variety.

WHEN TO GO

The purist beach detectorists will argue that the best time to find goodies on a beach is after winter storms. While that's certainly true, summer crowds can mean a fresh crop of coinage and jewelry just waiting to be found by the average beachcomber everyday.

WHAT TO TAKE

Beach hunting can be done on the dry sand or out in the water where many more rings are lost. Salt water beaches present special problems (mineralization) and you must determine if you will hunt only in dry sand, dip the coil under water in the shallows, or desire a totally submersible machine suitable for deep water wading or



diving. All quality metal detectors have submersible search coils but not all control boxes are waterproof or suitable for the pressures of deep water diving, so match your detector to the type of detecting you'll do.

In all types of beach hunting, the discrimination must be kept very low, eliminating only small iron (bobby pins and nails). Aluminum pull tabs and tin foil should not be discriminated or you will lose some gold and/or platinum rings as well. Some beach hunters operate with zero discrimination and dig everything. Use of a sand scoop makes target recovery fast and easy.

If you plan to hunt only in dry sand and in very shallow water, a good coin shooting detector will work well if you keep the discrimination set low. If you wish to go out into deeper water you will need a totally submersible machine. Some machines have a single tone for all targets and some have variable tones for different targets. It's important to realize that most gold rings will read in the "middle" tones (above iron but below coins).

All metal detectors work well in the dry ocean sand but most single frequency detectors become erratic in the wet salt sand or in the surf. Wet salt makes the ground conductive and the detector sees the sand as a large sheet of metal. In order to operate in those areas with most single frequency instruments, you must decrease the sensitivity of the detector and it may still operate erratically. If you only occasionally visit the ocean and own an instrument that



becomes erratic in wet salt sand, you can still operate perfectly in the dry sand area. If you live near the ocean, or get to the ocean frequently, consider investing in a detector that will operate well in all conditions including wet salt sand. Those detectors are generally higher priced than multi-purpose detectors, but they are definitely worth the investment if you frequent the ocean.

SUMMARY

For best results on beaches, keep your discrimination levels low, tonal ID gives you an advantage, and purchase a fully submersible machine if you wish to hunt deeper water. If you plan on hunting salt water areas often invest in a machine designed for those conditions. *Note: Fisher Labs provided some information for this article.*

The Ten Essentials

What everyone should carry in his or her backpack when enjoying the outdoors.



In the 1930s, a Seattle-based hiking, climbing, and conservation organization first published a list of 10 essential items that no hiker or climber should be without.

While various outdoor experts have added to or replaced items over the years, the basics have remained the same and apply to anyone who spends time in the great outdoors— casual day hikers, climbers, backpackers, hunters, campers, and mariners.

When considering what to stuff into your pack for your next outdoor excursion, let common sense be your guide. Keep and know how to use at least these 10 essentials— map, compass, flashlight, knife, water, food, clothing, first aid kit, matches/firestarter, sunglasses.

In addition to these “hard” essentials, also take along a sense of humor and a positive attitude. That way if things don’t go as planned, you’ll keep your sanity until the situation improves. Remaining calm and level-headed is important in a serious situation and being able to laugh it off later is just as important. The best part is these “soft” goods add no extra weight to your pack, and while easily lost, they can just as easily be found!

A good rule of thumb is that whenever you venture into the woods on a day hike, be prepared to spend the night. Of course you hope you never have to, but in case of an emergency, you’ll be OK. And, please, never hike alone if you can help it and always tell someone of your expected route and return!

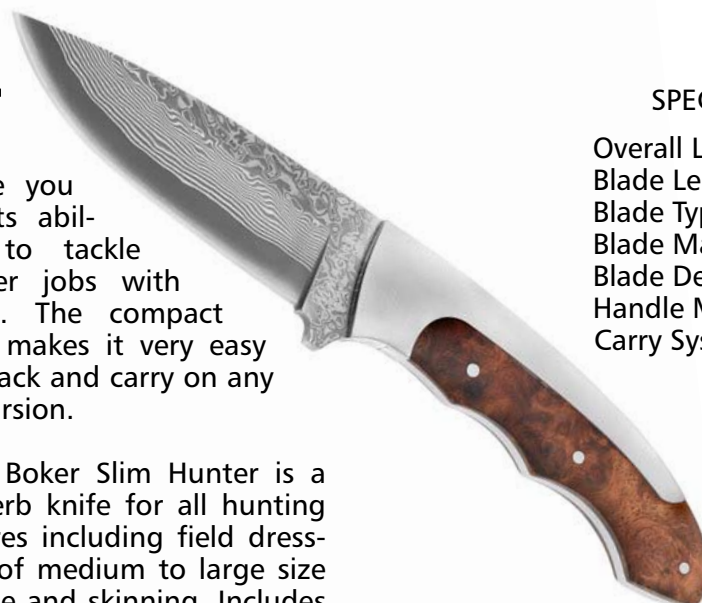
Boker Slim Hunter

The Boker Slim Hunter is an exceptional knife featuring a unique handle combination of stainless steel and burlwood. It has an elegant fixed blade with a traditional look. The classic drop point blade, forged out of 37 layers of Damascus steel, can handle any cutting task and offers an exclusive eye-catching appearance.

This knife crosses right over from the field to an everyday carry size knife. It will sur-

prise you in its ability to tackle larger jobs with ease. The compact size makes it very easy to pack and carry on any excursion.

The Boker Slim Hunter is a superb knife for all hunting chores including field dressing of medium to large size game and skinning. Includes a high quality black leather sheath.



SPECIFICATIONS

Overall Length: 8 inches
Blade Length: 3.75 inches
Blade Type: Drop Point
Blade Material: Damascus
Blade Detail: Plain Edge
Handle Material: Burlwood
Carry System: Leather Sheath

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The Desert Fox is a compact, light-weight 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 is aptly named because it was designed to conserve water and will operate on just three gallons. 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.

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Fisher F2 Coil + Pinpointer Combo Kit

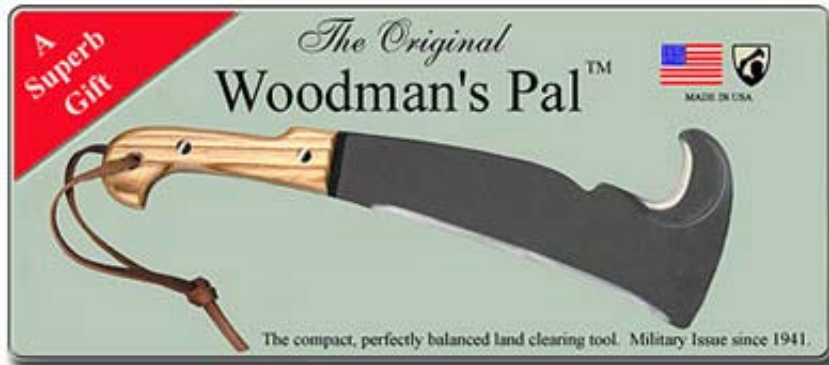
Great detector for coin-shooting and relic-hunting. Combo Kit includes F2 Metal Detector with standard 8 inch coil, Pinpointer, 4 inch coil (great for trashy sites), 10 inch coil (for greater coverage and depth), new style Fisher carry bag, lower stem. Great value for \$275!

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History of the Powerful Woodman's Pal Tool

*Combining the cutting performance of an axe, hatchet, and machete in one tool!
Made in the USA since 1941.*



In 1941, Frederick Ehrsam, a Swiss National who had settled in Pennsylvania, introduced the Woodman's Pal. Professionals in forestry, agriculture, and horticulture quickly recognized it as a historic achievement because before this time, they had relied heavily on machetes for clearing brush and blazing trails. But they sorely needed other tools to thin, trim, chop, and prune. Woodman's Pal to the rescue—it combined the the powerful cutting performance and versatility of a machete, axe, and hatchet into just one tool!

This new tool did not go unnoticed by the US Military. The Woodman's Pal, or "LC-14-B" in military terms, was standard issue from the early part of World War II through Desert Storm. GIs

and the US Army Signal Corp. used the Woodman's Pal for land clearing operations. At the time of the Vietnam War, the Woodman's Pal was designated the "Survival Tool, Type IV" and was issued in air crew survival kits.

The Woodman's Pal continues to be praised by each new generation of forest and land managers, surveyors, campers, soldiers, and outdoorsmen. Made of American materials, designed and crafted by American workers in Pennsylvania, the tool made today is virtually identical to the original. Its quality and integrity cannot be achieved easily, inexpensively, or en masse. It is designed to provide a lifetime of service and only the best materials are used. The blade is SAE1075 cold rolled spring steel, hardened to Rockwell C47. A lower-carbon steel would not hold the edge for long, and harder steel, such as SAE1095 used in fine cutlery, can become brittle in cold weather and can crack or chip with heavy use. The handle is shaped from a single piece of American hardwood, cemented and riveted to the tang. The belt-looped sheath is heavily stitched, and rugged.

From the blanking of the steel on the 150-ton press to the hand-lacquering of each handle, there are 23 stages of production. Some of these operations employ machines unlike any others in the world. All stages are done by hand. Edges are precisely rolled resulting in double-convex perfection. The result is a tool that is superbly balanced and feels like an extension rather than a burden to your arm (it's no accident that its length approximates that of the human forearm from elbow to knuckle).

The Woodman's Pal Classic, Premium, Premium Junior, and Long Reach models are sold individually, or as sets. Sets include a sheath and honing stone. Choose between leather, cordura or canvas for the sheath.

The Woodman's Pal Nostalgia Collection is perfect for military and American history buffs. The Nostalgia Collection includes a set of 4 reprinted manuals as a reminder of humble beginnings from early 1942 when the US Signal Corp was issued this standard equipment. Each manual provides valuable information on a variety of topics that relate to the Woodman's Pal and contains the original wording and artwork reprinted from manuals originally printed in 1942. The titles of the manuals are: Care, Use & Sharpening; Living in the Jungle; Survival Tool Kit Airman's; and Fighting with USA Knife LC-14-B.

Whether you're trimming and pruning unwanted brush in your backyard, blazing a trail, or building a duck blind, after you try it, you'll wonder how you ever did without the Woodman's Pal. Use it for all outdoor jobs that call for an axe, hatchet, or machete—you get the performance of all three in just one tool! *Note: Pro Tool Industries provided information for this article.*



Woodman's Pal Classic set \$69.50
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