



**Precious Metal Verifier  
PMV  
Informational Guide**

# PMV Basics

## Precious Metal Verifier (PMV) Informational Guide

### What is a PMV?

Sigma Metalalytics designs and manufactures the Precious Metal Verifier, better known as the PMV. There are three models of PMV, but they each use technology patented by Sigma Metalalytics. The first PMV was released in 2013 and is called the PMV Original today. The next PMV was the PMV PRO, released in 2017. Finally, the smallest PMV, the PMV PRO Mini, was released in 2021.

### How does a PMV work?

Each PMV measures the characteristic resistivity of a sample to determine if the sample is consistent or inconsistent with the selected alloy type. This can help determine if a sample is genuine or counterfeit. The PMV's sensor generates a small electromagnetic field that induces a current in the sample. The PMV can then measure how much the sample conducts or resists the induced current. If the sample's resistivity matches the resistivity of the selected alloy, then the PMV determines that the sample is consistent with a genuine piece. The later PMV models, like the PMV PRO and PMV PRO Mini, have more advanced sensors and can also perform a density test.

### How accurate is a PMV?

When used properly and when the results of the testing are interpreted properly, it's practically impossible to fool a PMV. Counterfeiters can either fake the resistivity of a piece or the density of a piece, but not both at the same time. By thoroughly testing both, a user can catch every counterfeit. All PMVs can test resistivity. The PMV PRO and PMV PRO Mini models can also test density, but when using the PMV Original, the user must test density on their own.

### Is the PMV trusted in the industry?

People and companies across the precious metal industry trust the PMV to keep their businesses and customers safe from counterfeits. Major online retailers rely on the PMV in their warehouses to check huge volumes of coins and bars every day. Coin shop owners and small businesses trust the PMV to identify counterfeits at every trade. Private investors and collectors count on the PMV to ensure their investments are authentic with each purchase.

### How do I know which PMV is right for me?

It's important to choose the right PMV for your needs. Our website has lots of information about which PMV and PMV attachments would serve you best. If you'd like to speak to an expert, we're proud to offer real customer service with knowledgeable representatives who can help you pick the right PMV. Give us a call or shoot us an email and we'd be happy to help.

# PMV Models

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### Overview

There are three models of Precious Metal Verifier (PMV). All three PMVs use the same concept to test and authenticate precious metal samples.

### PMV Original

The first PMV was released in 2013 and is now called the PMV Original. It takes what are called “surface readings” although they are really subsurface readings that penetrate into the sample. The penetration depth of the readings vary depending on which sensor is being used and the alloy being tested. This PMV is ideal for private investors who are trading pieces around 1 ounce and smaller.

### PMV PRO

The second PMV was released in 2017 and is called the PMV PRO. This PMV takes the same surface readings as the Original, but also takes “thru readings” when using its onboard sensors. The thru readings test all the way through the sample; there is no penetration depth because the PMV can test 100% of the metal that is placed between the two sensors. The PMV PRO can also perform a density test to confirm the density of the sample.

### PMV Mini

The third PMV was released in 2021 and is called the PMV Mini. This PMV takes the same thru readings as the full-sized PRO, but in a smaller package. This PMV is geared toward users who want the powerful thru readings and density testing of the PRO, but want to easily take the device with them to coin shows, estate sales, or wherever they will make their trades. The Mini connects wirelessly to a phone or tablet, or via a wired connection to a Windows PC.

### Feature Chart

PMV	Surface Readings	Thru Readings	Density Test	Wireless Connection	Wired PC Connection
Original	✓				
PRO	✓	✓	✓		✓
Mini		✓	✓	✓	✓