

Metal Detector Comparison Criteria - From www.gold-prospecting-wa.com

Here is a table with some criteria that might help you decide what is best for you, but YOU need to work out exactly what YOU want in a metal detector.

Metal Detector Comparison Criteria	Criteria Explanation	Criteria notes
Main use is for finding gold Nuggets	<p>Pulse Induction Machines (PI) will go deeper for large nuggets</p> <p>PI machines Specifically designed for Gold Prospecting</p> <p>Both VLF and PI machines will find gold nuggets</p>	<p>Both the Pulse induction metal detector and VLF metal detector have advantages and disadvantages.</p> <p>You will need every advantage in the hammered metal detecting grounds of WA</p> <p>Generally you will be in Mineralised ground, PIs handle that better.</p>
Main use is for finding coins, rings or relics	PI Machines do not discriminate as well as VLF machines	VLF Machines will do the job well without the high cost of a PI Detector.
Price	PI's are more expensive than VLF Machines	Good PI machines will cost you \$1500 up to \$6000 whereas good VLF machines will range from \$500 upwards.
Time and purpose you will spend detecting	Are you just going for a day trip, an extended holiday with prospecting as entertainment or spending a lot of time searching for gold>	<p>Dont purchase an expensive top of the range machine for a weekend trip!</p> <p>Think about hiring a metal detector.</p>
Ground conditions you will be detecting in	Will you be metal detecting in Mineralized ground, in water, In rugged terrain	Select a detector that will be able to work the ground and take the knocks in the environment you are searching.
Weight	Is weight a factor particularly if you will be walking through the bush all day?	<p>PI Detectors can be heavier due to the larger batteries.</p> <p>If weight is a factor you need to compare weight specifications of detectors.</p>
Metal Detector Coils	Will you need additional coils for your machine and whats the cost and availability of the coils you need.	There is a huge array of coils available for the popular detectors, check this page out for metal detector coils information .
Warranty and After Sale Supportt	Warranty and after sale support may be important	<p>Check the warranty on the machines you are interested in.</p> <p>Make sure it covers circuit boards, the search coils, leads, shafts and find out what are the conditions to have repairs under warranty.</p> <p>Are there workshops nearby that</p>

		<p>can do the work and return the machine to you in a reasonable time.</p> <p>What about the case where you are in a country town, how do you get repairs done?</p>
Simplicity of Use	Metal detectors and metal detecting can be complex and confusing.	<p>Try to understand the learning curve of the machine and whether training is provided in its use.</p> <p>Is the machine simple to use for your level of experience and knowledge or is the learning curve too steep?</p> <p>Is there an informal support network over the web and from users out in the bush?</p>
Underwater Detecting	Will you be using the machine for Detecting Underwater for gold or rings and coins?	Some metal detectors are built for this type of work as opposed to simply waterproof.
Battery Size and Life	What power and battery set is needed.	<p>This may impact on you if you are out in the bush and have to charge large batteries every day.</p> <p>It could also be an issue for the cost of continually replacing batteries!</p>
Resale Value	Some detectors are highly sought after and sell second hand for a similar price to the new price.	You can check this out by reseaching through EBAY or ringing your local metal detector store.
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