

• Minelab • Times •

GPX detector finds Golden Boomerang!

The Golden Boomerang



It was mid 2009 and after hearing and reading for years about this unbelievable place, I had always wanted to detect the famous Western Australian goldfields.

I was turning the big 40 in January this year, and what better way of celebrating the occasion than to travel over 3,000kms and join up with "Gold Prospecting Australia" gold prospecting tour. So winter this year, my mate Darren and I packed the GPX-4500's into the 4wd, hitched on his trusty van and off we went to the west on our quest to find gold.

After driving a few days and nights, we arrived at our destination of Sandstone, Western Australia. We booked into the local caravan park with hot showers and a feed and were ready for business to join with Mark Hyde's tour the next morning.

After meeting some of the people we would spend the next 2 weeks with, we took off down the dusty road in convoy to set up our camp. A short meeting about what to expect on the tour and a meal, we headed off to our first area to detect. As we camp right on the goldfields, we don't have to travel far each day, giving us more time to swing and hopefully snag a few!

Now I'm not what you would call a "gun" operator or "seasoned professional", but I do come home with a few bits and pieces occasionally, but I was struggling, taking a couple of days to find even one piece. I was beginning to feel discouraged, looking at everyone else's nice pieces they were bringing back to camp at each days end.

I was determined to catch up with the others, and thinking about what a work colleague had said to me before I left, "Mick the only nuggets you will probably find will be the chicken one's at K.F.C.", made me more determined in the search to find some colour.

That afternoon, Mark showed me an area on an old scraping which he thought looked promising, and sure enough within 15 minutes I had bagged a nice half grammer. I also turned down the gain and stabiliser on the 4500, finding loss of depth was minimal on this noisy ground, and made hearing the gold from ground noise so much easier.

Things were still a bit lean so Mark passed on some more of his expert advice. Looking at my technique and pointing out some areas I could improve, my swing for one.

After 'my lesson', I went on a walkabout. I probably should have stayed on the old

timers diggings to improve my tally but I have always dreamed of one day finding a 'patch' or 'the big one!' (Not too many left, I know). Or so I thought, after about an hour and a half of walking this way and that, and with not one signal, I was almost ready to head back to the car. When I swung under some small trees and received a nice clear signal. Scraping only a few inches deep, I had the target in my small heap, eventually dropping this into my scoop, I couldn't believe I just found a nice 1.5 grammer.

No other detector holes to be seen. Just a few chain marks and quad tracks a hundred meters or so away. Scanning the area, I pinned three more within five metres of each other, included with these was an 8.8 grammer, my best yet, or so I thought. Four in the space of a few meters could only mean one thing, my first real patch?

We all carry two-way radios, not just for safety but to be able to contact others in the group. I called Darren and told him to meet me at the car, as I needed some advice with my machine. Asking me "what's up" when we met at the car I told him "I think I'm on a patch", holding out my hand and showing him my score for the afternoon. He agreed and we made plans to go back quickly and have another look, as we didn't have much time, we had to be back at camp in an hour.

When we arrived back at the small patch I pointed out my dig holes and we both tuned out our machines as we were going to be working closely to one another. After only a few minutes Darren had found a nice one, and as I watched him dig another signal, I received a sound that we have all received before, that tripping out sound of what sounds like junk, drink cans or similar, but as I looked down at the spot where this massive sound was, I caught sight of the biggest nugget I have ever found, and probably will ever find, a 2,159 grammer, or 69.43 ounces, what a RIPPER!

A third of this was a sunbaker, I just bent down and picked it up. No digging, no pick, it just popped out of its hole it had been in for who knows how long? I just stared at it

for a few moments, just feeling the weight of this incredible nugget I had in my hands. What a surreal few moments. As I looked at it, all I could think was '*is somebody playing a practical joke*', turning it over I thought, '*maybe it had 'Made in China' written on it's underside*'.

Next I ran toward Darren, I'm told, dragging my detector behind me by it's power cord, I don't really remember, and I was screaming something like "Is this for real?" I will never forget the look on his face and his comment as we both looked in shock at this monster. It was 'YES, it's real alright', and I couldn't help but do a little victory dance on the spot.

We had to get back to camp for dinner. Talking in the car on the way to camp about what to do, let the cat out of the bag and tell everyone that night or stay low for a while, to take time to go back? We opted to stay quiet. I know some people would think this was a selfish decision, but I just needed some time for things to sink in and work out what to do next.

On the last night of tour, when everybody brings out their trips find for a grand weigh in and final admire, my golden boomerang was brought out by Mark, keeping the lucky finder anonymous at this stage. I was proud as punch, it was so hard to bite my tongue.

My son Joshua and elder brother Peter, helped me decide to name the nugget 'The Golden Boomerang' and collectively with my other pieces I was fortunate enough to bring home a total of 21 nuggets, weighing 70.3 ounces. You can bet that just like a boomerang, I will certainly be returning to the west, to Sandstone, hopefully with my wife and son. I might have a new generation Minelab machine by then.

What a great trip, great bunch of fellow detectorists on tour, looked after with nice meals, great times around the camp fire of an evening. WOW! What a trip. I really enjoyed the Western Australian outback, what a beautiful part of the world.

by Michael,
Lucky finder of the Golden Boomerang.

52,500 Roman coins found with a Minelab Explorer

Would I have found the hoard with one of my other detectors? No, I don't believe I would have, it was just too deep.



It was a warm sunny day in April when I had a day off from my job as a hospital chef, here in the West country, I decided to go out for the day. Arriving at one of my farms down in Somerset, I could see that my farmer had ploughed, and was rolling one of the far fields. That's the one for today I thought. So after kitting up, and checking the batteries on my Minelab Explorer II, I started to cut across two grass fields, detecting as I went. Coming into the second field I got a sharp clear signal on my Explorer II that meant a good find. Digging down, there in my hand was a silver Roman Siliqua.

I found one of these the year before further up the field. Now I had a second, so without giving it much thought I went on detecting, and then bang, I had another.

This could only mean one thing, a hoard, probably a purse loss. In the next six hours I found over thirty. Each one giving me a great signal, even though some of them were ten inches down. Mixed in with the whole ones were a few bits, some only quarters. After showing and telling my farmer that I had to report them, I got off home and let my Finds Liaison officer and the local Coroner know. During the next week I went twice more and found another twenty odd, but by now the only signals were very faint and just deep bits, but the Explorer was still giving a good signal, and I was getting further and further away from the area of the coins.

Then on the third day I had a funny signal very faint, and not very clear, and the display was jumping around not locking on at all. Now the Explorer II is a really great machine, but like all machines it can be fooled by deep iron, and that's what I thought it was, but after twenty two years detecting experience I just had to check it out. Six inches down in a small hole, nothing, then another six inches

and still nothing, time to get out the probe, still nothing. By this time I am convinced it's a bit of deep iron, and I am cursing large horseshoes, ploughshares, and ironsmiths in general.

Then it's time for another spade full, and nothing in the spoil heap, except clay, showing I am well into the sub soil. So down on my knees and trying the probe again, at last a signal, it's only two inches away at the most. Time for the gentle approach, out comes the knife. Gently prising up a large chunk of clay I find a piece of black pottery, but no metal. Another chunk, and as I turned it over, there stuck in the clay is a small Roman radiate coin. I quickly pull out another handful of clay, and on this piece are about ten coins.

It's at this point I realise I had found another Roman hoard, and I just sat back on my heels and shouted "I have done it". Twenty two years detecting and I have found two hoards in three days. When I had got over the shock, I decided to leave it to the archaeologists, that was the hardest decision I have ever made. I did not know what exactly I had found, it could have been a small pot of a few hundred coins, but in the end it was the size of a beer barrel containing 52,503 Roman coins.

The biggest ever hoard of Roman coins were found in 1978 at Cunetio by Marlborough in Wiltshire, and that was 55,000 coins, but these were apparently in two pots, before they were mixed up and taken home.

Seeing the coins coming out over a three day period was fantastic. They were all covered in thick green gunk, and you had a hard job to tell what type of coins they were. But it was fairly obvious that the majority of them were going to be bronze Radiates.

So with fifty two and a half thousand Roman coins under my belt, this means I am the finder of the biggest single hoard of Roman coins ever.

I never did get to detect in that ploughed field, but that will still be there next year.

Would I have found the hoard with one of my other detectors? No, I don't believe I would have, it was just too deep.

Dave Crisp

TIA Awards



The Technology Industry Association (TIA) is the peak body in South Australia representing the technology industry. Since 1984 the TIA has been presenting Awards for Excellence each year to individuals and groups in eight categories including innovation, export, service excellence, engineer graduate of the year, environmental sustainability, support of electronics and ICT education, best media story and the prestigious Gold Cup for excellence in innovation and commercialisation.

At the 2010 Annual Gala Dinner and Excellence Awards held on October 29 2010 Minelab

Electronics was presented with the award for Export Excellence. This award recognises a company that performs best in the continuous development of existing export markets and/or entry into new export markets.



Minelab has an extensive distributor and dealer network divided into three main regions of Asia Pacific; Europe, Middle East and Africa; and the Americas. It's consumer products are exported to over 50 countries spread across the globe.

Minelab on The Great Wall



Recently, Minelab was invited to participate in a metal detecting treasure hunt at a section of China's Great Wall. The area chosen for holding the event was about 200kms out of Beijing and is an unrestored section that is rarely visited. The local villagers are very proud of their participation in fighting back the Japanese prior to the Second World War, an event which scarred parts of the Wall. The treasure hunting site at the foot of the wall had been very dense with undergrowth but the local villagers cleared the site ready for the hunt. It was exciting to see Minelab flags flying from various parts of the wall's battlements.

After detector training, the participants were divided into three groups so that the competition was between the three teams as well as individually. The first heats were held down in the village, in parts of their cleared corn field which was followed by the final

event held in the shadow of the Great Wall itself.

Excitement was infectious with detectors being used in all parts of the Wall. Expectations were high as to what would be found, given the age of the area. In the course of the afternoon, not only were 'planted' tokens found but a number of other interesting artefacts were also discovered and handed in for identification at a later day.



Timings & How do I know which one to use?

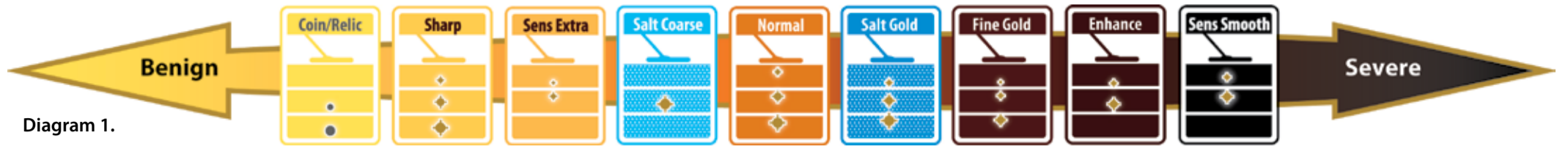


Diagram 1.

Now that the new GPX 5000 is offering 8 different timings, it becomes more important to understand which timing to use – and when!

Each timing will alter how the detector performs in four different ways.

- (1) Depth,
- (2) Sensitivity to small targets,
- (3) Ability to compensate for highly mineralised and / or highly magnetic ground;
- (4) And to some degree, whether the timing is more suited to a Monoloop or Double-D coil.

Each timing option offers different performance or ground balance characteristics that particularly suit specific areas, search techniques or target types. For a more technical explanation, the timings in the GPX 5000 manipulate the detector's electromagnetic pulses and how the detector interprets the resulting field. A specific timing involves matching both the detector's pulses and the interpretation of the resulting responses with the ground's mineralisation, magnetic characteristics and the size or type of gold in the area. What's the old saying? - A picture paints a thousand words! - So here are two sets of diagrams which we hope will simplify the understanding of each of the Timings.

Diagram 1 shows the nine Timings found in the GPX Series along a scale of ground mineralisation.

- The mineralisation of the ground is represented using colour coding ranging from light yellow for benign or neutral mineralisation, through to black for very highly mineralised and magnetic ground.
- Depth is shown by dividing the area under

the coil into three zones and then showing targets in the high, mid or low section of the zone.

- Thirdly we have used large or small size targets to simulate target size suitability.

Please Note: This is only a stylised representation, and is not to scale, however, it is a clear way of illustrating the important differences between the timings.

As an example, compare Salt Coarse and Salt Gold timings. Salt Coarse is the one you would be familiar with on the GPX-4000 and GPX-4500, and which is still found on the GPX 4800. Salt Gold is the new timing available on the GPX 5000. Firstly, you will see that Salt Gold sits further along the mineralisation scale than Salt Coarse, which represents it can handle higher mineralisation than Salt Coarse. Its darker Blue colour also represents its ability to handle saltier (more conductive) ground conditions than Salt Coarse. Salt Coarse is showing a large target in the lower area of the middle depth layer, whereas Salt Gold shows three target sizes in three different positions. Here we are representing that Salt Coarse has good depth on coarse/large targets, but poor sensitivity to small targets. Salt Gold has improved depth on the large targets but also has improved sensitivity to small and medium sized targets. Again this is only a stylised representation, so please don't enlarge the diagrams to 300% size and start measuring to predict a percentage increase!!!

At the right hand side of the scale Sensitive Smooth, Enhance and Fine Gold are the most stable Timings for highly mineralised and magnetic soils. Sensitive Smooth is a sensational timing allowing operators to work extremely mineralised ground with a very quiet, stable threshold, even while using a monoloop coil. Enhance is not quite as stable in extreme grounds as Sensitive Smooth, but it does give a little more depth and sensitivity.

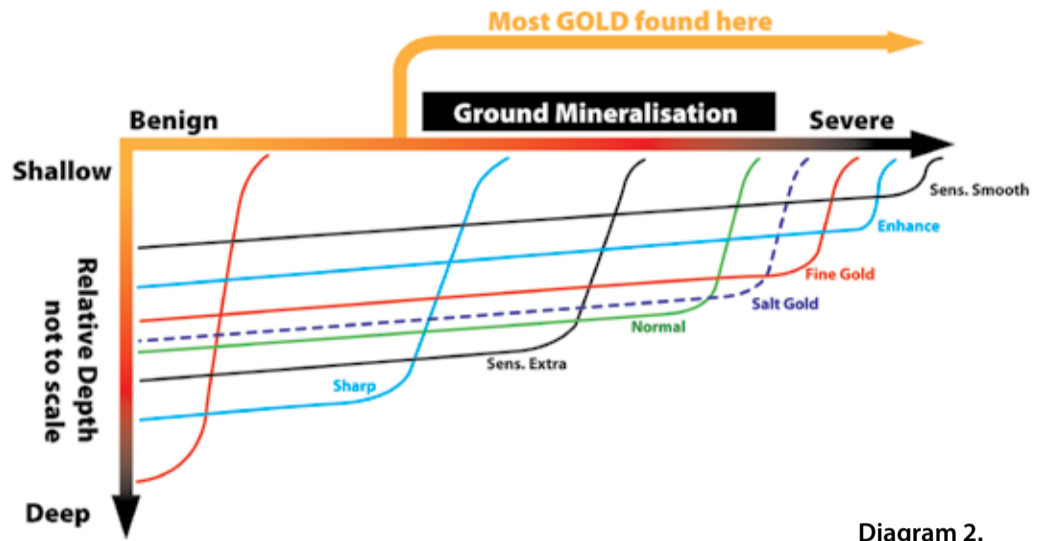


Diagram 2.

The new Fine Gold timing is again not quite as stable as either Enhance or Sensitive Smooth, but if the ground is not as heavily mineralised then Fine Gold will give increased depth, as well as much more sensitivity to small / tiny targets.

Going to the other end of the scale, looking at Coin/Relic and Sharp, the ground needs to be of very low mineralisation or neutral for these timings to function, but in this ground they will find the deepest targets. Sharp has more sensitivity to small targets than Coin/Relic, but not as much depth on large targets.

Diagram 2 shows a simple comparison between the mineralisation of the ground and potential depth of the target. The diagram doesn't try to show degrees or percentage of depth improvement between timings, it is however an easily memorised graphical representation of which timings are the most powerful to least powerful compared to their ability to operate in heavily mineralised ground.

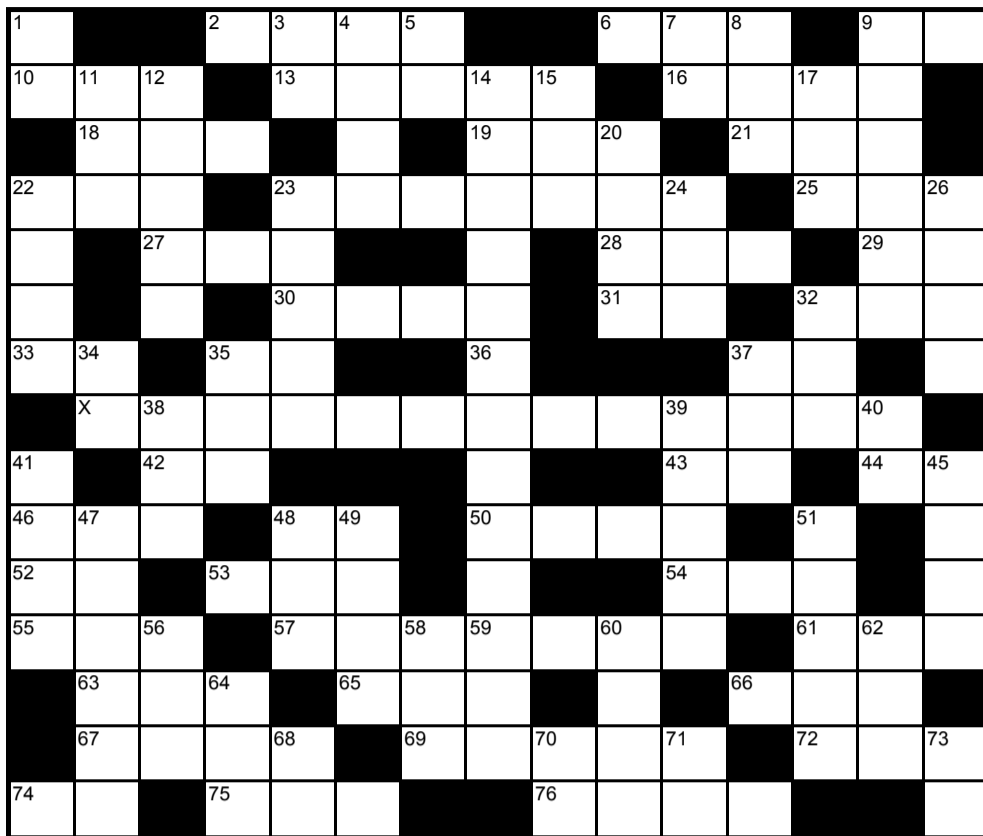
So which Timing should you use the next time you go detecting? I guess what I'm trying to explain is that there is never just one

timing to always use. By understanding all of the available options, you can choose the right one for each area you go to. It's quite likely that you'll choose to change Timings as you detect from the valley floor up to the ridge, or possibly as you re-work an area you previously detected with a different coil etc. Just remember they all have their place and purpose and like having a range of spanners in your tool kit, or different clubs in your golf bag, by using the best tool for the job you can maximize your results.

With some experience you will find that listening to your GPX will be the best indicator of which timing is best for the area you are in. If your GPX is unstable or sounding off on hot rocks, work your way up the Timing / mineralisation scale until you find a Timing that is 'just' stable. Conversely if the GPX is running very stable, try some of the more sensitive / deeper Timings to see if they are stable enough to work in. Balancing the trade off between maximising sensitivity and depth whilst maintaining stability of the machine is how you will maximise your finds.

Happy hunting!

MINELAB TIMES CROSSWORD #1



ACROSS

- 2 Greek letter
- 6 These tests may not give a true indication of product performance
- 9 40% of total too
- 10 Cut short an inert gas to provide a new prefix
- 13 A type of treasure
- 16 Closes an opening
- 18 This global positioning file format is a golden product
- 19 These groups buy Minelab F3 detectors
- 21 The environment may cause this noise in detectors
- 22 A price initially not stated unless you ask
- 23 This place is hot enough to turn metal into liquid
- 25 When you have it, you have ... it
- 27 Margarine taken from the field
- 28 Used to signify surprise or sudden fright
- 29 Carry out the task presently
- 30 You may want to reject this
- 31 Large abbreviation is so back to front
- 32 Allow
- 33 A coil signal abbreviated
- 35 Phonetic n
- 37 Chinese board game
- X The final piece of the puzzle (clue not supplied)
- 42 Limited Edition abbreviation
- 43 Where a precedes a consonant, this precedes a vowel
- 44 Plentiful element used in electronics components
- 46 The time of something past, or present, and evolving
- 48 Knowledgeable sigh
- 50 Not good
- 52 A type of advertising hype
- 53 When 64 Down is not enough
- 54 The feathers won't stick without it!
- 55 You can bet on it here
- 57 Hot Mexicans
- 61 Singular campfire remains to cause problems when detecting
- 63 Drink
- 65 Tap gently
- 66 You may want to do this to 63 Across
- 67 This tiny current is detected
- 69 A gem of wisdom from WA's far north
- 72 Malayan gibbon
- 74 Nintendo product suffix
- 75 Sea creature
- 76 A token find

DOWN

- 1 This junk can be discriminated, periodically
- 3 A Boolean choice
- 4 The first part of Farnsworth's vision also rings a Bell
- 5 This lightweight metal can be detected shortly
- 7 Target type abbreviated
- 8 Fish eggs
- 9 Old electronics component
- 11 When you have this, the group of lions usually precedes the collapse
- 12 Coober Pedy gems
- 14 Insane cider combines with to, not nicely
- 15 Insurance company
- 17 A large nugget may give this short response!
- 20 The reluctant batchelors' favourite biscuit
- 22 Separate an entity or create one whole from several of these pieces
- 23 USA State
- 24 An affirmative '70s band
- 26 Carry
- 32 A happy forum emotion
- 34 Several Minelab products have shared this suffix
- 35 The night before the main event
- 37 Alcoholic drink
- 38 A mixed up lion shouts at the bullfight
- 39 Shalt these letters create stoppages?
- 40 Initially, the X-TERRA inventor
- 41 Extremely happy with the way the packaging turned out
- 45 Incrementally move towards this measurement
- 47 This grid may plurally irritate
- 48 One third of a computer keyboard command sequence
- 49 A large pile

Minelab's online community is growing-

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Read our Treasure Talk Blog where expert detectorists, Minelab engineers and field testers write regular articles on topics related to metal detecting. You can even contribute or ask questions in the comments section and receive answers from the author or other community members.



- 51 Leave it or follow it
 - 56 Make it and lie in it
 - 58 Mark your crosses on this for returning in the future
 - 60 A marsupial currency
 - 62 A luxurious indulgence
 - 64 A lemon's refreshing helper
 - 68 An ancient Korean kingdom
 - 70 A type of electricity
 - 71 A volatile battery element
 - 73 Another coil signal abbreviated
- Crossword#1 answer will be posted on minelab.com towards end of December.**

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