





The name that means Treasure

Silver Sabre Plus OPERATOR INSTRUCTION MANUAL

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your new TESORO Metal Detector was designed to provide you with many happy hours of enjoyment in the most rewarding hobby I can think of – treasure hunting. Ahead of you lie fascinating and exciting experiences as you step into the past – uncovering artifacts lost by past generations. I wish we could share these experiences with you, and we wish you the best of success.

Your TESORO Metal Detector is capable of meeting your needs in any conceivable treasure hunting situation. As with any detector, operating skill and familiarity with this instrument are probably the limiting factors in determining how successful you will be. We recommend that you read this manual and understand fully before attempting to use the instrument in the field. As you become more familiar with your detector through practice, your rate of success will increase dramatically.

The TESORO Metal Detector is a precision electronic instrument, which will last for years if properly cared for. Treat it right and it won't let you down.

Good Hunting! Jack Gifford

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Silver Sabre Plus is high performance metal detector that is capable of rejecting ground mineralization and buried metallic trash simultaneously. The Silver Sabre Plus was designed to satisfy the requirements of the serious treasure hunters, whether they are experienced or not. Design emphasis was placed on performance and easy of use, while minimizing or eliminating those troublesome adjustments and features that could cause a loss of performance if not used properly. The result is a powerful light-weight detector which uses only three controls to provide full VLF capabilities. The mechanical configuration places the controls where they can all be adjusted with the index finger of the hand holding the detector.

The Silent Search discriminate mode is based on motion, which means that the search coil must be moving slightly to detect a target. The motion required is so slight that pin-pointing is possible in this mode, however a no motion All Metal mode is included, which with the 8 inch open center searchcoil makes pinpointing a very simple task. The automatic ground rejection circuitry is set to allow operation in virtually any mineralization you might encounter, although operation may be difficult in black sand.

The Silver Sabre Plus is furnished with an 8" open center concentric searchcoil. We feel that this coil will provide excellent performance in most situations. The open center greatly simplifies pinpointing. Optional searchcoils of 4", 8 1/2", and 11" are available to tailor your Silver Sabre Plus to suit other hunting situations. A guide to selecting the proper optional coil is included in the section of Field Use.

As with any detector, the familiarity of the user with the instrument will have a great deal to do with how successful the treasure hunter is. We recommend that you read and understand this manual fully before attempting to use the instrument in the field.

Be sure to fill out and mail your warranty registration card to validate your warranty.

ASSEMBLING YOUR DETECTOR

Assembly of the Silver Sabre Plus is very simple, and requires no special tools. The only assembly required is to mount the searchcoil to the end of the lower stem and install the lower stem and lock assembly to the upper stem.

1. Depress the two buttons on the upper end of the lower stem, and slide it into the upper stem. Push the lower stem up so that the buttons click into the third set of holes from the end of the upper stem.
2. Insert the pole tip between the mounting ears of the searchcoil, after removing the screw and thumb nut. Align the holes in the pole tip and those in the mounting ears.
3. Insert the coil mounting screw through the coil and pole tip. Be sure the internal tooth lockwasher is on the screw head side. The screw head should be on the side of the searchcoil where the cable comes out.
4. Install the thumb nut on the screw and tighten by hand.
5. Wind the searchcoil cable around the pole by depressing the spring buttons and turning the lower stem around

several times as necessary.

ADJUSTMENT

The searchcoil angle and stem length should be adjusted so that the unit is not uncomfortable or tiring after long periods of use. The stem length is adjusted by depressing the spring buttons and extending or shortening the pole till they click into the holes that give you the most comfortable setting. The coil should be about one inch above the ground while standing erect. Adjust the angle of the searchcoil, so that the coil is parallel to the ground. Tighten the searchcoil thumb nut by hand to maintain this setting.

The arm rest on the rear of the handle can be moved forward by removing the screws and nuts, and reinstalling the assembly into the most forward set of holes.

Specifications

Operating Frequency	12 kHz
Searchcoil Type	Concentric
Searchcoil Size	8" diameter
Cable Length	Approx. 3'
Audio Frequency	Approx. 450 Hz
Audio Output	2 1/4" speaker
Headphone Compatibility	1/4" stereo earphone jack
Weight (may vary slightly)	3 lbs.
Battery Requirement	9 volts DC 6 AA penlight batteries
Battery Life (typical)	15 to 30 hours
Optimum Temperature Range	30° to 100° F
Optimum Humidity	0 to 75% R.H.
Operating Modes	All Metal
	Discriminate

TESORO Electronics, Inc., reserves the right to modify or improve the design without further notice.

CONTROLS

The Silver Sabre Plus has only three controls, and they are all mounted on the front panel of the detector.

1. **ON/OFF, BATTERY TEST, SENSITIVITY CONTROL.** The primary function of this control is to reduce the detectors sensitivity to those influences that could make the operation more difficult for you. This control also is used to turn the power on and off. Turning the knob completely counterclockwise until it clicks disconnects the batteries from the circuit. When the knob is first turned on (clockwise), the detector will automatically test its batteries, and give you an audible indication of their connection. **NOTE: This test should be performed with the Mode Switch in the Discriminate position.** Fresh batteries will cause a loud audio response which will gradually decay into silence over a period of about 4 or 5 seconds. As the batteries age and become weaker, the initial audio response will be weaker, and will decay quicker. When the response is just a short buzz instead of a long beep, or when there is no audio response, it's time for new batteries. It is recommended to always use alkaline batteries.

Many things can cause the response of the detector to become erratic as you are using it. Normally you will not hear any sound from the detector unless you pass the coil over a good target. Very large targets or a multitude of closely spaced smaller rejected trash targets can cause the detector to emit choppy sputtering sounds. CB radios, radio and TV broadcasting antennas, intense mineralization changes, and other sources of electrical noise can also cause the detector to emit false signals. These signals will generally sound "chopped" and will not be repeatable so you will not have any trouble recognizing them. They can be distracting, though, and turning down the sensitivity control will help reduce them. This will also cause a small loss of target sensitivity, so always run the sensitivity control as high as you can, while still getting smooth operation.

2. **MODE CONTROL.** This toggle switch is used to select the All Metal mode of operation or the Discriminate mode. In the Discriminate mode, the detectors response to unwanted trash can be controlled to eliminate digging much of the common metallic trash items found in likely hunting spots. The detector may beep briefly when the switch is changed, but is ready for operating in the selected mode instantly. In All Metal, the detector will find not only the highly conductive nonferrous metals, but will also find the ferrous metals. This mode will be ideal for relic hunting or ghost town searching, since many desirable artifacts (such as guns) are made of iron and steel.

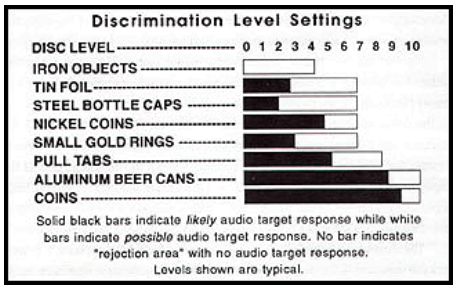
The All Metal mode as a small degree of auto tuning to help narrow the detector's response to the target when you are pinpointing. It will depend on which tuning mode the Tune Select toggle is in. To retune the unit to threshold for either mode, just push the Mode Switch up to the Retune position for a moment.

3. **DISCRIMINATE LEVEL.** This control is used to adjust the detector's response to unwanted metallic trash when used

in the Discriminate mode. At the lowest setting "0", the detector will eliminate most iron objects, but will still respond in a positive manner to light foil, bottle caps, pull tabs and most other metallic items. As the knob setting is increased, response to more of these metallic trash items is reversed so that these objects give no response.

4. **THESHOLD CONTROL.** Located on the bottom of the detector, a small plastic plug may be removed to provide access. Use a small screwdriver to adjust the threshold sound.

The figure below gives the control settings where some of the commonly found trash items can be rejected.



TUNING

Since the most troublesome adjustments of standard detectors have been automated in the Silver Sabre Plus, the tuning procedure for this detector is simply a matter of selecting the desired operating mode, setting the sensitivity level, and the discriminate level.

Regardless of which mode you select, you should begin operation with maximum sensitivity. In most situations you are likely to encounter, you will not be able to operate at this setting. If there are sources of electrical interference present, or if the area is extremely trashy or mineralized, your detector may give some false signals. These signals are generally short choppy sounds which can easily be distinguished from a good target response. Turning down the Sensitivity control will help to eliminate most of these signals, if necessary.

The Discriminate Level should be set to your desired rejection level for the particular area you are searching. We recommend starting at a low setting if you are unsure of how much trash is in the area. Adjust the level upward if you find yourself digging more trash than you like. Remember that you will lose small gold rings and nickels at the pull tab reject level, so digging some trash will increase your number of good finds.

SELECTING THE PROPER MODE OF OPERATION

The Silver Sabre Plus offers two operating modes, the All Metal mode and the Discriminate.

The Discriminate mode is mineral free, and requires that the searchcoil be moving slightly for target detection. There is no threshold sound present when in the Disc Mode. The All Metal Mode is adjusted to be slightly positive for mineral signals, and doesn't require motion for proper operation. It does use a threshold sound, however.

The All Metal Mode will detect all manner of metallic targets, as the name implies. This mode is excellent for relic hunting or ghost town searching, as many valuable or desirable artifacts may be made of iron or steel. This mode is also good for beach hunting where the sand allows easy digging.

The Discriminate mode will allow you to control the detectors response to most of the common metallic trash items found in most schools, parks, and beaches. This mode is generally used for coin-shooting such areas to avoid having to dig most of this common trash. The Discriminate Level control is used to adjust the response to these trash items. Each detector can vary somewhat due to the manufacturing tolerances, so you should experiment with your detector and become familiar with the rejection levels for these trash items with your detector.

Earlier motion detectors that operated with "threshold" sound would give the user a definite indication of metallic trash by either nulling completely or by generating short, choppy sounds. Since the Discriminate mode operates without threshold sound, there is no nulling to indicate that the area is extremely trashy. When searching in the Discriminate mode, we recommend that you periodically switch to All Metal and check the area you are searching to get an idea of how much trash is really there. In extremely heavy trash areas, it may be desirable to switch to a smaller coil, even though doing so will cause a loss of depth. The smaller coil will allow you a better chance of finding coins between the close pieces of trash.

FIELD USE

The detector should be held in a position that is comfortable for you. Swing the detector from side to side in about a three foot arc, overlapping succeeding strokes well. This motion is called a “sweep.” The Silver Sabre Plus was designed to get maximum depth without the frantic pace required of earlier motion detectors, so go at a pace that is comfortable for you. In fact, trying to hunt too fast in Discriminate may even cause a loss of depth in heavily mineralized locations.

It would be helpful to bury some coins and trash metal junk items in an area that you know is clear of other metal objects, and then try the unit in its various modes. Check the area in All Metal Mode first to be sure its clear of trash then bury the targets at least a foot apart, and from 2 to 6 inches deep to start. Make a map of the test bed to be sure you know what each target is and how deep it is. Practice on these targets to familiarize yourself with your detector’s target response. This will also help you learn the proper sweep rate for best operation.

Regardless of which mode you are using, try to keep your searchcoil height constant and close to the ground. Most people tend to raise the coil at the end of a sweep, much like a pendulum, especially if they are hurrying. Try to avoid this, as any increase in height will cause a corresponding loss of depth.

In areas with well kept lawns, the easiest way to maintain a constant searchcoil height is to allow the coil to rest on the grass as you sweep from side to side. In rough and rocky areas it is best not to “scrub” the coil on the ground, as the rocks will act like abrasives, and wear away the coil bottom (an optional coil scuff cover will protect against this.) Sweep the coil as close to the ground as possible without touching. Hitting the ground or rocks may cause a false signal much like a desired target would. Sweeping the coil too high above the ground results in a loss of depth.

When operating in the Discriminate Mode, some “false signals” may be caused by heavy concentrations of trash metal objects, by very large trash items, or by electrical interference. These signals will sound different than good target signals because they are generally short, choppy sounds. At the end of your sweep, as you the reverse the coil direction, the detector is most susceptible to trash induced noise. There are two ways to tell whether these sounds are good deep signals or trash “noise.” The first is by repeatability. Trash induced noises will not be regular as you sweep the coil over the suspected target several times, whereas a good target response will be repeatable. The second method is to switch to All Metal Mode and check the target response sound. If the response is weak, it may well be a deep, good target; but if the response is very strong, it is probably trash. Note that a coin close to the surface can give a double beep sound, but it is regular and repeatable. Raising the coil an inch or two will restore the single beep on surface targets.

If there is any doubt whether a target is good or not, DIG IT. For this same reason, in the Discriminate Mode, it is best not to use a higher DISC LEVEL setting than necessary. Nickels and most smaller rings are rejected when the DISC LEVEL is set to reject pull tabs on any metal detector that is a TR Discriminator like the Silver Sabre Plus. If you don’t dig any junk at all, you are surely passing up a lot of good finds as well. Set the DISC LEVEL only high enough to suit the conditions where you are searching.

Because most detector users are coinshooters and most areas are likely to yield good coins are also likely to contain a goodly amount of trash, the Silver Sabre Plus is furnished with an 8" searchcoil as standard. This coil will probably yield the best results in most such situations, and is easier to pinpoint with than the larger coils. Optional searchcoils of 4", 8 1/2" and 11" are available to allow you to tailor the response of your detector to suit other conditions.

The 4" coil is useful for coinshooting in extremely trashy locations, and can actually greatly increase your number of good finds under such conditions, although some loss of depth will be experienced. The smaller coil will allow you to detect coins and other good targets much closer to surface trash items. The 8 1/2" and 11" coils are excellent relic hunting coil, and can provide greatly increased depth on larger targets, especially in the All Metal mode where surface junk won't hide the deep targets.

PINPOINTING

The sweep speed of the Silver Sabre Plus is slow enough to allow pin-pointing in the Discriminate Mode, but will require a little more practice. Move the coil slowly from side to side and then from front to back over the target. Raising the coil slightly and slowing the sweep speed will narrow down the detection area enough that it's easy to tell where the coil center is at the instant of the sound.

Another easy method is to sweep the coil from side to side across the target in very short sweeps, as you slowly move forward and backward across the target. Slow down the sweep rate and shorten the sweeps until you just barely get a response at one spot. The target will be directly below the coil center at this response time. In fact, you will be looking at the exact spot in the ground where you want to dig, because of the open coil center.

The easiest way to pinpoint for most people will be to switch to the All Metal, since no motion is required. To pinpoint a target that doesn't saturate the audio, just move the coil forward and back, and side to side until you get the strongest sound. The target will be directly below the coil center. If the audio saturates over a large area, simply push the mode switch to the retune position momentarily over the area to retune the detector. This will narrow its field of response to allow you to once again seek the area of strongest response. It may be necessary to retune more than once with this technique. With a moderate amount of automatic tuning, the detector itself will be attempting to tune back to threshold, which automatically narrows down its area of strongest target response.

RECOMMENDED RECOVERY METHODS

Always obtain permission from the person in charge before hunting on private property, schoolyards, parks, churches, or state parks. Even when relic hunting in the woods, NEER LEAVE A HOLE!, or damage anything on the property.

PROTECT YOUR HOBBY - FILL ALL HOLES

BATTERY REPLACEMENT

The Silver Sabre Plus has an automatic battery test circuit so that you can always be sure you are getting top performance from it. The batteries should be checked after the detector has been on for about 10 minutes, and then periodically as you are using it for long periods. To activate the batter test circuit, simply turn the detector off momentarily and then back on. **When testing the batteries, be sure that the Mode Switch is in the Disc position, so that the All Metal threshold signal doesn't add to the battery test signal.** The detector should beep loudly for about 4 or 5 seconds, with the sound slowly fading into silence, if the batteries are fresh. As the batteries age, this sound less intense, and fades out quicker. When you just hear a brief buzz, or not audio at all, replace the batteries.

To replace the batteries, pull the large knob on the battery door on the rear of the unit. The entire door will pop out. Remove the battery pack from the detector, and then remove the batteries from the pack. Replace the new penlight batteries into the pack, observing the polarity indicators embossed on the insides of the pack. Slide the batteries back into the detector, making sure that the battery clip lead is connected to the pack. Install the battery door flange into the top of the cutout in the chassis, and push the nylon fastener into the hole at the bottom of the chassis, making sure that the plunger is still pulled out. Then push the plunger back in to lock the door into place.

Should you desire to do so, rechargeable Nickel-Cadmium batteries can be substituted for standard 9 volt cells. Individual

Should you desire to do so, rechargeable Nickel-Cadmium batteries can be substituted for standard 9 volt cells. Individual 9 volt size cells are readily available at most electronic supply stores, as well as the chargers for them, and they can be inserted into the standard holder used in your Silver Sabre Plus. The initial battery check reading will be slightly lower, but will not drop as much with use, until the batteries are completely discharged.

GENERAL CARE AND USE

If the detector is to be stored for a long period of time, it is best to remove the battery pack from the detector. This will prevent internal damage to the detector if the batteries should leak.

The searchcoil is waterproof and may be submerged in either fresh or salt water. Caution should be exercised to prevent water from entering the chassis, where it could damage the electronic circuitry. After the coil is used in salt water, the coil and lower stem assembly should be rinsed well with fresh water to prevent corrosion of the metal parts.

There are several good books to help the beginner learn how to use the detector, where to search and how to recover a target without damaging the environment. A good coin shooter can recover a lot of finds and leave the area looking as though he had never been there. Above all, always fill your holes when you have recovered the target.

TESORO Metal Detectors are sold through independent dealers, who are almost always treasure hunters themselves. They can provide you with you much needed information about how to use your detector, how to probe, plug and dig in your locale, and answer most of your questions about treasure hunting in general.

The use of earphones will benefit you in two ways. Most earphones will very effectively block out most of the ambient noise, such as traffic noise and wind noise, which will enable you to better hear the fainter signals caused by the deeper targets. Obviously, the older, more valuable coins will probably be deeper than the ones which were lost last week, so you should take advantage of anything that will help you hear the weaker signals. Secondly, using earphones will greatly extend the battery life, since it takes much less power to operate them. The Silver Sabre Plus is not equipped with a volume control, but does have a limiting circuit in the earphone jack. If less volume is desired with earphones, you may want to use earphones with a built in volume control. Any good 8 or 16 ohm set with 1/4 inch stereo jack will do.

HAPPY HUNTING, and thank you for purchasing a TESORO.

METAL DETECTORIST'S CODE OF ETHICS

1. Always check federal, state, county and local laws before searching. It is your responsibility to “know the law.”
2. Abide by all laws, ordinances or regulations that may govern your search and the area you will be in.
3. Never trespass. Always obtain permission prior to entering private property, mineral claims, or underwater salvage leases.
4. Do not damage, deface, destroy, or vandalize any property, including ghost towns and deserted structures, and never tamper with any equipment at the site.
5. Never litter. Always pack out what you take in and remove all trash dug in your search.
6. Fill all holes, regardless how remote the location. Never dig in a way that will damage, be damaging to, or kill any vegetation.
7. Do not build fires, camp at or park in non-designated or restricted areas.
8. Leave all gates and other accesses to land as found.
9. Never contaminate wells, creeks, or any other water supplies.
10. Be courteous, considerate, and thoughtful at all times.
11. Report the discovery of any items of historic significance to the local historical society or proper authorities.
12. Uphold all finders, search and salvage agreements.
13. Promote responsible historical research and artifact recovery and the sharing of knowledge with others.

SILVER SABRE µMAX FEATURES

- **High Gain Sensitivity Circuitry—**designed specifically to deliver greater depth, sensitivity and stability.
- **MAXBoost Feature—**extra power of super high gain can add inches to discrimination search depth.
- **High-sensitivity Searchcoil—**an 8 inch open center concentric for broad sweep, good pinpointing and deep ground penetration.
- **Ultra-light Weight—**search longer without fatigue.
- **3 piece Knockdown Pole—**compact for storage and travel.
- **Turn-on-and-go—**factory preset for "mineral free" operation.
- **Two Operating Modes—**Pinpoint and Discriminate.
- **QuickCheck PINPOINT—**simple push-button pinpointing.
- **Easy to Operate—**in Discriminate Mode.
- **Economical to Use—**up to 20 hours plus on a single battery.
- **Tesoro Lifetime Warranty—**our pledge of quality to you.

What it doesn't have

A big, heavy, high-powered speaker. Loud, heavy speakers are popular with many manufacturers. The "fuller" sound they produce gives the illusion of greater sensitivity to small and deep targets—a great showroom sales tool! Most serious detectorists hunt with headphones and a µMAX will work well with standard headphones. If you choose not to use headphones, the µMAX speaker will be loud enough for most environments. It will allow you to hear the small and deep targets

found by the µMAX's high power circuitry—without excessive battery drain.

A hip mount, arm strap or battery recharging system. These kinds of "built-in accessories" are simply unnecessary in a µMAX detector.

The power and features of the Tesoro Silver Sabre µMAX make it an ideal detector for a beginner who wants a machine they will never outgrow. It is also ideal for the serious detectorist who wants power, performance, simplicity, and versatility in a single lightweight detector.

WARRANTY SERVICE

Your Tesoro metal detector is covered by a **Limited Lifetime Warranty**, the terms of which are listed below. If your metal detector should require service, you may return it to the Tesoro factory at the address below.

LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.

This instrument is warranted to be free of defects in material and workmanship as long as it is owned by the original consumer purchaser. This warranty is not transferable and is valid only if the warranty registration card has been completed and mailed within 10 days of purchase.

TESORO will, at its option, repair or replace any instrument covered by this warranty, without charge, except for transportation charges, at its factory in Prescott, Arizona.

This warranty excludes batteries, damage caused by leaky batteries, cable breakage due to flexing on body mount units, and wear of the searchcoil housing. Also excluded are instruments which have been abused, altered, or repaired by an unauthorized party.

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