

Building A Lightweight Sieving Tripod

Materials Needed:-

3 Lightweight adjustable steel tent poles.
1 Steel welded ring. (You could even use a piece of heavy wire tied together).
Heavy duty fence wire.
Light weight welded link chain length to suit you. Usually 3 lengths of 1 metre each.
Heavy Duty Strong spring clip.

Method:-

The three adjustable tent poles with pre-made holes on their ends which you'll need to attach together with a loop of welded ring (Or heavy wire). You can also buy low cost large spring type connectors, which could hold all the pole tops together. Once connected together this should enable you to spread the 3 tent poles into any tripod position suitable for sieving.

You can hang your sieves by light chains from the top of the tripod. The chains can be tied together at the top with a piece of heavy duty fence wire and then attach one strong spring clip to that for easy attachment to the top of the A-Frame. You can use heavy-duty fence wire to loop around 3 equal areas of your sieve and attach some lightweight welded link chain.

The advantage of the adjustable tent poles is that you can raise the height to suit your needs. These poles are strong yet lightweight enough to carry some distance if required. You'll need to work out the best length of chain that suits your height and situation. I found its best to adjust the legs up high enough so you can use the sieves at around waist height making it easy enough to shovel the sand straight into the sieve and then push the sieve back and forth at waist height. The chain needs to be long enough so you can swing the sieves without hitting on the poles so keep this in mind.

I would suggest you suspend your sieves just with some light string to work out the best height of the sieves once the tripod has been made. This will give you the lengths of chain you'll need. Usually it's about 3 equal lengths of 1 metre as a guide.

If you attach the chain with wire you can always adjust the height by joining to the chain links up or down from the bottom of the chain anyway. It doesn't matter if you have a few links dangling down as long as they're not in your way when sieving.

If you want to have your sieve so you can remove it from the chains you'll need to use 3 extra spring clips or you'll have to take the chain from the top off the tripod each time. It depends a lot on what you're looking for. Usually for larger gems like topaz, various crystals etc they can be fairly easy to see in the sieve and its not always necessary to remove the sieve off the frame.

I usually take an extra sieve with me and I just tip the dry sieve contents into the other sieve and take it to water for a quick dip so I can see the contents clearer. And this usually shows the gems up better. The advantage of the tripod is that you can adjust the legs to suit any shaped terrain where you're digging. I usually use 500mm diameter round sieves which I find I can go through a lot of material in a short space of time.



A tripod made of low cost adjustable tent poles. You'll find you'll be able to buy heavier and lighter poles to suit your application. If you buy them too light they'll bend so keep this in mind. Buying sturdy ones will be much better in the long term if you're going to use them a lot. You'll find you can put another sieve on top of this one to double sieve if you want with a large and small hole type etc.